

The Canadian Militia Gazette

THE POPULAR ORGAN OF THE ACTIVE FORCE OF THE DOMINION.

(Adopted as their official paper, by the Dominion Artillery Association, the Ontario Artillery Association, the Canadian Military Rifle League, and the Royal Military College Club.)

VOL. VI.

OTTAWA, THURSDAY, 27TH AUGUST, 1891.

No. 34.

MILITARY DRILL IN THE SCHOOLS.

Contrary to the opinions expressed in the press and elsewhere in Canada in connection with the rapidly developing system of military drill in schools, the following editorial article recently appeared in the *Boston Herald*:

"Considering the attention that has been given to the subject of military drill in our public schools, it may be interesting for those who have charge of our school affairs to learn that this system, after some years of practice, has become discredited, and has now been abandoned by those having charge of the public schools in Paris. In France, the military feeling is always in the ascendency, and the people are quite willing to undertake any work, or make any sacrifice, that seems calculated to improve the offensive and defensive strength of the nation. The military drill was adopted in the public schools of Paris under the belief that in this way the schoolboys would be prepared, in certain respects, for the service which most of them would afterwards have to perform in the ranks of the army. But, after experience, and on the advice of leading military officers who have made an examination of the question, the school drill has been abandoned as detrimental, rather than advantageous, to genuine military service. The regimental officers affirm that they would very much rather fashion into the standard form of a soldier a young man who knew nothing about military requirements than one who had passed through the service and discipline of a school regiment: that there were so many things to unlearn, because they had been injudiciously taught or misinterpreted, that the graduates from a school regiment had to go through quite a period of disillusionment and unlearning before they could be placed on the receptive basis occupied by those who know nothing of these matters. Probably the French authorities also share the opinion of some of our leading militia officers, that service in these public school regiments has the effect of so wearying the boys of everything relating to army life that they lose enthusiasm, and while with us they do not voluntarily enter one of our militia regiments, in France, where they are compelled to serve, they, perhaps, do so with a sense of disgust which makes them far less efficient and effective than they might otherwise be. While school drill may have its merits as a form of physical exercise, the weight of evidence would seem to indicate that, as a means of preparing boys to take part, if called upon when they are older, in the defence of their country, it is of little, if any, service.

The *Montreal Gazette* has the following appreciative notice of a well known militia officer recently deceased: "Another of the old regime has passed away in the person of Lieut-Col. Antoine Chartier de Lotbiniere-Harwood, late deputy adjutant general of the Sixth Military district. The deceased gentleman was up to a few months before his death, which was from dropsy brought on by an attack of the malvolent grippe, one of the most popular men in military, professional and social circles in the city. But he had to retire from active life on account of the state of his health. He was born in Montreal sixty-six years ago, and was a son of the late Hon. Robert Harwood, seigneur of Vaudreuil, and his wife, nee Louise Chartier de Lotbiniere. In 1848 he was admitted to the Bar of lower Canada and three years later married Mlle. Angelique de Bellefeuille, who survives him. In 1863 he was elected to the Canadian Assembly for the county of Vaudreuil, holding that seat until 1866 when he resigned at the request of Sir George Cartier to accept the position of Deputy Adjutant General of the 6th district, a position which he very ably filled up to a few years ago, when he had to retire on account of reaching the age limit of the Militia act. During the time that he was in the Assembly he made a number of eloquent speeches; one on confederation in particular was so much thought of that it was printed in pamphlet form for distribution. The deceased was an ardent lover of music, he himself being an artist of no mean capacity. He was the last of the elder branch of the family, and had the old regime been perpetuated would have inherited the marquisate. The Hon. H. G. Joly de Lotbiniere is the representative of the younger branch."

The *Pall Mall Gazette* interviewer thus describes Miss Winnifred Leale, the lady shot at the Bisley match: It was at the Ladies' Club that I met the young riflewoman yesterday shortly after noon (writes a lady representative). Her father, Surgeon-Major Leale, of the Channel Islands militia, was with her. They had just come back from a stroll round the camp, the military gentleman with the quiet, good-natured face, and his bright young daughter, whose face is as brown as a berry with healthy out-door exercise and whose eyes dance with fun and amusement at the role of the heroine of the hour which has been thrust upon her. She is dressed as simply as it behoves a "campaigner" to dress while on active service: a fawn-coloured homespun skirt, a white flannel blouse, fastened at the waist with a gold buckle, a cape of the same colour as the skirt, and a neat little sailor hat complete her costume. Of course she wears her field glass over her shoulder, and sometimes you see her handle her "Martini," but not often, for it would attract attention, and Miss Leale, though she has the courage to take her place among the rifle shots without any affected humility does not court public notice. She is just a natural, fresh young girl, keenly interested in the sport and delighted with her success.