

The New Drill Book.

The new drill book has been issued in England. As none of the books have been received here, the following abstract of an article in the Broad Arrow should be interesting to Canadian militiamen.

In the history of infantry drill—to indulge in a brief retrospect—their have been now and again conspicuous landmarks. In 1859 there appeared the first really complete drill book. It was mainly the handwork of Colonel Lysons, now Constable of the Tower. It is worth recording that in a manual for volunteers compiled by authority by Colonel Lysons at the start of what was then termed the volunteers movement, the ranks—as now, at last—at two paces distances to avoid the necessity of the rear ranks stepping back in forming fours, a simplification promptly voted *infra dig*, and which it has taken over thirty years to carry.

A most welcome revival since the provisional book of 1892 is that of the old compact quarter-column wheel which—be it mathematically correct, be it pretty to look upon or not, always came and always will come right. Six paces will be the distance between companies in quarter-column, and captains are to be placed outside the directing flank. A captain's normal position is in front of his company. The battalion commander will be in rear of his battalion when in line.

Among the more valuable amendations are the new system of changing front only on a flank company forward and the abolition as ordinary drill movements of changing front and position in line. Rear formations are thus done away with. This may be considered to be drawing rather a hard and fast line, but after all it is only another step towards the good of efficiency. Objections, we may be sure, were not wanted when it was proposed to abolish that triumph of perverted ingenuity, "a line changing front to the rear on the centre."

Turning to the attack formations it is a position relief to find the foot at last put down—a fixed form of attack is forbidden.

The stiffened arm is reserved exclusively for the saluting allotment, and the insertion of a light touch in this connection only may pass.

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The Volunteer Service Gazette has the following to say about the new drill book: We have just received a copy of the long expected "Infantry Drill, 1893," which suspends the "Provisional) Infantry Drill,

1892." It is impossible for us to examine the new book in detail this week, but we may just indicate points of difference, so far as "drill" is concerned, between the system of 1892 and that of 1893. The most important features of the former remain, we are glad to say, unaltered—e. g., the permanent sections or sub-sections (no longer called "fire-units") are maintained, and they are still not to be interfered with by "sizing" or "equalizing" companies, except for purposes of "ceremonial." But the somewhat inconvenient intervals of 1892 between sections or sub-sections of a company, or between the companies of a battalion in line, are given up. Only when a company falls in for inspection by its own captain it will be formed into columns of half companies, with an interval of two paces between the sections or sub-sections. The "extension movements" are revived, and the sixth practice of "physical drill" abolished. Officers will draw swords on parade as formerly, whether the men have fixed or unfixed bayonets. The expression "company column," is abandoned, and the old "column of companies" substituted for it. The normal post of commanding officer of a battalion will ordinarily, be in rear, not in front, as in 1892. The old system of wheeling in quarter column is substituted for the somewhat unsatisfactory process for obtaining the same result introduced last year.

But the moment we get to "ceremonial" all principles are thrown to the winds. Thus, if there is to be a march-past (and when is there not a march-past?) the companies are to be equalised and sized, and the men are to take up the "touch." That is to say, that when a company is to show good marching the men who have been accustomed to march together are to be separated, and, moreover, are, as in days gone by, to depend upon touch just when they ought to show that each man can march straight to his front without adventitious aids. It is true, however, that it has of late years pleased the powers that be to decree that the Infantry soldier in marching past shall, when on the saluting base, turn his head and eyes towards the inspecting officer in the idiotic fashion practised in Germany. It is, therefore, perhaps as well that each man should be permitted to lean upon his comrade, as it would be difficult for him to march straight to the front while his head was on one side. In marching past, men are to keep their disengaged arms steady by their sides instead of swinging them, and captains are to take the place of their directing guides when marching past in quarter column.

Prizes for Rifle Competition.

The Military Gazette is and always has been supported principally by shooting men whose organ it has always been, and whose interest it is always ready and eager to champion. Wishing to do something on its own account to help the riflemen, the new owners of this paper have decided to offer a handsome prize for competition to any regiment or Company in Canada. In doing this they are not trying to pose as philanthropists; they have a selfish object, as well as the promotion of rifle shooting in view. This object is to increase the usefulness of the paper and enlarge its field, by increasing its circulation. The more subscribers we have the better our paper will be.

The conditions then on which we will present these prizes are: 1st. Eight names are to be sent us, of members of your regiment, who are not at present subscribers to our paper, and who want to receive it. 2ndly. Sixteen dollars, the amount of the eight subscriptions for one year must accompany the names and these will receive the Gazette for one year.

The prize will then be forwarded all charges prepaid to any address in Canada, to be competed for by the Regiment thus qualified, all conditions of shooting, etc., to be settled by the Committee of its rifle association, and the result and full details of the match to be forwarded for publication to this paper.

You will be astonished to find how many of your officers and shooting men, men who would be much interested by our paper and to whom it would be of much practical use, do not subscribe for it. The following is a list of the prizes from which you may make a selection:

The Roll Call, by Mrs. Butler, size of frame 30 by 42 inches; Quatre Bras, by Mrs. Butler, size of frame 30 by 42 inches; Balaclava, by Mrs. Butler, size of frame 30 by 42 inches; Pour La Patrie, by L. Royer, size of frame 27 by 36 inches; or the pair; Trompette de Dragons Detaille, size of frame 22 by 28 inches; Chasseur a Cheval de Neuville, size of frame 22 by 28 inches. This pair are beautifully colored engravings, while the other pictures are in black and white, and all are the work of Messrs. Boussod, Valadon & Cie., Paris, successors to the world renowned house of Goupil.

For a Mess Room or Armory no picture could be more suitable. Do you not think that your officers and men would be glad to get for your regimental matches, a prize worth fully \$12.00 at practically no cost to themselves?