

regulation—made as fast as possible. They never have seen any order to the effect that they are to wear these different jackets—issued by our Militia Department—why? we ask again—echo answers why? There must be something wrong somewhere! Again, look at the "Dress Regulations" issued from the War Office at home in December, though given in full in the *VOLUNTEER REVIEW* in January last—they have never—or such parts as affect our force—been promulgated in General Orders yet.

Infantry adjutants are now wearing the "Sabretache"—this we know for a fact, as a letter from H.R.H. the Field Marshal Commanding-in-chief's office, dated May, 16th, 1873, wherein he states so, and the first to adopt it, as he was the steel scabbard, (who issued an order for that change too?) was the Adjutant of the 6th Battalion in Montreal, who on Friday last, 13th inst., appeared at the funeral of the late Sir Geo. E. Cartier with one on—and all seemed astonished at him. Why should they? He maintains, and we say he is right, that an Infantry Adjutant is just as much in want of one as a Rifle or Artillery or Cavalry one. Is he not right?

In my next I purpose taking up the question of "Sashes," "Pouches," and "Chakos," &c., and we trust these papers will prove as interesting subjects to those concerned—the Infantry—as they are to the author.

June 16th, 1873.

IXION.

To the Editor of the *VOLUNTEER REVIEW*.

CITADEL, QUEBEC,

14th June, 1873.

Having heard that some newspapers have made sneering remarks as to the manner in which the gun was served on the occasion of the accident to the late bombardier El; Welfare; permit me to give you a brief account of the accident, without, however, hazarding any remarks as to its probable cause. I might here remark that it is not the first time that such an accident has occurred even in the Dominion of Canada. On the 18th July, 1868, when firing a salute in honor of the Dominion, at Halifax, two gunners of the Brigade of Royal Artillery to which I belong, were blown away from the muzzle of a gun and were picked up dead. Many others might be stated. If these accidents are attributable to carelessness, then not only the artillery militia of Canada but the artillery of Great Britain must also be careless.

I was acting as No. 1 of the gun, and firing; the late Bombardier Welfare, No. 2; Gunner Boyd as No. 3; and Gunner Gibson as No. 4. Brigadier Major Fraser, Q.V.G.A. was standing immediately in rear of the gun. We had fired about 66 rounds from three guns, the interval from the time a gun was fired until it was fired again being three minutes. On firing the gun at a previous round I observed that a quantity of wet powder was blown out of the gun, I drew

No. 2's attention to it and told him to be careful. I also pointed it out to Major Fraser who cautioned him to be careful, he (No. 2) replied that he would, as he didn't suppose if he were killed a gun would be fired over him. I had moved from No. 3 to No. 1 gun, took a tube out of the box, made ready, and stood with the lanyard taut, waiting for the command to fire. When I heard the explosion, I at first thought that I had accidentally fired the gun I was at, but on assuring myself that I had not, I looked round and saw Bombardier Welfare lying on his back, diagonally in front of the gun, I asked Major Fraser how it happened, he told me that No. 2 was in the act of ramming home at the second motion, when the premature explosion took place.

I am fully convinced that the accident was not through any act of carelessness on the part of the deceased, as I saw him dip the sponge in a bucket of water each time before putting it in the bore, and No. 4 Gr. Gibson, who was the only other responsible gunner, and serving the vent, had his thumb split open, a sure proof that he performed his duty.

I might add that the deceased was a man in the prime of life, he had served 15 years in the Royal Artillery, I know him myself for 12 years, and always found him steady and trustworthy.

I am, Sir,

Your obed't avt.

J. B. DONALDSON,

M. G. R. A.

To the Editor of the *VOLUNTEER REVIEW*.

The Citadel,

Quebec, June 18th, 1873.

The enclosed is the straightforward statement of a soldier, who evidently does not think it advisable to comment on the fact patent to every one, viz., that the short-sighted cruel parsimony which forces upon the soldiers of B Battery, duties hitherto performed by six times their numbers of Imperial troops, must in all human probability be a fruitful cause of accident.

The salute of sixty six guns had to be fired by six men and one officer; such figures speak for themselves.

There were not sufficient men or material available to make up the necessary ammunition in time, and a few charges in cotton cartridges, originally intended for the noon and evening guns (which being a solitary round, would cause no danger if the cotton were not unconsumed) were made use of in this emergency.

The reduction of the charge from five to three pounds is also a source of danger unless silk cloth is used for cartridges, as in the Royal Artillery. The small charge of three pounds becomes, in a 24-pr. gun cartridge, a round ball which is very apt to turn in the bore, and be fired with the choked end in-

wards; thus not being blown out, it becomes a smouldering lump likely to ignite the next charge prematurely. This could not occur with the full service cartridge which is a long cylinder.

Three guns only could be used, there being only that number on standing carriages, and there would have been a greater chance of accident from physical exhaustion, if the poor fellow spunging had a greater number of guns on dwarf traversing platforms. *Veritas Magna est prevalebit.*

MILES.



SOUTH CROSBY—ORDNANCE LANDS SALE.

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that on **THURSDAY**, the 10th day of **JULY** next, at **NOON**, will be sold by Mr. **WILLIAM MURRAY** Auctioneer of Kingston, a large number of Lots, being half an acre each, more or less, being subdivisions of the Ordnance Reserve at Jones' Falls, on the Rideau Navigation, in the Township of South Crosby, as shown on a plan by Gibb, P.L.S., 31st March, 1873, to be seen at the Auctioneer's Rooms.

TERMS OF PAYMENT.—One-tenth of the purchase money to be paid down at the time of sale, and the remainder in nine equal annual instalments, with interest on the unpaid balance of the purchase money, at the rate of six per cent.

Further conditions will be made known at the time of sale.

E. PARENT,

Under Secretary of State,

WILLIAM F. COFFIN,
Ordnance Lands Agent.

Department of the Secretary of State,
Ordnance Lands Branch,
Ottawa, 11th June, 1873.

25-11n.



CITY OF KINGSTON ORDNANCE LANDS SALE.

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that on **WEDNESDAY**, the 9th day of **JULY** next, at **NOON**, will be sold by Mr. **WILLIAM MURRAY**, Auctioneer, of Kingston, a large number of **BUILDING LOTS** of divers sizes and dimensions, being subdivisions of the Ordnance property, known as Herchmer Farm, as shown on a plan thereof by Nash, P.L.S., to be seen at the said Auctioneer's rooms.

TERMS OF PAYMENT.—One-tenth of the purchase money to be paid down at the time of sale, and the remainder in nine equal annual instalments, with interest on the unpaid balance of the purchase money at the rate of six per cent.

Further conditions will be made known at the time of sale.

Copies of plan may be had on application to the Auctioneer.

E. PARENT,

Under Secretary of State,

WILLIAM F. COFFIN,
Ordnance Lands Agent.

Department of the Secretary of State,
Ordnance Lands Branch.

Ottawa, 11th June, 1873.

25-11n.