

(4) Each should be required to spend sufficient time in barracks to become thoroughly acquainted with routine work in detail; but none should necessarily be obliged to lodge in barracks, except when on guard or other duty. Nothing necessarily becoming a soldier is learned by simply sleeping and eating in barracks. Further, at present only the officers are admitted to mess with the staff of the schools. If the object is instruction and knowledge, then the private, aiming for an officer's certificate, is not fairly used. In short, if all must remain in barracks there should be no classification as now. All should be cadets and learn the mess room duties right through from privates to lieutenant-colonels.

(5) Each should begin at the bottom and work his way up till he attains the knowledge necessary to acquire the certificate required. In drill both the permanent corps and the cadets should be utilized.

(6) Certificates should be granted rendering the holders eligible to act only (1) as company officers, and (2) as field officers. The country should not squander money in schools instructing for sergeants' certificates.

"Were these suggestions adopted, the schools would be more practical; the active militia would possess infinitely more trained officers; and the expense per certificate would be infinitely less."

Personal.

Mr. R. McVittie, the famous Scotch rifleman, whose departure for Canada was announced some time ago, will it is said make his home in Toronto.

Lord Dufferin intends in the absence of any unforeseen occurrence to remain in India until December next, and will if possible pay his promised visit to Kashmir during the autumn.

Major-General Bingham Turner, who after the Trent affair was quartered in Toronto with a battery of artillery, died suddenly on the 16th in England. He was married to Col. Gzowski's eldest daughter, by whom he had a large family.

Lord Alexander Russell, having completed his five years term as commander of the forces in Canada sailed from Halifax on the 28th, for England. A guard of honour of a hundred men of the York and Lancaster regiment paid him the parting compliments. Lord Russell carries with him the best wishes of all those with whom he has been brought into contact during his residence in Canada.

The news of the resignation of the popular officer lately commanding the Montreal Garrison Artillery has been received with regret by his many friends on the other side of the water. In the last issue of the *Volunteer Record* to hand, there appears the following complimentary notice: "Habitués of Shoeburyness of some seven years ago, will well remember Col. Oswald, the officer by whose energy and liberality the detachment which represented the Dominion in the National Artillery Association competitions, were enabled to visit this country. It will also be remembered that the Canadians competed so well that they carried back with them the beautiful cup given by the Marquis of Lorne for repository competition. Col. Oswald has now—much to the regret of those with whom he has been associated, and loss to the service with which he has so long been honourably connected—sought in retirement repose from the duties of his command of the Montreal Garrison Artillery."

Lieut.-General Sir John Ross, the new officer in command of H.M. forces in British North America, arrived in Halifax on the 25th, and immediately took over the command from his predecessor Lord Alexander Russell. A newspaper correspondent who stood upon the dock where the military paid the usual honours to the new commanding officer, was prepared to be overhauled by the appearance of the General, who has a distinguished military record. "But," he says, "great was our surprise to see, not a big, grim-looking warrior, but a pleasant-looking little gentleman of about five feet four, rather stout, with a grey whisker and dressed in civilian's clothes. He is one of the jolliest-looking generals we have ever had." General Ross served through the Crimean war, the Indian mutiny and Afghanistan wars. He took part in the battles of Alma and Inkerman, the siege of Sebastopol, the action at Cawnpore, the siege and capture of Lucknow, accompanied General Sir Frederick Roberts in his famous march to Candahar, and was second in command when the Afghans were routed and practically annihilated. By virtue of command, Sir John Ross will be administrator of the government in the Dominion pending the arrival of Lord Stanley.

The French Admiralty has determined, so we are told, to establish a pigeon service between the various naval ports in the Mediterranean and the Channel.

Correspondence.

[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.]

THE MANUAL OF ARTILLERY DRILL—ADJUTANT'S DUTY IN FIELD BATTERIES.

To the Editor of the Canadian Militia Gazette:

SIR,—It would seem that the manual on field artillery drill does not completely cover the subject of which it professes to treat. There is still lurking about it the detail of a six-gun battery. Why not have a thorough revision of the work and secure complete adaptness to the requirements of the Canadian service? Meanwhile, I desire to ask for information. What officer in a field battery does adjutant's duty? If the 2nd Lieut., has he the right to style himself adjutant? With batteries brigaded no question arises, but when a battery drills at battery headquarters there is a difficulty. Perhaps "Linch-Pin" will answer. W.

A MARTINI ADVOCATE.

To the Editor of the Canadian Militia Gazette:

SIR,—It seems to me that one reason why the rifle associations are not of as much use to the rank and file of the militia as they might be is because of the number of rifles used. If a private in the Queen's Own Rifles, for instance, joins the Ontario or Dominion Association, he must practise with three rifles, the regimental short Snider for the battalion match, and the long Snider and Martini-Henry for the others. It is too much to ask a man to become familiar with three rifles—and buy two of them. I would have joined the Ontario Association last year, but I did not think I stood any chance with a battered old regimental gun, and I could not afford a new long one.

Would it not be well to issue, say ten or twenty Martini-Henry rifles, according to the demand, to each company, to be used only for shooting, leaving the old Sniders for drill purposes, and make every match, battalion and association, open to the Martini only. I am told that there are many of these rifles in store, and one hundred would cover the number in any battalion who attend rifle practice. I do not believe that a repeater is necessary in this country or likely to be adopted, even if it should be issued to the British army. V.

Toronto, 29th May, 1888.

Range Finders for Infantry.

DESIRING to adopt a range finder for infantry and to secure the best possible, the Imperial authorities are advertising for proposals respecting instruments fulfilling the following conditions:—

1. The instrument must be strong and simple and must not require frequent adjustment, nor extraordinary precautions against the exigencies of field service and effects of climate and weather.
2. It must be possible for one infantry soldier to carry the entire apparatus in addition to his rifle and ordinary equipment, both on the march and in action.
3. A person of ordinary intelligence and normal vision must be able to become an efficient range-taker after a month's training.
4. The system must be suitable for the observation of moving objects, especially troops of all arms in the usual formations, up to 1,200 yards distance.
5. It must be practicable to make at least four observations per minute with an average error, at 1,000 yards, not exceeding 4 per cent. of the range.
6. The range must be read in yards without recourse to calculation.
7. The number of observers required for each instrument or set of instruments must not exceed two.
8. Other considerations being equal, preference will be given to those instruments which
 - (a) Can find the range of fixed objects up to 2,500 yards with the greatest rapidity, but with an error not exceeding 100 yards; this to be effected either by the normal mode of operations, or with the aid of extra appliances.
 - (b) Require only one observer.
9. The instruments submitted for trial must be complete with full description, and instructions for use.
10. Proposals must be sent in, addressed to the Adjutant-General, Horse Guards, War Office, before August 1, 1888.