

The Canadian Militia Gazette

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NOTE AND COMMENT.

The postponed annual meeting of the Ontario Artillery Association will be held at the Canadian Military Institute, Toronto, on Friday, the 27th inst., at 11 a.m.

“Army Orders” of the 1st inst. proclaim that “A revised edition of the ‘Manual of Garrison Artillery,’ which will in future be styled ‘Garrison Artillery Drill,’ has been approved, and Vol. II. will shortly be issued to all concerned. The instructions therein contained will be strictly adhered to throughout the Service, and every officer of the Royal Artillery will provide himself with a copy. The publication of Vol. I. is postponed for the present.”

The contest for the vacancies on the Council of the National Rifle Association, particulars of which we gave last issue in the report of proceedings at the annual business meeting, has been simplified by the discovery that Col. Villiers, one nominee of the Council, is not a qualified member of the Association, and the Council have graciously accepted Col. Bargrave Deane, the opposition candidate. There is, however, a fierce contest for the other vacancy between Lord Lathom and Quartermaster Gratwicke, the latter having the sympathy of the Volunteer press as well as the practical riflemen. Very free criticism of the Council is being indulged in, one journal endeavouring, for instance, to score a point against their champion, Sir Henry Halford, by belittling his prowess as a small bore shot! The election will be determined by ballot, one voting paper being sent to each member by the Secretary, to whom it must be returned within seven days.

Brigadier General W. L. Auchinleck, whose name will be familiar to many of our readers on account of his service in Canada, died at Umballa on the 13th February. He was a native of Crevenagh, Omagh, County Tyrone, and was born in December, 1840. He joined the Army as an ensign in December, 1857, and served with the 53rd Regiment with the Oude Field Force of 1858-59, and was present at the action of Toolespore and minor affairs, receiving the medal. He commanded the 63rd Regiment in the Southern Afghanistan of 1879-80 (medal), and served in the Egyptian War of 1882 in command of the 1st Bn. Manchester Regiment, receiving the medal and Khedive's

star. He also held the following staff appointments: Town major, London, Canada West, March, 1868, to May, 1868; adjutant, School of Instruction for Volunteers, Quebec, June, 1868, to June, 1869; adjutant of the 6th Royal Lancashire Militia, now the 3rd and 4th Bns. Manchester Regiment, from 1874 to 1877; and was one of the most popular men with all ranks and an excellent adjutant; brigadier-general, Bengal, from 18th December, 1888.

Lord Wolseley, in an article in the *New York Herald* on the art military, says: “I believe our race to be the bravest on earth, because of that innate love of danger which causes us to climb glaciers, ride steeplechases, and to go on foot to shoot tigers. I have no doubt in my own mind that our soldiers have more reckless daring about them than those of any other nation, which I attribute mainly to their love of boxing, wrestling, and of all other manly games.” He concludes the article by urging that the “rank and file must be taught not only to drill and march past well, but they must be thoroughly trained as fighting soldiers.” And, addressing the officers, he says: “In order that you, their teachers, their masters, should be able to train them effectively to the work they will have to do in battle, you must yourselves understand what a battle is like, and study the science as well as the art of your noble profession.”

In a recent article in the *United Service Magazine*, on “Canadian Defence,” Major-General Strange, in support of his contention that the five million inhabitants of this country would be found quite capable of defending themselves against invasion by the sixty-five millions of the United States, made the statement that “the population of the Southern States (of America) was about four millions against forty millions when they made their heroic defence.” This has elicited from Col. Thomas M. Anderson, 14th Infantry U.S.A., a letter to the *United Service Gazette* in which he claims the population of the South to have been 11,451,000, and that of the North 18,000,000, at the time of the war. Col. Anderson, however, does not anticipate that Canadians will ever be put to the test against their southern neighbours, for he concludes: “We cannot look into the womb of Time to see what seeds will grow and what will not.’ But this we do know—that Republics can only annex States which are willing and anxious to join them.”