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Topics of the Week.

A couple of letters received from Toronto this week assert in effect that the pedometers used by those who measured the distance covered by the Queen's Own in the Thanksgiving Day sham fight, were seemingly out of order, and recorded two miles every time one was covered. We would be sorry to think that the day's performance had been unduly exaggerated in the columns of the MILITIA GAZETTE, but must ask the critics to make some allowance for the fact that our correspondents probably tramped the distance in question, and wrote their reports before they had quite rested.

Another appointment has been made to the permanent force, Lieut. J. H. Laurie, of the King's Own Royal Lancaster Regiment (Imperial) having been made a Lieutenant in the Canadian Infantry School Corps, and attached to D company, at London, Ont. Lieut. Laurie was a cadet of the Royal Military College, which he left to accept the Imperial commission he now holds. He comes of a military family, being the son of Lieut.-General Laurie, Member for Shelburne, N.S., in the Dominion Parliament, and is spoken of as a thoroughly competent officer. The Government are to be congratulated on the choice made.

Winnipeg having lost a weak battalion, is likely to witness in recompense an addition to the strength of her pride—the Ninetieth Rifles. Application has been made for leave to raise two additional companies, making the Ninetieth an eight company battalion, and Col. Boswell will in all probability have his request granted. About a year ago there were fifteen companies in Winnipeg, the six of the Ninetieth, the six of the Ninety-first, and three of the six companies of the Ninety-fifth. The headquarters of the three last named have since been changed; the Ninety-first battalion has been disbanded; and the six companies of the Ninetieth alone remain.

Nothing scarcely but the *esprit de corps* of the members of the Victoria Rifle Company—who, clinging to old traditions strenuously opposed a change—prevented it from being long ago transformed into a battery of garrison artillery, and this fate or fortune appears to have at last about overtaken it. A crisis has, it seems, been reached by the refusal of the D. A. G. to certify to the efficiency of the company, and its speedy disbandment is said to be likely to follow. Another battery of garrison artillery would then be organized, thus giving four batteries to Victoria in addition to C Battery of the Regiment of Canadian Artillery. This

permanent battery is as strong as two of the ordinary militia, so that the artillery force available would then be equal to a six battery brigade. The department places more importance on the maintenance at Victoria of garrison artillery than of any other arm, on account of the important fortifications already existing and to be placed there.

A report has been received at headquarters from Lieut.-Col. Smith D.A.G., recommending the disbandment of the 7th Fusiliers, of London, Ont., because inefficient, we believe mainly on account of disputation between the officers. An account of the last parade held, and the remarks of the D.A.G., appears in this issue. It is understood that the report will be acted upon, and that a new battalion will then be organized in London. Having the advantage of a school on the spot, and having abundant material from which to recruit, that city ought to turn out as fine a corps as there is in the province, if in the new attempt care be taken to place the right men at the head.

A team of Massachusetts volunteers contemplate visiting England next season for the purpose of friendly competition. Unlike our Canadian teams at Wimbledon, they will not compete with a picked mother country team, because as they say, "that would give a tremendous advantage to the British riflemen, who would have many thousand men to choose from," while the Americans would represent only the volunteers from one state. Their plan would be to arrange a series of competitions with different military organizations from the various sections of England, and also to compete individually at Wimbledon or at the new National range. The Massachusetts men are encouraged by the thought that as the next meeting will be held at the new range it will almost be on neutral ground, and this will not give the Britishers the advantage of knowing the range and its peculiarities.

Taking the MILITIA GAZETTE to task because of our advocacy of the removal of the military school from St. Johns, Q., to Montreal, the *St. Johns News* declares that "the school has been a gratifying success"—this is something not generally known outside of St. John—and that "it would be the most stupendous folly to move the school simply because a few half fledged city officers believe it would suit their convenience better to have it in Montreal." Simply for that reason, it would, undoubtedly. But if not only a few, but also the great majority of the city officers, and the country officers, and the non-commissioned officers and men who may desire to obtain certificates, would rather attend at Montreal than St. Johns, what then? We believe we express the desire of the force of Quebec province, in asking for the transfer. If the facts are otherwise, we hope some of our Quebec friends will set us right. Our correspondence columns are open to all desiring to give their views upon the subject.

Concerning the English officer's criticism of West Point, which appears in this issue, the *U. S. Army and Navy Journal* says: "We are glad that the English critic, whose article we quoted from last week, has called attention to the wretched character of the artillery and cavalry de-