

long lines of warlike ancestry. He is credited with the statement that the militia system of Canada is perfectly adapted to the wants and requirements of the country.

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As the commander of a rural battalion, we would like Col. O'Brien to have added his opinion of the ultimate effect upon that system of the restriction to biennial drills to which country battalions are now subjected. The notices of the lecture published in the daily press are too brief to be satisfactory, and we shall endeavour to give our readers the benefit of a more extended report, which we are sure will be interesting, and none the less so by reason of Col. O'Brien's position as an influential and outspoken member of Parliament.

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The Victorian military authorities hope that before long an English team may visit the colony to take part in military tournaments there. Colonel Price, the commandant of the Victorian Mounted Rifles, who competed at the Royal Military Tournament in London last year, says there are many difficulties in the way, as the War Office authorities are afraid that if a military team went to Australia the men would want to stop there. Probably, however, a team of picked men from the Yeomanry will take the trip to Australia.

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Experiments are being carried out in Austria with a jointed cleaning rod, to be used as a support to the rifle when firing from shelter trenches, or when the men are lying down under cover. By jointing the rod in the middle, the upper portion can be made to drop down and rest on the ground, so as to afford considerable assistance to the soldier in taking steady aim.

THE WAR OF 1812-15.

The war of 1812-15 was by a strange coincidence the subject of two lectures last week by men of well known ability in their respective walks of life.

Mr. Benjamin Sulte, chief clerk in the Department of Militia at Ottawa, lectured at a meeting of the Canadian Military Institute, Toronto. After explaining the causes that led to the war, and the doubts and fears that may have arisen as to the issue of a conflict between a nation with 7½ millions of population, and a colony with a population of only half a million;

he proceeded to explain the situation of the province at the time war was declared, the confidence and unanimity that existed between the French and English-Canadians, and the way the former worked under the British officers by whom they were commanded, as well as under French officers trained in the British Army, among whom was the popular and renowned Colonel de Salaberry, the hero of Chateauguay.

Several interesting and some amusing anecdotes were given of Colonel de Salaberry, and an instance showing what a humorist he was.

Patriotic songs were written by French-Canadians, bonfires blazed everywhere, and enthusiasm and patriotism were abundant on all sides. These feelings were fostered and encouraged by a large number of able priests, who driven from France by the Revolution had found refuge in Canada, and incited the people to stand true to the monarchy and oppose the Americans, the allies of the revolutionists who had driven them from their homes.

The lecturer reviewed the different campaigns, and attributed to the action of the State of Massachusetts the continuance of the war, as that state benefited by the sale of stores to the army.

At the conclusion of the lecture, Lt.-Col. G. T. Denison moved and Major Mason seconded a vote of thanks to the lecturer, which was carried unanimously.

Colonel Denison in his remarks said the presence of the lecturer and the story of the loyalty of his countrymen still taught us that should Canada at any time require the services of her sons, the services would be freely given. He reminded those present that in Switzerland where there were several different religions and languages, the people all stood united for their liberties shoulder to shoulder, forgetting their racial and religious differences in the face of a common danger, and he felt sure such would also be true of this country and its people.

The other lecturer who chose for his theme this interesting subject was the veteran banker of the Dominion, Mr. James Stevenson, general manager of the Quebec Bank, who appeared before the members of the Quebec Literary and Historical Society, and spoke about the war of 1812-15 in connection with the Army Bills. He described how the exigencies of the army were provided for,

under circumstances peculiarly trying by the establishment of a temporary "Bank of Issue."

The bank was instituted by an Act styled, "An Act to facilitate the circulation of Army Bills." This act authorized the issue of £250,000 currency in notes of different denominations. All notes of \$25 or £5 and over were made to bear interest at a rate equivalent to 6 per cent. per annum.

These army bills, as they were called, circulated freely among merchants and others, and were redeemed at stated intervals by bills of exchange on London at 30 days' sight.

The present lecture only dealt with the establishment of the bank, and Mr. Stevenson proposes to follow up the subject on some future occasion.

THE NORTH-WEST MOUNTED POLICE.

As the "Herchmer" enquiry proceeds, evidence is daily forthcoming that whether the Commissioner is responsible for all or for much of what has been laid to his charge, he has had a most undesirable counsellor and friend about him in the person of a very ungovernable temper; and whatever may be the issue of the inquiry, it has been made very apparent that an officer of greater tact, suavity of manner and knowledge of "savoir faire" than the present Commissioner would be of decided advantage to the force.

There are men so absorbed in the one idea of maintaining strict discipline that their rule becomes little short of martyrdom for their subordinates, and they exact a strict performance of minutiae without consideration for extraneous circumstances, which may do little good but cause much misery.

There are on the other hand men who while never relaxing such strict rule as is necessary to maintain proper discipline, are possessed of a happy faculty which enables them to administer the most severe punishment with a tact which leaves the offender almost as sad for having caused his judge to worry as for the offence he has committed.

This is evidently the description of man who ought to be Commissioner of the N.W.M.P.—one who, while a soldier, would not be so wedded to one idea as to forget the semi-quasi character of judge which the appointment carries with it, and who would exercise his functions with a judicial frame of mind rather than as a soldier after sacking a town or village.