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THE CANADIAN

Military Gazette

Successor to the Canadian Militia Gazette.

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Notes and Comments

The victory of Private Hayhurst at Bisley appears to have been quite popular in the home services. The *United Service Gazette* remarked at the time: "Without a dissentient voice, Canada is congratulated on having won the Queen's prize at Bisley. It is sincerely trusted that, though he is the first representative of our many colonies who has achieved this distinction, Private Hayhurst will be by no means the last to do so. It is also hoped that the colonial forces will be encouraged to send an increased number of representatives to the future meetings of the National Rifle Association."

It is interesting in view of the

announcement that the Militia Department has ordered a consignment of Lee-Metford rifles as the first step towards the rearmament of our militia infantry, to notice that the British service papers are engaged in discussing the stopping power of the Lee-Metford bullet. The old military bullet was a soft leaden affair which flattened on impact with any hard substance. Although it did not carry as far, the Snider bullet was heavier than the Martini bullet, set up more and inflicted a much larger, more painful and more dangerous wound. An intelligent half-breed wounded at Batoche by a Snider bullet told the writer shortly afterward that he felt as if a red hot cannon ball had struck him. The concussion was so terrific that he instantly fell down his tracks.

Now the Lee-Metford, 303 bullet is not only a much higher projectile than the Snider or Martini bullet, but is smaller, resembling a section of a common lead pencil. It is encased with a smooth envelope of hard metal in order to enable it to pass through the barrel with its severe rifling without stripping. It is long, thin, and light, and leaving the muzzle with a very high velocity, makes as clean a wound as a lance. The old bullet, if it struck a big bone, not only smashed it to pieces, but also splintered it for several inches up and down. Thus a man struck on the hip or knee joint, or on the point of the shoulder, would be terribly injured and brought down immediately. With the new bullet the position is changed. There are stories afloat of holes having been simply drilled

through large bones without any splintering at all. In the campaign in Chitral the natives continued their wild onward push after bullets had passed through their bodies.

Ample proof was afforded in the campaign mentioned that the Lee-Metford bullet passes through the thinner bones of the human body without having any smashing effect. In such circumstances it only drills a small hole through the body and the shock was consequently but trifling. Similarly when striking muscles or soft tissues it did not tear and break up the flesh like the larger, uncoated lead bullets used in the Snider and Martini-Henry rifles, nor, as those did, in cases where they passed through any part of the body, did it leave a great torn hole on exit.

The seriousness of the matter lies in the experience gained in the wars of the last twelve or fifteen years, which is that in the heat of battle combatants take small account of a wound that does not instantly cripple or bring them down. A simple experiment proves the different effects produced by the old and the new bullets. Throw a pebble at a pane of glass, and the whole piece of glass will be shattered. Fire a revolver bullet through another pane and the bullet will simply bore a clean-cut hole of the same diameter as its own in the glass.

The high velocity has as much or more to do with producing the effect of the new bullet as its shape. The bullet gives a much greater