

THE Montreal Militia are receiving much attention, and useful service, from a writer, choosing the odd signature of "Cartridge Box," and who contributes a couple of columns of military matters to each Saturday's issue of the *Gazette*. He is no mere chatterbox, but makes serious and frank comment on the operations of the several corps, criticising with a freedom which must be positively dangerous—that is, if our experience is the regular thing. We reproduce in our regimental news from week to week safe passages from C. B's column.

In connection with Mark IV'S letter published in this issue we feel bound to say a word on behalf of the officers of last year's Bisley team. From knowledge of their character, we feel convinced that in the delicate task of choosing the eight to compete for the Kolapore Cup they were guided by their honest conviction as to the relative merits of the men eligible. Being only human perhaps, their judgment was at fault—as to that we cannot say. But while the choice of the eight continues to be left to the arbitrary decision of the officers, it should be without appeal or public criticism, as otherwise the independence of action desirable could not be secured, but favour might be expected to be shewn to those persons in a position to make most effective noise, if not honoured in the choice.

A SAD gap has been made in the ranks of the Royal Military College graduates by the death of Capt. H. B. Mackay, in Africa last Thursday. The deceased was the son of Mr. Huntly B. Mackay, of Montreal, and was thirty years of age. His career at the College was exceptionally brilliant. Graduating in 1881 at the head of his class, he had a choice of the three commissions in the Imperial service at that time offered as prizes to the most successful students of each class that graduated. Mr. Mackay accepted a commission in the Engineers, and went to Woolwich to complete his studies. He next volunteered for service under Sir Charles Warren in South Africa, and was next employed for some time at Sierra Leone, on the west coast of Africa, superintending the fortifications of that most unhealthy of all unhealthy military stations of the Empire. Here he suffered greatly from the fever, which, however, he fought until he had finished his task. Returning to England, Lieut. Mackay was sent to Ireland to take charge of a military school. He next volunteered for service in East Africa under the British East Africa Company, and was selected as the company's representative at the famous Central African kingdom of Uganda. On his way thither, however, he was detained at Zanzibar to superintend the construction of the first section of the railway which the company is building, and which they propose to carry through from Mombassa to Lake Victoria Nyanza. When engaged upon this work the native outbreak took place at Vitu, formerly a German station on the east coast, just north of the British Company's territory. It was on the transfer of this territory by the Germans to the British that the revolt against the Germans, resulting in the death of five or six German residents, took place. Capt. Mackay was sent with the British contingent of the Anglo-German expedition to punish the King

and restore the authority of the company. The expedition was successful, and Capt. Mackay returned to Mombassa. He had always since his West African experience suffered from the effects of the fever contracted on that coast, even during his short visits to Canada. He appears to have started home on sick leave, and to have died on the way.

WE publish this week, reproduced from the *Broad Arrow*, the first of a series of articles on "Discipline," to be contributed to that paper by Col. R. B. Hanna, late commanding at Delhi. Week by week as they appear we shall give our readers the benefit of the rest of the series, omitting only such parts as may not be applicable to the conditions of service here, and therefore not of general interest.

## DISCIPLINE.

(From the *Broad Arrow*.)

By Colonel H. B. Hanna, late Commanding at Delhi.

WHAT WE SOW IN PEACE WE REAP IN WAR.

### I. PRELIMINARY REMARKS.

"I rank discipline higher for the well-being of an army than any other consideration, very far above that of being present at many battles, for battles with respect to the soldiers can only be the TEST of discipline."—HOPKINS.

MEN may differ as to the duty of maintaining a standing army, but none, I think, will deny that, if an army exists, it should be efficient, and that the Government which should fail to make and keep it so would be guilty of a gross dereliction of duty. To the question, How is efficiency to be attained? but one answer is possible: by discipline. But what is discipline, and how can it best be promoted and maintained? Discipline is the result of two factors—the power to control others, the power to control oneself. It exacts first blind obedience, then willing accord. Its aim is the transformation of a multitude into a unity, that unity not a dead machine but a living organism. The man who, whether as captain of a company or as general of an army, achieves this end, is the true disciplinarian. My endeavour in these articles will be to show, first, how discipline is to be created in time of peace; secondly, how it is to be maintained throughout all the vicissitudes and temptations of actual warfare; and inasmuch as it cannot be expected to prevail among the soldiers of an army unless they see it embodied in their officers, I shall begin by sketching the chief characteristics of a good officer, by pointing out what pitfalls he should avoid, and what virtues he should foster.

But before entering on my main theme, I would say a few words on the theoretical and practical knowledge which I shall assume all our officers to possess, and which, in fact, they must possess if they are to be real leaders and chiefs, for though soldiers may love and even respect a man who is without it, yet in a crisis they cannot have that implicit confidence in him which contributes so largely to success. Such knowledge, with its outcome, professional skill, can only be attained by careful attention to physical training, in which I include shooting, drill, riding, swordsmanship, etc.; by the close study of military history and other professional subjects, and finally, by constant practice in handling troops. Officers have, in these days, frequent opportunities of taking an active part in the manœuvres of large bodies of men, which a few years ago were entirely denied to them. Our camps of exercise, a comparatively modern innovation, afford these opportunities, but to reap the full benefit from them officers should be encouraged to prepare careful criticisms of the manœuvres which they may have witnessed, or in which they may have taken an active part. Paradoxical