

THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE

A WEEKLY JOURNAL DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF THE ACTIVE FORCE OF THE DOMINION.

First Year.
VOL. I, No. 15.

Ottawa, Tuesday, 18th August, 1885.

\$1.50 per Annum in advance
Single Copies Five Cents.

CORRESPONDENCE.

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THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE,
Box 316, OTTAWA, Canada.

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score was 23 out of 25, made with a .44 Smith & Wesson 7-inch barrel revolver, in which all the shots could be covered by a visiting card; the second and third prizes were taken with the same score, made with a 6-inch barrel .38 calibre Smith & Wesson. When this kind of shooting can be made who will say that 25 yards is too long a range?

The *Victoria Warder* (Lindsay, Ont.) of the 14th publishes a long editorial containing suggestions for conducting brigade camps of instruction which are well worth consideration. Amongst other things: it advocates dividing all the force "into two parts, which after a few days in camp should be sent out three or four times, alternately as attacking and defending force. These movements should last from after breakfast to 6 o'clock in the evening, the men carrying their dinners in haversacks." The commanders to make their own plans and to manoeuvre according to formulated rules, and the several commanding officers to take turns as brigadiers; regular field operations to be carried out.

Another suggestion is that field officers should examine company officers and that the D. A. G. should examine company commanders and field officers, and that in each case the results should be carefully recorded and forwarded to headquarters, for the information of the Militia Department. It will be seen by reference to the general orders that this suggestion has been anticipated, as the commandants of camps are required to make such examinations and reports. Any reports by officers commanding corps would be of little value, because they would be open to the charge of partiality, while those by disinterested parties would be free from any such suspicion.

A further innovation suggested is that ball firing as at present conducted should be abolished, but that a day towards the end of the camp should be devoted to aiming drill and another to ball firing in companies, by volleys and independently. With the latter part of this proposition we cannot at all agree, for the obvious reason that before a man can learn anything by firing volleys, &c., it must be ascertained whether he can individually hit a target. If the best score that a team of five practised men could make at skirmishing in Montreal the other day was 55 out of a possible 250, what kind of shooting would untrained company make? They would not, in all probability, hit the target at all.

General Middleton embraced the occasion of the Ottawa banquet to say a few words about the true story of the fight at Batoche, an affair that has led to much disgraceful recrimination in the press, partisans of each interested corps contradicting in turn the claims of others to priority of action in advancing. It is to be hoped that the General's temperate explanation, showing that all corps did their duty, and that the whole movement was well considered, will put an end to such unseemly disputing on a matter in which discipline and good feeling alike counsel.

COMMENT AND CRITICISM.

A correspondent makes the objection to the conditions for the D.R.A. revolver competition that the distance, 25 yards, is too great, but he must surely either advocate using a small revolver or he has not seen the shooting that can be made with a large one. As for us we incline rather to the views of Major McClintock, R.A., who considers pistols with a bore of less than .40 inch as practically useless, and dismisses them summarily from his investigations. (See article in No. 5.) There can be no question that a service weapon should be able to kill when it hits, and this the small calibre pistols will not do in nine cases out of ten. If, as seems probable, cavalymen, infantry officers, staff-sergeants, bandsmen, &c., are in the future to carry revolvers, the D.R.A. should encourage practice with such weapons as will be served out to them rather than with prettily finished dangerous toys. We therefore consider this year's conditions a decided improvement on the complicated gradations adopted last year.

The revolver match at the Metropolitan meeting at Ottawa on the 7th showed what could be done at a 25 yards range. While many good rifle shots who had not practised revolver shooting made clean strings of misses, there were many who made scores of inners or over with a bull's-eye 4 inches and an inner 7 inches in diameter. The best