

measure the force opposed to them that our men lose confidence. When they can clearly perceive it they discover no inclination to evade it, and if smokeless powder is contributory to this end they will welcome it. French critics may be underrating the innate valour of their soldiers when they make so much of the protection to their courage which a 'sulphurous canopy' affords. We think they do, and that when they talk of youthful soldiers being timid they forget Eylau and Bautzen, but we have no sort of doubt that the charm of the invention in the eyes of our men will be that it clears the vision and exposes to them the dimensions of their foe."

Captain Gall, in the second edition of his interesting work on "Modern Tactics," just issued, has something to say on this subject of smokeless powder. He holds that the introduction of smokeless powder will not upset the principles of tactics, but owing to the greater rapidity of fire when the vision is not obscured, and the increased certainty of aim arising from use, and also the difficulty experienced by the enemy in discerning whence the fire proceeds, it must, to a certain extent, change the conditions of warfare. He sums up the advantages of the new explosive as regards artillery and infantry as follows: The positions of batteries in action will not be revealed at long distances by clouds of smoke, and guns will be fired more rapidly and aimed more accurately. The objection to placing guns along the exterior line, in the defence of villages, will be partly removed by the absence of smoke to indicate their presence. The defence of woods will likewise be made easier, and the power of small bodies of troops holding forward positions to delay an enemy's advance will be greater, though they may be more exposed to the view of the enemy when withdrawing from them. Attacking infantry will be able to approach unperceived closer to an enemy and will not suffer so much from artillery fire at long ranges in the absence of smoke to indicate their whereabouts. Defending troops, when firing rapidly at short ranges, will see what is going on in front and will be able to direct their fire upon the enemy's reinforcements when coming up, as the latter will not be hidden behind the smoke of the firing-line."

### The Rifle.

The Ottawa Rifle Club had another competition on Saturday afternoon last, with Martinis, at Queen's ranges. The spoon winners were R. Moodie, 93; C. S. Scott, 91; J. E. Hutcheson, 91.

At the matches of the Hamilton Rifle Association, held on the 25th October, F. B. Ross was first, winning the D. R. A. silver medal with a score of 90; E. G. Zealand won the D. R. A. bronze medal with 89, and A. Miller the O. R. A. medal with 86. The following officers were elected: President, Capt. Zealand; vice-president, W. M. Goodwin; secretary-treasurer, A. Murdoch; committee, D. Mitchell, P. T. Robertson, A. Miller, W. H. Clarke.

In the return match between the 21st Essex Fusiliers and the Detroit Light Infantry, which took place at Detroit on the 16th ult., the Canadians were again victorious. The scores stood: 21st—200 yds., 172; 400, 180; 500, 141; total, 493. Light Infantry—200 yds., 169; 400, 180; 500, 136; total, 185. The teams consisted of six men on each side. Of the match the Windsor *Evening Record* says: "When two weeks ago the Canucks won at Essex town with a good score, the representatives of American soldiery were confident that on their own grounds they would be the victors, but they weren't, not much. Our own boys scored a victory and a most satisfactory one, all things considered. The Essex boys have something to be proud of and they are proud too. Two victories over the flower of Michigan!"

The old Stadacona Rifle Association, of Quebec, was re-organized last Thursday at a meeting of about fifty riflemen from "B" Battery, 8th Royal Rifles, 9th Battalion, 17th Battalion, 87th Battalion, Queen's Own Canadian Hussars, Lauzon Rifle Club and Levis Garrison Artillery. The meeting was most enthusiastic and all present supported the motion to re-organize the Stadacona. The following officers were elected: Patron, His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor; vice-patrons, D. A. G. of District and Commandant of Garrison. Council, commanding officers of all military corps affiliated to Stadacona, and the following riflemen:

Lieut.-Col. Scott, R. L.; Mr. J. N. Belleau, Q. C.; Major Demers, 17th Battalion; Capt. Pinault, 9th Battalion; Capt. Routhier, 87th Battalion; Capt. Martineau, Levis Garrison Artillery; Lieut. Clint, Queen's Own Canadian Hussars; Master Gunner C. Lavie, B Battery, and T. W. S. Dunn, 8th Royal Rifles.

The annual matches of the Milton (Ont.) Rifle Club were held on the 18th ult., with a rather slim attendance, due to threatening weather and bad roads. In the All Comers' match, 200, 500 and 600 yards, in which there were twelve prizes offered, the chief scores were: Lieut. Robertson, 82; Capt. Panton, 80; Pte. Heaven, 78; Pte. Rymal, 77. In the Extra Series at 200 yards, 10 shots, Lieut. Robertson was first with 46 and Pte. Rymal next with 45.

#### Belleville.

The annual matches of the 15th Battalion, A.L.I., were shot last month, more competitors than in any previous year taking part. The ranges were 200, 400, 500 and 600 yards. No. 1 Company won the Ponton cup and the Spauzenberg clock. No. 5 Company won the Lazier cup. The Aggregate prizes (including Dominion and Ontario Association medals) were won by: 1, Lieut. S. Vermilyea, No. 5 Co.; 2, B. M. Riggs, No. 1 Co.; 3, Capt. W. N. Ponton, No. 1 Co.; 4, Sergt. T. S. Clarke, No. 1 Co.; 5, Sergt. D. Gibson, No. 1 Co.

A friendly match between teams of seven each from the 15th and 49th Battalions (three ranges) has since been fired. The 49th came off victorious by 29 points after a close and exciting contest. The return match with teams of ten each will be shot on Thanksgiving Day.

The new drill-shed and officers' quarters are much appreciated by visiting members of the force.

#### Toronto.

The annual rifle matches of the 12th Battalion, York Rangers, took place on Thursday, 30th ult., on the Garrison commons. Although the weather was not favourable to the marksmen, some remarkably good scores were made. Lieut. Curran headed the list in the battalion match with 90 points; he also got first place in the officers' match with 58 points. In the nursery match Pte. Gadsby came first with 83 points. The matches of the McSpadden Rifle Association in connection with F. Co., were fired simultaneously with those of the battalion, and in the Association match Lieut. Brown took first place, having 88 points to his credit. Corp. McVittie came first in "The Wayling" match with 61 points. The Vennell Rifle Association in connection with A company also fired at the same time. Lieut. Curran won the first place in the General match, and Colour-Sergt. Burrill took first place in the Nursery match with a score of 59. The trophy won at the recent League match was presented to the battalion by Staff-Sergt. A. Bell. Lieut.-Col. Wayling replied on behalf of the battalion.

#### G COMPANY Q. O. R. RIFLE MATCH.

There was a large turnout of the members of this company at the annual rifle match, held on the 18th ult. The conditions were not favourable to high scoring. The chief prize winners were:—

Nursery, 200 (kneeling) and 400 yards, five shots—Pte. Baldwin, 32; Pte. Kerr, 30.

Standing, 200 yards, five shots—Sergt. Thorn, 16; Stf.-Sergt. MacDonald, 16; Pte. Palin, 16.

General, 200 (kneeling), 400 and 500 yards, five shots—Liet. Mercer, 57; Sergt. Thorn, 55; Sergt. Sanson, 51; Pte. Palin, 48.

The aggregate match was particularly interesting by reason of the conditions. There were three prizes given by Capt. Bennett, for recruits, to be awarded for the highest attendance at butt practices and the five highest scores over 30 points. Bugler Thompson gave a prize, open to those who had never won cross-guns, for the six highest scores at 200 and 500 yards. Lieut. Mercer gave a prize for the N. C. O. or man making the greatest number of cross-guns scores at the regular butt practices during the season, not including scores in battalion matches. For this Sergeants Sanson and Thorn tied.

The Challenge Cup, presented by the Mutual Reserve Fund Assurance Co. of New York, and to be won twice before becoming property of the winner, was won by Sergt. J. O. Thorn, with 71 points in the Standing and General matches.

The company did not forget the friends who generously contributed towards the prize list, as the Secretary-Treasurer, Sergt. N. B. Sanson, forwarded to each donor a copy of the list of prize winners, together with a note returning thanks for the prize.

The company had six teams of 4 men each shooting this summer, for individual prizes for the first two teams, with this result: 1st, Sergt. Thorn, Pte. O'Callaghan; Corp. Baynes-Reed, Pte. Smith; 2nd, Sergt. Sanson's team; 3rd, Staff-Sergt. Williams' team; 4th, Lieut. Mercer's team; 5th, Bugle-Major Swift's team; 6th, Bugler Thompson's team.

In the match with E company—the 10 highest scores—"Thirty-Five," otherwise known as "Mutton Lambs," were beaten by G company by 32 points.