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THE CANADIAN

Military Gazette

Successor to the Canadian Militia Gazette.

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MONTREAL, DEC. 1, 1894.

Notes and Comments

The reports which we have gathered from riflemen throughout the country who have been testing the new Martini-Metford go to show that while this arm has many good qualities it has also many defects. Against the rifle is its weight and uneven balance, the extreme weight of the barrel making it decidedly top heavy. The extraordinary sighting of the rifle, which requires in most cases an allowance of three feet off the bull at five hundred yards, is a decided handicap.

In its favour may be allowed its very low trajectory, which makes it an excellent target rifle, at least if it were properly sighted. It is hard

to realize the why and wherefore of the wrong sighting.

A minister in Montreal created rather a sensation some weeks ago by accusing the Militia officers of encouraging drink among their men by "treating" them after drill, etc., and stated that several young men he knew, had taken their first drink on such occasions.

While there is no doubt some exaggeration in the statements of the reverend gentleman, yet there is no doubt that there is sufficient in them to warrant our drawing attention to them.

Especially in the large cities this treating of companies is apt to lead to bad results, and particularly when a company is brought into a saloon by its officers or sergeants.

Treat the men to milk drinks, or even beer in the company room, if it be necessary, but do not lead mere lads into the bar-room habit.

It is reported that Frederic Villiers, the well known war correspondent, has been killed by the Chinese. We hope that this is only a rumour and may soon be proved incorrect. Villiers is well known in Canada having lectured in all the principal cities some years ago when he made many friends among the militia officers.

France has entered on her "Madagascar War" with a light heart, and the chambers have cheerfully voted 65,000,000 francs for this expedition, which experts say will cost more than double this amount.

Poor taxpayers. There is something in living in Canada, which has its mother country to undertake any excursion of this nature.

Thanksgiving day field day in Toronto has come and gone. That it has been a valuable educator seems reasonable to suppose, but judging by the tone of our correspondent the "blooming privates" don't all seem to have had "roarin' fun." However, omelettes cannot be made without breaking eggs, nor can our militia be trained without much self-sacrifice on their part.

They are universally prepared to undergo hardship, but the lack of encouragement from headquarters, from those who are in the best position even to realize the sacrifices both officers and men have to make to keep up the efficiency of their corps, is what galls and discontents.

We publish elsewhere the first lecture of a series to be given at Montreal Military Institute. We will be glad to receive and publish detailed accounts of the proceedings of the different Canadian military societies.

It seems certain that Port Arthur has fallen into the hands of the Japanese, and that the capital of China can only be saved from attack by the near approach of winter. It appears tolerably sure that the war is not far from its end. English opinion seems to be that international difficulties, in which England and Russia will be involved, are sure to arise in the quarrel for spoils.

That hazing at Kingston College