

disposition and temperament; and there does not appear to be any reason why any person, not physically unable, possessing a fair amount of nerve and activity, with proper pains, should fail to become a good shot.

There are very few "born shots," and the art of marksmanship is not developed suddenly, but is to be acquired by regular practice and close attention to the minor details which have been treated upon, and the longer a shot takes to master these details the greater will be the certainty of overcoming all difficulties and to be depended upon in match shooting. With a knowledge of details there must be practice, for those who occasionally use the range for amusement are not likely to become good shots; they may at one time do well and make excellent scores, whilst at other times the reverse is the case and their bull's-eyes are exchanged for misses; and yet such as these bemoan their hard luck, as they term it, and blame everything, the weather, the rifle, the ammunition, but never blame themselves for not keeping up their practice. Such shots as these are to be met with at nearly every match, and oftentimes they are the ones who grumble the most and are the cause of challenge shots and protests.

Attention should be paid to "position drill," as laid down in "Rifle Exercises." In firing standing, the position taught by the drill instructor is the one in which a man places himself in the firmest and steadiest attitude, and the muscles which are most used and relied on in shooting are thereby strengthened.

The kneeling position should never vary from that taught at drill, but be sure to wear boots with extra heavy soles, and do not be afraid to rest the weight of the body on the right heel, to keep the left elbow over the left knee and the right elbow as high as the shoulder. In the prone position be sure that the body rests comfortably on the ground.

Use the rifle at home and practise aiming drill. Place an old penny piece on the muzzle end of the barrel, and, aiming at a convenient mark, snap the rifle and continue to do so until it can be done without causing the penny to fall off; this will teach how to *press* the trigger and not to *jerk* it off with a nervous pull.

The recoil of a Snider, and in fact of any rifle, is not a formidable affair and will not be felt nor cause any inconvenience if the rifle is held properly and pressed well up to the shoulder with the left hand and kept there. Do not mistake the muscles of the right arm for those of the shoulder; if that be done the shooter will soon learn what recoil means.

Misses are regular attendants on a new beginner, and as they offer no ground for discouragement they should be viewed in the light of problems to be solved, the causes why they happened reflected upon, and the reduction of their number, the grand object to be arrived at and looked forward to. The marksman who makes occasional bull's-eyes and occasional misses has a harder lesson to learn than he who, first missing all the time, arrives at last to hit the target somewhere every shot.

Adopt a pull off of 6½ to 7 lbs: do not attempt the neat thing of 6 lbs. Every trigger tester does not weigh 6 lbs. Do not doctor the trigger, but like a man, honestly, and when required to do so, hand over the rifle, no matter at what time during a match, to those appointed to test it; do it cheerfully and without a growl. A man with an honest rifle has not any excuse to get cross or to feel annoyed.

* To be continued.

THE NOVA SCOTIA CAMP.

The N. S. Brigade Camp at Aldershot has the following staff: Commandant, Lt.-Col. MacShane; Brig. Major, Lt.-Col. Starratt, 69th; Sup. Officer, Lt. F. W. Fraser, Pictou Gar. Art.; Quartermaster, Capt. L. J. Bland, H. G. A.; Musketry Instructor, Capt. Curren, H. G. A.; Orderly Officer, Lt. Barclay Webster, 88th; Prin. Med. Officer, Surgeon Page, 78th.

The corps in attendance are: Kings Troop of Cavalry, 35; 68th Kings Batt., 418; 78th Kings, Colchester, and Pictou Batt., 325; 93rd Cumberland Batt., 230; 94th Victoria (C. B.) Batt., 230; total of all ranks, 1,234.

There are three bands, viz: Pictou Gar. Art., 12; 78th Batt., 15; 63rd Batt., 20; total 47. All the bands have been brigaded under Band-sergeant Henderson, of Pictou, and furnished capital music. Band-sergeant Hillcoat of the 93rd has made himself noteworthy for the assiduity with which he keeps his men at practice, at all opportunities, night or day, while they willingly respond. Every evening during the officers' mess of the 93rd its band plays a fine selection of pieces outside always attracting a large number of listeners from various parts of the camp. The officers of the battalion in camp are:

Staff:—Lt.-Col. M. B. Harrison commanding; Major J. Albert Black, Adjutant; Capt. G. E. Church, Paymaster; Dr. W. D. Mackenzie, Surgeon; Dr. Martin Black, Quartermaster.

No 1. Co.:—Capt. D. C. Allan, Lt. Howard Black, 2nd Lt. Jacob Porter.

No. 2 Co.:—Capt. R. L. Black; Lt. E. A. Bent (attached from 63rd H. Rifles), 2nd Lt. L. B. Donkin.

No. 3 Co.:—Capt. Jephtha Harrison, Lt. R. A. Christie, 2nd Lt. Osman Harrison.

No. 4 Co.:—Capt. H. C. Mills, Lt. Howard Mills, 2nd Lt. Stephen Bird.

No. 5 Co.:—Capt. Wm. Oxley, Lt. Richard Thompson, 2nd Lt. A. M. Gunning (attached from 63rd H. Rifles.)

The daily camp routine is:—Reveille (sunrise), 5.30, a.m. Early morning parade, 6.15 to 7.15. Breakfast, 7.30. Guard mounting, 9.00. C. O. parade, 10 to 12.00. Dinner, 12.30. C. O. parade, 2 to 5 p.m. Retreat (sunset), 5.30. Tea, 6.00. Tattoo, first post, 9.00. Last post, 9.30. Lights out, 10.00.

As soon as the bugles sound the reveille, the band of the day plays through the camp which is immediately astir, and the work of the day begins. During all the spare time in the mornings men are everywhere seen busy pipeclaying their belts, brightening their brasses and polishing their boots. At guard mounting comes the critical test of neatness and cleanliness, the guard furnished daily from each battalion, for inspection by the Brigade Major, being supposed to represent the whole battalion. It is surprising what a difference can be shown between men who all aim at making a presentable appearance. Here is one for instance who considers himself a smart looking soldier, and so he would be if he had not neglected to shave, another has omitted to whiten the edger of his waist belt, while another passes a good inspection in front but the slovenly folding of the blanket and great coat he carries on the back condemns him. By rigid inspection there has been a gradual improvement, until the appearance of the men is now very creditable to any camp.

The first year's camp under Col. MacShane as commandant naturally invites comparison with other camps, and it is the universal opinion of the best judges that this year's camp suffers nothing by the comparison. Certainly, the Commandant, with the Brig.-Major and staff have taken every means not only to advance their command in its duties, but also to ensure the well-being and comfort of the camp. Among the improvements introduced this year are the *repairing of arms and supplying of deficiencies therein by an armorer in camp*, which must be acknowledged as a great advantage. *The uniform drill of all corps in accordance with daily brigade orders* is another step in advance, as it ensures attention to those parts of the drill most required, instead of leaving it to the diverse judgment of commanding officers. To this may be added the satisfactory completion of their target practice by the whole force in camp.

An early stir was enforced on the camp on Wednesday morning, when an equinoctial gale swept down upon it in all its fury. About twenty circular tents were prostrated, and all of the large marques except that of the 93rd. Whether the officers of this battalion have superior engineering skill or were more watchful in keeping their braces tightened and pegs securely driven we cannot say, but they had the opportunity of extending to the other corps the courtesy of offering their marquee for mess when not in use by themselves.

There will be a field-day and sham-fight this afternoon, and the corps will all leave for home to-morrow morning.

CREEDMOOR.

The annual meeting of the United States National Rifle Association is held each year near New York in the month of September. Respecting that recently concluded, *Forest and Stream* says:—

"The Creedmoor meeting of 1885 has come and gone. It was not a success in some respects, in others it was. The directors offered a liberal prize list, but the riflemen and especially the civilian shots, did not respond as they should have done, and some of the matches went almost by default. It was more distinctly a military meeting. The regulars came down by orders, and gave the range its old-time picturesque look; but if the report of the Fort Niagara range be true, it is probably the last time that the camp of the regulars will grace the Creedmoor range. The week was a cold one, not at all inviting for spectators to the range, and in consequence the shooters had the ground largely to themselves. Supt. Brower had prepared everything about the range for a lively week of hard work, but found little occasion for calling out his full working force. There were a few protests, but the meeting passed off as a whole in capital form under the management of Gen. Chas. F. Robbins as executive officer."

The conditions of shooting are very different from anything we are accustomed to, either in Canada or England, as will be seen by the