

cotton, are the kind favored by surveyors, and these seem in every way preferable to the circular tent. As they are largely manufactured in Canada why should not a few be obtained, say sufficient for a battalion's use, and tried at the next annual camp? Other advantages which they possess are that they are readily pitched, they occupy less space, and they lend themselves to more systematic arrangement than those of a circular shape.

One direction in which the MILITIA GAZETTE hopes to benefit the force is by chronicling the doings in all parts and bringing before it collectively for imitation the good example set by some individual portions. In "The Target" this week will be found a summary of the Eighth Royal Rifles company matches, in which the shots competed separately for company prizes and the winners of these afterwards competed for a battalion prize. Such a course is calculated to foster shooting throughout the battalion, for the members of the worst shooting companies have an equal representation with the crack shots for the battalion championship. And it will be noticed that in this instance the battalion prize was won by a man who made a low score in the company firing. The great object to be aimed at is to induce every enrolled man to practice shooting, not perfunctorily, but with such interest as will lead him to strive for an assured position as "a shot," and the plan adopted by the Eighth is certainly a step in that direction.

Colonel Howard Vincent's article in the *Contemporary Review* on the needs of the volunteer force is well worthy of careful study; and in classifying the defects of the English volunteers one might imagine that he had in mind our own militia. He enumerates these defects as follows: (1) The want of cavalry and field artillery; (2) the want of great coats and proper equipments; (3) the insufficiency of funds; (4) the difficulty of finding officers; (5) the absence of any civil advantages to the volunteers; (6) the scarcity of drill sheds; (7) the want of space for drill; (8) the want of accessible ranges. It is probable that in the matter of cavalry and field artillery we are better off than the English, and we have certainly better facilities for procuring rifle ranges. If they have not been established it is usually because the will has been wanting, for now that canvas targets have been adopted the cost is no obstacle, and we know of few villages in Canada where a suitable piece of ground cannot be had within reasonable distance. To the consideration of other points raised we may return at a more convenient opportunity.

And now Prince Edward county has come to the help of her militia-men, and, like Lincoln, has provided helmets, and thinks of adding water bottles to her gift. Well done! What county will be next?

#### THE WEEKS' MOVEMENTS OF CORPS ON ACTUAL SERVICE

We left General Middleton last week, checked in his pursuit of Big Bear by Loon Lake, whence he returned to Fort Pitt on the 11th with his mounted column thoroughly exhausted. Since then he has gone to Beaver River, and he proposes making the mission station there his headquarters for future operations against Big Bear. It is rumoured that he has again started in pursuit of that slippery warrior, but this lacks confirmation, and it is more probable that he is awaiting definite information as to this Cree chief's whereabouts, some being of opinion that he has already reached Green Lake, north of Prince Albert. The General has at his disposal for pursuit when desirable 300 mounted men, including police, 300 infantry and artillery, 2 field pieces and 2 gatlings. Col. Otter, with the Queen's Own and Ottawa Sharpshooters, is still making eastward on the north side of the river, the men suffering greatly from the attacks of mosquitoes and having discarded their tunics

for shirtsleeves in consequence of the heat. The Midland battalion seems to have joined General Strange's column, from which Col. Smith with 3 companies has gone north to Cold Lake and Devil Lake. The 2 last companies of the Midland have gone on to the front from Telegraph Coulee, where they had been for some time, and where they were relieved by two companies of the Seventh Fusiliers.

It is already proposed, in the event of Big Bear not falling into any of the traps that have been so deftly prepared for him, to place strong garrisons at Battleford, Fort Pitt, Prince Albert, and either Humboldt or Fort Qu'Appelle, and indeed the necessity for such a step has from the first been recognized. The question is where is the garrison to be obtained? Volunteers have been invited from the troops already there, but without favourable response. In the meantime the Mounted Police force is being increased, there being now 359 recruits drilling at Regina.

Among the troops left along the line of railway there have been no movements to note; the exact disposition of the Halifax battalion will be found in another column. All three of the battalions last called out have been dismissed from active service, after a stay in camp in each case that will well represent their annual drill.

#### IN THE HOUSE.

Under this heading it is proposed to mention from week to week any action that is taken in the Canadian Parliament having reference to our militia force. Up to the present, in consequence of the continuance of the debate upon the Franchise bill very little has been accomplished since the initiation of the GAZETTE, with the one exception of a heated debate about ten days ago on a resolution introduced by Sir John Macdonald authorizing an increase in the North-west Mounted Police force to one thousand men. Mr. Blake, in a long and carefully prepared speech, used copious extracts from militia reports in support of his argument that the local militia force had been discouraged out of existence; that the increased police force would involve the extra expenditure of at least half a million per annum, and that before the resolution was adopted the House had a right to know definitely what the Government proposed doing in the matter of increasing the police force and of forming and encouraging local corps respectively. Mr. Caron accused the Opposition of having systematically cut down the vote necessary for the proper equipment of the militia, which Mr. Blake denied. Mr. Watson (Man.) thought if the Duck Lake, Battleford and Prince Albert companies had been kept up the rebellion would never have occurred, and preferred volunteers to mounted police on the score alike of economy and efficiency.

Some time ago a private member asked what the Government proposed doing in the direction of rewarding personal valor during the fights, by the award of Victoria crosses or similar distinctions, to which the Minister of Militia replied that the Victoria cross was not under the control of the Government.

On the 15th instant Mr. Bowell, in Mr. Caron's absence, moved the House into committee on a resolution to provide \$1,700,000 to defray the expenses in connection with the troubles in the North-west, which provoked a request from the Opposition for a statement of the total cost of the expedition, which Mr. Caron promised to give as soon as it was obtainable. The resolution was passed and a bill based on it was next day read a first time. It is probable that at its second reading there will be some further debate.

#### WHAT THE REBELLION HAS TAUGHT OUR MARITIME CONFRÈRES.

Practical illustration has lately been given in this eastern province of New Brunswick on some important points consequent upon the western rebellion, in the prompt response to the call for active service of its representative battalion—a battalion based on the Infantry School corps for the Maritime Provinces and with eight complete companies added, drawn in proper proportions from the city and country battalions of the district. The enthusiasm displayed at St. John and Fredericton at the prospect of the troops proceeding to the front was such as has never before been witnessed in this loyal province. At the shortest possible notice every man of the fine battalion thus formed was at his post, and instead of a battalion, the province was eager to send a brigade. Nor is the Militia