

Military and Militia Topics.

Monday evening of each week is set apart by the officers of the 1st Regiment Canadian Artillery for the purpose of meeting at their new quarters in the Armories, where they discuss matters of interest to the regiment. In order that their wives and friends might have an opportunity of inspecting their rooms, it was announced that the officers would be at home on Monday evening last to any who cared to avail themselves of the opportunity of visiting the quarters.

A representative of The Bluenose had the pleasure of being present that evening, and was shown through all of the rooms. The Mess Room is a very large and handsome apartment, furnished by the officers at considerable expense. This being the chief room used by them, every care was taken to fit it up in a cheerful and comfortable manner. Accordingly rich carpets cover the floors, the windows are hung with handsome draperies, and the furniture is all in keeping with the rest. Adjoining it, on the east, are the Commanding Officer's private room and the officers' dressing room. Both of these are very snug, and furnished with every attention to possible needs as well as to taste and comfort. Off the hall and at the side opposite the Mess Room is the entrance to the lecture room, and at the west end of the mess, the orderly room. On the ground floor for the apartments mentioned are on the first floor—are, in succession, starting with the Quarter-Master's stores at the west end, the armory, beneath the mess, and the N.C.O.'s room and the Regimental Sergt-Major's room, beneath the C. O.'s room, and the dressing room respectively. In the basement the great gun room, 46 by 120 feet in area, and containing four 9-inch guns, is a place of great interest. It occupies the space between the end of the main drill hall and the eastern limits of the building. At the south side of it is situated a small gun room, in which field guns will be placed. Westward from that point, on the south side of the hall are, in succession, the store room, the company lecture room and the band room. On the other side of the hall from these is a bowling alley, not yet fitted up as such, and which in all probability will be converted into a shooting alley. All these rooms are kept in excellent order, and showed off to splendid advantage last Monday evening.

During the evening a large number of friends of the regiment came in, and were cordially received by the commanding officer, Lieut.-Col. Oxley, and Mrs. Oxley. The band discoursed music in the small gun room, thus adding to the enjoyment of the occasion, and light refreshments were served in the orderly

room. Everyone present was delighted, voting the function an entire success, and congratulating the officers upon the possession of such handsome and comfortable quarters.

In its last issue The Bluenose made a plea for a pension system for the permanent corps. Almost equally important is it that the schedules of pay for officers should be revised. As compared with the remuneration received by officers in the Imperial service, that received by officers in our own army is not widely different in the sub-ordinate positions. For instance, a lieutenant in the Canadian service receives an income slightly larger than the same officer in the Imperial army. But a Colonel in the Imperial service has the advantage. What we mean to say is that an officer commanding a regiment in Canada's army does not receive as good pay as one commanding a regiment in the Im-

perial army. Indeed, it requires a very great love for the military life to induce a man to adopt it at all with such prospects ahead. Wherefore it is a marvel to find that our service to-day is supplied with such competent officers as it is. But we may not hope to see such happy results of a bad system forever. The older it grows the more chary will young men become on entering the service unless they see better prospects ahead.

As we said above, the higher the officer and the greater the obligations imposed upon a man, the more out of proportion is his income from what it ought to be. This is particularly true in the cases of officers commanding districts. A Colonel in this country commanding the permanent corps and militia of a district has a rank equivalent to that of Major-General in the Old Country, but while the latter receives a salary of at least \$5,000, and in many cases probably much more, a D.O.C. in Canada does not receive probably more than \$2,000 a year. In any military centre this latter figure is far too small, and particularly in a place like Halifax, where a D.O.C., coming in contact with the two branches of the Imperial service, must be put to enormous expense in keeping up the dignity of his office. This is a subject that if investigated would reveal far more than has been pointed out here. We think that if the salary schedules were revised and provision made for better payment of officers, due regard being paid to length of service and other matters, and a pension system organized, there would be more encouragement for good men to go into the service and remain there. The subject is decidedly worth taking into consideration, for defense is one of the most important of a country's interests.



THE LATE MAJOR HAROLD BORDEN.
Another of Nova Scotia's Heroes Whose Name
Will Appear on Our "Khaki" Monument.

perial army. This is not fair, nor is it made any more just by the fact that the Canadian officer has no pension to retire on when his service ends. In Canada, as in England, an officer must be subject to great living expenses. His position demands a certain standard which his income is able to maintain, and no more. He is never able to save. As a result it must be more or less discouraging to men who have no private means that they should be compelled to spend that which they receive as remuneration for their services on things that satisfy not themselves to any great degree. An officer simply cannot escape social obligations, and has to pay well for the privilege of such inability. Looking forward along life's way, then, a good officer is very likely to enquire in his younger days whether it would not be advisable to get out of the ser-

Companies of the R.G.A. intend using the splendid facilities at the new Armories for drill during the coming winter.

Gunner Sloan, of No. 2 Company, 1st Regiment Canadian Artillery, has returned with a number of other men, recently invalided home from South Africa. He had a very serious attack of rheumatic fever, but is looking remarkably well since his recovery.

The 66th P. L. F. fife and drum corps may make another trip to Boston next summer. They are to hold a dance at the Armories on December 3rd.

The annual inspection of the 63rd by the D. O. C. took place on Wednesday evening, when the regiment acquitted it-

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