

AS will be seen by a perusal of the report of the annual meeting, appearing on another page, the Ottawa Rifle Club have come to the conclusion that it is not wise to continue practice with the Snider at the six hundred yards range, and this year more attention is to be given to shooting at 300 and 400 yards. It is said to be quite likely that the Dominion Rifle Association will this year largely if not altogether abolish the use of the Snider at 600 yards, and give more encouragement to practice with the Martini at that and longer ranges. This will necessitate very radical changes in the shooting programme.

THE Chinese Government, as the *Messenger Official* informs us, at the suggestion of Li-Hung-Tschan, the Governor of the province of Tschili, decided to found an institution for the purpose of producing able and well instructed native officers. With this object the first course of instruction for Chinese military pupils was opened at Tientsin in 1885. At the same time was begun the erection of a special building for the accommodation of the Chinese cadet corps, the intention being that both the building itself and the organization of the establishment should serve as a model for all the military schools which it was proposed to establish, viz., one in each of the eighteen provinces of the Chinese Empire. The school at Tientsin lies on the bank of the Peiho, and though it does not show any departure from the conventional architecture of the country it answers its purpose very well. Besides a large number of reception dining, and sleeping apartments, the building contains spacious lecture halls, two libraries, an armoury, photographic and lithographic studios, chemical and physical laboratories, and a room for drawing. Near the building is a spacious drill ground where the cadets are exercised in target practice. Detachments of infantry and artillery are attached to the school in order to train the cadets in field and garrison duty. The commandant of the school is a Chinese, Dastai Yang-Tsund-Pan, and the second in command is Major Pauli, an ex-major of the German artillery. The professors are all foreigners, mainly ex-officers of the German Army, and have organized the school on the German model.

THEORETICALLY only youths of the upper classes, between the ages of 14 and 15, are admitted to the school. Practically this rule is not observed, as the present object is to obtain as many useful officers as possible in the shortest time, and therefore men of 40 or even 50 years of age are admitted. The cadets remain under instruction in the lower classes for four years, during which they are taught Chinese calligraphy, foreign languages, geography, history, and natural sciences. At the end of this preparatory course they are attached for one year to the troops which are connected with the school, free choice being granted as to the arm of the service. They then serve for another year with the active army, after which they return to the school for a special course. After passing a final examination the cadet receives his commission as an officer and is permanently attached to the standing army.

AN error having, it is claimed, crept into Dr. Bergin's report on the medical service of the North-West campaign, which credited the rescue of the Rev. Father Moulin at Batoche, to gentlemen who it is said were at the time busy in the zareba, 800 yards distant, Mr. W. B. Scarth, M.P., has made a motion in the Commons for papers which it is supposed will give the credit to those who are entitled to it. The motion is "for a copy of all correspondence, reports and recommendations having reference to the claim of George H. Young, of Winnipeg, that he and Stretcher-men Bailey and King of the 90th Battalion, rescued the wounded priest, Rev. Father Moulin, at Batoche, on the 11th May, 1885; and that the said rescue was not effected by Dr. Gravely, of Cornwall, as stated in the report of the Surgeon-General of Militia as presented to Parliament in May, 1886."

THE event to which the motion refers is said to have occurred in the following manner: The Mission House was situated between our skirmish line on Monday the 11th day of May, and the rebel pits. Rev. Father Moulin having shown himself at one of his windows was struck in the hip by a slug fired by an Indian from the ravine in front of his house. Rev. Father Vagreville, on seeing his brother priest seriously wounded, called for help, by waving a white flag from an upper window. In response to this call or signal, Captain Young tied a handkerchief to a cleaning rod, and attempted to walk across the open from the skirmish line to the house, but the fire was hot and close and he had to return. Father Vagreville then moved his signal flag from the upper front to a lower window, when Captain Young and Mr. Henty, correspondent of the London (England) *Standard* went across the open to the house, and were told that Father Moulin the cure was wounded and bleeding badly. Captain Young and Mr. Henty then returned to the skirmish line, when Captain Worsnop, of the 90th, sent a bugler back to the "support" for a stretcher party, which, composed of 90th men, came out at once. The men, on being asked who would go with Captain Young across the open (over 350 feet) to the house, at once all asked to be allowed to go, Bailey and King were chosen, and with Mr. Henty and Captain Young they crossed the open, under fire, halted a minute or so at the door while the inner barricade of boxes, etc., was being removed, and then went in and having placed Father Moulin on the stretcher, started back across the open to the skirmish line where were the rest of the stretcher-men, who at once carried the wounded priest back to the field hospital, where he was cared for by the medical staff and his life saved.

ANOTHER motion for papers was subsequently made by Mr. Ross, M.P., with the object of showing that the rescue of Gunner N. Charpentier, of A Battery, wounded at Batoche, was made by Captain Young and Lieut. Freer, and not by Lieut. Freer and Gunner Coyan of A Battery as stated in the official report.

The Gallant Grey.

In a corner of the stable there's a lone and empty stall,
There's a snaffle and a breastplate hanging idly on the wall;
There's a hoof upon the chimney that was foremost in the van,
And gazing on it mute and sad, a sorrow-stricken man,
His heart is aching with a void that never shall be filled,
For the fav'rite that he loved so well; the fav'rite that he killed;
Through the bounds of fair Kilkenny, though he search it hill and plain,
Ned Smithwick cannot hope to find so good a horse again!
Bank, wall or ditch, no matter which, he landed safe and clear,
And "change or kick" would do the trick and jump it never fear!
The fence could not be strong enough, nor long enough the day,
Nor hounds could race too smart a pace for "Sam the gallant grey."

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.]

RIFLE SHOOTING IN THE PERMANENT CORPS.

To the Editor of the *Canadian Militia Gazette*:

SIR,—I remember some time ago you remarked editorially on the fact that notwithstanding the importance which was attached to rifle shooting as part of the modern soldier's education, and the large sums of money offered in prize competitions, the men of our permanent corps were noticeable only by their absence from the Dominion and Provincial gatherings. I have been sorry that no satisfactory explanation has since been given in your paper or elsewhere, that I have seen, and would like to have attention again called to the matter by the publication of the letter enclosed, which appeared in the *Mail* of a recent date.

SMOOTHBORE.

The following is the text of the letter referred to above:

"I was present a few weeks ago at a discussion brought about by a letter that appeared in the *Mail* comparing the shooting powers of our permanent corps and the American regulars, based upon the fact that a company of United States soldiers defeated a picked team from a whole Canadian city. The argument led to the production of the score sheets of one of our regular corps, made at a previous year's practice. The result proved that things are far worse than one would imagine. We noticed that for that year eighty-five men in all fired twenty rounds only, making 1,700 shots; out of this we found the astounding number of 1,024 missed. The ranges were 200, 400 and 500 yards, the easiest used. Thirty-eight of the men made less than 20 points out of the possible 100. One can hardly believe this, but I assure you I saw the figures quite plainly before my eyes. It seems peculiar that no notice is taken of this state of affairs. If this same corps had wavered in its "march past" or neglected its bayonet exercise a severe reprimand would have been necessary, but as it was only the rifle shooting defective it was of no consequence."