

is altogether too short for any useful purpose, nor will it be advisable to look amongst the rank and file for the remains of the rudimentary knowledge they may be taught, six months hence. The question now arises as to what possible object is to be attained by such partial efforts. It is an easy matter to understand that infantry will benefit, and materially too, by a short period of drill; the use of the rifle is quickly and easily mastered and involves no complications which cannot be readily remembered, but such is not the case with artillery: An active and intelligent officer, thoroughly trained himself, could work his guns with a lot of ploughmen, yet he would rather not have the experience, but when the majority of the officers are as untrained as the men the usefulness of the thirty days drill is very doubtful. Taking the corps before us as a sample there is not a finer infantry battalion in the service, whether as regards the physique of the men or their actual discipline, and the officers as a body are as intelligent and as well grounded in their knowledge of infantry tactics as officers of any battalion in Canada, but all this does not constitute what the country wants in connection with its artillery service. For field artillery (which is the proper name for all organizations like this corps), a thorough knowledge of discipline and minor tactics as infantry, are indispensable, but after that comes the more important and difficult training to a complete knowledge of artillery tactics, without which the name of artillery corps is a misnomer. Now, what we hold with regard to this is, that the requisite knowledge cannot be attained by *intermittent* drills with great guns, that the men who return from Kingston will have learned a few preliminaries which will be forgotten before the next year, and that probably 50 per cent of the corps will be recruits before that period arrives. It will be thus seen that a great deal of energy and ability has been bestowed to very little purpose, that a well devised and advised scheme will, so far as results are concerned, be a mountain in labour bringing forth a mouse. In all great movements the initial step is the most difficult; it has been taken in this case, however, and, as a preliminary, in the right direction. The country has not supplied its artillery soldiers with their appropriate weapons and as a consequence the soldiers had to be marched to where those weapons were quietly reposing on the grass grown batteries of Fort Henry. If the further provision had been made to retain the soldier for a period of service say, *three years*, there could be no possible objection to the movement, the end for which we are contending would have been gained. But if all the forts in Canada were manned in a similar fashion more would require to be done; the three years service would only train about 2000 men, a force by far too small for the service of this country. The alternative is then to

organize the artillery in the mode pointed out in the *VOLUNTEER REVIEW* of the 4th instant. Our present mode of procedure is defective because it only trains men to become artillerists on the old model—horse or garrison; in the first place to handle pieces of the lightest possible pattern, in the last, to handle heavy guns mounted on platforms; in neither case are the conditions of modern artillery answered, which is to manoeuvre moderately heavy guns—guns of position—in action in the field. To provide for the training of the subdivisions of that arm, it is right and proper to send the corps destined for working heavy artillery to the places where that arm is in position and where it must be fought; our artillery readers will please remember that garrison artillery must be trained for that duty alone the major tactics connected therewith are simply defensive and local, and, therefore, to acquire a full knowledge thereof, the soldiers must be permanently stationed with the guns. Field and horse artillery are based essentially on different principles, the major tactics in connection therewith combine the whole science of offensive movements; the transport and manoeuvring of large masses of guns and munitions in the face of an enemy, the drill and discipline which brings the arm in accord with the body to which it is attached, the skill to seize the favorable moment for attack, and the power to rapidly concentrate and as rapidly disperse. The first subdivision being the arm exclusively belonging to infantry a knowledge of all the movements of that arm is indispensable to the field artillerist; the second as naturally belong to the cavalry branch and must, in addition to his own peculiar knowledge, be an expert cavalry soldier.

It is evident now that under our present system the country can never hope to possess an efficient artillery service, and the sooner a reorganization is effected the better, but the fact must not be lost sight of that to have efficient artillerists we must provide them with the proper weapons. The battery, as the unit of this service, should be complete, and Brigades should be mere administrative bodies as far as the field force is concerned, existing only in name, of no particular value, except in case of a campaign.

It would appear that garrison artillery in our case should be altogether organized on the frontiers, the moving of large numbers of the rural population to long distances from home being objectionable. The advantages to be gained by organizing a battery of field artillery in connection with each battalion are easily realized; it would give the soldiers an opportunity to acquire a knowledge of their guns and that knowledge would be largely diffused. It would facilitate the transport of those guns when required without expense or effort, and it would give the artillery the habit of work-

ing with the infantry and acquiring all the knowledge concerted action could afford. The same reasoning holds good with the horse artillery and in the same degree; we must altogether depend on the country for the horses that mount our cavalry and manoeuvre our artillery. The day of independent action on the part of the latter has gone by and its value as an efficient weapon can only be measured by the skill with which it can be combined with the cognate branches of the army. What is wanting is a general outfit and that to be put to immediate use, at the same time it must be understood that every unit of the force should be complete in equipment without reference to headquarters.

We are indebted to the kindness of Lieut. Colonel Macpherson, D.A.C., for the score of the Dominion Rifle Tournament, which is presented to our readers this week, from the records it would appear that our comrades in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia have good reason to be proud of their knowledge of the national weapon, and we hope at the next tournament to see them exercise their marvellous skill at Ottawa. In several of the matches the Ontario and Quebec Volunteers were ruled out by being unable to comply with the rules owing to small musters.

This is another argument, if one were wanting in favor of paying Volunteers for time at the annual and other tournaments, as well as providing transport. The experience gained in such a contest would be surely worth the outlay on the part of the public, and it was not at all a creditable matter that Ontario or Quebec could not muster fifteen Volunteers each at the Dominion Rifle Tournament. Experience is rather a slow teacher, the lessons, however, are invaluable if properly applied, and we hope immediate steps will be taken to profit by the example furnished at the Dominion Match.

#### REVIEWS.

We have received the third number (for Sept.) of the *Canadian Magazine* from the publishers Irving, Fleet & Co., Toronto. It is fully as interesting as its predecessors, and contains, Hannah, Chaps. V. and VI., with an engraving; To Clorinda; the Sun and the worlds around him; a September song; Grimsby Scenery; Pyramus and Thisbe; Eastern Official Life; Kate's Album; Song; Sketches of Canadian Wild Birds; September—a Poem; To Her—a Poem; Royalists and Loyalists.

#### REMITTANCES

Received on Subscription up to Saturday, 23rd inst.

DIAMOND, Ont.—Robert Walker, Esq., \$2.  
WATERLOO, Que.—Capt. Geo. S. Codd, \$2.