

## Correspondence.

[This paper does not necessarily share the views expressed in correspondence published in its columns, the use of which is freely granted to writers on topics of interest to the militia.]

## NON INTERCOURSE FOR THE MILITIA.

To the Editor of the Canadian Militia Gazette:

SIR,—Enclosed I send you an editorial clipped from the Montreal Star of a few days ago, and one only of several published on the same subject in the same paper, all the other papers devoting space in opposition to the Government in their refusal to let the Royal Scots go to Albany in uniform, *without arms*. I also send you a letter which appeared in the Star of Saturday night. Now, Mr. Editor, do you not think the action of the authorities in Ottawa was, to say the least of it, very unfair? Here was an occasion where the Royal Scots (the only Highland Corps on the continent) wanted to be represented in honouring a statue of Scotland's poet. The request was a most reasonable one, viz., that a portion of a regiment should be allowed to go in uniform which, after all, is the men's own property, *without arms*, and at their own expense, and why an Order-in-Council should be allowed to make difficulty, and to prevent the request being granted, is a mystery. The authorities should not forget that the line dividing us from our neighbours to the south of us is, after all, very little more than imaginary, and very few of us but have very near and dear friends living in the United States; and I question if any more certain means of fostering friendly feelings and goodfellowship between two peoples who, in spite of the bellowing of needy politicians, must always live at peace with each other, could be thought of than the constant interchange of visits between the regiments of the National Guards of the United States and our own Militia. Let our Government prove their faith in us, who are sworn to do our duty in the defence of our glorious flag, by striking out this obnoxious Order-in-Council.

ROYAL SCOTS.

Montreal, 3rd Sept., 1888.

An old Indian-service veteran has been restoring tranquillity to the minds of such residents of the district of Orillia, in Western Ontario, as were disturbed at the possibility of unfriendly action by the United States. The *Packet* prints the following as his views upon the subject: "James Sugden, late of Her Majesty's 52nd Regiment of Foot, is now in the service of Mr. Mackin, C.E. He wears a medal for service at Delhi, where he says the work was warm enough, and he received two wounds. He is still in the service of our Queen, as a member of the Hastings Rifle Volunteers, in the company of Capt. John Orr, publisher of the *Madoc Review*, and a whilom Orillian. This old soldier was told the other day, by an American, that the United States would some day take Canada for breakfast. 'They would find themselves in a hotter climate for dinner, then,' retorted the veteran, who proceeded to point out some of the advantages of the Canadian Pacific Railway, from a defence point of view. Her Majesty is now Empress of India, where a teeming and warlike population are eager for the opportunity of proving their fealty. The voyage from Bombay to Vancouver occupies fourteen days—shipping is abundant, and while the Yankees were beginning the organisation of an army of invasion, the Dominion could be filled with defenders, even without calling upon the Canadians or the mother country for a man. On being asked whether these would stand against the Americans, Sugden replied that he had an admirable opportunity of testing their mettle, and that properly led they would give a good account of any enemies their Empress might direct them against. Sugden is not learned in books, but he has seen enough to cause him to give no credence to forebodings of Britain's decadence, so long as the Empire 'to herself proves true.'"

"The coming weapon of civilized warfare will not be an explosive bullet, but a chemical one," remarked a scientific gentleman a day or two ago. "Many suggestions of this sort have been made, and some plan will be adopted before long, unless I am greatly mistaken. I am inclined to favour the suggestion of Weston the electrician. He suggests the use of nitrate of amyl. It is well known that duug possesses the power of causing insensibility very quickly in a human being breathing its fumes. The effect is equivalent, temporarily, to a paralytic stroke. Now nitrate of amyl is very cheap and plentiful. He proposes to fire shells filled with the chemical instead of gun-power. It will not be necessary to penetrate a ship. A few gallons of this nitrate dashed on the deck of a war ship would soon render the crew helpless. The most powerful ironclads would be even more vulnerable than the light cruisers for they would be sucking down great draughts of air through their artificial ventilators, and the whole ship. The whole crew being rendered helpless for an hour or two, the ship could, of course be towed into a safe spot while the captors ventilated her and removed the insensible men."—*New York Mail*.

With the actual rate of progress at the Steyr factories, it is confidently expected five divisions of the Austro-Hungarian Army will be fully supplied by the end of the year with the Mannlicher small-bore repeater.

The first line of railway in what is called the Holy Land, which is to be constructed by a Belgian company under a concession from the Sultan, will run from Jerusalem to Jaffa. It is reported that sleepers, telegraph wire, and rolling stock have already arrived.

By means of recent improvements made in the manufacture of rifles, as many as 120 barrels can now be rolled in an hour by one machine. They are straightened cold and bored with corresponding speed, and even the rifling is done automatically, so that one man tending six machines can turn out sixty or seventy barrels per day. With the old rifling machines twenty barrels was about the limit of a day's work, but the improved machines attend to everything after being once started, and when the rifling is completed ring a bell to call the attention of the workman.

General Von Moltke, who has been placed upon the retired list of the German Army at the age of 88, is succeeded by Count Von Waldersee, a man of 56. The new commander has been in the army for thirty years, and served with distinction in the Danish war, and, in the later wars with Austria and France. In 1881 he was placed on the Emperor's personal staff and in 1882 became Lieutenant-General and Adjutant to the Emperor. The report from Paris that the choice of Von Waldersee is a triumph for the war party seems to rest upon the idea that a younger man is appointed to the head of the army because work may be required to which the vigour of the aged Von Moltke would not be equal. Any change would have probably drawn forth the same comments in France and there does not seem to be much cause for wonder or immediate apprehension in the retirement of a man with a career so long and brilliant as that of Von Moltke.

## SPECIAL NOTICE.

## FIELD MARTINI-HENRY RIFLES.

We have much pleasure in stating that we have appointed Mr. R. McVittie, the well known rifle-shot, our Sole Agent in Canada, for our famous rifles. All orders will come through him.

THE FIELD RIFLE CO.,  
BIRMINGHAM.

## FIELD MARTINI-HENRY RIFLES.

Having been appointed Sole Agent in Canada for the Celebrated Field Martini-Henry Rifles, I wish to say to the riflemen of the Dominion that every Rifle will be thoroughly tested by myself before being sent out. I shall keep but one quality—THE BEST—and will guarantee their excellence.

PRICE: \$30.00 Nett at Toronto.

I will have a supply about the 26th June, and a second consignment will reach here about a month later. Order early. I have a supply of the

## BURNS BARREL COOLER,

A necessary article for moistening the Barrel of the Martini-Henry Rifle. Price, 40c. Post Free.

—ALSO—

Hints and Advice on Rifle Shooting, by R. McVittie. Price, 25c. Post Free.

With next consignment of Rifles I will have a full supply of Verniers, Wind Gauges, Sight Protectors, Barrel Cleaners, etc., etc.

R. McVITTIE,

240 Major Street, Toronto.



## Money Orders.

MONEY ORDERS may be obtained at any Money Order Office in Canada, payable in the Dominion; also in the United States, the United Kingdom, France, Germany, Italy, Belgium, Switzerland, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, the Netherlands, India, the Australian Colonies, and other countries and British Colonies generally.

On Money Orders payable within Canada the commission is as follows:

If not exceeding \$4	2c.
Over \$4, not exceeding \$10	5c.
" 10, " " "	10c.
" 20, " " "	20c.
" 40, " " "	30c.
" 60, " " "	40c.
" 80, " " "	50c.

On Money Orders payable abroad the commission is:

If not exceeding \$10	10c.
Over \$10, not exceeding \$20	20c.
" 20, " " "	30c.
" 30, " " "	40c.
" 40, " " "	50c.

For further information see OFFICIAL POSTAL GUIDE.

Post Office Department, Ottawa,  
21st May, 1886.

## MORTIMER &amp; CO.,

Engravers, Lithographers, Printers,

Stationers and Bookbinders,

194, 196, 198 SPARKS ST., OTTAWA

Visiting and Invitation Cards neatly Engraved and Printed.

Send us your volumes of MILITIA GAZETTE for BINDING.

## SUBSCRIBERS

to, and other friends of the

Canadian Militia Gazette

would promote its interests by, whenever convenient,

DEALING WITH ADVERTISERS

who use its columns,