

THE CANADIAN MILITARY GAZETTE.

(SUCCESSOR TO THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE.)

VOL. VIII.
No. 4.

MONTREAL, 15th FEBRUARY, 1893.

Subscription \$2.00 Yearly.
Single Copies 10 Cents

Modern Garrison Artillery and its Training.



CAPT. A. C. T. BOILEAU, R. A.

THE first of a series of lectures, arranged by Lieut.-Col. Cole, for the benefit of the officers and men of the Montreal Garrison Artillery, was delivered in their Armoury on Friday evening, 3rd inst., by Capt. A. C. T. Boileau, Adjutant of the Royal Artillery in British North America. This lecture was looked forward to with more than ordinary interest by the officers and men of the Garrison and Field Artillery here, as also by officers of other corps not attached to this branch of the service. On becoming aware that it was to be delivered, Major-General Herbert was good enough to signify his intention of being present, and came down from Ottawa for that special purpose, accompanied by Capt. Streatfield, A.D.C. Amongst those present were Lieut.-Cols. Houghton, Mattice, Stevenson, Turnbull, Lyman, Butler, Prevost, Hood, Starke, Burland, Aubry; Majors Roy, B. M., Strathy, Blaiklock, Ibbotson, Stanley Bagg, Capt. Hooper, Edwards, Lieut. Costigan.

Besides Lieut.-Col. Cole, the following officers of the M.G.A., attended the lecture:—Majors Ogilvy and Bissett, Capts. Gregor, Reid, McEwan, Lieuts. Anderson, Ogilvy, Baldon, Wynne, King, Verry, Featherstone, and Assistant-Surgeon Elder.

For the benefit of our readers we publish the lecture in full.

THE FUNCTIONS OF MODERN GARRISON ARTILLERY AND ITS TRAINING.

STRENGTH AND ORGANIZATION OF THE BRITISH ROYAL ARTILLERY.

BEFORE coming to the subject itself of the lecture, it might be appropriate to look at the strength and organization of the British Royal Artillery. It is the largest regiment in the world consisting of 1,700 officers and 35,400 men. It is divided into four branches, the Horse, Field, Mountain and Garrison Artillery. The Royal Horse Artillery has an establishment of 20 service batteries, the Field Artillery of 80, the Mountain of 10, and the Garrison of 72. The rôle of Horse Artillery is to operate in the field in conjunction with cavalry, a part which it is well fitted to play by its great mobility; the rôle of Field Artillery is to operate with Infantry, whose movements being necessarily slower than the Cavalry, demand a less mobility from the Artillery who supports it. The Mountain Artillery as its name implies is for operation in mountainous or broken country unsuitable for horses or wheeled carriages. The British Garrison Artillery has an establishment of 684 officers and 16,380 men stationed in every quarter of the globe, subdivided into three Grand Divisions, viz., the "Eastern," "Southern" and "Western." The strength of each company varies according to local requirements; the strongest is at Halifax, N. S., and consists of 316 of all ranks; the weakest consists of 99. Out of the Garrison Artillery a force of 1,200 are employed as Siege Artillery—four heavy Field Batteries for service in India and three companies as a Siege Train in England. The former are armed with 4 40-pr. R. M. L. guns and 2 6.3" Howitzers, drawn by elephants and bullocks, the officers and some of the N.O.C's. being mounted on horses, and such a diversity of animals has gained for them the nickname of "Menagerie Batteries." The Siege Train, it is observed, is a small one consisting only of three companies. There have only been two important sieges undertaken by the British arms in the last half of this century, viz.: the sieges of Delhi and Sebastopol, and it is not considered necessary to maintain a large permanent Siege Train, but different companies are detailed to go through a course of practice in siege operations and firing at the Siege Camps of Instruction at Lydd and Chatham every year. The Mountain Artillery are affiliated with the Garrison Artillery to the extent that the officers and men are appointed and drafted to it from the latter. It is a much coveted branch of the Artillery and special qualifications are required for it. It makes a valuable outlet for the Garrison Artillery and gives all ranks of this branch an opportunity of seeing ac-