

## Letters to the Editor.

This paper does not necessarily share the views expressed, in correspondence published in its columns, the use of which is freely granted to writers on topics of interest to the Militia.]

### MORRIS TUBES.

SIR,—I read with much pleasure Capt. Wurtele's letter on the subject of Morris Tube Shooting in your issue of 18th inst., and with considerable surprise that of Lt.-Col. Martin in yours of 25th inst.

I fail to see the point of Col. Martin's criticism of your act in publishing Capt. Wurtele's letter. On the contrary I fancied that nothing could be better for the business interest of your advertiser than Capt. Wurtele's propositions. He may have been a little out as to who first used Morris tubes in Canada, even as to who is using them now, but that is a matter of little moment.

The point is how to increase the use of them, and this, I should fancy, is just what Lt.-Col. Martin ought to want, as he is general agent for them on this continent, and it cannot matter much to him whether he sells direct to the Government or to individual corps. I have seen his ads. for years in your paper, but could see no reason why I should expend money upon the purchase of Morris tubes and ammunition for the men under my command, although I fully recognized their value, and would cheerfully encourage the men to use them if furnished by the Government, and I have no doubt they would be the medium of a great improvement in the shooting strength of my company, as many of my men who cannot find time for regular practice during the day could easily be induced to practice with the Morris tubes in the evening, and thus get accustomed to the pull of their rifle, to holding properly, and other points which add materially to a recruit's shooting on an average fine day.

If, then, the Government would distribute a supply to the force, and furnish a reasonable amount of ammunition for practice, both your advertiser and the Militia would be benefited. What more can any of us want? CAPTAIN.

### RE MORRIS TUBES.

DEAR SIR,—Messrs. John Martin & Co's ire seems to have risen most unaccountably, and had they, after reading the letter of the 15th February, taken a good dinner, smoked their pipe and gone to sleep over it, the CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE would very likely have been without their wrathful effusion, making this reply unnecessary.

The writer is an old subscriber and contributor to your valuable paper, and even has a complete bound file in his library; moreover the context will show he is a reader of the whole paper; even to all the advertisements.

The letter was written in the interests of the force, and no portion of your columns was dreamt of being monopolized

to John Martin & Co's imaginary detriment. That paragraph in their letter, "his references to Montreal, which are so absurdly incorrect," is perfectly unintelligible. What do they mean by it? There was nothing inaccurate in the letter of the 15th, nor even derogatory to the Montreal Brigade. On the contrary, it is said to the credit of the Brigade that their Morris tube ranges seem to be the most complete in the country. The Victoria Rifles may have instituted the first Montreal Morris tube range. All honour to them if they did. Nobody said they did not. The letter simply asserted that the tube was first in practical use in Quebec city by the 8th Royal Rifles; and moreover, some eighteen months before an energetic officer of the 6th Fusiliers thought of asking for information about it; and it is presumed if he could have got practical information in Montreal, or have seen a tube there, he would not have written to Quebec asking to borrow that tube for his inspection.

The National Policy was instituted to protect Canadian manufactures, which the Morris tube and its ammunition are not; and as our friends wander into airing their other military outfits, you should charge their letter as the advertisement which it very closely resembles.

The only way in which the Morris tube will come into general use is for the Government to deposit a stock of tubes and ammunition with the storekeeper of every military district; not a very extensive operation, as an average of say half a dozen tubes to each would likely be sufficient to start with, and a ten per cent. advance on cost and charges would surely cover the interest on the outlay, and the money would soon be returned to the Department. Whether this order went through the hands of their Canadian agents or went direct to the Morris Aiming and Sighting Apparatus Co. would not matter, for surely that company is honourable enough to allow their agents their rightful commission on such orders. Then any militia officer in the Dominion could deposit its value at the authorized bank, and, as is the case with all ammunition purchases, Morris tube included, get his tube at once by presenting his receipts to the district storekeeper; and I think the force will agree with that suggestion.

In 1883 the Morris Aiming and Sighting Apparatus Co. had no visible agent in Canada and as ammunition began to run out the question was where to get it. So inquiries were instituted and it was found that Messrs. S. Dowker & Co. of Montreal were agents for Kynock & Co., the Morris Tube Co's Birmingham Agents, who would be pleased to import to order. In 1885 it transpired that Capt. Bosse, 65th Rifles, Montreal, was an agent, who would also import to order. Therefore friends coming from London brought out necessary requirements.

Messrs. John Martin & Co. for the first time notified the force in your issue of 17th October, 1889, that they are the sole agents of this Company, and in that of January 14th, 1892, that they kept these goods in stock, evidently for the first time. Whether keeping a few tubes in the Montreal Customs Warehouse, the duty on which would be 85 cents each, is called keeping in stock for inspection and immediate delivery over the counter, will be left to the Trade to decide.

Showing that no ill will is intended, that old adage "Tis an ill wind that blows nobody good" may here be applicable, for this little breeze will surely ventilate the Morris tube, make the CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE more interesting, and maybe steer a few orders over to Messrs. John Martin & Co., which it is sincerely hoped will occur.

ERNEST F. WURTELE,  
Captain R.I.

### CANADIAN MUSKETRY PRACTICE.

SIR,—In the February number of Blackwood's Edinburgh Magazine is an article entitled "Memoirs of General Marbot," by Lieut.-General Sir George Chesney, K.C.B. The following paragraph is cited from General Marbot's fascinating description of the Napoleonic wars in his work which has just appeared, "Mémoires du Général Baron de Marbot." In summing up the causes of the French failures in the Peninsular War he says:

"But in my opinion the principal cause of our reverses—although it has never been pointed out by any of the military men who have written upon the wars of Spain and Portugal—was the immense superiority of the shooting of the English infantry—a superiority which is due to constant practice at the target, and in a great degree also to its formation in two ranks. I am aware that a great number of French officers have denied the truth of this last cause." Sir George adds, "This good shooting has been a distinctive quality of British troops from the days of Cressy and Agincourt. We venture to believe it is still in full vigor; and in no respect have the many measures taken by Sir Frederick Roberts—to call him once more by the old familiar name in which his eminent services have earned the recent distinction, as gratifying to his friends as honorable to himself—to improve the efficiency of the British army in India in every direction been more valuable or successful than in the constant attention and the marked impetus given by him to training in musketry."

Who can dispute the judgment of men like Marbot, Sir George Chesney and Sir Frederick Roberts, and who can dispute the fact also that musketry practice is sadly neglected at our camp drills? A good many of our officers can learn a useful lesson from the above.

SERGEANT.