

THE OTTAWA RIFLE CLUB.

The 12th spoon competition of the O.R.C. was held at the Rideau range on 9th inst., with the Snider, at 200, 400 and 500 yards. Capt. E. D. Sutherland and Mr. C. S. Scott won the desert and tea spoon respectively in the first class, Lieut. R. A. Helmer a tea spoon in the 2nd class, and a tie will have to be shot off by Capt. Billings and Mr. W. A. Bangs for the tea spoon in the 3rd class. The following are some of the scores:—

	200	400	500	Total.
E. D. Sutherland.....	32	32	32	96
C. S. Scott.....	31	35	30	96
F. Newby.....	29	30	31	90
J. H. Ellis.....	32	33	25	90
C. F. Cox.....	25	34	29	88
J. E. Hutcheson.....	26	34	28	88
R. Moodie.....	30	31	27	88
J. P. Nutting.....	29	32	26	87
Lt.-Col. Wright.....	29	34	24	87
D. McMartin.....	24	29	33	86

STRAY SHOTS.

Lieut. C. P. Nolda, 6th Fusiliers, has gone to St. Johns for a short course.

It is said that the new Canadian drill book will not be ready until 1st January next. The wheels of the committee-gods evidently grind slow; we sincerely hope the result of their deliberations will be equally small if two years training of the Canadian militiaman is still to be boiled down to a twelve (or more correctly nine) day's camp.

Rev. Dr. Smyth, chaplain 6th Cavalry, has left for England on a two month's vacation.

Lieut.-Col. Hamilton, Queen's Own, not only discharges men who wont attend drill, but publishes their names in the daily papers. This is right and proper. When recruits join they should understand that soldiering is not play.

An excellent tactical article by "The Odd File" appears in the Empire of 9th inst.

The Bisley team have arrived and have evidently settled down to work, for we hear of them winning two unimportant matches. By the time this is in the hands of our readers, no doubt some interesting news will have been flashed across.

The New Infantry Drill Book.

(*Volunteer Service Gazette.*) (Continued from page 214.)

UNFIX BAYONETS.—EXTEND.

Re-forming.—The squad will be ordered to unfix bayonets, and the men will resume their former order, moving by the shortest line.

Nothing is said upon closing on the supports as in the old book. The squad having been dispersed is to be practised in assembling on the leader, the men forming at the double in two ranks on his right or left hand as ordered. Instruction will then be given in the Charge, as laid down in the Rifle Exercises, and in working by bugle sounds and signals. If the "Alert" is sounded when a squad is retiring, the men in movement "will at once halt, and if retiring, front, forming or waiting, if necessary, for orders, if the danger cannot be seen. This direction appears to us obscure, owing, possibly, to a fault in the punctuation. The "signals" are the same as in the old book, except that No. 4, "retire," is now, "arm with weapon circled above the head;" and that "enemy in sight," is—if in small numbers—to be signalled by the sword or rifle held horizontally over the head, and if in large numbers, in the

same way, the weapon being raised and lowered frequently. The signal for "no enemy in sight" is changed. It is now made by holding up the rifle sword perpendicularly, at the full extent of the arm. "Running short of ammunition" is notified by two men crossing weapons. The orders on the use of whistles are more peremptory than they were. They are only to be used to attract the attention of the men to orders or signals about to be given. "To this order there is but one exception—*i.e.*, a long shrill whistle signifies 'cease fire.'"

We come next to the training of the Company in battle formation. This training is, of course, nothing more than an application of the principles laid down for the squad. Only "General Rules," are therefore given, which are as follows:—

Extensions.—Extensions may be made by one or more sections, not in excess of half the number in the company; the remainder being kept in support.

During an extension, section commanders will see that the men take their proper intervals, and preserve the general alignment.

Before any part of a company is extended the object and general direction of the advance should be clearly explained, and a man named to direct. The commander of the section to which this man belongs will see that he keeps the true direction. It must be impressed on all, that those who boldly advance generally win the fight, and that though the loss be great in attacking a position, the loss of a force retiring after having been once committed to an attack is immeasurably greater.

2.—*Officers and section commanders.*—Half company and section commanders will be in rear of their respective commands when extended in the firing line, in such a position as will best enable them to superintend their men; when in support they will lead their commands in front. They must be constantly on the look out for, and comply at once with the signals or orders of the captain, who will be in rear of the extended line.

When two or more officers are present with a company, one will always be with the firing line.

3.—*Cover.*—The men of the extended line must be instructed to avail themselves of any cover that may offer in their direct line of advance, but they are not to be permitted to move to a flank to obtain it beyond the limits of the front of the fire unit, except by order of an officer. Supports should make every use of cover consistent with their not losing touch of the extended line, and when the ground is favourable should be pushed close up to it.

4.—*Reinforcements.*—Gaps in the firing line will be filled by pushing forward sections. Commanders of sections in the firing line, as casualties occur, will see that the men of their command incline towards the directing man of the section; who, if he becomes a casualty, must be immediately replaced.

5.—*Remarks on firing.*—Fire, whether the firing line is extended as a screen, or is in denser formation for attack, will be under the supervision of section commanders, subject to the general directions of the captain.

The attacking force should always try to get as close to the enemy as possible, consistent with its not suffering undue losses before opening fire.

Volley firing will be maintained during the development of an attack, until the captain orders independent firing. The number of rounds to be fired every time the extended line makes a halt will depend very much upon the ground and actual conditions. The advance must not be delayed by halting oftener or for longer than is absolutely necessary to rest the men, for it must ever be borne in mind that the actual occupation of the enemy's position is the object of the fight.

6.—*Range Taking.*—In addition to the use of instruments for range-finding, ranges during the advance will be estimated by selected non-commissioned officers or men.

7.—*Remarks on the Attack.*—The front to be occupied by a company in the attack cannot be laid down precisely. It will vary under different conditions. At points in the enemy's position which it is intended to assault and carry it will be necessary to follow the rule laid down in General Principles (5).

(To be continued.)