

When the Fighting Line is reinforced, the reserve should be moved up to support the flanks, and should be held ready to further reinforce or prolong the fighting line.

The movement of extending for attack from column will be as above, except that No. 1 will extend from left, No. 2, 3, and 4 companies prolonging line to the left, Nos. 5 and 6 form reserve. As each company is told off, the company commanders will turn their company in the required direction, and as the company clears the column will incline towards the fighting line by the diagonal march, and as they clear the flank of the Company preceding them, will extend and prolong line, the men doubling up in line, the supports continuing to move to their place in rear of the centre in quick time.

As the object of this formation is to avoid as much as possible mixing up the companies, it might be better to use the reserves in prolonging the line to both flanks rather than throw them forward into the centre.

The fighting line will extend four paces, with six paces between flanks of companies. The supports and reserves will retain the four deep formation.

Officers will return their swords on the caution "FORM FOR ATTACK." Mounted officers should dismount when satisfied their being mounted draws the enemy's fire.

CORRESPONDENCE.

HONORS FOR THOSE WHO WERE AT THE FRONT.

To the Editor of the Canadian Militia Gazette:

SIR,—“We who were at Batoche” certainly do not seek, as “Ottawa” seems to think, to deprive our less fortunate comrades of getting a medal; neither do we in the least wish to depreciate the valuable work done by those in our rear, especially the 7th, which perhaps had the worst luck and the hardest work of any, and which is as fine a regiment as there is in Canada, or the G.G.B.G., which did its duty so well and without a grumble, or Lieut.-Col. O'Brien's fine Battalion, or any of our other comrades, but as in my last I showed logically that we are entitled to a clasp for Batoche, we want to know authoritatively why we are not to get it.

I think “Firebag's” proposal to score C. P. R. on the “Montreal Gatling Artillery” medals is likely to lead to ill-feeling. That is a wonderfully fine regiment, in spite of their “Gatlings,” but I do not see how they expect the same medal, for though I am sure they would have given a good account of themselves had they been lucky enough to get to the front, they did not leave Montreal until the fighting was over and travelled up in sleepers, etc., all the way to Regius, where they encamped for a short time with every luxury (report says), tents nicely floored, Gatlings, etc., etc., and you might as well give a medal to the “Vics.” who camped in Montreal, or the Toronto Artillery who were quartered in the fort in Toronto, or any regiments which performed their usual annual drill or went into a Brigade Camp.

I am surprised that “Ottawa” should profess such ignorance and attempt in the most ungenerous way to put the blame for the non-issue of clasps on the Imperial Government. Does he also attempt to blame the Imperial Government for the non-issue of brevet promotions, etc.? It is a most ungrateful attempt upon his part. He cannot really be in ignorance of the fact that the fault lies neither with the General nor the Imperial Government.

My idea is that all who made the North-west passage, *i.e.* endured the hardships of the north shore, or, say, left their headquarters before the 24th April, should get the medal, and those who were under fire should get a clasp, with a special clasp for Batoche, and I think you will find the majority agree with

THE ODD FILE.

IS THE BAYONET'S DAY PAST?

To the Editor of the Canadian Militia Gazette:

SIR,—In a late issue of your paper I read that “Noodle” proposes to abolish the bayonet as a useless encumbrance in Indian warfare. In support of his argument he quotes the experience of the scouts in the recent rebellion, who were not armed with the bayonet. Perhaps he will pardon my saying that the scouts' experience proves nothing, because, firstly, their business was scouting and not hand-to-hand fighting, and secondly, the heart of the enemy was not in his work.

“Noodle,” judging from the conclusion of his “Notions” No. 6, holds in undisguised contempt the trifling experience of the British Army in all parts of the world, so I will say nothing thereon, but will confine myself to the subject of warfare with the savages of this continent.

Assuming that the account gathered from Sioux who were present at and assisted in the massacre of Custer's command is substantially correct, *viz.*, that the Indians pulled the soldiers off their horses and knocked them on the head with their “coup” sticks, I wonder what the aforesaid scouts would have done if they, or any of them, had been similarly attacked by a superior force of determined men.

The Toronto Mail of the 24th inst., reports that a detachment of U. S. Troops were surprised in New Mexico by Apaches, who poured in a murderous fire and apparently charged, for we read—“A desperate hand-to-hand encounter took place, in which some officers and men were killed,” etc., etc.

It would seem, therefore, that in the human game of hare and hound the Indians are not always content to represent the hare, and I should like to ask “Noodle” to settle a question which has troubled me a good deal. Supposing he were a private in an Infantry detachment escorting a convoy of wagons through

the Eagle Hills (for instance) and that Poundmaker's Indians poured in a murderous fire and charged, how would he, having no bayonet, defend himself in a hand-to-hand fight?

Are we to suppose that the Canadian Indians are ignorant of the tactics and success of the Sioux in the Custer affair and that they are incapable of seeing that when man meets man a war club is a better weapon than an empty barrel?

Prophets told us long ago that the days of bayonet charges were over—that the day for Cavalry was past; how have these predictions been verified?

Would “Noodle” have us believe that the fighting record of the great Black-foot nation justifies us in assuming that they would be unable to see and seize their opportunity? But I will refrain from trespassing further upon your space.

N. W. T., 30th Dec., 1885.

NEMO.

A PLEA FOR THE CANTEEN TIN.

To the Editor of the Canadian Militia Gazette:

SIR,—On reading the “Notions of a Noodle” in your issue of 22nd Dec., I could not restrain myself from replying to the criticisms contained therein on what I considered an exceedingly useful article of equipment during the late campaign, *viz.*, the canteen. The writer very sensibly asks for a frying-pan when he goes on active service, and in the same article informs us that every sensible soldier throws away the “inside scooper with a handle” of his canteen at the first opportunity. Now the very best possible use that scooper can be put to is to transform it into a frying-pan, and the men of my company, at least, found this out at an early day; for no sooner were the fires lighted than almost every man had his scooper on the coal, and in a few minutes had his bacon or “tack” fried to his liking or his canned beef nicely warmed, and this all independent of the company cook, whose only duty seemed to be to make tea for his comrades.

Again, no troops should, in my estimation ever begin a campaign without “water bottles” to drink from when on the march, and if so provided there will be no necessity for making use of the canteen for that purpose, though many and many a time did I use that despised scooper to dip me up a drink from the rairie water holes or muddy Saskatchewan.

In conclusion, I would beg Noodle to spare the canteen when much of the admittedly useless equipage of the modern soldier is discarded by him.

FRED. H. BRENNAN,

Lieut. Midland.

Norwood, Dec. 28th, 1885.

REGIMENTAL NOTES.

(We wish to publish information respecting all the doings of all corps. Will the officers interested, particularly at a distance, assist us by having news relating to their corps promptly forwarded?)

SARNIA.—Fifty pounds sterling worth of new instruments for the 27th Batt. band arrived out from England last week. They are of Besson & Co.'s make and consist of four B flat clarionets, two B tenor slide trombones, and one three stringed double bass. When these instruments are placed in the hands of members the band will number about fifty and be as fully equipped as any in Canada.—Observer.

WINNIPEG.—Sergt.-Major Watson will likely get the appointment of caretaker of the new drill shed. No better man can be had. He rendered gallant service “at the front.”—Winnipeg Evening News.

LONDON, Ont.—Col. Williams has been reinstated to the command of the 7th Fusiliers, and our local military force is once more on a peace footing.

AMUSEMENTS.

(If the active organizers of regimental games, company clubs, and similar winter occupations for the militia will forward us accounts of their doings we will gladly publish them. This, we hope, will have the good result of encouraging the organization of similar clubs where there are none at present.)

SOUTHAMPTON.—One of the chief attractions at the Foresters' concert here on Wednesday week was the presence of No. 2 and 3 companies of “General Middleton's Brigade,” composed of boys from 7 to 12 years of age, in uniform dress, and under the command of Lieut. W. J. Holden. The boys, numbering twenty-five, went through many difficult evolutions in a manner that surprised all, though there were some old veterans amongst the spectators Lieut. Holden and the boys were frequently applauded while they were going through their drill, which gave good proof of their careful and thorough training.

BRANTFORD.—The GAZETTE on the 15th published a description of the new mess-rooms of the Dufferin rifles. These were formally opened on the 29th by an “at home” at which about three hundred guests attended, and which passed off most successfully.

Among the Military guests present were Major Smith and Lieut. Pone, of the 7th London; Capt. Macqueen, 22nd Oxford Rifles, Woodstock; Major Bond, Prince of Wales Rifles, Montreal, and Capt. Loyd Jones, Burford Cavalry Troop.

The handsome rooms had been appropriately decorated for the occasion and every detail of arrangement was perfectly carried out. The guests were received by Lieut.-Col. Jones, Surgeon Harris, Capt. McMichael, Capt. Stratford, and others.

The rooms presented a delightfully gay appearance. The massive gilded gasaliers were assisted in casting brilliancy over the scene by quaint silver candleabra. A star of glistening short swords upon a back ground of black, radi-