

So far so good. The Martini-Metford is probably as serviceable and as good a single shot military rifle as has yet been produced. One would probably not be far wrong in describing it as the very best weapon of that class in the market. But while the Government is in a right frame of mind and prepared to give the militia a new rifle, is it not a mistake not to adopt a magazine rifle? Doubtless there are plenty of objections to the magazine rifle and many good authorities doubt its usefulness. There is the extra cost, then the greater complication of the mechanism of the breech, and of course the important objection that the magazine is likely to lead to a great waste of ammunition in action. We all remember for instance how the advocates of single loaders chuckled over the result of a match between a Martini-Henry and a magazine rifle at one of the P.Q.R.A. meetings at Montreal some years ago. A seaman off the French flagship *Minerve*, then in port, armed with the magazine rifle used in the French navy, fired a match against Captain Harkom of the 54th Battalion. They were allowed three minutes of time and their set task was to get all the shots they could on to their targets in that time. Harkom not only fired more shots with the single loader in the three minutes than the sailor but his score on the target was double that of his competitor.

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Some good people would take that as conclusive proof of the inferiority of the magazine gun for military purposes but it was nothing of the kind. In the first place the captain was probably a better shot than the seaman and in the next place magazine rifles are not supposed to give a rapid fire for so long a time as three minutes but are supposed to pump out ten or a dozen shots in as many seconds in the critical moments preceding the last stage of the attack and defence of positions, when cold steel is called into requisition. There can really be no denying the fact that a force armed with magazine rifles, which are also quick single loaders as is the Lee-Metford for instance, would have a great advantage over a foe armed with single loaders and that this is now the universal opinion of the best authorities in the world is abundantly proven by the fact that all of the great military powers of Europe are arming their men as rapidly as they can with magazine rifles. Goodness knows how long it will be before Canada will re-arm her militia again and now that she is about it she should do it thoroughly and with the most modern

military weapon, which is certainly the magazine rifle.

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General Herbert, who must have done some pretty heavy work before he succeeded in convincing the Government at last that re-armament is an immediate necessity, must, we feel sure, have been influenced by economic restrictions when he recommended the Martini-Metford to the Government; but is there any real economy in arming the militia with a weapon which is already out of date. It is nothing short of an insult to the militia to say that it would be unsafe to arm them with magazine rifles on account of the great complication of the mechanism of the breech. Our militiamen have at least the same degree of intelligence as the rank and file of European armies. Certainly they have not the same length of training, but how long will it take for a man of average intelligence to become acquainted with the mechanism of the most complicated gun ever invented? At any rate the time appears to have arrived when soldiers who have not sufficient intelligence and training to take care of and use magazine rifles will be useless in action and the Canadian militiamen do not consider themselves useless by any means.

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As usual in General Herbert's suggestions, there is a good deal of solid horse sense in the G. O. C.'s advice to the Toronto Sons of England to devote their energies to the organization of an artillery corps in preference to a rifle battalion. Canada should have many more artillery corps along the great lakes, and guns for them to work at as well. The Sons of England have an excellent independent and well uniformed naval brigade in Toronto. Why not modify the General's suggestion a trifle and form this naval brigade into a corps of naval artillery volunteers something after the style of similar corps in England? The picture que and really respectable sailor's uniform might be retained, even if the corps work does consist chiefly of artillery drill. What are the sailors of the Royal Navy nowadays, any way but skilled artillerymen. Past British defeats on the great lakes, too, have shown the advantages which would follow from having bodies of men familiar with the navigation of the lakes associated with any Imperial naval force which might be maintained in our great inland waters in the event of hostilities with our good American cousins.

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The Executive of the Dominion Rifle

Association and the special Range Committee deserve a great deal of credit for the way they managed the late prize meeting at the Rideau Ranges. They were one and all simply indefatigable and they have as much reason to be proud of this week's performance, as the competitors had to be grateful.

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It would be well for people to take the stories which some people tell of squabbling in the Royal Grenadiers, Toronto, with a big grain of salt. There has been some little friction doubtless; but it is about all over now. Under Major Mason, who is about to get the command, what little trouble there has been will soon disappear. The gallant major, it might be remarked en passant, was seriously wounded during the first day's fighting at Batoche. He behaved with great gallantry and his only anxiety after being wounded was that the reports of the action sent East should represent his wound as being slight so as to avoid causing alarm to his friends.

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Major Sam Hughes, M. P., denies in his paper, the *Lindsay Warder*, the report that he was to succeed Lt. Col. Paquet as Deputy Minister. If a change was to be made, no better man than Major Hughes could be found for the position, but his appointment would be a distinct loss to the service for it would necessitate his retirement from journalism, from Parliament and from active service, and his services as journalist, member of Parliament and active member of the militia are too valuable for the force to part with without deep regret. Would there were a few more like him.

OUR ILLUSTRATIONS.

The views included in our illustrations will be at once recognized by all who have attended a D.R.A. meeting. One view gives a general idea of the camp on land day. The other is a general view of the Rideau Ranges taken from the 800 yards' firing point. On the right of the line of targets are (a) the first class targets lettered from A to D and used for extra series matches at 800 and 900 yards. Next (b) are targets E to L used for 500 to 600 yards extra series and next to the left the main butt, (c) containing targets from 1 to 33 used for the regular matches.

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