

THE general orders of the 22nd May, published in this number, again show a falling off in the number of officers, only nine new appointments being made to counterbalance twelve losses and twelve promotions. There is more than the usual proportion of changes amongst the field officers, two familiar names disappearing from the list of commanding officers, Lieut.-Col. McEachren and Lieut.-Col. Wyndham. Lieut.-Col. Wayling replaces the latter in command of the 12th, and Lieut.-Col. Martin succeeds to the vacancy caused by the death of Col. Baxter, 24th. Assistant Surgeon McCammon replaces Dr. Ferguson of the 56th Lisgar Rifles, and Dr. Wood makes way for Surgeon McDonald in the 52nd. The 57th has become a city battalion and the 95th are raised to the dignity of grenadiers; certainly a long list to keep track of successfully.

THE following item appears in *The Admiralty and Horse Guards Gazette*:—

“Now that the government are withdrawing our troops from Egypt in large numbers, the question arises—What is to become of that exceedingly useful force, ‘the Mounted Infantry,’ which, made up of men taken from the different infantry regiments serving in the field, did such excellent service during our own recent campaigns in Egypt and the Soudan? We cannot help thinking that it would be a very great mistake to allow this smart corps to be broken up, especially as it is absolutely certain in every war in the future mounted infantry will be more and more employed. Surely the time has now arrived when they should be recognized as a distinct force and made a permanent addition to our army. Their duties (which consist chiefly in scouting, rapidly moving from point to point, and continually harrassing the enemy by the accuracy of their fire at long ranges) are quite apart from the work of the cavalry. The sword or lance is the cavalryman’s weapon. The rifle is alone the weapon of the mounted infantry soldier. We have the nucleus of an admirable force formed by the companies which now exist, and which could be easily expanded into a regiment to be formed somewhat on the principle of the old Cape mounted rifles, which was disbanded about fifteen years since by Mr. Cardwell, a regiment that would have proved invaluable in our late wars at the Cape and in Egypt, but which, with many other good colonial regiments, was ruthlessly sacrificed in order to save a few thousand pounds. The rough school of war gives an experience which is acquired only in the field. Our mounted infantry has borne well the test of a severe trial, and shown that it has too much intelligence not to improve upon the opportunities it has had.”

If the value of mounted infantry is so fully recognized in England what must be the necessity here for similar corps, where all the conditions are more favorable for their successful employment. The Militia department shows great wisdom in establishing the Winnipeg school, and what we want to see now is an extension of the system thus happily inaugurated.

Canadians at Wimbledon.

IN spite of the trying winds and wet weather, the members of the Canadian team at Wimbledon managed last week to secure themselves good positions on the prize-lists of no less than seven leading competitions. We have already spoken of their success in the Alexandra contest, in which five prizes, ranging from £5 to £2, were carried off. In the Alfred competition, Staff-Sergeant Mitchell and Sergeant Rolston both scored 30 points out of a possible 35, and to each fell a prize of £5. The Prince of Wales’ competition has always been one in which Canadians have taken more than ordinary interest. A few seasons since one of their team, a member of the justly celebrated family of Mitchell, was so fortunate as to carry off the £100 and Badge. This year Canadians have every reason to congratulate themselves upon the fact that Private Russell secured as many as 94 points, only two below the winner. Staff-Sergeant Bell followed with 92, and to him, as well as to Private Russell, £5 was awarded. In the competition for the Martin’s Challenge Cup there was close shooting, so that Captain Adam, of the Canadian team, who received £3 with a score of 30 points, only 2 below the winner, was placed no higher on the list than 31st. Trooper Beattie, who followed with one point less, received £2, but was as low as 81st on the prize list. The St. George’s contest ranks next in importance to the Queen’s. In it Captain Barnwell came 6th with 34 points out of a possible 35 and a prize of £10, Private

Riddle 16th with 33 points and £9, and Private Russell 30 points, £2. Staff-Sergeant King secured a prize of £2 in the Windmill with 62 points, and though the highest possible was but 70 points, he was so low down on the list as 167th. In the *Daily Telegraph* competition Lieutenant Maxwell was the only prize-winner. He received £2 for a score of 32 out of a possible 35, and came 89th on the prize-list. In the Tyro aggregate, Staff-Sergeant Armstrong occupied the 22nd place and received a prize of £2, Sergeant Loggie 25th with £2, and Trooper Beattie 77th with £1. In the Grand Aggregate, Trooper Beattie has a total of 312, and is very sure of being on the prize list. In the Volunteer Aggregate Private Russell has a total of 140 points. In the Nursery Aggregate Lieutenant Maxwell has 87 points, and other Canadians may also secure prizes.

The chief finished contest of the early part of this week has been that for the Queen’s prize, which was concluded on Tuesday. In the first stage five Canadians secured places, and Sergeant Bell, Staff-Sergeant, Armstrong, Private Russell, Private Kimmerley also secured places among the first 100. In the final stage the whole four again came out well on the prize list. Sergeant Bell brought his total for the three ranges up to 252 and secured 29th place with a prize of £12 and badge. Staff-Sergeant Armstrong followed closely with 250 points, Private Russell with 246, and Private Kimmerly with 245, all receiving the £12 prize and badge.—*Canadian Gazette*.

Common Sense on Parade, or Drill Without Stays.

BY LIEUT.-COLONEL THE RIGHT HON. J. H. A. MACDONALD, M.P.

(*Commandant the Queen’s Edinburgh R. V. Brigade.*)

(*Continued from page 427.*)

IT may be well here to quote a passage from a celebrated writer, which shows how utterly unlike the necessities of modern conditions those of a battle used to be in old times, when the idea of successive bodies taking up the fight from one another was the order of the day. “What do we do now usually in a great battle? We place ourselves quietly in great masses arranged contiguous to and behind one another. We deploy only a small portion, and let it wring itself out in a fire combat for several hours, only interrupted now and again by separate small shocks from bayonet charges and cavalry attacks. When this line has gradually exhausted part of its warlike fire, and there remain only the cinders, it is withdrawn and replaced by another.” And he gives a graphic simile, which brings the contrast with the days of breechloaders into strong relief: “In this manner the battle burns slowly away like wet powder.”—(*Von Clausewitz*). Such a mode of procedure is impossible nowadays. “We can well understand how painful it must be for leaders grown worn and grey in the service, to relinquish such familiar and well-loved battle pictures as are presented by the formations of Frederick the Great, who in person led to the assault battalions in close order, with colors flying and bands playing, halting them to fire a volley at one hundred paces from the enemy; but such formations can no longer be dreamt of in these days of Gras and Mouser.”—(*Von Kraft Prinz zu Hohenlohe-Ingelfingen*). No general, in the face of the destructiveness of modern fire, can proceed as if only ordinary effort was to be expended, and that by several lines in succession. Supreme effort on the part of all except the general reserve held back for contingencies is the order of the day. The first in the fight must be in it till the last. “The mother idea which should inspire and give its form to every decisive action—the conviction, namely, that we are staking our all, and the resolution to carry through the business.”—(*Revue Militaire, 1884*). In passing, let it be said that this is just the thing for British troops. How often, in the old days, was the skirmisher who had half won the battle with difficulty withdrawn, although trained to the idea that he was only a preparing force? Give every British soldier the certainty that he will be allowed to be in at the death, if he can make his legs carry him there, and he will make them carry him, depend upon it. Let each officer be able to know that if he fulfils the demand of the occasion thus well addressed to him: “Take your heart and throw it among the enemy, as Douglas did that of Robert Bruce, and follow it with set teeth, determined to win. If you are a true soldier, if your men believe in you and you in them, they will go with and stay with you.”—(*Colonel C. B. Brackenbury*). Then the British soldier will be what he has always been, invincible, given only the condition of possibility of success.

But to return. Is it not plain that if the first fighting line is to be carried on, no more faulty mode could be found for doing so than to close it in and bring forward the reinforcements that are to give it fresh life and heart into gaps between them? It is clear two evil results would follow. In the first place, the line would consist of alternate bodies, one more or less limp, if not shattered, the other comparatively