

editorials drawing attention to improved or simplified equipment may be cited as examples, but the fact that no steps have been taken by the department seems to give "Centurion" a sufficient answer to his enquiry of what has been done, and to indicate the grave need for improved equipments.

A CORRESPONDENT urges the claims of the members of the first Red River expedition to recognition for their services, and certainly if the government intend considering any previous services, the work done by these men should not be overlooked. The way in which the expedition pushed over the Dawson route, building its roads as it went in many places, and transporting its heavy boats and full supplies, is beyond all praise, but can only be appreciated by those who have been over the same difficult country and have seen the roads and works they left behind them as a permanent record of their prowess. So far as difficulties overcome, and work accomplished go, never an expedition achieved more signal distinction.

THE dates and location for the annual camps of instruction have been fixed as follows: No. 1 district at London and No. 2 at Niagara, on the 14th June; No. 3 at Kingston, No. 4 at Ottawa, No. 5 at Granby and No. 6 at Laprairie, on the 21st; No. 7 at Levis and No. 8 at St. Andrews, on the 28th June, and No. 9 at Aldershot on the 1st September.

CAPT. EDWARDS' memorandum suggesting examinations in tactics and kindred topics, for officers who had technically qualified, is a paper submitted by him to the Militia department last year, but never in any way acknowledged. The proposition appears to be a good one, and would, we think, if adopted, tend to increase the efficiency of the force. A somewhat similar arrangement is in existence in the English volunteer system. It is not proposed that such an examination should in any way interfere with the work of the schools, or count as a qualifying one, but should simply be a means by which those who wished might show that they understood something more than the bare requirements of the law. The scheme is certainly worth consideration.

Personal.

We learn from the Jersey *Express* that a Mr. Le Noir, a recipient of the Northwest medal, is now a member of B Co., 3rd Jersey militia. The *Express* is in error in saying that he received his medal from the Canadian government, as the decoration is an Imperial one, furnished and paid for by the home government, and the Canadian troops feel very proud of the consideration thus shown them.

Recent Deaths.

Lieutenant-Colonel William Osborne Smith, C.M.G., lately commanding the 91st Winnipeg light infantry, and for many years past intimately associated with Canada's militia in several important capacities, died suddenly in England on the 14th instant. Col. Smith was descended from a family of soldiers, his great grandfather having served at Culloden, and his father at Waterloo. He was born in 1833, and entered the 39th Imperial regiment of foot in 1854, just in time to come in for the end of the Crimean war. While his regiment was in Canada later he retired from the service, and remained in this country. During the Trent affair he organized the Victoria Rifles in Montreal, becoming their first lieutenant-colonel, and in 1864, after the St. Alban's raid, he was suddenly ordered to the western frontier of Ontario to command a considerable force called out for active service, and in this position was signally successful. The next year Col. Smith was appointed assistant adjutant-general and was placed in command of the Montreal volunteers, with instructions to raise additional corps on the frontier. During the Fenian raid of 1866 Col. Smith had charge of the Huntingdon frontier, and in 1870 was in command at the Eccles Hill fight, where the Fenians were repulsed. It was for his services here that he received the C.M.G. Late in 1871 he assumed command of the second expedition to Fort Garry and in 1872 returned to Montreal, but only to go back over the Dawson route the same fall with the third expedition. In 1874 he took

a force to Qu'Appelle as a guard for the treaty commissioners, making one of the quickest marches on record, and being the first officer to take British infantry into the North-west. In May, 1879, when the men on contract 15, C.P.R., to the number of about a thousand, struck, he proceeded to Cross Lake with a small force, and quickly quelled the disturbance. In the fall of that year he visited Duck Lake, Carleton, Battleford and Prince Albert for the purpose of establishing military companies. In 1881 he resigned the deputy adjutant generalship of military district No. 10 and turned his attention to commercial affairs. On the outbreak of the North-west rebellion in 1885 he raised the 91st battalion, which he commanded during the campaign, forming part of Gen. Strange's column, and taking part in the engagement at Frenchman's Butte. On two occasions he was an unsuccessful candidate for political honors, in 1882 when he contested Winnipeg for the Commons, and in 1886 when he ran for Morris for the local house. Col. Smith's death will be deeply regretted by his numerous friends both in Manitoba and in Eastern Canada, where his skill as a soldier and good qualities as a man were thoroughly appreciated.

In Parliament.

IN the House of Commons on the 12th Sir Charles Tupper made his budget speech. The following items in the estimates refer to militia matters:

Under the head of civil government are the following salaries:

Deputy head.....	\$3,200
1st class clerk.....	1,800
2nd do 2 at \$1,400, 1 at \$1,350.....	4,150
3rd do.....	700
Chief clerk, accountant.....	2,350
1st class clerks, 1 at \$1,800, 1 at \$1,650.....	3,450
2nd do 1 at \$1,400, 1 at \$1,250.....	2,650
3rd do 1 at \$1,000, 1 at \$550.....	1,550
Chief clerk, director of stores.....	3,000
1st class clerk.....	1,600
2nd " 1 at \$1,250, 1 at \$1,110.....	2,350
3rd " 2 at \$1,000, 1 at \$550.....	2,650
Chief clerk, military branch.....	2,400
1st class clerk.....	1,550
2nd " 1 at \$1,400, 1 at \$1,200.....	2,600
3rd ".....	800
Architect, engineer's branch.....	1,700
2nd class clerk.....	1,100
3rd class clerk.....	Abolished.
Messengers, 4 at \$500.....	2,000
1 Allowance for private secretary.....	600

Contingencies of civil government in the Militia department are put down at \$8,000, the same as last year.

Among pensions are the following items:

Mrs. Delaney, wife of Indian agent killed at Frog Lake.....	\$ 400
Pensions payable on account of Fenian Raid.....	3,701
To meet probable amount required for veterans of war of 1812..	6,630
Compensation to pensioners in lieu of land.....	2,400
Pensions payable on account of rebellion of 1885, to militiamen.	20,000
do do to M. Police, P. Albert volunteers & P. Scouts.....	10,000
For militiamen and widows of militiamen, U. C. (war of 1812).	3,920
For militiamen and widows of militiamen, L. C. (war of 1812).	60
Military Asylum Pensions, expenditure authorized by V. 44, c. 18	408

The estimates for militia expenditures proper are as follows:

Salaries, military branch and district staff as follows:

Major-General commanding the militia—pay and allowance.....	4,000
Adjutant-General at headquarters—pay.....	2,600
Aide-de Camp to the general officer commanding.....	1,000
District Deputy Adjutants-General, at \$1,200 each.....	9,600
Allowance to Adjutant-General at headquarters.....	600
Allowance to District Deputy Adjutants-General, 8 at \$500.....	4,000
Inspector of artillery and warlike stores for the Dominion of Canada—pay.....	1,800
Staff Allowance.....	500
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	24,100
Brigade majors' salaries, transport expenses, etc.....	12,700
Ammunition, including artillery ammunition, and manufacture of small arm ammunition at the C. Factory of Que... \$55,000	
Clothing and great coats.....	90,000
Military stores.....	60,000
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	205,000
Public armories and care of arms, including pay of storekeepers, caretakers, storemen and armorers.....	60,000
Drill instruction.....	\$40,000
Drill pay and other incidental expenses connected with the drill and training of the militia.....	250,000
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	290,000
Contingencies and general services not otherwise provided for, including grants to artillery and rifle associations and bands of efficient corps.....	38,000
Government grant to the Dominion of Canada Rifle Association.	10,000
D.A.A.—Government grant towards artillery competition to be held in Canada, or for sending a team of D. M. artillerymen to compete at Shoeburyness, Eng.....	2,000