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It seems that the young officers of the permanent corps are getting married too fast to suit the convenience of the service; and either continued celibacy will have to be insisted upon in the case of those not already wedded or under contract to wed, or else the married officers must be called upon to give to the schools a portion of the time now given to home affairs. The subject is now engaging the attention of the Department.

A critic writing to a Winnipeg paper complains that at a recent parade of the local corps he "actually saw one man with the bottom of his trouser legs halfway up to his knees"; and he adds that "this is the reverse of what it should be." From which it is to be inferred that the critic pines to see the soldier-parade with "his knees halfway up to the bottom of his trouser legs"—rather a shocking, not to say embarrassing, costume in which to place a modest man.

Lt.-Col. Hon. J. M. Gibson is going the right way about making his command equal to any in the Dominion. At a recent parade, he announced his desire that the Thirteenth Battalion should adopt the system of funding the drill pay, which has produced such happy effects in other cities; and he invited all those who drilled only for the pay it brought them, to send in their uniforms and leave the battalion. The latest enterprise of the Thirteenth is the establishment of a bicycle corps, the members of which are to be thoroughly trained in signalling, in addition to other military duties.

"A few weeks back," says the *Volunteer Record*, "a correspondence appeared in these columns, advocating with considerable argumentative power, the opening of ranges for class firing and competitions on Sundays. The departure contended for, which only reached the stage of newspaper discussion, has for some time ranged within the domain of accomplished facts in some parts of the United States, and in one instance, at least, with the very best results for one section of our practical cousins. On the 'better the day the better the deed' principle, we are informed that a match was shot at New Orleans three or four Sundays ago, between the Olympic and Expectation Rifle Clubs, when the highest aggregate total ever made by the former was put on, and the finest display of rifle shooting ever recorded in that part of the country was witnessed. We are not told that any untoward circumstance of an avenging character occurred after the match, to show that the majesty of the proprietors had been outraged by those who took part in it."

Commenting upon the fact that in many states of the Union the militiamen as yet take little interest in rifle shooting, *Forest and Stream* says: "Instead of having less than a half dozen states holding shoots, the list should run through the entire Union, and every section show what it can do in comparison with its sister commonwealths. In any National Guard a system of rifle practice once started is sure to be a very popular feature of military life. The men will be sure to keep it up, provided the official heads of the Guard give even a half-way support. The old-time enthusiasm, which expended itself at the annual musters, in showing how this separate company could beat another separate company in marching ram-rod fashion and in going through the manual of arms like well greased automata, finds a far more sensible outlet through the rivalry of the contests at the targets; and all the time the men, instead of becoming a fine looking and obedient uniformed machine, are trained into self-reliant fighters, for no man has yet been able to find any royal road to becoming a good shot. Practice, *Practice*, PRACTICE, is the only path-way to success and fame as a marksman, and an intelligent private does not need an officer at his elbow to tell him how to practice."

Commenting upon the announcement recently made that the Militia Department had addressed a circular to commanding officers, asking their opinion upon the distribution of the grants to rifle associations, the *Victoria Warder*, edited by a zealous military man, makes these pointed remarks: "By the way, why should the Militia Department simply consult the commanding officers? As a rule they are men holding office simply for their own convenience, and not for the good of the militia or the rifle corps. They rarely if ever consult their officers; and seem happy in being allowed a life interest in their corps. If the esprit de corps of the Canadian Militia alone depended on the commanding officers it would be a much more sorry concern than it now is. The men who keep up volunteering and rifle shooting are not now the commanding officers." This is a bold arraignment, and we fancy rather more severe than deserved. Nevertheless there is a good deal of truth in the remarks, as applied to some commanding officers who might be named, and a demonstration of whose lack of interest in general militia affairs has come home to us incidental to our undertaking to conduct a publication such as the present. There are at least signal exceptions to what the *Warder* lays down as the rule, for many corps might be cited where the commanding officer is the very life of the organization, not only with respect to rifle shooting but in every branch of regimental endeavour.

A Promising Young Shot.

An interesting feature of the last number of Canada's pictorial weekly, the *Dominion Illustrated*, is the appearance of portraits of Sergt. C. M. Hall, of the 79th Bn., who topped the Grand Aggregate at the recent Dominion rifle competition; and of Pte. C. T. Burns, Victoria Rifles, who achieved the crowning honour of the meeting by winning the Governor-General's first prize.

Pte. Burns has a remarkably brilliant record as a marksman. He is in his 30th year, having been born at Digby, N. S., in 1859. He