

scale laid down by the Deputy Minister of Militia, 14th March, 1873, Ottawa.

The Laboratory Buildings, for safety after the explosion in Artillery barracks about ten years ago were erected at the foot of the glacis, on the western face of the Citadel. All ammunition is made up there according to regulation, which entails a good deal of work, and at the same time useful instruction, in consequence of demands for gun ammunition not only for Quebec, but the upper Province. The Board, although they noted the building, the use of which was explained, make no provision for the fuel and light of the Non-commissioned Officer in charge, who lives on the spot. Staff-Sergeant's allowance is the least he should receive, the dwelling house being of wood, and much exposed.

The Board make no allowance for caretakers, under which head fuel and light has been drawn for eighteen non-commissioned officers and men occupying the buildings. This number is after all only the percentage allowed in the British army, who are constantly moved about at public expense, and women and children given rations as well as fuel and light. The Dominion Government are only asked for the latter. The total amount of wood drawn for eighteen non-commissioned officers and men was fifteen cords per annum, and oil at the rate of  $\frac{1}{2}$  =  $1\frac{1}{2}$  =  $\frac{1}{2}$  each man, summer, winter, and midwinter, have hitherto been drawn, which I venture to hope will be continued.

By General Order (No. 24), 20th October, 1871, "A" and "B" Batteries were raised, in order to provide for the care and protection of the forts, magazines, armament, &c. "B" Battery occupies the Citadel with this object. "A" Battery does not occupy Fort Henry, except with a very small detachment, and therefore requires less fuel, as there is no object in occupying more than is absolutely necessary of barrack room with ordinary roofs, which do not suffer like bomb proof, from want of occupation. For the same reason, they have probably taken fewer married and long course men.

It seems, nevertheless, the desire of the Board to cut down the fuel of "B" Battery to the standard suitable to "A" Battery, who do not occupy casemates. Moreover, the differences of climate are generally supposed to be more than twenty four days, winter and mid-winter, is allowed per regulation adopted.

The Quarter-Master's store, used by the Imperial troops, and now by us, containing clothing, arms, accouterments, &c., is in a casemate, of necessity. I beg to recommend that one ration per diem for sixty nine days (for-summer) be granted. It is necessary not only to preserve the various stores from damp, but also to facilitate the heating of irons for marking articles for issue; it is also necessary in using marking ink on the men's underclothing, &c.

Only one stove for cells is allowed by the Board, though they were informed there were at present six Court-Martial prisoners. Fuel for two stoves has hitherto been drawn during mid-winter, in consequence of the extreme coldness of the building, and the necessity of keeping the pump which supplies the building from being frozen.

The Board cut out the provision for a lamp in the passage, between the surgery and the hospital wards, which leads also to the privies. I think it necessary there should be a light on this passage, in which the Medical Officer concurs.

The Board also only allow for the lamp in the archway passage at the Citadel in my gate for a certain number of nights in the

year only, excluding the night of full moon. The passage being seventy feet in length, the moonlight does not penetrate, especially when the gate is closed, as it is at "last post," consequently it would be impossible for the non-commissioned officer on gate duty to see those who enter; no scale is laid down. I recommend that hitherto drawn, viz., 3 = 5 = 6 rations per diem, summer, winter, and mid winter.

## MONTREAL.

## St. Helen's Island.

The General Order (24), 20th October 1871, provides for a detachment from "B" Battery, at St. Helen's Island. I beg respectfully to remark that the implied recommendation for the withdrawal of such detachment, as well as that laid down by the same General Order for Lewis Forts, scarcely come within the Province of the Board.

The Board disallow fuel and light for two married men of the detachment. I presume they have not considered how the men's washing is to be done, the petty repairs to their clothing, &c. I think two married for a detachment of twenty-five might be sanctioned.

The Board deduct two Staff-Sergeants' allowances—one at Quebec, the other at Montreal. Two Armourer Sergeants, borne upon the rolls of the Battery, who are paid  $3\frac{1}{2}$  per diem, uniformed and subsisted by it. I have never, however, been able to get the Battery arms repaired by these men, who though nominally under my orders, are not so in reality, taking orders only from Lieut.-Colonel Wily, Director of Stores. I concur with the Board in thinking that this anomaly should cease.

The Board do not deem it necessary to allow the orderly room allowance for the detachment. I think it necessary—it contains models for instruction, &c., besides being used as an orderly room. Fuel should be allowed for a lecture and drill room, as recommended by letter dated 13th December, 1873, during winter and mid-winter, 3—4.

The Board makes no allowance for canteen fuel and light. The canteen of a regiment may be self supporting, but I should be sorry to hear that the profits on the drink of some twenty men paid for fuel and light. I beg to recommend an allowance of fuel and light, the same as for a Staff-Sergeant—for two lamps, one behind the counter, and one in the room at the table where men sit.

I cannot concur in the recommendation of the Board to substitute coal for wood, nor do I consider the amount saved would be what they expect, from the fact that the present contract price of coal is higher than that stated, whereas the price at which wood can be bought (at present mid winter) is \$2 less than the contract price paid for the current year.

Self-feeding coal stoves necessitate anthracite hard coal being used; the present contract price is \$13 per chaldron, or 10 to 100 per ton, instead of 7 50 100 per ton, calculated by the Board.

There are one hundred stoves in the Citadel, which would, if sold, bring very little, according to enquires I have made, whereas the price of self-feeding coal stoves is \$40 each, amounting to \$4,000. The stoves at Levi and Montreal not included.

In addition to which, iron coal bunkers and heavy iron shovels, as well as a large amount of coal carrying boxes with handles, a weighing machine to check receipts and issues, as well as the labor entailed in coal

carrying, which destroys the men's clothes, and dirties the barrack floor. The only saving I can see would be the labour of sawing the wood, at present done in a great measure by a Battery horse, with a sawing machine. The cost of stove pipes and chimney sweeping would be much increased, as the soot collects more rapidly.

The Board have allowed fuel for heating workshops, ordnance armourers, shoeing smiths, wheeler and tailor, but no allowance has been made for the smithy coals of the armourer and shoeing smith, these shops requiring each, monthly, about 4 cwt. of coal suitable for the work.

I think the use of an anthracite coal stove in a closed barrack room, with a number of men sleeping would be most unwholesome, from the amount of sulphurous gas and carbonic oxide evolved. An instance occurred lately of some sailors in the cabin of a ship being taken out dead, and others insensible, from the fumes of an anthracite coal stove. There is an anthracite coal stove in my quarters, which, after a year's experience, I would be glad to exchange for a wood stove.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

T. B. STRANGE, Lt.-Col.,  
Commandant, School of  
Gunnery, Quebec.

The Acting Adjt. General,  
Ottawa.

(To be Continued.)

## ARMY ORGANIZATION.

(By General George B. McClellan.)

(Continued from page 403.)

Having concluded our last paper with a general account of the methods of obtaining recruits, we will now very briefly state what is done with them. In the English service each regiment has its dépôt, which sends out recruiting parties for the regiment, and receives the recruits for instruction, so that when they join their regiments they are generally fairly disciplined and instructed. In our service, most of the recruiting is for the general service, and not for particular regiments, except in case of re-enlistment at the post where a man has served, or chance recruits offering themselves at a post. It is true that men are specially enlisted for the cavalry but the government does not always hold itself bound to keep its part of the implied bargain. The results made by the general recruiting parties are collected at a few principle rendezvous of stations, where their instruction commences immediately, but they are generally assigned to regiments before they have acquired any great amount of discipline or knowledge. Many of our best officers have thought that a considerable extension of the system of enlisting for particular regiments would be very beneficial, and that something akin to the English system of regimental dépôts would be very desirable. In Italy the conscripts are frequently sent to regiments serving in a part of the kingdom remote from their native province. Thus conscripts from Sicily and Naples are sent to Piedmont and Lombardy, while those from the latter places are sent to the south. It is said that very beneficial effects result from the course in hastening a real feeling of Italian unity, and in giving to the ignorant and slothful native of the south some practical ideas of the advantages of the education and energy of the people of Piedmont and the north.

Under the new French laws recruits in time of peace are assigned to regiments serv-