

vanced they properly reduced their sights. This latter was considered a remarkable instance of presence of mind. It is said that during an action with quick firing weapons, those engaged are so engrossed by what is happening before them, a state bordering on catalepsy is produced. The Canadian militia is an apt and quick-witted body of men, and with any reasonable amount of training in skirmishing and shooting would soon become as such highly efficient, and no amount of "catalepsy" would prevent our non-coms. from doing other than that St. Privat sergeant under like circumstances.

As the surface of our Dominion is much broken by forests and streams, the battalions should be practiced as often as possible over broken country, and the accidents of ground explained to both officers and men.

Should war occur the militia would necessarily do much fighting in the bush, and knowledge of how to maintain cohesion would be imperative, especially in flank attacks, should we be the aggressors in an action. Here good shooting and the individual ability of leaders of small groups would tell.

Occasional field work would make it more interesting for all ranks.

E. B. W.

Sherbrooke.

All Quiet on the Richelieu.

The Editor of the CANADIAN MILITARY GAZETTE,

The extract below appears in the military column of the Gazette of this date:

"The following short communication has just been received, and refers to a matter that is evidently causing some unpleasantness. The following, it must be understood, is not from any party interested, or from St. Johns:—The little town of St. Johns is at present, much excited over the news that Capt. Fiset, of the Royal School of Infantry is, by 'desire' of the Honorable the Minister of Militia, to be transferred from St. Johns to Fredericton, to make room for Capt. Chinic, presently at Fredericton—the latter to take Capt. Fiset's place in St. Johns. We are not here to criticise the orders or 'desires' of the Honorable the Minister of Militia, but we find it very strange, not to say more, that Capt. Fiset should be made to change station three times in five years, when it is a well known fact that there are several officers, if not all, who have not changed station since their appointment. We are asked why should Capt. Fiset, who is a distinguished soldier of the British army and an efficient officer, and taken as such in every station he is sent to, be made a rolling stone to suit the views or whims of some brother officers? Why should he be put to the expense of paying out of his own pocket, all expenses pertinent to the transfer of himself and family, just to please Mr. so-and-so, and to make it more comfortable and pleasant for a family compact?"

In relation to the foregoing permit me to state that the "little town of St. Johns" is not at all excited over this matter. In fact until the announcement was made in the Gazette that Captains Fiset and Chinic were to change places, not a dozen people in St. Johns outside of the barracks knew about it. The motive for the change I am not acquainted with, but I have no doubt whatever it is made in the interests of the service. Officers are continually being changed from station to station, from depot to depot and no one ever thinks of raising a pow-wow about it, or talks of "family compacts" or "making it pleasant for Mr. So-and-So." This

is all the veriest twaddle. But more than this the correspondent of the Gazette is misleading in his statements. He declares that Capt. Fiset has been "made to change" three times in five years. Now as a matter of fact Capt. Fiset was moved to Toronto and then back again to St. Johns at his own request, and these are the only two changes he has made since he joined the corps. So he has little to complain of on this score. Capt. Chinic is senior to Capt. Fiset and is as good an officer as he is a perfect gentleman.

Yours, A VETERAN.

St. Johns, Feb. 15th, 1896.

Bisley Quarters.

To the Editor of the CANADIAN MILITARY GAZETTE.

SIR.—I am pleased to see that the readers of your paper discussing the building of the permanent quarters at Bisley for the Canadian rifle teams, and I read the letter signed "Smokestack," which appeared in your last issue, with much interest. I would like to get as many expressions of opinion as possible from those interested in the matter and who have had practical experience as regards camping out at Bisley or Wimbledon.

I quite agree with "Smokestack" that the bellrooms are on the small size, but I had to condense the requirements for the building as much as possible, in fact some of the council of the D.C.R.A. suggested that the two houses be embodied in one—which would be decidedly inconvenient. When the D.C.R.A. have decided on the building of the houses, and the building committee has been formed, there will no doubt be a few alterations which will improve the houses, as the plans published are not working plans.

As regards dividing the officers from the N.C. O's and men, this was a only a suggestion, as the quartering of the team lies entirely with the commandant, who is guided and governed by the military regulations bearing on the above.

In conclusion I would like to hear from more of my shooting confreres, who take an interest in the building of permanent quarters, as their suggestions would be valuable.

Yours truly

M. POPE, Capt.
3 V. R. C.

The Flying Squadron.

This much talked-of squadron, which showed so clearly the efficiency of England naval reserve was commissioned in January 1896, in consequence of the then unsettled state of affairs, the following ships composing it:

H. M. S. "Revenge" battleship completed 1894, displacement 14,150 tons; I.H.P. 13,000; length 380 feet; beam 75 feet; maximum draught 27 feet 6 in.; speed 17.5 knots. Armour, partial belt of 18 inches, armament 4 sixty-seven ton guns in two armoured barbets, besides many quick firers, etc.

H. M. S. "Royal Oak," battleship completed 1891, displacement 14,150 tons; I. H. P. 13,000; length 380 feet; beam 75 ft; maximum draught 26 ft; speed 18.2 knots. Armour partial belt of 18 inches, armament 4 sixty-seven ton guns in two armoured barbets, besides numerous smaller quick firing guns, etc.

H. M. S. "Gibraltar," 1st class cruiser completed 1892, displacement 7,700 tons; I.H.P. 12,000; length 360 ft; beam 60 ft; maximum draught 23 ft 9 in.; speed 19.7 knots. Principal armament two 22 ton guns, besides numerous quick firers and machine guns.

H. M. S. "Theseus," 1st class cruiser completed 1892, displacement 7,350 tons; I. H. P. 12,000; length 360 ft; beam 60 ft; maximum draught 23 ft 9 inches; speed 20 knots. Principal armament 2 twenty-two ton guns, besides quick firers and machine guns.

H. M. S. "Charybdis," 2nd class cruiser completed in 1893, displacement 4,360 tons; I.H.P. 9,000; length 320 feet; beam 49 ft 6 in.; maximum draught 19 feet; speed 19.5 knots. Principal armament two 6 inches quick firers, protected by steel shields and other lighter guns.

H. M. S. "Hermione," 2nd class cruiser was launched in 1893, displacement 4,360 tons; I.H.P. 9,000; length 320 ft; beam 49 ft 6 inches; maximum draught 19 ft; speed 19.5 knots.

These figures are all taken from the Navy and Army "special extra number," illustrating the flying and channel squadrons and giving exquisite photogravure reproductions of each ship, each plate being worth an excellent photograph.

Geo. Newnes Ltd, 10 Southampton street, London, are the publishers.

Royal Military College Club of Canada.

Office of the Hon. Secretary-Treasurer.

QUEBEC, 30th January 1896.

OFFICIAL COMMUNICATION, No. 1, 1896

NO. 1. ANNUAL MEETING.

The annual meeting will be held on Saturday, the 29th of February 1896, at the Hotel Frontenac, Kingston, Ont.

Morning session, 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Afternoon session, 2 p.m. to close of meeting.

NO. 2. ANNUAL DINNER.

The annual dinner will be held on the evening of the above date, at the Hotel Frontenac, at 7:30 p.m.

Members desiring to stay at the hotel in question, will be granted a special rate of two dollars per day.

Members connected with the army or militia are requested to appear at the dinner in the Mess uniform of their respective corps or of that of the unattached list.

Members are requested to notify the Hon. Secretary, at their earliest convenience, if it is their intention of being present, in order that all necessary arrangements may be completed.

NO. 3. SUBSCRIPTION AND PROXIES.

Members are reminded that the annual subscription is due on the 1st January and are requested to remit the same.

Proxies cannot be accepted at the meeting unless subscriptions have been paid in full including the current year.

NO. 4. CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS.

The following amendment to the By-Laws will be submitted at the meeting: Proposed by Mr. Francis Joseph Dixon, U. L.

Amend Article 12, Section 1, by striking out all the words after "except" and insert in lieu thereof the following "where otherwise expressed."

By order.

ERNEST F. WURTELE.

Captain R. L.

Hon. Secretary-Treasurer,
Royal Military College Club of Canada.

A despatch from Ottawa says that it is practically settled that Col. M. Aylmer will be Adjutant-General. Lieut.-Colonel Otter, of Toronto, is to be made a full colonel.