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CONTENTS OF THIS NUMBER.

EDITORIAL. A contemplated improvement. General Cameron's essay. The command of the Bisley team. A hasty critic. Further consideration invited. The Lee rifle condemned. A Canadian cavalry authority.	QUERIES AND REPLIES. Stations of the Infantry School Corps. Imperial commissions for Canadians.
CORRESPONDENCE. Orderly Room Clerks.— <i>Justice</i> . The shifting ordnance competition.— <i>E. D. Sterns</i> . The Military Rifle League.— <i>G. L. M.</i> The command of the Bisley team.— <i>Foresight</i> .	INFANTRY FIRE TACTICS. Major Mayne's recent lecture.
	MOUNTED INFANTRY. Lecture by Lt.-Col. E. T. H. Hutton.
	REGIMENTAL AND OTHER NEWS. Inspection of the Peterborough Rangers. Matches of the 7th Fusiliers.

A Contemplated Improvement.

It gives us much pleasure to be able to announce this week an early enlargement of the MILITIA GAZETTE, to date from the commencement of the new volume, on the 1st of January next. The pages are to be made a more convenient size for reading and binding; the reading matter is to be increased by a substantial addition to the number of the pages, and a cover is to be put on, so as at once to add to the appearance of the paper and preserve the reading matter from disfigurement in transmission through the mails. The edges will be cut, and the sheets neatly bound together.

The increased advertising patronage which has made these changes a necessity will materially help to defray the expense involved, but we hope to secure a more liberal measure of support from the force at large. While thanking our friends who, being subscribers, will see and read this announcement, for their favours of the past, we take this opportunity to request a favourable mention of the paper to their non-subscribing comrades in the militia; and we are sure that each subscriber could by a small effort add one or more to our list, so that the new year and new volume may commence under exceptionally happy auspices.

Note and Comment.

A complimentary notice of Major-General Cameron's paper on Messenger Pigeon Service (recently contributed to the *University Review*, Toronto) appears in the *Broad Arrow*, and thus concludes: "It is sincerely to be hoped that not only the Government of the Dominion, but of the mother country, will take up this subject as its importance deserves. General Cameron has done good service in once more calling attention to it."

No one having the advantage of acquaintance with Col. Massey will be disposed to take exception to our correspondent "Foresight's" nomination of that officer to the command of the Bisley team; but as it has been deemed advisable for well considered reasons, that the position should be awarded to a Nova Scotian, the time seems inopportune to press his claim. Should he retain his command of the Sixth Fusiliers (and it is to be hoped that the threatened necessity for his retirement may not arise) there is every reason to believe that upon a later occasion the position would be tendered Col. Massey in recognition of his whole-souled devotion to the advancement of the interests of the force. Not taking himself an active part in rifle shooting, the pursuit has never monopolized his energies; and whilst the shooting men of the Sixth

have received constant encouragement by his personal attendance at their practices and his liberal contributions to the prize funds, he has not neglected to make them model soldiers in the other departments of drill and training. Services like his deserve recognition and reward.

The absence of an officer's name from our subscription list is seldom a matter of satisfaction, but there are exceptional instances, such as that afforded by the letter appearing this week anent the recent shifting ordnance competition. We think that had our correspondent been, like many officers of his Brigade, a subscriber to and regular reader of this paper, he would have formed a higher estimate of the principles governing it than to suppose that any suggestion of diminution in the subscription list would influence the publication or suppression of matter of any description. We fancy he also misjudges the character of our Prince Edward Island subscribers, if he supposes that they are likely to be so fickle as to withdraw their support because of a single possibly vexatious incident, without any consideration of past endeavours to render useful service.

If we committed an offence against Prince Edward Island, in republishing from a Halifax newspaper a news item complimentary to the local artillerymen, we do not see how the matter would have been improved by the republication from a Charlottetown paper of a rather strong letter holding the Halifax artillerymen responsible for the text of their newspaper's report. Had Mr. Sterns' letter been addressed to us, it would probably have been published, as signed communications are only refused under very exceptional circumstances; but being addressed to the Editor of the local paper a marked copy of which was forwarded, we thought that in publishing the explanatory note to which our correspondent now takes exception, we had done all that was called for. We trust Mr. Sterns will upon reflection come round to the same opinion, and that before Christmas day we may receive from him a subscription for 1891, and a frank acknowledgment that the Halifax artillerymen deserved the praise their paper gave them, even though their performance may not in his opinion be equal to that of the Prince Edward Islanders at Orleans.

Those in Canada who have seen and handled the new service rifle, have not been at all enthusiastic about it, objectionable features being painfully apparent; and the service papers recently to hand show that the weapon is being severely criticised in England. These sentences, for instance, are culled from the *Broad Arrow*: "The .303 magazine rifle has no friends—other than official friends, culpable accessories before and after the fact. The country is in presence of a failure, a huge, colossal, costly failure. Rifle, powder, projectile are unsuited the one to the other, and unsuitable severally and collectively. The mending process, which at the best is unsatisfactory, has broken down, and the sooner the ending begins the better it will be for all concerned." The *Army and Navy Gazette* lays great stress upon the exhaustive and damaging criticism made by the *Times*, and for its own part adds: "There is one matter connected with the rifle which 'jumps to the eyes' of