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CONTENTS OF THIS NUMBER

EDITORIAL NOTES.

The militia estimates.
On the regulation equipment.
Radical changes in the drill book.
The ammunition allowance for permanent corps
Capt. Rutherford's gun sleigh.
Its principle explained.

QUERIES AND REPLIES.

Disposition of the scabbard.

MILITIA NEWS AND NOTES.

THE ESTIMATES DISCUSSED IN PARLIAMENT.

MODERN TACTICS—(Con.)—Capt. H. R. Gall.
Chapter X—Defiles.

THE MILITIA PASTIME.

Morris tube ammunition requested.
Cobourg Rifle Association meeting.
The Ottawa Rifle Club's programme.

Current Topics.

SIR ADOLPHE CARON made it plain in the discussion on the militia estimates, fully reported elsewhere in this issue, that he was not indisposed to do for the militia force much more than at present, were the funds only at his disposal; but as General Laurie remarked in his address, the Finance Minister, who controls the purse strings, must necessarily be a check upon the Minister of Militia's spendings. The Finance Minister is not likely to be any more generously disposed towards the Militia Department until he ascertains beyond a doubt that such is the wish of Parliament, and it is therefore obvious that the military men especially who have seats in the House should lose no opportunity of putting in a word on behalf of the force to which they belong. Col. Denison, Col. O'Brien, Col. Tyrwhitt, Col. Amyot, Major Prior, General Laurie, and others rendered excellent service in this respect last week, and earned as they will doubtless receive the gratitude of the entire force.

“MISTY,” our old radical friend whose views on the equipment of the Canadian force formed a very interesting feature of several issues of the MILITIA GAZETTE in 1885-6, has made his reappearance in print, this time in the columns of the *Broad Arrow*. That is, we suppose it is the same “Misty.” He writes from Canada on the subject of Sir Charles Dilke's slight reference to the Canadian branch of the service in his recent criticism of the British army. These remarks, he writes, “embolden me to send a *résumé* of sundry remarks on our head-gear, etc., made by an officer connected with the permanent corps of Canada, and who was attached to General Sir Frederick Middleton's column during the North-West campaign. He maintains that the military forage cap is the most useless article ever made, and was the only implement that the Indians would not pick up:

“These scavengers (said he) would clear an old camping ground of every empty beef tin and broken match box, but never have I seen a creature that would pick up one of the many discarded forage-caps always lying about. Rumour has it that one jaded ‘papoose’ satiated with the other recreations of prairie juvenile life, picked up a forage-cap, and having tied a piece of ‘shagganappi’ to it, sauntered down to the nearest slough for a little innocent boating, but he, too, turned away in disgust as the water-logged craft sank promptly to the bottom. It won't stay on without the chinstrap (and that has a way of coming off also); it won't keep off the sun; it won't keep off the rain. Worse still, it is useless with a mosquito net, which, for want of a brim, lay most uncomfortably against the men's faces, and the mosquitos ‘to a man’ deserted our scouts, and others who wore slouch hats, and made for the artillery.”

“In this variable climate it is necessary to have a contrivance for the head of a soldier that will accommodate itself to the freaks of ‘Jack Frost’ or a broiling sun. It is bad enough to toil under a hot sun in a

fur cap, but what chance of life have men in a ‘blizzard’ when clad in that military pancake called an artillery forage cap?

“The helmet worn by us (says my Canadian friend), in common with certain branches of the Imperial army, has also very serious disadvantages on active service. At the engagement of ‘Cut Knife Hill’ our men complained they could not aim properly because the projection in rear of their helmets touched their shoulders when they lay down to fire and tilted the helmet over their eyes. The fact also that they presented an excellent mark (as the ‘Half-breeds and Indians afterwards told us) to aim at, resulted in most of our men preferring to be without such a dangerous head covering. I once took one of these helmets from the head of an artilleryman who was waiting with a lot of scouts and cowboys for his rations at the quartermaster's tent, and after the ‘hard tack’ and beef had all been weighed out, I placed the helmet in one of the scales, requesting some of the slouch hatted scouts to throw their head gear into the opposite side. *Seven hats were thrown in before the scales were level.* Can we wonder that our men feel disgusted and insubordinate when forced to wear so cumbersome a thing, which leaves them cold in our severe winter, overheated in our broiling suns, and while it hampers their powers to shoot straight invites the bullets of their enemies? As heavy English carriages are unsuited to Canadian roads, and would, if used, destroy their horses, so these accoutrements, which may—but I doubt it—be suitable for European warfare, are destructive to the usefulness of Canadian troops engaged in Indian warfare. Canada can ill afford to support any but a useful army, and, however well the articles I have named may look in a picture in the *Graphic*, they are unsuitable and harmful here.”

“Surely there is time now to think out a more serviceable uniform than the Canadians now possess. There is no ‘loyalty’ in a slavish copy of every detail of the uniform worn by the Imperial army at home, whether suited to the climate and special requirements of Canada or not. The uniform worn on active service by the Imperial troops during recent campaigns was a vast improvement (in point of usefulness) on anything worn ‘at home,’ but the Canadian troops had no such special dress provided, and were their services required now they would thereby be again heavily handicapped in taking the field against any savage or civilized power.” The North-West experiences above narrated appeared in this paper three years ago, but they will bear repetition in view of the fact that in the interval no change whatever has been made in this undoubtedly ridiculous system of dress.

AT one fell swoop, the April Army Orders cut out from the drill book a long series of cumbersome drill movements, whose decease will be a subject of rejoicing by all concerned. The complete list will be published next week, but in the meantime the following summary of the changes of most general interest may be given: All counter marching and right and left about wheels (which are in fact counter marches), are abolished. Thus the artificial fixed front disappears. Forming to the right or left about from fours or files becomes a thing of the past only. Wheeling into line and changing front by wheels is abolished, forming being made imperative instead. This practically does away with the “wheeling like a gate” over which so much valuable time has been wasted, and which has come to be looked upon as almost the perfection of drill. All these changes apply to brigade as well as battalion.

IT will be a source of gratification to all interested, as it has been to us, to learn that the authorities are sufficiently impressed with the necessity of making marksmen out of the members of the permanent corps, and the absurdity of supposing that this end could be attained by their