

daily, on account of the guard being changed every day. According to regulations fuel rations not drawn or used become the property of the government. Troops are quartered in barracks, camps or billets. R. & O. 170. Q. R. VII 24 xv). Any damage done by the troops is made a charge against them. Ash pits should as a rule be emptied daily. Soil pits and sewage-tanks as considered necessary. Disinfecting pits, drains, latrines, urinals, etc., is done by the troops. Lime is used for pits and surface drains. Carbolic acid, chloride of lime, sulphate of iron, sulphate of copper are good disinfectants. Chimneys for which fuel is drawn should be swept monthly. Ordinary interior walls in barracks should be white-washed not oftener than every six months, in ordinary cases, but not less frequently than once a year. The white-washing is done by the troops. Barracks and barrack utensils and stores should be frequently inspected and the damages entered on the report. It is the Quartermaster's duty, under the direction of the C.O., to attend to these matters.

Upon leaving any station a marching out inspection is had. The Quartermaster, as soon as the route is received, makes regimental arrangements for closing all ration returns and other supply accounts. He also makes arrangements as to the conveyance of the baggage. The actual quantities of baggage allowed to be carried at the public expense, for regimental officers and men and for regimental stores of all kinds, are fixed by Regulations. Semi-annual inspections by a board of officers are held at the various stations (R. & O., 825 to 834). This is the time to bring forth any stores that are considered to be unserviceable or requiring repairs beyond the means of the corps to effect.

Quartermasters on appointment have the relative rank of captain; after ten years service as majors, honorary (combatant) rank may be conferred (R. & O. 94-95). Neither convey any military command. Para. 95 says that "Relative rank confers no military status or command." This is evidently an error as it is impossible for anyone to hold a military position and perform purely military duties without a military status. Relative rank does not entitle the holder to the presidency of courts of inquiry, committees or boards (R. & O. 150). From this it may be inferred that it does entitle the holder to the precedence of the rank as a member. The Manual of Military Law, chap. V., 14, says: "Relative rank does not entitle an officer to the presidency of a court martial; but he is legally qualified if duly appointed. In practice a combatant officer is always appointed." Rule of Procedure 57 directs "that in the case of a regimental court-martial consisting entirely of officers of the same corps, they will take their seats according to their rank in that corps."

Royal warrant for pay and promotion, Article 114, reads: "Honorary rank shall carry precedence and (except as provided in article 1201) other advantages attaching to corresponding military rank; but shall not entitle the holder of such rank to military command of any kind, or to the presidency of courts-martial, courts of inquiry, committees, or boards of survey."

Q.

The first intercolonial rifle meeting under the auspices of the federal council of the rifle associations of Australasia began at the Sandy Bay range Dec. 18 last year under very favourable conditions. The competitors engaged numbered 155.

Gen. Boulanger, says a despatch, most emphatically denies that he entertains any hostility toward England. Stuart Cumberland, the mind reader, read Gen. Boulanger's thoughts lately. He gave President Carnot a six months' lease of power and traced Boulanger's march on Germany via Stuttgart. The general declared Cumberland's interpretation to be correct.

The transfer of the remains of certain British officers who fell at Waterloo, or died in consequence of wounds received during the battle, from the cemetery in the Quartier Léopold to the Evère Cemetery was effected recently. The delegates of the English Waterloo Monument Committee at Brussels, the Rev. A. K. Harlock and Mr. Morgan, were present. The names of these officers are Major John Lane, 73rd Foot; Major W. J. Lloyd, R. A.; Captain Stothers, 3rd Foot Guards; Lieut. M. P. Crome, R.A.; Lieut. John Mills, 2nd Dragoons; Major John Lucie Blackman, Coldstream Guards; Lieut. C. Spearman, R.A.; Lieut. John Clyde, 23rd Welsh Fusiliers; and Colonel Sir F. H. de Lacey. The old cemetery presents quite the aspect of an English rural churchyard. On the graves being opened the well-preserved skeletons of the officers—all very tall men—were disclosed, and the signs of wounds and amputations were plainly discernible. Each skeleton was placed in a zinc coffin inscribed with the hero's name, transported in a hearse to Evère, and buried there in its temporary grave, every grave being marked with a stake bearing the name. The old tombstones were also transported to Evère. The operations were carried on with much reverent care.

## Correspondence.

[This paper does not necessarily share the views expressed in correspondence published in its columns, the use of which is freely granted to writers on topics of interest to the Militia.]

### THE RIFLE SHOOTING OF THE RANK AND FILE.

EDITOR MILITIA GAZETTE,—In reading in your valuable paper the report of the Deputy Adjutants General, I notice some reference made (notably in No. 9 district) to the want of encouragement given to the rank and file in rifle shooting, and also some comments on the fact that commissioned officers compete in rifle matches with privates.

Of the systems followed in other districts in reference to the first subject I cannot give an opinion, but I think the report of No. 9 is misleading. Take for instance the six regiments ordered for drill the past year; the three city corps mustering 824 rank and file and the three rural corps mustering 792. The city corps certainly did not suffer for want of encouragement, as each company had a most elaborate prize list provided, the officers being the principal contributors, in some cases nearly every man present securing a prize. That the three rural regiments referred to in the report were not so fortunate shows not a want of encouragement by the government, but a lack of interest by the officers of these corps. I do not wish to make any invidious comparisons between the different regiments, but the report draws particular attention to those that did not give any encouragement to the rifle practice of the men, and makes no mention of the encouragement given to the men of the other three.

The government now give liberally towards rifle shooting, and the money is applied so as to give the best general results. Whether the commanding officers of a corps should devote a small portion of their means to a like object is, of course, a matter for themselves to decide. In the city corps referred to above each has its own way of contributing the money for the company and battalion shooting. In one regiment the officers hand in all their government pay for this and other regimental purposes; in another the officers contribute according to rank, captains paying \$10 and subalterns \$5 each towards the company and three days' pay each towards the battalion shooting. In the other corps the contributions are optional, but no less universally made. In justice to those corps mention might have been made of the fact that the men were not neglected.

That all members of the force are not sufficiently expert with the rifle to compete successfully at the Provincial and Dominion matches cannot be attributed to the want of encouragement given to the company or battalion shooting, for the three city corps mentioned have had since their formation every encouragement, but in anything of a competitive character some individuals will surpass their fellows, and as a natural consequence take a prominent place in the organization. This naturally suggests the other matter referred to in the report. To debar a member of the force who is a good rifle shot from taking a commission would not be advisable, for good men are not so easily found, but this would be one of the results should commissioned officers be prohibited from competing at rifle matches as suggested in the report. That the mixing of officers and men at rifle matches has been sanctioned for a long time, by some of the best authorities on these matters, can be seen by referring to the reports of the Dominion Rifle Association. I find that in 1873 the Brigade Major of No. 5 District took prizes, and in the following year as Lieut.-Col. competed successfully with gunners and privates at Ottawa, but to come to later years.

At our last Provincial matches quite a number of the officers of the Royal Navy and the York and Lancaster regiment took part, and in the All Comers' match I notice that a number of the Royal Navy took first prize and Captain Lousada of the York and Lancaster came in twentieth, Commander Primrose, Major Ford and a number of officers of the regular Army and Royal Navy not securing a dollar although they tried hard for it. It will hardly be said that those gentlemen either lost in dignity or impaired the discipline of the military or naval service by competing on the rifle range with gunners and privates. The General Commanding, Lord Russell, would not likely allow them to enter should any such results be liable to follow.

In the inter-regimental matches held in the regular army and for which prizes are offered by the war department, the teams are composed of all ranks. At our Provincial meetings held for the past twenty years one of the most interesting matches, open to teams from the army, navy and militia, has been regularly taken part in by teams from the army and navy stationed at Halifax, and the officers on those teams have always accepted the prizes they have won. In the rifle matches in Great Britain (at Wimbledon and other places) open to the army and navy all ranks compete, and I have yet to learn that the discipline of the English army has very much deteriorated during the twenty-eight years that rifle shooting has been one of the most important features of a military training. As we are taught to look up to the Imperial forces as patterns and guides I think we can safely do so in this particular case.

EXCELSIOR.