

risen to prominence in the force. His was a disposition which combined the gentlest consideration for the feelings of his subordinates with the most soldierly exaction of duty, and it was little wonder that he was as much beloved as a man as he was admired for the efficient discharge of his difficult duties. It had been a fond hope of the force that the grand old soldier should receive some recognition of his sovereign's favor before he relinquished his post at headquarters, and certainly no man in Canada deserved such an honor more or would have received it with heartier approval on the part of the militia force and the public at large.

It is about time that we heard of the department doing something towards providing suitable ranges for the new long range rifle. The present ranges, almost without exception, would be so dangerous for use with the Lee-Metford rifle as to be practically out of the question. There is no use providing the militia with a modern, good-shooting rifle without giving them ranges where they can perform target practice with the new weapon without endangering the lives of all the people living within two miles of the firing point.

We would again strongly urge the department to take into consideration the question of providing the active militia with Morris tube practice at the public expense. Besides the great economy of this form of rifle practice and the possibility of performing it during the winter season, there is now the additional object to be considered of the saving to the rifle barrels. So with barrels having lives of only 3,000 rounds the saving of the wear and tear of as much target practice as possible is an important consideration. Of course, Morris tube firing cannot replace range work altogether, but it could effectively take the place of the preliminary rifle practice of the raw recruit.

As we go to press the announcement is made that in the reconstructed cabinet the portfolio of Militia and Defence has been allotted to the Honorable Senator Desjardins. While believing that this arrangement is only a tem-

porary one, we cannot refrain from expressing satisfaction that the new minister is a gentleman, who as mayor of Montreal always showed himself well disposed towards the active militia. He is a sterling specimen of Her Majesty's loyal Canadian subjects of French descent, notably patriotic, honorable to a degree and possessed of that genialty and courtesy which is a characteristic of his race. We would have much preferred a minister specially identified in some way with militia interests; but we might have had a much less promising minister put over the department. It is understood that the Hon. Mr. Dickey will continue to have charge of militia matters in the House of Commons, and that the government policy matured under his care will be carried out.

The executive of the Military Rifle League has issued the following circular, which speaks for itself, and which has been distributed broadcast to the executive of the various rifle associations throughout Canada:—

GENTLEMEN,

In inviting entries for the year 1896 to Canadian Military Rifle League, I have the honor, by order of the Executive Council, to request you to forward any suggestions regarding present year's programme, which you may have to make for the better carrying out, if possible, of the purposes for which this Association was originally formed.

I will be obliged if you will kindly forward these suggestions to me before 30th January, as it is the intention of the Executive Committee to arrange this year's competitions immediately after that date, in order that other matches to be held during the coming season, may be arranged in such a way as to prevent any possible conflict.

I am especially requested by the executive Committee to emphasize their request that any suggestions for changes in this year's matches be carefully considered by you and forwarded by date mentioned. Assuring you that they will receive every possible attention, I beg to remain, with the compliments of the Executive Committee,

Yours truly,

W. M. ANDREWS,

Capt. 6th Batt. Fusiliers

Secretary.

Good Messing.

One dollar a year and an intelligent man can ensure first class messing to any officers or sergeants mess provided that dollar be spent on a subscription to "Table Talk," a monthly magazine published in Philadelphia. Mess presidents and committees should avail themselves of the offer this publication makes to send free sample copies to any who may request it. Address: Table Talk, Pub. Co., 1113 Chestnut street, Philadelphia.

He Saw a Snake.

As appropriate to the season, a member of one of the Service clubs revived the other night a Mess story regarding the experience of an officer at a certain station in India on a Christmas night some years ago. There had been considerable jollification, and about midnight, he, the officer of the day, proceeded to visit the guard, which occupied a bungalow where the bright moon was casting around dark and fantastic shadows. As he was about to remount his horse, previously to returning, he sang out to the sergeant of the guard that there was a snake on the steps leading up to the verandah. "All right, sir," answered the sergeant, but without stirring. "There's a snake, I tell you," persisted the officer "All right, sir," again replied the sergeant, yet without moving, "I'll see to it directly, sir." The officer, however, was not to be put off, and ordered a lantern to be brought, and then, sure enough, to the surprise of the sergeant, was the snake, which was quickly despatched. The sergeant then began apologetically: "I beg your pardon, sir, I thought—" but suddenly seemed to remember that if speech is silver, silence is often golden, and abruptly lapsed into silence.

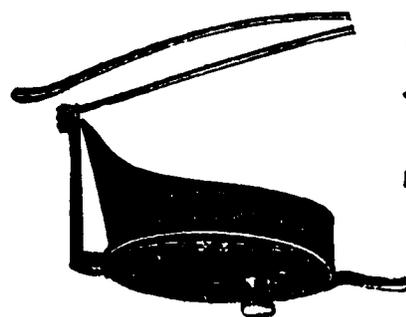
A New Volume of the Living Age.

The two hundred and eighth volume of *Littell's Living Age* opens with the issue of the week ending January 4th. The beginning of a new volume is an excellent time for the beginning of a new subscription, especially when, as in this instance, it includes a new—a lower price. For 1896 the subscription price will be six dollars. Good news truly to its subscribers and to all others who appreciate and enjoy good reading, for no one who wants the best of choice literature should be without it. *Littell & Co.*, Boston are the publishers.

Great Britain is seriously and steadily preparing for war on a very large scale, at land and on sea, against Germany, or against Germany, France, and Russia, should they combine against her.

The Cuban insurgents have captured Guira, the third city in the province of Havana, after a fierce battle, in which 600 Spaniards and 100 Cubans were killed and wounded.

The National Zeitung, of Berlin, says that no correspondence in the nature of a diplomatic or state paper has passed between the Queen and Emperor William.



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