

ion. I also express the hope that the officers of that corps will become a model of the discipline which must always exist in every well-regulated body of soldiers. I may say that every branch is represented by training schools: We have a cavalry school at Quebec; we have the veteran batteries "A" and "B"; a corps of mounted infantry in Winnipeg and the promising baby of the forces we have sent out to British Columbia; we have the Royal Military College at Kingston—and when one of the known critics on military matters, Sir Andrew Clark, was consulted by one of the Australian colonies to know what kind of organization that colony should adopt, he said, over and above everything start a Royal Military College on the model of the Royal Military College of Kingston."

In the recent annual target practice of the Victoria Rifle Company, Sergeant Malandaine made the highest score, 61 points, which entitles him to wear the silver cross muskets for the year. Corporal D. Roper and Pte. J. Henley were next with 58 points each. Corp. D. Roper, however, takes the second prize (bronze cross muskets), having made the best score at the longest distance. This year fourteen of the men got into the first class, which is an improvement on last year's shooting. The practice was under the superintendence of Capt. Woollacott.

General satisfaction is expressed at the site chosen for "C" Battery barracks. The *Colonist* says on the subject: "No better location could have been made and the Minister of Militia has, as we said when he arrived here, been guided throughout the negotiations by his usual good sense. If all ministers who visited Victoria consulted the reasonable views and wishes of Victoria as Sir Adolphe Caron has done the deep feeling of confidence in the present government which has always characterized the capital city would be, if possible, enlarged and extended."

Contentment.

"Man wants but little here below."

LITTLE I ask; my wants are few;
I only wish a hut of stone,
(A very plain brown stone will do),
That I may call my own;
And close at hand is such a one,
In yonder street that fronts the sun.

Plain food is quite enough for me;
Three courses are as good as ten;
If nature can subsist on three,
Thank Heaven for three. Amen!
I always thought cold victuals nice,
My choice would be vanilla ice.

I care not much for gold or land—
Give me a mortgage here and there,
Some good bank stock, some note of hand,
Or trifling railroad share—
I only ask that fortune send
A little more than I shall spend.

Honours are silly toys, I know,
And titles are but empty names;
I would, perhaps, be Plenipo—
But only near St. James;
I'm very sure I should not care
To fill our Gubernator's chair.

Jewels are baubles; 'tis a sin
To care for such unfruitful things;
One good sized diamond in a pin,
Some not so large in rings;
A ruby and a pearl or so,
Will do for me—I laugh at show.

My dame should dress in cheap attire,
(Good, heavy silks are never dear);
I own perhaps I might desire
Some shawls of true cashmere—
Some narrow crapes of China silk,
Like wrinkled skins on scalded milk.

Wealth's wayful tricks I will not learn.
Nor ape the glittering upstart fool;
Shall not carved tables serve my turn,
But all must be of huhl?
Give grasping pomp its double care,—
I ask but one recumbent chair.

Thus humble let me live and die,
Nor long for Midas' golden touch;
If Heaven more generous gifts deny,
I shall not miss them much,—
Too grateful for the blessings lent
Of simple tastes and mind content!

The Target.

The annual turkey match in connection with the 8th Royal Rifle Association, and open to all comers, took place at the Beauport rifle ranges on Saturday, 17th inst. Notwithstanding the heavy wind which prevailed, twenty marksmen faced the targets. The light was dull and very trying, only the first two pairs being able to distinguish the target with any clearness at the 600 yards range, those following firing at a shadow where it was almost impossible to distinguish the spotting disc.

Ranges 200, 400, 500 and 600 yards, 5 shots at each.
200 yards.—Pte. McLaughlin 22, Pte. Thomson 22, Sergt. Goudie 19, Staff-Sergt. Cote, 9th Vol., 19, Lieut.-Col. Miller 18, Pte. Davidson 18.
400 yards.—Lieut.-Col. Miller 22, Pte. Thomson 20, Bugler Kennedy 18, Colour-Sergt. Ross 18, Pte. Douglas 18, Corpl. Norton 17.
500 yards.—Sergt. Dewfall 17, Pte. Thomson 17, Lieut.-Col. Miller 17, Staff-Sergt. Cote, 9th, 16, Pte. McLaughlin 16, Corpl. Norton 15.
600 yards.—Corpl. Norton 19, Pte. Thomson 17, Sergt. Goudie 16, Lieut.-Col. Miller 13, Staff-Sergt. Cote, 9th, 6, Bugler Kennedy 6.
Aggregate Prize.—Pte. Thomson 76, Lieut.-Col. Miller 70, Corpl. Norton 67, Sergt. Goudie 60, Colour-Sergt. Ross 55, Pte. McLaughlin 54.
Special prizes for the greatest number of bull's eyes.—1st Pte. Thomson, 2nd Colour-Sergt. Ross, 3rd Pte. McLaughlin. Prize for the lowest aggregate (goose).—Pte. Clark, 8 points.

The idea of placing a civilian at the head of the French War Department is gaining ground, and the papers discuss it as admissible and desirable.

Gleanings.

The whole of the Martini-Henry rifles and carbines, together with the swords and bayonets, in the possession of the regular regiments and battalions composing the 1st English army corps for active service, are to be examined at once by experts from the Royal Small Arms Factory at Birmingham.

A China correspondent states that a memorial has been submitted by the viceroy of the Two Kwangs and the governor of Kwangtung recommending the establishment and endowment of a naval and military school at Canton, and the selection of a board of suitable European officers and professors, with a view to the training of young men for the service of China.

The complete introduction of the new light haversacks and equipments into the German army must, by order, be terminated at the end of March next year. The recruits presently and hereafter summoned to the flag have been warned to purchase beforehand the small effects and necessities on the regulation pattern, to conform with the kits adapted for stowage about their bodies.

The *Revue du Cercle Militaire* (Paris) gives the following estimate of the strength of the Russian army last year:—Active army, 824,762; reserve, 1,600,000; 1st ban of the Opoltschenie, 2,160,000. There are, besides, 30,665 officers—giving a grand total of about four and a half million men. The Cossacks at the same date numbered 2,220 officers and 51,194 men.

Not only is the manufacture of Lebel rifles proceeding rapidly in France, but the troops are being rapidly armed with this weapon. In several districts one or more regiments are already supplied with it, and there are said to be enough in store for meeting the requirements of the reserve also. Three thousand Lebel rifles arrived at Bar-le-duc in one day, and the whole of the 6th army corps is said to have received its new armament.

The *Baltimore Sun* says: "There are no less than 35 widows of revolutionary soldiers on the pension list. As several of them are under 80, it is not improbable that we shall still in 1900 be paying pensions to the wives of men who fought in a war that closed before 1783. We now have 322,756 pensioners on the rolls, and will probably have some 500,000 by the year 1900. The older the veterans get the more attractive they become to young women desirous of insuring themselves a comfortable income the rest of their days. It will, therefore, be well on to the year 2000 before we shall be done paying the cost of the civil war." It does seem rather hard to complain of the veterans for being attractive; they were born so.



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