

the value of military training, which is altogether aside from the possibilities of war. We gain something, undoubtedly, by the desultory and incomplete military training to which a small portion of our population is subject. How much more we should gain if this was made thorough, systematic and as nearly as possible universal. With modern machinery we produce so much more than we can consume that some outlet must be found for the surplus energies of a nation. Abroad this is absorbed in military service greatly to the increase of national vigor. We are entering upon a new period of our history, and we shall find ourselves confronted ere long with difficulties which, with optimistic faith, we have assumed to be the product of conditions foreign to us. The instruction of our youth and young men in military exercises, and in the military ideas of subordination to duty and authority, is in the line of preparation for defence, not only against foreign foes but against the elements of disorder with which we must always contend at home.—U.S. Army and Navy Journal.

#### CORRESPONDENCES.

To the Editor Canadian Military Gazette.

Sir,—I would like to make a few suggestions in reference to the more efficient arming of our volunteers, especially the city battalions of Infantry.

In the first place, equip each battalion with a more modern rifle than the "Snider," the rank and file to carry the Wallace spade or entrenching tool, and to wear the "valise" equipment as used in the Imperial Service. And lastly, each battalion to have a Maxim machine gun, signal corps, and cyclist corps in connection with it.

If trouble arose the brunt of the fighting would fall on the Permanent Corps and city battalions, who, if they were equipped as above, would make a decidedly better showing than at present.

Hoping that I have not taken up too much space in your valuable little paper,

I am yours respectfully,  
"DILEAS-GU-BRATIE."

Toronto, Feb. 21, 1894.

To the Editor Canadian Military Gazette.

Dear Sir,—The last work of Major-General Middleton's which you reprint in your paper contains some errors. As commanding officer of the 9th Battalion it is my duty to see that the history of that corps is correctly given, and I therefore beg you to permit me to rectify certain statements respecting it.

In the enumeration of the troops under the command of Major-General Strange at Calgary, Edmonton, and vicinity, Sir Frederick says: "9th Battalion, (French-Canadian raised for the occasion) Lt.-Col. Amyot M.P."

Now, the 9th, which left Quebec for the North-West on the 2nd April 1885 after only two days' notice, was embodied by a General Order dated 7th March, 1862, and it has never, since then, ceased to be effective. Its first commanding officer was Lt.-Col. Charles de Salaberry, who was succeeded by Lt.-Col. D. C. Thomson, Lt.-Col. Panet, Lt.-Col. J. B. Amyot, Lt.-Col. G. Amyot,

M.P., and by Lt.-Col. Roy (myself) now in command, whose first commission as ensign in the battalion is dated November, 1865, and who has never ceased to belong to it.

The battalion at various times sent companies to the frontier during the American civil war and the Fenian raids. I was ensign in No. 7 Company stationed at Niagara from November 1865 to the end of April 1866; its effective strength was 68 officers and men, and it was commanded by Capt. D. Gagnier. The battalion was also called out at various times in aid of the civil power during the riots at Quebec and elsewhere.

The motto of the regiment is that of the De Salaberry family, to which its first commanding officer belonged: "Force a superbe, mercy a foible;" its escutcheon is a St. Louis cross surmounted by the Imperial crown, having at each of its angles fleurs de lys, and in the centre the battalion numeral "9" encircled by the regimental designation "Voltigeurs de Quebec" on a scroll at foot, the regimental motto.

Hoping you will oblige me by publishing the above in your next issue,

I remain yours truly,  
THOS. ROY, Lt. Col.,  
Comdg. 9th Battalion, V.Q.  
Quebec, Feb. 17th, 1894.

To the Editor Canadian Military Gazette.

Dear Sir,—In a recent number of your paper I saw a paragraph to the effect that the Council of the National Rifle Association have decided to admit veteran volunteers to all competitions at Bisley, on equal terms with efficient volunteers. According to this article they will be able to compete for all volunteer prizes, barring only the Queen's Prize of £250 and the gold medal and badge.

The only qualifications essential for veterans are (a) a service of twenty years as efficient volunteers, (b) a minimum age of forty-five, (c) and subscribers to or honorary membership in some volunteer regiment.

In view of the recent appreciation of the services of volunteers by the Imperial Government in granting the long service decoration, and later, by the Council of the National Rifle Association in throwing open its competitions to veterans on even terms with efficient volunteers. I think now would be the proper time for our Dominion Rifle Association to consider the advisability of doing the same, with a few alterations in the conditions to meet the requirements of the case.

I would venture to suggest a brief outline of the proposed measure as follows:

All matches, excepting the Governor-General's and Bisley matches, to be open to all retired volunteers who, (a) have served (7) seven years continuously in the forces, and have a proper discharge from the Commanding Officer; (b) subscribe \$3.00 per annum to the funds of the Dominion Rifle Association, in addition to the ordinary affiliation fee.

It will be readily seen that such a measure as I propose would have the effect of throwing open the Dominion of Canada, Minister of Militia and MacDougall matches to members of the Association who have a seven years' honorable discharge from the

forces. That there would be a considerable revenue from such a procedure I have no doubt, for there would be many ex-volunteers who would gladly keep up their rifle shooting, if, indeed, there was any encouragement for them to do so after leaving the force, and their individual subscription of \$3.00 per annum would roll up into a considerable amount. At a low estimate I think fifty ex-members of the forces would come back to the fold in the first year.

Let the Council consider this matter, and give it one year's fair trial; there is no more intelligent or devoted body of workers than our D.R.A. Council anywhere, and this question once put before them in a proper light cannot fail to enlist their sympathies, as I am sure it will those of all true lovers of the noble art of rifle shooting.

MARK IV.

#### Sir Fred. Middleton's Suppression of Rebellion in the North-West Territories of Canada, 1885.

Continued.

My article in last month's magazine concluded with the capture of Batoche, the rebel headquarters, on the 12th of May, 1885. Needless to say, I was well satisfied with the result of the day's fighting, which proved the correctness of my original opinion that these great hunters, like the Boers in South Africa, are only formidable when you play their game, "bush-fighting," to which they are accustomed, but they cannot stand a determined charge. This fact had been practically brought home to my men, and from that moment I felt that the dash requisite to fully utilize their pluck and coolness under fire would not be wanting. I could not, however, help regretting that I had deprived Lord Melgund of having the share in our final success which his previous good service with the force most justly entitled him to. Our casualties for that day amounted to five killed, of whom four were officers, viz., Captain French, Captain Browne, of Boulton's Scouts, Lieutenant Fitch, 10th Grenadiers, and Lieut. Kippen, of the Land Surveyor's Scouts, who had all died gallantly doing their duty, and whose loss was deeply deplored—and twenty-five wounded, including two officers, Major Dawson, 10th Grenadiers, who had ably assisted his chief during the day, and Lieutenant Laidlaw, Midlanders. This made our total list of casualties for the four days at Batoche up to eight killed, of whom four were officers, and forty-six wounded, of whom four also were officers.

We found twenty-three dead rebels in vicinity of houses and cemetery, and five wounded. We afterwards received from one of the Roman Catholic priests a report of the rebel loss during the four days' fighting, which amounted to fifty-one killed and 173 wounded, of which forty-seven were killed and 163 wounded on the last day, the 12th of May.

We found a large camp of women and children, natives and halfbreeds, under a cliff on the river side, who had been left behind by their lords and masters, and