

will probably be a complete reorganization of this battalion. Two majors have left limits, and a surgeon has been very properly removed for neglecting to attend drill, while the Winnipeg Field Battery changes surgeons.

NOTES FROM THE BRIGADE CAMP AT FREDERICTON,  
DISTRICT NO. 8.

This camp was formed on the 22nd September on the picturesque grounds of the "race course," about half a mile from town. The following comprises the staff and corps in camp, showing total strength present, the whole authorized strength having turned out:—Lieut.-Col. Maunsell, D.A.G., commandant; Lieut.-Col. Beer, 74th Batt., B.M.; Major Beckwith, 71st Batt., supply officer; Lieut.-Col. McCulley, 73rd Batt., camp quarter-master; Capt. J. T. Hartt, Rifles, instructor of musketry.

CORPS IN CAMP.

Woodstock Field Battery—Major Dibblee.....	65	of all ranks.
Brighton Engineer Co.—Major Vince.....	38	"
Infantry School Corps—Major Gordon.....	100	"
67th Batt.—Lieut.-Col. Raymond.....	260	"
71st Batt.—Lieut.-Col. Marsh.....	223	"
Total in camp.....	686	

Corps have assembled in this camp under exceptionally advantageous circumstances. In the first place the presence of the I.S.C.—that important branch of the permanent force, educating as it does the "fighting line"—served as an *example*, which all lose no opportunity in striving to follow.

2nd. The commandant has followed a course pursued by him with advantage in previous camps, viz., in offering prizes for competition in every corps in camp, with the view to companies and corps vieing with each other in cleanliness of arms, accoutrements and clothing, as well as in the arrangement of their tents, &c.

3rd. Prizes are also offered regimentally and in brigade for competition in the prescribed course of target practice, which we are glad to learn "must be carried out in every camp."

4th. The commandant is also seeing that every opportunity is taken and no time lost in preparing for the "examinations of officers," to be held before the breaking up of the camp—another step in the right direction.

Although we have been but a few days in camp I have never seen in any previous camp (and my experience is not very limited) more marked progress at this early stage of the training. I attribute this in a great measure to the above advantageous circumstances under which this camp is held, together with the fact that the different corps have lately recruited from an excellent class of young men, and there is in camp a good sprinkling of "certificate men" from the School of Infantry, both grade A and grade B. We have already had brigade drill and have in prospect some field days, which I have no doubt will be successful.

CAMP FREDERICTON, 26th September, 1885.

RIFLES AND RIFLE SHOOTING.—XXI.

IV.—BY CAPTAIN HENRY F. PERLEY, HEADQUARTERS STAFF.

Besides the direction of the wind it is necessary to form an opinion as to its force, for it is upon this force that the allowances to counteract it have to be made. Experience alone will teach its effects on a bullet and the manner of judging the allowances to be made better than all the books that can be written, for a gentle wind will deflect a bullet at 500 yards from two to three feet, and a gale make it necessary to aim 18 or 20 feet off; but do not be led away with the idea that anyone can increase or decrease his allowance for wind by increments of six inches, the sights of a rifle are too coarse to admit of any such fine measurement as that.

Mention has been made of the pledget of cotton wool which is placed in each cartridge. It is no doubt a familiar idea that if a ball can be pressed into the shell the cartridge is not a good one because a want of powder is denoted thereby. This idea is a fallacious one. If a bullet be properly creased in an empty shell it will be found to be somewhat difficult to press it in by hand, and if the shell does not collapse by the pressure and no attention be paid to the weight of the cartridge it would be passed as a good one. Bullets which by the pressure of the hand pass into the shell are those in which the creasing is either imperfect or shallow, and the pledget of cotton wool is compressed and a certain amount of compression takes place in the powder as well.

The following were some of the directions to be attended to by an archer in the time of Queen Elizabeth:—"Among the requisites necessary to constitute a good archer are, a clear sight steadily directed to the mark and proper judgment to determine the distance of the ground; he ought to know how to take advantage of a side wind and to be well acquainted with what compass his arrows would require in their flight. Courage is also an indisputable requisite, for whoever shoots with the least trepidation is sure to shoot badly; that as young archers fall into the evil habit of directing the eye to the end of the arrow such were advised to shoot in the dark at lights set up at proper distances for the purpose. The evils of 'bad tutoring' are dwelt upon, that great attention should be paid to the instructions given, for if sufficient pains be taken in the outset many may be more easily taught to shoot well, because there is frequently more trouble to *unlearn* bad habits than primitively to learn good ones."

If, in the foregoing, for the word "bow" that of "rifle" be substituted no better advice can be given to the young marksmen of to-day, for in the few lines thus quoted are contained an epitome of the art of shooting.

It may not be out of place here to make a few remarks concerning the "eye," which one writer states "is to shooting what the barrel is to the bullet—the channel through which the shot is guided in its course to the target; therefore, in order to ensure good practice it is necessary to give that organ some attention. Perhaps nothing in the way of vision is so troublesome to riflemen as the blur of the back sight. Unfortunately there is not any remedy for this, simply because the eye cannot focus itself on a near and distant object at the same time. When looking at near objects the crystalline lens of the eye assumes of its own accord a convex or rounding shape, but if the eye is directed to a distant object the lens immediately becomes flatter; and as it is impossible for the lens or any other surface to be flat and round at the same time, so it is impossible for us to see clearly a near and distant object in the same line of vision. Whether the sights be knife or square edged, V or straight bar, the blur will always be present more or less. No effort will enable a rifleman to see clearly at one and the same time the near sights and the distant target, although the blur may in some cases be much modified by the use of certain kinds of spectacles or eyeglasses. \* \* \* Occasionally, it is found that both target and sights are more hazy than the condition of the light justifies: this is due to a want of tone in the eye, generally caused by a temporary derangement of health. Besides preserving the eye, much assistance may be gained by a discreet use of eyeglasses. Most people as they advance in years, require assistance for seeing such near objects as the back sight of a rifle. With increasing years the crystalline lens acquires rigidity and thus loses the power of adjustment, or, in other words, cannot, in consequence of this stiffness, accommodate itself to all the requirements of clear vision. If there is an unusual amount of haziness about the eye, whether it is from near-sightedness or other causes, glasses should at once be resorted to, unless it be caused, as before stated, by a temporary derangement of health; in that case a little medical treatment is all that is required. It is altogether a mistake to decline the use of glasses when nature shows that she requires assistance. \* \* \* The strong glare of the sun is often very trying to sensitive eyes. When this is the case, if not actually firing, tinted glasses, if of a pale blue or grey color, should be worn. They should not have too much color in them, only just sufficient to keep the eye at rest. The eye, like an overworked horse, loses its power and energy if over-tried or fatigued.

"Aperture spectacles or eye-glasses (orthoptics) greatly help some eyes, especially those in which there is any defect in vision, for by their use the sight is contracted and strong sun-lights are toned down, besides some other optical properties. Before entering a competition, however, it is advisable to have some practice with such in order that the eye may become accustomed to their use. In taking aim the spectacles must be kept parallel to the back sight and aim taken through the centre of the small aperture, otherwise they are very likely to do more harm than good."

As there are so many different kinds of sight the glasses best suited to each individual can only be settled by reference to an optician, and none better than Wm. Gregory, 51 Strand, London, England, can be found to whom to apply relative to failing eye-sight and the glasses required to correct the same.

\* \* \* \* \*

Having thus touched upon the principal points in connection with shooting, it is proposed to summarize and condense, as it were, the information sought to be conveyed in a terse and succinct manner.

It may therefore be premised that there is not any special talent which will enable a man to become a successful shot, for amongst those known as such there may be found every variety of age, size, build,