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CONTENTS OF THIS NUMBER.

TOPICS OF THE WEEK.

A third edition of "Otter's Guide."
The Gzowski cup for artillerymen.
The last General Orders.
Politics in the Militia.
The Wimbledon team.
An interesting judgment.

THE D. R. A. PROGRAMME.

POETRY.

From a Militia Officer's Farewell—*Quebec Chronicle.*

REGIMENTAL NEWS.

THE RIFLE.

MILITIA GENERAL ORDERS.
No. 7, of 3rd May, 1889.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Topics of the Week.

A third edition of "Otter's Guide," a handbook which should be read by every officer of the militia, has just appeared. In a later issue a more lengthy reference will be made to the work. Suffice it for the present to say that Col. Otter's experience as Commandant of C School, and as D. A. G., has enabled him to add much valuable matter not given in the former editions.

The conditions of the annual field artillery competition for the Gzowski cup have been published in circular form by the Dominion Artillery Association. The cup is competed for on parade during annual drill by the four subdivisions of the battery, and the prizes are awarded to the batteries performing the conditions in the shortest average time. The conditions are precisely the same as those for last year's competition, but the prizes have been increased five dollars each, being now \$35, \$25, and \$15 to the first, second and third respectively. The first receives for the year the possession of the challenge cup.

The General Orders of the 3rd inst., published elsewhere in this issue, are unusually long, but they are interesting in proportion. Two corps are disbanded, the Seventh Battalion; of London, Ont., and the Victoria, B. C. Rifle Company. Outside the officers of these corps, no less than three commanding officers retire, these being Lieut.-Cols. O'Malley, of the 25th, English, of the 26th, and Macdonald, of the 66th. It will be noticed that the new commanding officer of the 65th has been vigorously supplementing his officers' roster, having a formidable list of new appointments gazetted this week. Another of the Montreal corps affected by the Orders is the Fifth Royal Scots, from which Capt. C. C. Newton retires. His loss will, we are sure, be deplored by the regiment. Wherever the kilted laddies went Capt. Newton's immense stature and soldierly bearing made him the observed of all eyes, and having a heart as great proportionately as his body, he was a universal favourite. The Scots were as proud of the gallant Captain as he was of the Scots, which is saying a good deal.

The disbandment of the Seventh Fusiliers of London, Ont., has caused not a little comment in the daily press, and quite a variety of speculation has been indulged in as to what it means. The *Ottawa Journal* infers that there is a decline in the military spirit of the West, consequent upon a declining interest in physical exercises. The *Toronto Mail* thinks that it is discouraging treatment on the part of the Militia

Department at Ottawa that has killed the corps. The *London Free Press*, published on the spot and therefore most likely to know, says it was neither the one nor the other of the above named causes, but that the reasons were "personal and partisan" and "of a special and peculiar kind not necessary here to dwell upon at length." From what it has been able to glean of the facts, the MILITIA GAZETTE believes that the Seventh Fusiliers have been disbanded because political considerations intervened to prevent a more satisfactory settlement of the difficulty in the corps, which could otherwise easily have been settled without punishing innocent and guilty alike by the disbandment.

There are no changes to record in the *personnel* of the Wimbledon team, and it seems likely that Lieut.-Col. Thomas Bacon, Commandant, and Capt. John Hood, Adjutant, will sail with the following twenty marksmen, named in the order of choice:—Staff-Sergt. T. Mitchell, 10th R. G.; Pte. R. McVittie, 10th R. G.; Pte. J. A. Armstrong, G. G. F. G.; Sergt. J. Rolston, 20th; Capt. S. M. Rogers, 43rd; Staff-Sergt. F. W. Curzon, 10th R. G.; Staff-Sergt. W. A. Jamieson, 43rd; Staff-Sergt. A. Pink, 43rd; Major A. P. Sherwood, 43rd; Capt. W. S. Russell, 45th; Lieut. J. A. Wilson, 33rd; Staff-Sergt. F. G. Corbin, 63rd; Staff-Sergt. John Ogg, 1st B. F. A.; Lieut. W. Conboy, 30th; Major B. A. Weston, 66th; Major T. J. Egan, 63rd; Lieut. C. H. Dimock, 78th; Lieut. R. Blackmore, 63rd; Corp. John Crowe, 1st B. F. A.; Staff-Sergt. W. Ashall, Q. O. R. Those who refused places on the team were:—Capt. J. T. Hartt, St. John Rifles; Staff-Sergt. C. H. Clarke, 53rd; Capt. G. A. McMicking, 44th; Sergt. W. Short, G. G. F. G.; Pte. C. T. Burns, 62nd; and Capt. J. G. Corbin, 63rd.

An interesting judgment to militiamen has just been given by Judge Ross in an Ottawa Division Court suit. Trumpeter Graham of the Princess Louise Dragoon Guards was thrown from his horse while performing the annual drill at headquarters, and severely hurt. There is no surgeon on the strength of the troop. Dr. R. W. Powell, a city practitioner, was summoned and took charge of the case. Capt. Gourdeau, the officer commanding the troop, told the Doctor to take good care of the injured man and to send the bill to him; "I will have it put through the Department," he added. Graham got well. He was paid by the Militia Department the compensation to which he was entitled for the injury sustained. Then Dr. Powell's bill, which had been sent to Capt. Gourdeau, was presented to the Department, but payment was refused. The Doctor, to test his claim, then sued Capt. Gourdeau, and after mature consideration Judge Ross has given a verdict for the defendant. Though Capt. Gourdeau unquestionably ordered the service, he had stated that it was to be paid for by the Department, and the Judge held that Dr. Powell, being Surgeon of the 43rd Battalion, was presumed to know, as well as Capt. Gourdeau would know, that the bill was not one to be paid by the Department, and that having failed to get satisfaction there he could not now recover from the Captain. It may be stated that the suit was brought more to determine the question of liability than to recover the money involved.