

# THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE

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## Topics of the Week.

Quebec is plunged in grief over another disaster, a part of the Citadel rock long looked upon as insecure having fallen and crushed like so much tinder the houses nestling beneath. The loss of life is placed at fifty men, women and children; and it is said that it will take a month to make a roadway through the debris which now blocks Champlain street, the one avenue of communication east and west below the heights. As usual when Quebec is in trouble, the brunt of the work of relief has been borne by the permanent military force, the Cavalry School Corps and B Battery R.C.A.; and officers and men of these have distinguished themselves by the heroic manner in which they have worked. It appears that the Citadel works are seriously menaced by the rock slide, and the presence in the cliff side of ugly looking fissures such as that from which it started. By order of the Minister of Militia, Major Mayne, R.E., of the Royal Military College, has gone to Quebec to make an examination and report; and the scene has also been visited by Major-General Cameron, whose advice will be of value in protecting the military interests. Major H. F. Perley, the Engineer officer at headquarters, and who is also Chief Engineer of the Public Works Department, was at Halifax in connection with the opening of the dry dock when the accident occurred, but he too was promptly summoned to duty at Quebec.

"Why the Massachusetts Riflemen were victorious in England" is thus summed up by "One of the team" at the conclusion of an interesting letter for which we will find room another week: "I think that we had a slight advantage over the Englishmen in our even shooting, and a greater advantage in our system of coaching, also a slight advantage in the off-hand position at 200 yards, but this was nearly or quite balanced by all the team being obliged to use the prone position at 500 and 600 yards. The Englishmen had a very decided advantage in being able to practise continuously up to the time of the matches, and on the ranges where the matches were to be shot, while we were entirely without practice for about three weeks previous to the first match. A second great advantage they had was in shooting the matches over ranges to which they had become accustomed by years of practice. A third advantage was in the increased power of their guns at the longer ranges. I think that these three conditions were so much in their favour that they considerably more than over-balanced those I have named in connection with ourselves, with the one exception of sights, and that if we had had no better sights than theirs, we should have been as surely

whipped as they are sure that they are now. But the Buffington sight turns the balance in our favor again, and, as I said before, I think any representative American team will have no difficulty in winning always when the two rifles are shot as they are to-day. An American or an English team, armed with the Martini-Henry, with Springfield sights, would be invincible."

The First Regiment of the Connecticut National Guard, to visit Montreal on the 3rd of October, will be handsomely received and entertained by the Mayor and Corporation of the city, acting in conjunction with the local corps. The officer commanding, Col. Wm. E. Cone, writes that the regiment expect to be accompanied by His Excellency Morgan G. Bulkeley, Governor of the State of Connecticut, and his staff; His Honour John G. Root, Mayor of Hartford; General Joseph R. Hawley, U. S. Senator, and a few other prominent gentlemen. His letter, which is addressed to the Mayor and Council, thus concludes: "We trust that our visit, with the interchange of courtesies incident thereto, will tend to a better understanding between the people of your beautiful city and of our own State, shall become better acquainted, and mutual and enduring friendships result therefrom." The regiment will leave for home on the 4th.

The most prompt to take up the invitation of the Montreal Rifle Association for a grand telegraphic team competition on the 5th October have been the Imperial forces at Halifax, who have notified the acting secretary that they will be glad to enter a team. An invitation has been sent to the Assiniboia Provincial Association, in addition to those published last week. As it is not unlikely that some associations who would otherwise like to compete have not got twenty members all so expert with the Martini as with the arm of the force, the Snider, it is suggested that the use of either Snider or Martini be made optional. A circular has been issued prescribing the details of the regulations to govern the match.

## A Match for the Permanent Corps.

An endeavour is being made by Major Peters, of C Battery, R.C.A., to arrange for what could not fail to prove a very interesting competition between the permanent corps in Canada—all or any of them. The MILITIA GAZETTE is authorized by him to state that C Battery are willing and anxious to shoot a telegraphic match under these as nearly as possible service conditions: The teams to consist of thirty officers, non-commissioned officers and men, under command of the Major of the corps. Dressed in drill order they will first parade in extended order at 400 yards, at the ready. The targets will appear, to remain up for 90 seconds, during which time the team may get in as many shots as they can, under direction of the officer in command. The target will then be lowered for 18 seconds and during this time the skirmishers may advance, as the officer directs, till the target again appears for 90 seconds, when the firing will be repeated until it again disappears; and after 18 seconds it will appear for a third exposure of 90 seconds duration. The score will then be taken. The firing may be done in any position. The