

not enough for *one day's shooting*. There is no doubt whatever that the American regular is the best shot in the world, for the British, from whom we take our lessons, can't well be worse, owing of course to the glorious British maxim-drill, dress and swagger are all that is required.

But I am amazed that a writer calling himself "Canadian Tommy Atkins" should be so utterly foolish as to suggest as a remedy "Hythe school of musketry." It certainly would be in keeping with the popular idea to send some of our non-shooting officers to England for a period of a few months, where they would *study*, and return primed with theory, black boards and snap-caps, to perpetuate the notions of General Hay that "snap-caps and lectures" will make a shot. The idea of any one suggesting an expedition to England to learn how to shoot is painful, and I call on all riflemen to bear me out that there is one way, and one way only—a cheap method in comparison with the results—and that is to supply the ammunition. If we can't then learn how to use it, no theory of Hythe will assist us. We Canadians are dull, I suppose, and may require home instruction as to the balance step, extension motions, march past, and the art of wearing a five-pound helmet and a tight tunic, but those who know what a rifle is and what stuff is contained in the Canadian soldier will support my theory, which is, have a little confidence in our own country, give us the bullets and let us alone. Then before long Canada will find in her seven hundred regular men a force more useful than seven thousand as they stand at present. I only ask the Hythe advocate to look round at our scouts, our militia, our hunters, trappers, and our *Half Breeds*, and then to spare us such advice, which may be well meant, but too foolish.

If Canada would say to her permanent force and militia "here is the ammunition, learn how to use it," what a force she would have. Many of us know that. But will it ever be done? I fear not. As long as soldiers are gauged by the tightness of their trousers and the antics of the drill shed, so will we be useful for just what we are. Give the permanent force even what the Americans allow theirs, and then we may be able to pose as instructors in an accomplishment that wins the day when we are wanted.

But spare us such advice as "Hythe." Such notions were exploded long ago. We don't send to the Tyne to learn rowing, nor do the Australians find it necessary to study the art of cricket from old country masters. And I may say that the Boers in South Africa did fairly well without "Hythe," and also our winners of the Kolapore cup, so let me advise all those who wish to do a good turn for Canada to altogether adhere to the one demand—"600 rounds a year," at least, and if necessary pay for it by taking off some of the gold lace.

J. PETERS, Major,
Regt. C. A.

Rifle Practice of the Rank and File.

To the Editor of the Canadian Militia Gazette:

DEAR SIR,—Allow me to say a word with regard to the subject of rifle practice, which of late has occupied such a prominent place in your columns, in the hope that my suggestions may meet with your approval. It seems to me that the trouble lies not so much in the insufficiency of the sums granted and subscribed by the rifle associations, but in the striking lack of judgment with which these funds are applied.

The one object to be attained should be to make the rank and file of the active militia skilled riflemen. The bitter and shameful experience of our troops in the Boer war has taught us that in such service as our army and colonial forces are most likely to be engaged in, skill with the rifle is the *sine qua non* of success, and of far greater importance than excellence in drill. The best drilled troops in the world, if no better shots than the average "Tommy Atkins" of England or Canada, would in such a country as ours meet with certain and dire defeat from a totally undrilled and undisciplined foe, who were good riflemen and armed with breech-loaders. This admits of no argument. Had the Metis and Indians in 1885 been armed with Snider Enfields and well supplied with ammunition, Fish Creek, Cut Knife Creek, and Batoche would have told a very different tale.

What then is Canada doing towards training the rank and file in the use of the rifle? *Nothing*.

The rifle associations, it is true, have succeeded in making "crack shots" out of a limited few, of whom a large proportion are officers, and some only ex-members of the active militia. The members of these associations are in most cases men of means ample to buy all the ammunition they require, who take to the rifle as a pastime. Such being the case, they should themselves "pay the piper" and ask no aid. There is no necessity for an officer being a good shot, as his duties in the fighting line preclude him from handling a rifle. If he sees fit for his own sake and at his own expense to become a sharpshooter, no one objects, and his skill will aid him in instructing his men, but that officers should compete with the rank and file for cash prizes is not only decidedly *infra dig*, but tends directly to discourage the rank and file upon whose shooting the country's safety may one day depend, from trying their hand at the ranges. Tommy Atkins, who cannot buy ten cartridges to his captain's hundred, and cannot lose his day's work to practise without feeling the loss, gets faint-hearted, "gives it up," and leaves the militia when his time is up as bad a shot as he was on enlisting.

In this way I am satisfied that the encouragement given to rifle associations does actual harm. Officers, non-commissioned officers or men who can spare time and money to take an active part in these organizations should be permitted to do so, but whatever amount, be it small or large, the government has to expend in encouraging rifle practice should be spent exclusively upon the rank and file in camp and at local headquarters. Rewards for good scores at the range in camp should be given in the shape of ammunition, to be used at local headquarters under the control of the company officers. When "Tommy" gets his cartridges free, the credit of standing first, second or third in his company is the best reward he can get and will be as great a stimulus to exertion as a cash prize, which he will likely as not squander. In rural battalions every company should have a range, procured by government aid. Rifle practice should in short be a part and an important part of the *private's duty*, and not as now merely a pastime indulged in by a few officers and non-coms.

I may be pardoned for making a suggestion as to how my views might be carried into effect.

Let us suppose that the "highest possible" with the 20 rounds of ammunition fired in camp or at headquarters is 80. After each company has fired, let the non-com's and men be divided into four classes, thus:—

1st Class	those making over 60
2nd "	" " from 40 to 60
3rd "	" " 20 to 40
4th "	" " under 20

Give rewards as follows:—

Each 1st Class Man.....	100 Rounds.
" 2nd "	50 "
" 3rd "	20 "

The total earned by the company to be delivered to the officer commanding, who shall keep a record of the number to which each man is entitled. After returning home the captain is to fix a certain time or times at which the ammunition thus earned is to be fired under the direction of an officer or non-com. who shall keep a score book. Fourth class men purchasing their own ammunition, and men in the other classes purchasing an extra quantity, to be permitted to fire at these times subject to the same direction. Any ammunition not fired by those entitled to it within the time limited by the captain to be given in his discretion to such fourth class men as apply for it, and to be by them fired under his direction. A complete record of the scores made, with all ammunition thus fired, to be returned to the officer commanding the battalion and by him forwarded to headquarters. The men to be then re-classified as before:—

1st class, those averaging 60.....	to each 20 rounds fired.
2nd " " " 40.....	" " 20 " "
3rd " " " 20.....	" " 20 " "
4th " " " under 20.....	" " 20 " "

First class men only to be permitted to take part in battalion or brigade matches, and in such case, on production of a proper certificate from their captain, to be allowed to travel free in uniform to the place of such match. Money prizes to be given to the best shots in such battalion or brigade competitions.

I think the above scheme is perfectly feasible and the cost to the government in proportion to the benefits accruing would be a mere bagatelle.

Every inducement should be held out to good shots to remain in their respective corps, and with a view to this extra pay should be given, say:—

To 1st class men.....	10 cents per day.
" 2nd " "	5 " " "

I fear my letter is assuming unwieldy proportions and shall say no more until I see my views criticized by you, Mr. Editor, your friend Linch-pin, or some other.

CUIDICHN RIGH.

The Ottawa Rifle Club.

Saturday last this club's weekly competition was with the Snider rifle, at 400 and 500 yards, ten shots at each. There was again a large turnout, unprecedented interest being shown this season. The scores of those making upwards of fifty points were as follows:—

Hutcheson, J. E.....	44	42	86	Coste, E.....	37	30	67
Sherwood, Capt. A. P.....	46	38	84	McKay, H.....	38	29	67
Cox, Capt. C. F.....	39	42	81	White, G. R.....	40	27	67
Gray, H. H.....	41	37	78	Smith, F. W.....	38	26	64
Anderson, Major.....	42	36	78	Wright, Capt. J.....	31	31	62
Fairweather, J. H.....	38	39	77	Morrison, N.....	41	21	62
Marks, J. W.....	41	36	77	Perley, Major H. F.....	39	22	61
Nutting, J. P.....	42	33	75	McDonald, J. W.....	36	22	58
Sutherland, E. D.....	38	36	74	Pratt, H.....	33	23	56
Hutchison, Dr. G.....	37	36	73	Lightfoot, F. C.....	32	21	53
Ellis, J. H.....	37	36	73	Slade, T. C.....	36	16	52
McJanet, T.....	37	35	72	Moodie, R.....	34	17	51
Jamieson, W. A.....	34	35	69				

The regular spoons were both for the senior class on this occasion, and were taken by Mr. Hutcheson and Capt. Sherwood. A rule of the club provides that when there is no spoon reserved for juniors, an additional one shall be offered when there are more than seven entries in that class, and this condition being fulfilled on Saturday, a junior spoon was competed for, being won by Mr. Nutting. As the committee have classified Mr. J. W. McDonald, a new member, in the seniors, the junior spoon of the 5th May, for which he would otherwise have tied, goes to Mr. Nutting, and he in turn, having now won two spoons, becomes a senior also.

Correspondence.

[This paper does not necessarily share the views expressed in correspondence published in its columns, the use of which is freely granted to writers on topics of interest to the militia.]

WHO SHOULD WEAR DRESS SPURS.

To the Editor of the Canadian Militia Gazette:

SIR,—I shall be much pleased if you or one or more of your correspondents will kindly answer the following question: Should adjutants of infantry regiments wear dress spurs at levées, balls, etc.? Clause (g) of Section 266, R. & O., seems to indicate that they shall not be worn, but I find that there is a difference of opinion as to the interpretation of that clause.

May 16th, 1888.

THE "NO RANGE" MUDDLE AT MONTREAL.

To the Editor of the Canadian Militia Gazette:

SIR,—Allow me to offer some remarks which though perhaps of only local interest yet may serve to remind others what treatment they may expect to receive should they ever get into the same fix, or how they may avert it by putting not their faith in the circumlocution office.

The military district No. 5 this year is allowed to drill and draw pay for 3,076 men who are supposed to be efficient when through inspection. Let us see the arrangements provided for what every inspector, every c. o. and every military man worthy the name knows to be so essential to efficiency as target practice. At least 12 months ago the authorities were made aware that the Point St. Charles ranges were to be taken away from the shooting men here by the building of a flood preventive dyke. It was then looked upon as a settled fact that a new range would be provided—it is absolutely necessary and hardly anyone credited rumours that there might be delay. Towards the end of the season, when nothing had been done through all sorts of official delays, by dint of prodding the machinery was got to work, and surveyors