

Canadian Military (and Literary) Review.

TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC.

The success during the past year that has attended the experiment of establishing the *Canadian Military Review*, as a monthly journal especially devoted to the interests of Canada's militia, and the diffusion of artillery knowledge and military science generally, and the patronage bestowed from all quarters upon the effort, has induced the promoters to believe that a liberal treatment of the important topics of the day, combined with military intelligence, would be acceptable to the readers of the *Review*.

It is therefore proposed henceforth to devote a portion of its columns to social and domestic matters of interest—party politics being rigidly excluded—trusting by so doing the *Canadian Military (and Literary) Review* will earn for itself an extended circulation, and should its success warrant the experiment the size of the paper will be increased in proportion and published fortnightly.

Subscription, \$1.00 per annum, 50¢ per copy.
A serial tale of a military character by Lieut. G. F. Cole, C.A., will be commenced in the next number of this journal.

TO ADVERTISERS.

In commencing another year with the publication of the *Canadian Military Review* we wish to return our sincere thanks to our friends for the cordial support we have received, and beg respectfully to solicit its continuation for another year.

No effort on our part will be omitted to make the paper a greater success than last year.

We wish to draw the attention of the public generally, especially those firms supplying military uniform accoutrements and appointments fire arms etc., to our advertising medium. Viz: a circulation of over 500 and extending from P. E. I. to British Columbia also East India and London England. Among our London subscribers are several West end clubs our circulation extending over such a vast space offers a good opportunity for advertising we therefore respectfully solicit a share of the patronage of the general public.

TERMS.

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In forwarding remittances procure a Post Office order if possible if not register the letter. The former is much better as it protects us as well as the sender.

All letters and communications relative to english part of C M R to be addressed to

Staff Sergeant G. STEWART, R. S. G.
Kingston Ont

The Canadian Military Review,

APRIL 1st. 1881.

Short Tactical Lessons for all arms at the Ontario Gunnery School.

"B" Battery, Royal School of Gunnery, Kingston.

OUTPOSTS.

The outposts are to an army halted or in position by day or by night, what the advanced cavalry, flankers and rear guard are to an army on the march, (viz.) its eyes, ears, fingers or feelers and screen.

Their first duty is to provide for the safety of the army, by unceasing vigilance and constant patrols.

Their second to delay the enemy's advance by such defence as they are capable of making.

The commander of an outpost should therefore use every means of fortifying his post towards his front, but not so as to impede his own retirement on the reserve, he should block the roads and tracks approaching in the direction of the enemy. A tree felled, to fall across the road, would not take a Canadian axeman long to accomplish, but the sound of an axe—especially at night—may be heard a long distance, therefore all such arrangements are best made by day light, when also the immediate vicinity of his post should be carefully scrutinized as soon as possible after his arrival.

He would not make such obstructions as would long impede the advance of his own troops, especially when acting on the

offensive, and would never destroy a bridge unless ordered to do so.

He should not as a rule—except, perhaps, on a Canadian winter's night—select a farm house for his headquarters, as inducing too much security from its comforts. If a cavalry outpost, he will utilize the stables and forage of the establishment, but keep his men outside, at the same time every good officer knows the value of doing his utmost to have the men well fed, and cheerful, as a well fed man can endure cold and hardships, and fight better than a braver man with an empty stomach and depressed spirits. Soldiers are naturally very improvident, therefore the officer should provide for them.

He should, of course, endeavor to ingratiate himself with the people of the country, and set an example in this respect to his men.

"Politeness," says the Persian proverb, "is a coin, unlike any other: it enriches both the giver and receiver." Even in an enemy's country the same holds good.

The people should be dealt with, if need be, with an iron hand, but in a velvet glove.

If the enemy is in close proximity, fires in the open must, if possible, be concealed or placed in a hollow.

In the event of alarm the party should be instructed to rally behind the fire, as in front of it they would be very visible to the enemy.

An outpost should not be placed as a rule in the centre of a wood or with a wood immediately in its front, but the outskirts of a wood towards an enemy is a good place for an outpost.

In sending back reports the same accuracy is to be observed as to time and place, name of corps, etc., as on the march, and distinction made between what is observed personally and what is mere hearsay. The time of sending being noted is a special element of importance in military matters, being the best measure of distance in an unknown country, the order bearing the message stating the rate at which he rode.

The out-lying picket sentries, vedettes and patrols are in the daytime generally taken by the cavalry, at night they are replaced by infantry. Vedettes and sentries in the day time should be posted on high ground, where they can see, if possible, without being seen. At night they are pushed forward into the hollows, when an advancing enemy would show against the sky line. They should not be retired at night, otherwise, the enemy's vedettes might be pushed forward on to the high ground you had abandoned.

Outposts, as before stated, may be of cavalry or infantry it is generally advisable to have a couple of troopers attached to an infantry picquet to carry reports.

ARTILLERY ON OUTPOST.

Artillery are seldom put on outpost duty, except when a bridge or defile has to be defended, as they have to be kept harnessed day and night, it is very trying to horses, and they are very subject to gall under such circumstances. At night when attack is expected by exposed guns on outpost, they should if possible be run back behind a rise, so as to bring an advancing enemy on the sky line, and laid for a certain point the enemy must pass. The guns double loaded with case shot, if the ground favors close attack. The officers and men lying down beside them should be covered from musketry fire by the gentle rise of ground in front. The officers should keep the lanyards in their pockets, and fire the guns themselves, for fear a hasty man might fire into our own patrols—who should all be warned not to enter the lines by the front of the guns. Though it leaves the artillery *en l'air* it is best for them to have no infantry in their front who might be fired on when driven in, but the gunners must do their own look out sentries' work, they would know best how to retire by the flank guns when driven in. Under such circumstances guns should never be posted on the edge of a ravine or ground so steep they could not fire down—nor, of course, with a wood in front or anything that would give cover for approach and a *coup de main* rush.