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OLD SERIES.
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NEW SERIES.
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An Example For The Canadian Force.

In comparison with the few and generally unsuccessful attempts made here for practical field operations it is interesting to note the increase of attention to this subject given by the Volunteers in England. Almost every issue of the military journals there tells of some new work of this sort, work which assimilates as closely as possible to the conditions of service before the enemy, and which cannot fail to be a most valuable factor in the military education of every man engaged. The following extract from an English paper gives a good example of the manœuvres referred to :

On the night of Saturday, 4th Nov., some interesting operations were carried out in the neighborhood of Ealing by the 4th Middlesex (West London) Rifles who mustered about 400 strong. The general idea was that an enemy was advancing to invest London from the North, halting at sunset at Harrow and throwing out a line of outposts on the Paddington canal. Two companies were told off to form the enemy's picquet, holding the Horsendon Bridge, with supports at a farm some distance in the background, and a reserve at the top of Horsendon Hill. The remainder of the battalion were ordered to advance at dusk from Ealing, and, if possible, secure the Horsendon Bridge, and drive the enemy from the hill. The defending force had the advantage of Capt. Ronald Scott's Electric Search-Light, of 20,000 candle power; and, indeed, the whole scheme was intended to illustrate the usefulness of such an aid in night operations. Major and Adj. Buchanan-Riddell was in command of the attacking force, and Major Hopkins had charge of the defence; whilst Col. Somers Lewis, who commands the regiment, acted as umpire. As the attacking force advanced under the cover of hedgerows and fences which intersected the meadows through which they passed, the search-light shone out from the lower spur of Horsendon Hill, illuminating the surrounding country and showing every movement of the attackers. Immediately the latter were seen, a heavy fire was opened upon them by the defenders from the bridge and from the opposite banks of the canal. The defenders had the shelter of a thick hedgerow, and whilst thus covered they had the additional advantage of the search-light casting its gleams upon the advancing force, amongst whom, by such aid, in actual warfare, they would have done terrible execution. As the attacking skirmishers came over each fence or hedge they were met by the glare of the electric light, and

thus exposed to the deadly fire of the defenders. In reality an advance under such circumstances would have been practically impossible. Despite all obstacles however, the enemy advanced, and when within measurable distance of the bridge over which they had to cross to reach Horsendon Hill, the defending force retired from the canal side and fell back on its supports. As soon as this movement was perceived the advancing force rushed forward over the bridge in a dense column. The search-light showed their position on the bridge most clearly, and gave the defending force every opportunity to pour a heavy fire upon them. In actual warfare the force crossing the bridge must have been annihilated. When the "Cease Fire" was sounded, and hostilities had ended, it was held that the superiority of numbers of the attacking force had counterbalanced the advantages possessed by the defenders, and that the latter had accordingly lost the day. The farmers, whose land was passed over by the troops, deserve praise for their ready consent to the operations being carried out in that territory.

The Late Manitoba Light Infantry.

From Dr. Pennefather's remarks on the recent disbandment of the 91st Batt., as published in another column, the action taken by the authorities appears to have been hasty. It is admitted that one-half of the nominal strength of the battalion was practically *non est*; but on the other hand three companies are stated to have existed in full strength, and that others could have easily been raised had some encouragement been given and certainty of the existence of the corps secured. Winnipeg itself should furnish at least three companies to wear the scarlet; it is most lamentable to see the entire infantry force of so flourishing a province as Manitoba reduced to eight companies, perhaps 400 men in all. It is evident that special attention should be devoted by the Department to this province and all possible aid and encouragement given towards, at least, the revival of the two corps recently disbanded, to say nothing of the raising of new ones. Better a battalion of four companies than none; in time of trouble it would serve as a nucleus for perhaps a thousand ardent and patriotic men.

Regimental Histories.

We begin in this number the series of records of the formation and history of the various corps in the Canadian service; the officer commanding the 16th battalion of Picton, Ont., being the first to send in the necessary MS. This will be continued in each number, so long as the necessary *data* are sent in; the British Columbia Brigade of Garrison Artillery is next on the list, and will be followed by the New Brunswick Brigade of Garrison Artillery. The series will be a most valuable one, and it will be entirely the fault of commanding officers if the services of their corps are not recorded in this manner. To add to the interest of the papers and to keep on record occurrences which would otherwise pass into oblivion, we will be glad to publish personal reminiscences or anecdotes connected with the corps whose history is given; these may appear in any issue subsequent to that of the regimental sketch to which they refer.

Capt. H. J. Woodside, of No. 2 Company, 95th Battalion, contributes to the Portage la Prairie *Liberal* two excellent letters on the annexation question. The editor of that paper—who is evidently one of the "political union" gentry, but ashamed to own it makes some silly statements in his leaders which attempt to reply to Capt. W's letter, and has by long odds the worst of the argument. It is good occasionally to see officers of the force taking a hand in newspaper discussion of public questions, and exposing the sophistries of the exponents of the Macdonald-Myers doctrines.