

CANADIAN MILITIA SHOULD BE TRAINED TO SHOOT.

(Contributed by a Colonel.)

The following article, which appeared primarily in the Toronto News under the nom de plume of "Foggy," is such a valuable one, and contains so much in the way of helpful suggestion, that the liberty has been taken of reproducing it at pretty full length in our own columns.

I think it will be universally acknowledged that the most important feature brought prominently to our notice is the vast importance of thorough practice in the arm we carry. Any ordinary person will agree that if we are armed with a rifle, or other weapon, it is of the first importance to be able to use it.

We have the satisfaction of seeing gathered at Ottawa, year after year, a number of professional shots, who annually assemble there, win the prizes offered and enjoy themselves. What actual benefit does the militia gain from this; as we know that to a great extent the same competitors annually present themselves? How does this improve the general proficiency of our force? After these enthusiasts become proficient to reach the goal of their ambition—Ottawa—they are perfect. It is obviously a waste of money to spend more on them.

Again, the professional has introduced many unimilitary innovations, which he fancies are necessary for his operations. In fact, the box of implements which he packs to the firing points, and the time occupied in manipulating these various articles are quite enough to frighten a young man who has been taught, very properly, that all he is required to possess as a soldier is his rifle and ammunition.

We hear of matches being arranged for beginners, to encourage the younger men, and thus the abuse of the whole system comes in, i.e., pothunting. These competitors can arrange beforehand for their annual holidays to suit the occasion.

It will be noticed, also, that the dates of the different matches are arranged so that the money prizes may be taken in each meet in succession, and, in this way, make the circuit, put more money in their pockets, and, as they call it, encourage rifle shooting. Under this system, the attendance of the rank and file cannot be secured. But, if, on the other hand, the money was distributed to the local and regimental organizations, where men could attend, a great benefit would result.

There is no reason why the D. R. A. and provincial associations should not exist; but that the money should be thus diverted into the pockets of professionals is absurd and wrong. Let us suppose that the large sums of money devoted to securing the range at Ottawa, including 50 targets or so, was laid out instead at the headquarters of various regiments and companies. If this procedure were followed, we would probably instruct more men in one battalion, and after a military fashion, than assemble from the whole Dominion at Ottawa. This would furnish an incentive for men to join the militia, and partake of the recreation and amusement the rifle provides.

At this point we would beg to point out a popular error, in supposing that because we are armed with a long range rifle, that it is a necessity to have a long range. We hear of ranges being laid out because they do not furnish distances over 500 yards. This is a mistake. If long distances are not available let us avail ourselves of the short ones, which can be found with safe backgrounds in many localities, where 1,000 yards would be dangerous.

A rifle like the Lee-Enfield, with its

flat trajectory, shoots at 600 yards as it does at 300 yards, thus, where a background is available, even at 200 yards, we have the means of instructing our force in shooting. In the present war in South Africa, in spite of the open and the losses have occurred within 500 yards. Therefore, the necessity of a variety of long ranges is not required, except in the imagination of people ignorant of actual requirements of the case, and of the professional politician.

We also hear of erecting at Ottawa elaborate and extravagant moving targets. What comfort do we derive from the fact that a few marksmen at Ottawa can hit a moving target, when we consider that this money might be spent in teaching the men we need to defend our country in simpler and more useful methods? What we require in the militia is a universal proficiency, and not an insignificant number of trick shooting officers and sergeants whose duties lie in other directions. It is our humble opinion that it is possible to convert our militia from an almost useless force, as far as shooting is concerned, into a highly efficient one.

Provide ranges at every point where a background is obtainable in the vicinity of the numerous towns and villages. If long distances can be found, so much the better, if not, avail ourselves of the short ones—all matches to be on military lines, on a universal system and services conditions, competitors to be classified and handled to prevent pothunting. The government's yearly allowance of ammunition to be increased, and all ranks compelled to fire the full allowance. Extra ammunition to be sold from government stores at cheap rates. Targets to be of a similar pattern and the silhouette figures to be adopted. In conclusion, devote the money now wasted on the D. R. A. and provincial meets to encouraging regimental and company associations. Some day it will be found how absurd it is to expect anything but disaster, when men know nothing of the weapon they carry. The absurd number of 40 rounds per year is supposed to be fired by our militia. In most cases the practice is never carried out. It is considered unimportant. Our camps are devoted to drill almost entirely.

It is folly for the critics of today to suddenly discover what they speak of as a modern lesson. It is a lesson which we never should have called upon to learn, considering that, away back in the days of the American Revolution, just such another instance as the present was given to us, when the man of the soil took up his rifle, knowing well that the drill, on which we set such store, could, for all intents and purposes, be picked up sufficiently at the last moment. One would have thought that the affair at Majuba hill would have provided food for more reflection at that time. Our own Northwest experience, in 1885, was similar. We all know the insignificant numbers that fought under Riel. But, after we had crushed them with force of numbers, as we are doing now in South Africa, the swagger and congratulatory of victory obliterated the lessons we ought to have learned, and we revert to the old regime with a smirking satisfaction.

Would it not rather appear in accord with common sense to adopt the methods which are proved to be so effective, and which we have discovered, to our cost, must be sound? Otherwise, the best element in officers and men of this great empire would have been needed to conquer those primitive people. A professional in any branch of life is considered able to vanquish the amateur. Should it not be the case with the soldier? We may point with pride to the recent victories in the Sudan and India, but in these cases we should curb our enjoyment when the fact presents itself that the enemy were most imperfectly armed, and not proficient with the rifles which they did possess.

Supposing we possessed a battalion of "William Tell" they would be counted out at any of our modern inspections, if the only qualifications they possessed were good shooting and the power of marching like ordinary individuals. We suppose this, for we have never yet seen a general who asked to inspect the score sheets, inquired if even our small amount of ammunition had been expended. I might here mention that the well-known 40 rounds per year are fired generally at the end of the 12 days' camp, and, in most cases, biased away in a perfunctory manner, this portion of the exercises being considered of no importance whatever, but merely a little amusement for the "boys."

With regard to the system of converting troops into a machine, which we implicitly follow, we might refer to a passage in Sir Wm. Butler's "History of the Life of General Colley." He says: "Ours were the dogmatic teachings of the barrack square, the acquired lessons of unreasonable drill, the accepted formulae of collective movement, subordinating action to one mind and one command, and liable to produce inertness and helplessness, whenever circumstances became such as previous precept had not contemplated." These well-worn expressions are true to the letter, and are quite in keeping with the remarks of Winston Churchill, who compares the working of our men and that of the Boers to the difference between a pack of hounds and a flock of sheep. The hounds, each employing his individual talents, yet working with his fellows for a common object, the sheep, with individuality distorted and destroyed, in order to acquire what we call discipline, follow only the leader, and when he falls huddle together and are shot down.

At present we in Canada adhere entirely to the principles of the sheep. The objects of our camps should be to make battalions capable of being handled, by teaching them a few simple movements. Squad drill must be altered so that you can do in one day what now takes a week. Everything should give way to field work and actual practice with the rifle. Let us hope that these lessons will teach us all what changes are necessary. We in Canada have our duty to perform; let us carry it out at once "lest we forget!" (Canadian Military Gazette.)

Children Cry for CASTORIA.

FROM QUEEN VICTORIA.

A Letter to a Little New Brunswick Girl.

Her Majesty Was Touched by Canadian Loyalty and Interest in the Brave Troops.

How much the Queen values the love of Canadian children is made very clear by the following letters. Is it not wonderful that a great man like the secretary of state, the colonies, and that even the Queen herself, with the cares of all the empire to burden her, and the needs of her great army to fill her mind, would take care to notice and even to answer the letters of a little girl?

LETTER TO MR. CHAMBERLAIN. To the Right Hon. J. Chamberlain, M. P.

Dear Sir—I do want my letter to reach the Queen. My papa said he better send it than a great man like a little girl's letter. But I want her to know that the little Canadians really do love her, and are glad that the Canadian soldiers went to South Africa. We would all go if we could.

I remain yours truly, FRANCES BURT.

The Rectory, Shediac, N. B. MR. CHAMBERLAIN'S REPLY. The private secretary presents his compliments to Miss Frances Burt, and is directed by Mr. Chamberlain to inform her that he has had pleasure in forwarding her letter to her majesty, the Queen.

Colonial Office, London, April 2, 1900.

MISS FRANCES' LETTER TO THE QUEEN.

To Her Most Gracious Majesty, Victoria, Queen of England: Dear Madam—I am a little girl, eleven years old, and my papa is the rector. My schoolmates and I want to tell you that we love you because you are our Queen. We love you, too, because you are so sweet and kind to our Canadian soldiers. If I were a man I would go to South Africa and fight for you. If I were a big girl I would be a Red Cross nurse.

We pray to Jesus every day that you may soon see peace and victory. I should dearly love to see you, but I suppose I never shall, as I live so far away. But I can tell you that we love you, and all the Canadians do, too. We would rather be British than anything.

I hope none of your great officers will prevent my letter reaching you. Papa said that the Queen was so touched by the letter that she would think it worth while. But if you knew it was coming I know you would not let them disappoint me.

With humble respect, I remain, Your loyal and loving little girl, FRANCES BURT.

The Rectory, Shediac, N. B. THE QUEEN'S ANSWER. Windsor Castle, March 31, 1900.

Miss Phillips is desired by the Queen to thank Miss Frances Burt for the nice letter her majesty has received from her. The Queen was touched to receive from her little Canadian subject such a warm-hearted expression of loyalty and of interest in the brave troops united in her army.

CIVIC MATTERS IN NORTHUMBERLAND.

A correspondent writes: As the one side of our late civic strife has been made public through the medium of two St. John papers, it may possibly be of some interest to give a brief outline of the true condition of affairs. The prefix of "true" is placed advisedly, as from the character of the alleged author of the reports above referred to it goes without comment that nothing from his pen can be relied on where he is interested in the slightest degree.

In the despatch to the Telegraph he went out of his way to belittle Mr. Loggie and those who supported him, and used language which was resented by Mr. Loggie at the meeting of Monday night, at which he held up the author to the meeting in his real Vicar of Bray character. The despatch asserted that Mr. Nicol was "brushed aside" by the supporters of Mr. Loggie, whereas the fact is that Mr. Nicol declined the nomination, and very properly so, if he was convinced, as it is said he was, that he was expected to become a supervisory tool in the hands of the same clique who usually have some "limber-backed" fellow in a position to carry forward their designs.

It was only after Mr. Nicol had declined that Mr. Loggie's friends approached him with the nomination. Mr. Loggie considered that his services for four years as an alderman had given him some claim to the position, and so felt no scruple at accepting the offer of his friends, and for two weeks there was no talk of any opposition, but at length the party which has been for a long time dispensing the illegally sold liquor in Chatham arose to the occasion, and feeling that their "craft was in danger," they set about securing a candidate of their own, and having procured the assistance of representatives of two or more of our manufacturing firms they offered their support to Hon. L. J. Tweedie, provincial secretary of New Brunswick. Mr. Tweedie having accepted the nomination, it then became necessary for Mr. Loggie to set about his canvass, which he had not done up to that time.

Mr. Loggie is a gentleman doing a very large fishing and general business in the town, a man of good business attainments, standing high in church circles, a moral, temperance and patriotic man, and one against whom such a one as Mr. Tweedie had no chance for success in the town in which both were best known, even with all the strength given by two of the largest labor-employing concerns in the town which paid out large sums on election day and previously, to quality delinquent ratepayers. Combined with the acquired strength from the above sources, Mr. Tweedie had

CONFEDERATION LIFE ASSOCIATION.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE Twenty-Eighth Annual Meeting.

Gratifying Results—Increase in New Business—Increase in Business in Force—Increase in Income—Increase in Assets—Twenty-Eighth Annual Report presented at the Annual Meeting held at the Association's Offices at Toronto, 21st March, 1900.

SYNOPSIS OF REPORT.

It will be satisfactory to those interested in the affairs of the Association to know that it has had, in fact, a general improvement in the business of the country during the past year, the new business being the largest in the history of the Association. Applications were received during the year to the amount of \$4,157,350.00. The accepted new issue for the year amounted to \$3,962,368.00. The total insurance in force at the close of the year was \$31,565,304.00. The claims arising from death were still favorable, being 130 deaths, calling for the total sum of \$332,250.00—under 155 policies. The valuation of the policy and annuity obligations has been made at the rate of 3-1/2 per cent. interest for all business since 1895, and 4-1/2 per cent. (the Government standard) for business prior to that date. The financial statements exhibit the position of the Association at the close of the year. Attention was called to the satisfactory completion of the changes in the Yonge Street front of the Head Office building, and the improvement in the way of removal as the result of such change. Reference at some length was made to the legislation passed during the year by the Dominion Parliament in respect to the class of investments in which life companies may deal. This legislation will enable the Association to take advantage of a greatly extended field of securities. The audit has been regularly made, as in previous years. Resolutions thanking the officers and members of the Agency, and Office staffs, and the Solicitors and Medical Examiners for their faithful services during the year, were passed.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

Table with columns RECEIPTS and DISBURSEMENTS. RECEIPTS: Premiums (net) \$1,000,011.27, Interest and rents (net) 305,595.89, Total \$1,305,607.16. DISBURSEMENTS: To Policy-holders: Death claims \$215,905.80, Endowments 144,118.50, Annuities 14,779.51, Surrendered Policies 56,587.72, Cash profits 78,492.98, Total \$509,784.51. Expenses, salaries, commissions, etc. 226,273.53, Dividends to stock-holders 15,000.00, Balance 540,555.61. Total \$1,305,607.16.

BALANCE SHEET

Table with columns ASSETS and LIABILITIES. ASSETS: Mortgages and real estate \$4,444,202.67, Bonds and Debentures 1,512,270.00, Loans on policies and stocks 943,351.10, Outstanding and deferred premiums 234,064.43, Interest and rents, due and accrued 120,057.95, Cash in banks, sundries 119,195.73, Total \$7,378,141.88. LIABILITIES: Reserve Hni. 3-1/2 and 4-1/2 per cent. \$6,751,812.00, (Reserve Gov't Standard \$6,671,192.00), Death and endowment claims 35,706.70, Declared profits 86,910.12, Capital stock paid up 100,000.00, Sundry items 28,840.79, Cash surplus 367,872.27, Total \$7,378,141.88. Capital Surplus, above all Liabilities, Government Standard \$448,482.27, Cash Stock, paid up as above 100,000.00, Capital Stock, Subscribed, Uncalled 500,000.00, Total Surplus Security for Policy-holders \$1,448,482.27.

J. K. MACDONALD, Managing Director.

The report was unanimously adopted, and the former Board of Directors re-elected: President—HON. SIR W. P. HOWLAND, K. C. M. G., C. B.

N. B. General Agent—G. W. PARKER. St. John City Agent—S. A. McLEOD.

The Semi-Weekly Sun AND The Co-operative Farmer ONE YEAR FOR ONLY \$1.20.

This great combination offer is only open to new subscribers or to old subscribers who pay all arrears at the regular rate, and one year in advance. THE CO-OPERATIVE FARMER is a Semi-Monthly Journal, exclusively devoted to the interests of the farmers of the Maritime Provinces. It is the official organ of the Farmers' and Dairymen's Association of New Brunswick; the Nova Scotia Farmers' Association, and the Maritime Stock Breeders' Association. THE ST. JOHN SEMI-WEEKLY SUN is the best newspaper a Maritime farmer can take. It is published on Wednesdays and Saturdays, eight large pages every issue, containing all the provincial as well as foreign news. It has THE MOST COMPLETE WAR SERVICE

of any paper in Eastern Canada, and its frequency of issue makes it of especial interest during the strife in South Africa.

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DR. J. COLLIS BROWNE'S CHLORODYNE

THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS, of Sept. 24, 1885, says: "If I were asked which single medicine I should prefer to take abroad with me, as likely to be most generally useful, to the exclusion of all others, I should say CHLORODYNE. I never travel without it and its general applicability to the relief of a large number of simple ailments forms its best recommendation."

Dr. J. Collis Browne's Chlorodyne IS THE GREAT SPECIFIC FOR DIARRHOEA, DYSENTERY, CHOLERA

CAUTION—Genuine Chlorodyne. Every bottle of this well known remedy for COUGHS, COLDS, ASTHMA, BRONCHITIS, DIARRHOEA, etc., bears on the Government Stamp the name of the inventor—

DR. J. COLLIS BROWNE. Sold by all Chemists at 1s. 1/6d., 2s. 6d., and 4s. 6d. Sole Manufacturer—

J. T. DAVENPORT 33 Great Russell St., London, W. C.

COUNTY LICENSES. The county liquor license commissioners, in session yesterday afternoon, granted the following licenses:

Strouds—Wm. E. Newcomb, Daniel Michaud, Joseph Rowley, Sterling H. Barker, E. A. Treadwell, Thos. H. Ryan (3 months' extension), Lapointe—Geo. H. Tippet, John Brennan, William Fleming, John J. Collins, Daniel Dewey, Fred Duncan, James Ryder (manufacturing brewer's license).

Thos. H. Ryan and Mrs. Elizabeth Power of Strouds and Mary Morris were refused licenses. Ryan, however, gets a three months' extension.

What Cured Your Cough? ADAMSON'S BOTANIC BALSAM. No cough can stay after being treated with it. It simply soothes it out of existence. There is nothing harsh or imperative about it. It heals the sore parts, tones up the irritated air passages and strengthens the bronchial tubes—thus stopping the sources of the cough. AT ALL DRUGGISTS, 25c.

PROFESSIONAL. DR. J. H. MORRISON, HAS RESUMED HIS PRACTICE. Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat Only. 168 GERMAIN STREET.

DR. J. COLLIS BROWNE'S CHLORODYNE. THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS, of Sept. 24, 1885, says: "If I were asked which single medicine I should prefer to take abroad with me, as likely to be most generally useful, to the exclusion of all others, I should say CHLORODYNE. I never travel without it and its general applicability to the relief of a large number of simple ailments forms its best recommendation." Dr. J. Collis Browne's Chlorodyne IS THE GREAT SPECIFIC FOR DIARRHOEA, DYSENTERY, CHOLERA. CAUTION—Genuine Chlorodyne. Every bottle of this well known remedy for COUGHS, COLDS, ASTHMA, BRONCHITIS, DIARRHOEA, etc., bears on the Government Stamp the name of the inventor— DR. J. COLLIS BROWNE. Sold by all Chemists at 1s. 1/6d., 2s. 6d., and 4s. 6d. Sole Manufacturer— J. T. DAVENPORT 33 Great Russell St., London, W. C. COUNTY LICENSES. The county liquor license commissioners, in session yesterday afternoon, granted the following licenses: Strouds—Wm. E. Newcomb, Daniel Michaud, Joseph Rowley, Sterling H. Barker, E. A. Treadwell, Thos. H. Ryan (3 months' extension), Lapointe—Geo. H. Tippet, John Brennan, William Fleming, John J. Collins, Daniel Dewey, Fred Duncan, James Ryder (manufacturing brewer's license). Thos. H. Ryan and Mrs. Elizabeth Power of Strouds and Mary Morris were refused licenses. Ryan, however, gets a three months' extension.