

to occupy the limited period he is allowed, or can afford, for practice. It is beginning to be less than questionable whether comparatively short periods of service do not turn out as practically efficient soldiers as very long ones: and, even now, it would perhaps not be too much to say that three months continuous drill would enable an average Volunteer Battalion with efficient officers to manœuvre almost as well as an average Battalion of Regulars, though, perhaps, their set-up would not be quite as good.

In all other respects there is no finer material in the world for a truly efficient soldiery than is to be found in Canada. Hardy, athletic, and enduring to a remarkable degree—generally fair shots, and almost always accomplished axe-men, and well accustomed to the woods—generally, too, sober and amenable to discipline, it is to be doubted if there are any countrymen in the world better calculated to reflect credit on a good Commander, or to hold any foe a tough fight. It is not long since the writer heard an American officer who has seen a good deal of service, say, in reference to one of our Battalions whose own officers had no very exalted opinion of its state of drill, that with one or two such bodies he would be bound to lick all the Fenians that would ever show their noses over here.

Armed, therefore, with the finest weapon the world has yet known—strong in defensive position—strong in their own manhood—backed by the wealth, the armies, and the fleets of Britain; that wealth, the greatest, those armies (though not the most numerous) the finest, that fleet the most magnificent, in the world—the Canadian must begin at once to realize that all that is necessary to ensure his country a foremost place amongst the nations of the earth, is, that every man should be sufficiently disciplined and trained to arms to enable him at any moment to take his place with credit in the ranks of her defenders. The successful exertions which have at various times in the world's history, been put forth by comparatively weak nations against stronger powers in defence of their nationalities, should combine with numerous other examples, prestiges, and advantages to inspire him with pride in the execution of his military duty, and confidence in its real value and utility.

It is asserted to have been said by Napoleon that Providence was generally to be found on the side of the strongest Battalions; and too many examples of the defeat of righteous struggles for liberty lend the sanction of a certain degree of hard experience to an axiom which is nevertheless both profane and cynical.

Indeed apart from the amount of success to be expected, humanly speaking from the well directed vigor and stalwart manhood of a free and hardy people battling for all that is dear to it—their hearts fortified and their arms nerved by consciousness of the inoffensiveness of their national policy—of the justice of their own course, and the wickedness of that of an aggressive enemy—we can scarcely, consistently with the faith we profess, permit ourselves to doubt that the "God of Battles" would indeed "Steel the hearts" of a citizen-soldiery so fighting in defence of its native or adopted land, and incline the balance of His favor to a righteous rather than to an unrighteous cause.

It is proposed to discuss in another article some of the advantages, mental and physical, otherwise derivable from the performance of military duties.

(To be Continued.)

BATTALION CORRESPONDENCE.

FROM DELAWARE.

(BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

26TH MIDDLESEX BATTALION V. M.

Rifle Match held at the camp ground, Komoka, by permission of the officer commanding at the camp, on the 10th and 11th September. 1868. President—Lieut. Col. Graham. Council of Management—Major Johnston, Surgeon Billington, Major Attwood, Captain Dawes, Captain McMillan. Treasurer—Captain English. Secretary—Captain and Adjutant Bullen.

1st MATCH—Volunteers (non commissioned officers and men).

1st prize, \$8, 3rd prize, \$4,
2nd prize, \$6, 4th prize, \$2,
5th prize, \$1.

Ranges, 200 and 400 yards. Five shots at each range.

	To'l.
Corp McEachren, Wardsville Co.,	15 19 34
Pte H Johnstone, Komoka	15 18 33
Corp Clalluham, Lucan	17 15 32
Corp Parr, Wardsville Co.,	15 15 30
Sergt Holloway, Lucan.	15 14 29

2ND MATCH—Company match, six officers and men from each company.

Ranges, 200, 400, and 600 yards. Five shots at each range.

1st prize, No. 6 or Wardsville Co., \$15.

	To'l.
Capt O'Malley	11 10 7 28
Sergt Paris	5 11 7 23
" Ward	15 17 10 42
Corp Parr	17 15 13 45
" McEachren	15 18 8 41
Pte Johns	13 13 12 38

Grand total 217

2nd prize, No. 2 or Komoka Co., \$12.

	To'l.
Corp McKellar	12 3 5 20
Lieut Stevenson	16 16 8 40
Pte Blackburn	14 16 7 37
Pte Johnston	16 18 11 45
D A Graham	16 15 — 31
D Graham	14 14 11 39

Grand total 212

3rd prize, No. 4 or Thamesford Co., \$9.

	To'l.
Sergt Holmes	11 15 4 30
" Dundas	15 18 13 46
" Berius	12 15 10 37
Corp Johnston	9 10 6 25
Pte N Berius	15 11 9 35
Pte Owens	15 11 10 36

Grand total 209

Four highest individual scores; prizes, respectively, \$4, \$3, \$2, and \$1—

	Pts.
Sergt Dundas, Thamesford	46
Corp Parr, Wardsville.	45
Pte H Johnson, Komoka.	45
Sergt Ward, Wardsville	42

3RD MATCH—Officers, ex officers, and honorary members.

1st prize, *Daily Free Press*, one year.
2nd prize, \$4. 4th prize, \$2.
3rd prize, \$3. 5th prize, \$1.

Ranges, 200 and 500 yards. Five rounds at each range.

	To'l.
Lieut Stevenson, Komoka	18 18 36
Lieut Garnett, Delaware.	18 17 35
Major Attwood, Strathroy	17 17 34

Corp McKellar, Komoka ... 17 13 30
Hon Mem Henley, Delaware 17 12 29

4TH MATCH—All comers, any rifle.

1st prize, \$10, 3rd prize, \$6,
2nd prize, \$8, 4th prize, \$4,
5th prize, \$2.

Ranges, 300 and 600 yards. Five shots at each range.

	To'l.
Major Attwood, Strathroy	16 16 32
Corp Parr, Wardsville	12 15 27
Colonel Graham, Delaware	10 15 25
Sergt Berius, Thamesford	13 12 25
Pte Taylor, Strathroy	9 15 24

5TH MATCH—Consolation prize. Volunteer officers, ex officers, and hon. members.

1st prize, \$8, 3rd prize, \$4,
2nd prize, \$6, 4th prize, \$2,
5th prize, \$1.

Range, 200 yards. Five shots.

	Pts.
Capt and Adj Bullen, Delaware	18
Sergt Piper, Lucan	16
Private Robinson, do	16
Ensign Cox, Delaware,	16
Surgeon Billington, Delaware.	15

DOMINION OF CANADA RIFLE ASSOCIATION PRIZE MEETING.

[BY OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.]

On Thursday things began to get into better working order, and the committee were enabled by considerable exertion to keep the ranges employed. A great number of visitors were on the ground during the day. The bands of the Grand Trunk Brigade and Montreal Garrison Artillery played several pieces in a really creditable manner during the afternoon on the square in front of the barracks.

The St. John's cavalry, under command of Capt. Des Rivieres, are on duty in camp, and are decidedly as fine and efficient a body of Volunteer cavalry as I ever saw.

For the

AFFILIATED ASSOCIATIONS MATCH

there were 320 entries. Ranges 300, 600, and 900 yards, three shots at each range. Twenty-one individual prizes, and \$200 to the Association any five members of which make the highest aggregate score. This match was concluded on Friday, the Victoria Rifle Association of Hamilton, Ont., coming off victorious, with a total score of 132 as follows:

	Points.
G. Cawker, 13th Batt.	31
G. Murlison, "	30
Capt. Dugmore, R.C.R.	24
F. Freebone	24
G. Disher, 37th Batt.	23

The firing in this match was very poor throughout, owing doubtless to the prevalence of strong irregular winds.

The following are the names of the winners in this match.

1st prize by

	Points.
G. Cawker, Hamilton, O.	31
2nd prize by	
G. Murlison, Hamilton	30
Pte J. Cluin, G. T. R. Brigade	28
James Hilton, Montreal	25
Capt. Dugmore, R. C. R.	24
Gunner Morrison, Ottawa Artillery	24
T. Freebone, Hamilton	24
Capt. Vall, Nova Scotia	24
Lieut. De Balinhart, 47th	23
Capt. Clenhihan, 22nd Batt.	23
Capt. Dawson, 7th Batt.	23