

Correspondence.

SIR,—

I take the liberty of sending you a rough sketch of an idea of mine for carrying a carbine or rifle when mounted. It has, or is about to be adopted in this force. Fifty men are armed with the Winchelsea carbine, which is, in my opinion, a first-rate arm, but requires particular care. It is too long to be carried in the long bucket, and has been carried by us strapped across the pommel of the saddle, but has been found very inconvenient when drilling, the men often being dismounted by the carbine of their right hand neighbor, and their horses become restive through being poked by the same, and another objection to their being carried in that manner is if a man is thrown and the horse gets away he leaves the man without a rifle, and again a sword cannot be used.

What caused me to take the affair into consideration was the unusual amount of repairs I had to perform, principally blunted fore-sights and broken stocks, the last always occurred when a horse fell.

By taking the ring off the hook (when dismounted), and lifting the butt out of the bucket (when mounted), the carbine becomes entirely free to use without undoing snap.

REFERENCE TO DIAGRAM.

- A. Leather covered D fixed so as to stand upright for muzzle of carbine to go through.
- B. Stiff leather bucket attached to saddle for butt of carbine—about three inches deep.
- 1. D. as shown in A.
- 2. Round leather strap attached to belt by both ends.
- 3. Ring to run on strap.
- 4. Round strap with rings and snap, the rings are to shorten strap when dismounted.
- 5. German snap.
- 6. Ring on carbine for snap.
- 7. Bucket.

T. H. DUNNE,
Armorer,
N.W.M.P.

Fort Walsh, N.W.T., }
January, 9, 1880. }

[The plan is an admirable one, a modification of a method in use by hunters in India and Africa. This, like all other plans, is liable to the objection of injury to the rider in case of the fall of horse or man, or both, but less so than others. A horse falling backwards would, perhaps, be the only really dangerous fall, with the carbine in the position proposed. The inventor deserves great credit.—Ed. C. M. R.]

Regimental News.

"A" and "B" Batteries Schools of Gunnery.—Her Majesty has been pleased to signify her approval of the Schools of Gunnery at Kingston and Quebec, composed of the two permanent Batteries of Artillery at those stations, being in future designated "Royal Schools of Gunnery."

Quebec Field Battery.—Charles Percy Dean Esq., G. S., formerly Lieut. 1st Lanark militia, and Edward Burroughs Garneau Esq., have been gazetted 1st and 2nd Lieuts respectively.

No. 10 Battery New Brunswick Bde. Gar. Arty.—Wm. Alex. Douglas Steven, Esq., has been appointed 2nd Lieut.

1st Battalion "Prince of Wales," Montreal.—Albon Forgan Clerk, Esq., has been appointed 2nd Lieut.

2nd Regiment, Ontk Rifles.—Lieutenants Kenneth A. Miller, Henry Mill Pollatt and Villiers Sankey have been granted second class certificates.

10th "Prescott" Battalion—Major and Lieut.-Col. Archibald McLean, has been appointed Lieut.-Colonel vice Angus Urquhart, who has been permitted to retire retaining rank.

2nd Battalion "Oxford Rifles."—Lieut. Matthew Day has been gazetted Captain vice Munro, appointed Adjutant.

35th "Ontario" Battalion, Whitby.—Lieutenant C. A. Patterson has obtained a second class certificate at the Ontario School of Military Instruction.

6th Battalion "Voligeurs de Beauharnois."—André Leduc Esq., has been appointed Lieutenant, and Octave Daoust, Esq., 2nd Lieut. in this Battalion.

5th Battalion "Mount Royal Rifles."—Lieut. Louis Etienne Napoleon Pratte has been gazetted Captain of No. 2 Company, Léon du Plessis, resigned; 2nd Lieut. Henri F. Morin has resigned his commission in No. 3 Company; Lieut. Joseph Oller Chalut has been gazetted Captain of No. 4 Company.

70th Battalion "Voligeurs de Chateauguay."—Elias Gazelle, gent., has been gazetted Lieutenant in No. 2 Company, Ste. Marie, and Antoine Malotte, gent., Lieutenant in No. 3 Company, Chateauguay.

70th "Sheppard" Battalion.—The undermentioned officers and non-commissioned officers have been granted 2nd class certificates from the School of Military Instruction, viz: Captains John McCreedy, Brown, and Richard Edward Ball, Lieutenants Arthur J. Whitehead and William K. Knowlton, 2nd Lieutenants Sylvester J. Martin, Horatio Nelson Whitecomb and Alvon John Brown, sergeants Henry Lyman Brooks, William J. A. Galbraith and Charles John McGrail.

New Brunswick Militia.

SOME SUGGESTIONS ON THE ARTILLERY ARM.

To the Editor of the CANADIAN MILITARY REVIEW.

SIR,—

Through the atmosphere, breathed in military circles, float significant rumors, that, as soon as Parliament meets, the permanent establishment of those two batteries of artillery, which keep watch over the welfare of our land, will be considerably augmented.

No doubt, this act is a great desideratum, as the large sum spent annually by the Public Works Department, to keep in repair the valuable and important fortifications, garrisoned by our active militia, could be greatly reduced and the work far more effectually carried out by "soldier artificers," on the system adopted by the Royal Engineers at home. However, as long as public money is so expended in improving our militia service there is a point of vital importance to New Brunswick which is worth while considering.

The Schools of Gunnery at Kingston and Quebec were established for the express purpose of affording a technical education to those officers and men of the Canadian militia who were desirous of doing something more than mere soldiers in name, so that should the dark cloud of war ever be visible on the horizon from our shores, then, "in the hour of need," our civilian armory might not be found wanting. The question is, have the advantages offered by these schools been of any great service to our Province? I think not, the distance from St. John precludes the attendance of both officers and men, those in civil occupations not being able to find the time necessary to go through a course of instruction. The Government evidently considered this, when by the general orders (24) of the 20th of October, 1871, paragraph 21, a school of gunnery is provided for in New Brunswick, and the heads of the militia force have more than once recommended its being put in force.

Artillery is the war weapon of the day, and all nations are exerting their utmost efforts to perfect this arm. The introduction of light mobile breech-loading shielded field guns, firing heavy shrapnel shells at velocities and ranges never dreamt of before with their delicate time fuse, and the necessity of an accurate knowledge of the range; the rifled howitzers firing critical shrapnel to search out an enemy enclosed in shelter trenches; the heavy armour-piercing rifle guns with their many projectiles and stores; the moving and fixed torpedo with its electric attachments a weapon to which St. John would largely have a trust for the defence of its harbor, necessitate a large tax on the brain and time of an artillery man of the present day, not to speak of the attention it is necessary to bestow on the numerous laboratory stores, together with the drills and mechanical appliances used in the working and shifting of ordnance, besides fortifications, tactics and strategy, range-finding, military law, and interior economy, etc., etc.; all of which an officer has to be thoroughly conversant with, while the tactics of field artillery, in the late wars, having completely revolutionized the movements and disposition of infantry, require from an officer, of this arm of the service, a closer acquaintance with the branches of artillery and military engineering than heretofore.

Taking the above, then, into consideration, together with the unsettled state of Europe, and the great importance of St. John as the (future) first shipping port in the Dominion, it is only reasonable to ask that the Government provide efficient means for the proper training of her—St. John—militia, more especially the artillery arm, and a small permanent establishment also, for the proper care of her armament. As the shell guns on Partridge Island are about to be converted by Messrs. Gilbert, of Montreal, on the Pulliser system, why not establish a small school of gunnery on this natural fort, which covers and commands the harbor where torpedo defence could be practiced and taught? If this were carried out, St. John could be rendered impregnable from an attack by sea.

The importance of this cannot be overstated; too late may the city awaken to a sense of responsibility; too late to protect the lives and property of her citizens. If it be necessary for Canada to have a standing military force, our city is one of the first which should benefit by the same, thus adding materially to the peace, confidence and prosperity of the country at large.

Yours,
A MEMBER OF N. B. B. G. A.

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