

retiring across the line of fire, the arrangements of the rails brings the figures at times quite at different angles towards the marksman, and only exposes the figure to full view occasionally.

Mr. F. Clarke's useful and ingenious invention has been adopted by the Hythe authorities, and may be seen at work at the School of Musketry ranges. In addition to this Her Majesty's Government have already been supplied with 130 sets, and, no doubt, in time the system will be universally adopted for carrying out the rifle practice of our regular and auxiliary forces.

Mr. Clarke has likewise invented patent miniature moving targets for drill halls, galleries, etc., which cannot fail to improve shooting practice at movable objects.—*U. S. Gazette.*

Correspondence.

The Editor desires it distinctly understood that he does not hold himself responsible for the opinions expressed by correspondents.

HONOR TO WHOM HONOR IS DUE.

To the Editor of the Canadian Militia Gazette.

DEAR SIR,—I have just read in your issue of 27th inst., a letter signed, "Field Officer" in reference to North-West honors, which this gentleman on the strength of an announcement in the public press expects to be conferred during this current year. I do not know whether this report is well founded or not, but I quite agree with your correspondent as to the absurdity of decorating those commanding officers who spent their time of active service along the line of the C. P. R. or in other peaceful places. But if such a course is pursued it will not be without parallel in English history, as during the first Egyptian campaign a number of commanding and other officers received decorations who never saw a shot fired in anger. Officers went out in many cases undecorated and on their return got an order, an English medal and the bronze star of the Khedive, and in several instances these officers were never under fire.

If the same course is pursued towards the North-West commanders the c.o.'s will all get orders alike but it is just possible that the "public press" may have been misinformed on this subject and that the economic policy hitherto displayed in regard to North-West honors is to be continued.

There is certainly an officer at Ottawa who deserves honor and who has long been left unnoticed: I refer to the Adjutant-General, Col. Powell, whose services have been most valuable to our force and for some perfectly incomprehensible reason have never received the slightest recognition. Like many other deserving people he is the last man to advance his claims, but if Canadian officers are to be rewarded during the year of Jubilee Colonel Powell's name should stand high on the list.

A MILITIA OFFICER.

THE ENGINEER COURSE.

To the Editor of the Canadian Militia Gazette.

DEAR SIR,—In several of your recent issues I notice you strongly recommend all qualified short course officers who can possibly make the time to take advantage of the next course open for those desirous of qualifying as long course officers at the Royal Military College, beginning on the 10th March. Having taken this course last year myself upon the completion of a year at the St. Johns Infantry School I can bear personal testimony to its attractiveness and efficiency. And if anything I can say will have weight in inducing others to attend I shall be glad to give any or all particulars to any one so inclined. Lectures were begun last year on the 10th March and were finished on the 5th June. Officers while attending have messing and quarters at the battery barracks and attend at the college for lectures daily with the exception of Wednesday, which is devoted to riding, instruction being given at the barracks.

Not only was our course as a course made as interesting and instructive as it well could be, no trouble or expense being spared to fully illustrate the subjects treated, but personally we met with the greatest courtesy and consideration from the commandant and officers of both the college and battery. No doubt exists in my mind, but that every one fortunate enough to be able to attend will consider himself amply repaid for any inconvenience or trouble he may have been put to in order to make the necessary time. Of course it would be absurd to suppose that any one could, in less than three months, become thoroughly conversant with all the subjects taken up, but certain it is that he can obtain good insight into them, and quite sufficient knowledge to awaken a timely desire for more, which desire can be afterward gratified at leisure, when the instruction received and notes taken will be found of incalculable value.

To me the course was all too short, and upon the completion of what I knew must be my last lecture, I closed my text book with genuine regret.

C. H. BOWEN,
Captain 53rd Batt.

Regimental Notes.

We wish to publish information respecting all the doings of all corps. Will the officers interested, particularly at a distance, assist us by having news relating to their corps promptly forwarded?

THE "VOLUNTEERS' RIGHTS" MEETING.

Toronto.—At the meeting held on the 25th to consider militia grievances and take action towards securing the election of a member to the Commons who would represent the interests of the local force there were about 150 present.

Ald. Drayton, late captain in Her Majesty's 65th regiment, was elected to the chair, and W. J. Urquhart acted as secretary.

The chairman said the meeting was not a political gathering. He pointed out the necessity for some action to secure for the volunteers what is required to keep them efficient.

A letter from Mr. Goldwin Smith was read stating that as an old volunteer and one who heartily advocated the movement when it was first set on foot in England, he felt sincere sympathy with the objects of the meeting. Toronto as the heart of British Canada will always be a military centre, wherever the political centre may be, and he trusted they would succeed in obtaining for the volunteers of Toronto and of Ontario, the measure of consideration which their importance as an element of the national force deserved.

Mr. C. G. Harstone claimed that the meeting was purely one of citizens, and he was there only as a civilian in exercise of his civil rights, and not as a volunteer, but as a friend of volunteers, to discuss matters affecting the force. This was not contrary to the Queen's regulations, and the United Service Institution, of London, to which he belonged, discussed fully all matters relating to the force. He believed that if the volunteers decided to try to get a particular man into Parliament as their representative they would succeed. Amongst the volunteers' grievances, he enumerated the want of a proper drill shed for the city. It was not just that Toronto should be left out in the cold while Montreal and Quebec were provided with new sheds. This city was the first called upon in time of trouble, and should not be so treated. The arms furnished the volunteers were wretched. He had seen rifles at the ranges which would not throw two hundred yards. Those were not weapons with which to face an enemy. If the government cared for the lives of the soldiers they would see that the men were well armed. Then the accoutrements served out were rotten. He had been told that men at Batoche lost more ammunition through the rottenness of their pouches than they fired. The volunteer force had been systematically neglected by both political parties. It was time the volunteers made themselves heard. Referring to the alleged illegality of such a meeting, he said it was not long since it was commonly reported that an officer of a city militia corps, in the name of his regiment, congratulated Mr. Laurier on the stand he had taken in regard to the rebellion. The speaker did not care what that officer's political feelings were, but he had no right to speak in the name of the regiment. The volunteers should defend themselves. The way they had been reviled and abused in the *Globe* was scandalous. He would be ashamed to meet any volunteer guilty of one-half the crimes charged by the *Globe*. Many Reformers assured him that they entirely repudiated those charges.

Mr. W. J. Urquhart moved:—"That this meeting is of opinion that candidates for the city should be called upon to pledge themselves to lose no time in securing a drill shed for the city volunteers, and proper arms and accoutrements."

Mr. Henderson seconded the resolution, and expressed the opinion that Mr. Harstone had introduced too much politics into his remarks.

The motion was then unanimously adopted.

Mr. W. J. Nelson expressed his sympathy with any movement for advancing the interests of the volunteers and increasing their efficiency. He was strongly in favor of the volunteers uniting in the support of a gentleman who would represent them in Parliament, and was in favor of Col. Fred. Denison as the candidate. If any other gentleman was suggested, no matter what his politics, he would support him. He thought the Government ought to pay more attention to the city battalions, instead of keeping up many country battalions which could not muster half their strength. He moved:—

That Mr. Goldwin Smith, Mr. J. E. Verral, Mr. H. Pellatt, Mr. John Sloan, Mr. W. J. Urquhart and the mover and seconder be a deputation to wait upon Lieut.-Col. F. C. Denison to request him to become a candidate for West Toronto to represent in Parliament the militiamen's interests, and that if he consent to do so this meeting pledge him their hearty support, and this deputation is hereby appointed a committee, with power to add to their number, for the purpose of assisting him in his canvass.

Mr. Harry Symons did not think they had any right to put Col. Denison forward in the name of the militiamen of Canada. It would be quite right, however, for the deputation to wait upon the gentlemen seeking parliamentary honors and ascertain their views in regard to matters affecting the militia, and pledge themselves to support those men who would advocate their interests. He moved in amendment to that effect.

Mr. J. T. Small seconded the amendment, on the ground that it would be unfortunate if the meeting were looked upon as a political one. The fact of Col. Denison probably being a party candidate might give rise to such an idea.

Mr. Harstone thought so well of the amendment that he would accept it instead of the motion, which he had seconded, if the mover were willing.

Mr. Nelson refused to withdraw his motion.

The amendment on being put was voted down, and the motion was carried.

Mr. Symons spoke in denunciation of the practice in Parliament of cutting down the appropriations for the militia force on the score of economy. He thought their services had not been properly recognized by the Government. He moved, seconded by Mr. Martin: "That this meeting is of opinion that further recognition should be given to those volunteers who were actively engaged in the suppression of the troubles in the North-West in 1885, and urges upon the Government the desirability of conferring marks of distinction upon them."

Mr. Nelson was opposed to the motion, because they would be placing themselves in the position of beggars if they asked for such recognition.

The motion was then put and lost.

Mr. Urquhart, for the purpose of preventing the idea being formed that their action was political, said the course followed had been decided upon in August last. After a vote of thanks had been passed to the chairman, cheers for the Queen and Col. Denison brought the proceedings to a close.

Quebec.—A meeting of officers of the 8th Royal rifles was held on the 26th inst., there being present, Lieut.-Col. Miller, Surgeon Coote, Capts. Jones, Dunbar, Prower, Miller, Montizambert, Lieuts. Poston, Wood, Dunn, Ashe, and Adjutant Ernest F. Wurtele. It was decided to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the regiment (28th Feb.) by giving a ball to the N. C. O's. and men of the regiment in the Academy of Music, and the following officers were appointed a committee, with power to add to their number, to make arrangements for the ball, viz: Caps. Jones and Montizambert, and Lieut. Dunn.

Fredericton.—An entertainment by the infantry school corps dramatic club, in the drill hall on the 28th, was thoroughly successful, says the *Capital*. The play, "Never too late to Mend," was put on the boards in splendid style, and showed the most careful and intelligent study on the part of every actor. Several of the characters were sustained in a manner that could not be surpassed by professional stars. The whole performance reflects the greatest credit on Sergt. J. Wilson, the manager, as well as on every individual who took part. The new string band of the corps, under Bandmaster Hayes, contributed very much to the success of the entertainment. Amongst the cast were Sergts. Doherty, L. Ward, W. Walker, J. Wilson, W. Boute-lier, W. Daniels, and R. Gregory and Corp. Lawler. His honor the lieutenant-governor and Lady Tilley were present, and also Colonel and Mrs. Maunsell, as well as all the officers of the corps, and a large audience, composed of leading citizens. The night was very wet and disagreeable, but the great attraction drew a full house. The performance was to be repeated next evening.

Amherst, N.S.—The 93rd Cumberland battalion band has leased the Amherst rink for the winter, and had a carnival in it on Monday evening.

Newcastle, N.B.—A dance under the auspices of the members of the field battery took place in the Masonic Hall on the 20th. The hall was handsomely