

quite overshoots the mark when he claims the "top of the list" for his corps in the above competitions. I find the complete record, so far as our respective regiments are concerned, to be as follows:

10th Royal Grenadiers:

Gzowski Match	441
British Challenge Shield	
1st team	261
2nd team	180

	882

48th Highlanders:

Gzowski Match	468
British Challenge Shield	
1st team	232
2nd team	224

	924

There is thus a difference in favor of the Highlanders of 42 points. I do not claim first or any other position for the regiment to which I belong. I leave it to you, Mr. Editor, to award "honor to whom honor is due." Yours truly,

W. C. MACDONALD, MAJOR,

Toronto, Oct. 17th, 1896.

48th Highlanders.

THE SERVICE IN THE COMMONS.

QUITE a number of interesting items with regard to the militia were before the House previous to adjournment. The Minister of Militia, in answer to Mr. Sproule, said that with regard to Col. Hamilton, of the Q.O.R., being reinstated, he had not had an opportunity of taking up the case. He hoped when the session was over to settle the case one way or another.

The Minister said that nothing whatever had been done in the direction of removing Capt. Mackenzie, caretaker of the rifle range at Sussex.

The Minister of Militia and Defence said that 9,000 of the 40,000 rifles ordered last year have been delivered. He was not aware that any of the artillery had been delivered yet.

In the course of a discussion on the merits of the Lewis and Oliver equipments the Minister of Militia said: I, for one, as Minister of Militia, do not propose to ask Parliament to vote \$5,000 to pay Dr. Oliver for his patent, if it is not the very best equipment that can be found in the world. When the country goes to the expense of supplying its citizen soldiers with this very necessary article, we should take very great care that we provide them with the very best thing of the kind extant. That is the course which the Government proposes to pursue in this matter.

On the item of \$37,000 for grants in aid of artillery and rifle associations, bands and military institutes, Col. Prior said he would like to ask the Minister of Militia if he could not see his way to give a larger grant to the Dominion Artillery Association. At present they only get \$2,000 from the Government, whereas the Dominion Rifle Association get \$10,000. Now, this year we have seen Dominion artillerymen go across to the Old Country and carry away the highest prize against the whole of the militia forces. He thought, as the hon. gentleman knew, the artillery was a very important branch of the service; it was a branch that required a great deal more study on the part of the officers than the infantry does; they have to spend more hours at drill and have to pass a more difficult examination, although he did not say they were any better men. He thought the country could well afford to give the association a larger grant to assist them every year in sending across a Shoburness team to see what Canada could do in competition with the Old Country.

Mr. Domville: A good idea.

The Minister of Militia and Defence: I shall be very glad to accede to the request made by the hon. gentleman, but, of course,

it would involve an increase in the total vote. I do not think it possible to reduce any of the grants made now; the tendency seems to be altogether in the opposite direction. Does the hon. gentleman think it would be impossible to increase this particular vote?

Mr. Prior: Put it in the supplementaries.

The Minister of Militia and Defence: Very well.

THE BATTLE AT HALIFAX.

THE mobilization of the militia with the garrison of Halifax has now got to be a regular feature of the year's work of the city brigade. The first time it was ordered considerable interest was taken in it by our citizens, but it was soon found that the spectacular or show part of the business was not of much account; in fact, there is little chance to see much of the troops engaged, and, like actual warfare, individuals taking part know little about what has transpired outside their immediate neighborhood, but for actual training for warfare one day's work of this kind is of more benefit to troops, either regular or militia, than many parades got up for show.

The mobilization of the garrison at Halifax is to test the reliability of the different arms of the service—artillery, infantry and transport—in defending the city from attack, to show where the defects are, and to train the different branches in their duties, so as to be prepared for emergencies. Of course, in our city, with the Imperial troops and their very complete staff of all branches of the service, this can be done in a more effective manner than in any other part of the Dominion, but even with the perfect system and ample means at the disposal of this garrison, defects sometimes show themselves in some important details, notably the transport arrangements last year. The yearly mobilizations bring those defects to the surface, and the remedies are provided.

The city was declared in a state of siege on October 6 by the General Officer Commanding the garrison, and the different troops told off for their duties, the Naval Brigade being the attacking force from the sea coast, and part of the Berkshire Regiment from the land. As the writer's experience was with the former, I will confine my description to the operation on the seaboard.

The whole effective force of the city, both Imperial and Canadian, paraded on the 6th at 7.30 a. m. The Garrison Artillery proceeded at once to the forts, the Infantry with the Field Artillery being formed up on the common in line of quarter columns at 9 o'clock, the Field Artillery on the right, the 63rd Rifles on the left, the Berkshire Regiment and 66th Fusiliers in the centre. General Moore arrived as soon as the parade was formed and made a brief inspection of the different regiments with him. In addition to his regular staff were Lieut.-Col. Irving, D.O.C., M.D. No. 9, and Lieut.-Col. Maunsell, D.O.C. No. 8. After inspection the line of march was taken up, the Berks furnishing the advance guards, the 63rd Rifles the rear guards. About a mile from the city the regiments separated to take up their different positions. The 63rd Rifles marched to Melville Island, a military station used as a prison, about three miles from the city, embarking on the transport Highland Mary for York Redoubt. This is one of the strongest forts defending our strongly fortified city. It is situated on the base or neck of a peninsula formed by Chebucto Bay, the outer part of Halifax Harbor, on the east, and the fishing village and inlet of the sea called Herring Cove, on the west. The country is of the roughest possible character, the principal features being immense rocks, covered by scrub and bushes, dense thickets and swamps, with one narrow road winding for about three miles to Herring Cove. The Naval Brigade was to attack York Redoubt, having landed under cover of the ships' guns down the coast. The outposts and defences outside the fort