

a result to which I am not now accustomed, and which my doctor certified to be "a slight contusion over the right side of the lower jaw, arising from the recoil of a rifle." I mention this fact for what it is worth, and in my contention that the stock is too straight.

The Secretary of War has determined to issue 60 Enfield-Martini rifles to skilled volunteers, per National rifle association, for trial and report, but from all I can learn some time will elapse before the rifles are issued, as sundry alterations, resulting from the reports sent in by the regulars, have in the first instance to be made. This is the step which should have been taken simultaneously with the issue of 1,000 to the army; but better late than ever—that is, if late ever comes.

Magazine Rifles.

A GREAT deal of ink is spilling just now over the question of magazine rifles for military use. Several of the continental armies have adopted some form of repeater. The English ordnance boards are working over the problem with no end of civilian advice. In our own country, the men on the new cruisers will be armed with a magazine weapon, but the cry is for its universal adoption. The old objection that in the excitement of conflict the men would empty the magazine without result in any way commensurate with the consumption of ammunition is no longer held to have any weight. Against it the argument is urged that it would break up the morale and efficiency of the oldest fighters to know the enemy had a much better arm, while with such a reservoir of destruction as a well-filled cartridge chamber, the men will gain in steadiness, and reserve their fire until its best effect can be gained. What with long-range military rifles to create dismay before the enemy is in sight, and a close skirmishing fire from magazine arms, war will soon become too sure a method of death for the most enthusiastic glory hunter. —*Forest and Stream.*

The New "Distinguished Service Order."

WAR OFFICE, Nov. 6, 1886.

VICTORIA, R. and I.

Victoria, by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, Queen, Defender of the Faith, Empress of India, to all whom these presents shall come, greeting:—

Whereas we have taken into Our Royal consideration that the means of adequately rewarding the distinguished services of Officers in our Naval and Military Services who have been honorably mentioned in Despatches are limited; now for the purpose of attaining an end so desirable as that of rewarding individual instances of meritorious or distinguished service in war, We have instituted and created, and by these presents, for Us, Our Heirs and Successors, do institute and create a new Naval and Military Order of Distinction—to be designated as hereinafter described—which we are desirous should be highly prized by the Officers of our Naval and Military Services, and we are graciously pleased to make, ordain, and establish the following rules and ordinances for the government of the same, which shall henceforth be inviolably observed and kept:—

Firstly. It is ordained that this Order shall henceforth be styled and designated the "Distinguished Service Order."

Secondly. It is ordained that the order shall consist of the Sovereign, and of such Members or Companions as We, Our Heirs or Successors, shall appoint.

Thirdly. It is ordained that We, Our Heirs and Successors, Kings and Queens Regnant of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, Emperors and Empresses of India, are and for ever shall be Sovereigns of this Order.

Fourthly. It is ordained that no person shall be eligible for this distinction who doth not actually hold, at the time of his nomination, a commission in Our Navy, in our Land Forces or Marines, or Our Indian or Colonial Naval or Military Forces, or a Commission in one of the Departments of our Navy or Army, the holder of which is entitled to honorary or relative Navy or Army rank, nor shall any person be nominated unless his services shall have been marked by the special mention of his name, by the Admiral or Senior Naval Officer Commanding a Squadron or detached Naval Force, or by the Commander-in-Chief of the Forces in the Field, in Despatches for meritorious or distinguished service in the field or before the enemy.

Fifthly. It is ordained that Foreign Officers who have been associated in Naval and Military operations with our Forces shall be eligible to be Honorary Members of this Order.

Sixthly. It is ordained that when We, Our Heirs and Successors, shall be pleased to appoint any person to be a Member of this Order, such appointment shall be made by Warrant under Our Sign Manual, and countersigned by one of Our Principal Secretaries of State.

Seventhly. It is ordained that the decoration of the Order shall be,

and shall be worn as is hereinafter set forth.

Eightly. It is ordained that an Officer shall be appointed to this Order, that is to say, a Secretary and Registrar.

Ninthly. It is ordained that the Secretary and Registrar of this Order shall be appointed by Us, Our Heirs and Successors, and shall have the custody of the archives of the Order. He shall attend to the service of the Order, and shall execute such directions as he may receive from Our Principal Secretary of State for War.

Tenthly. It is ordained that this Order shall rank next to, and immediately after, Our Order of the Indian Empire, and that the Companions thereof shall in all places and assemblies whatsoever have place and precedence next to, and immediately after, the Companions of Our said Order of the Indian Empire, and shall rank among themselves according to the dates of their respective nominations.

Eleventhly. It is ordained that the Badge of the Order, which shall consist of a gold cross, enamelled white, edged gold, having on one side thereof in the centre, within a wreath of laurel enamelled green, the Imperial Crown in gold, upon a red enamelled ground, and on the reverse, within a similar wreath, and on a similar red ground, Our Imperial and Royal cypher V.R.I., shall be suspended from the left breast, by a red riband edged blue, of one inch in width.

Twelfthly. It is ordained that the names of those upon whom We may be pleased to confer the decoration shall be published in the *London Gazette*, and a registry thereof kept in the Office of Our Secretary of State for War.

Lastly. We reserve to Ourselves, our Heirs and Successors, full power of annulling, altering, abrogating, augmenting, interpreting, or dispensing with these Regulations, or any part thereof, by a notification under the Sign Manual of the Sovereign of the Order.

Given at our Court at Balmoral this sixth day of September, in the fiftieth year of Our Reign, and in the year of Our Lord one thousand eight hundred and eighty-six.

By Her Majesty's Command,

W. H. SMITH.

Correspondence.

SERGT.-INSTRUCTOR GAUTHIER.

To the Editor of the *Canadian Militia Gazette*.

DEAR SIR,—I read in your columns of last week that Sergt.-Instructor Gauthier has left the infantry school of St. John's. This institution has indeed lost a most valuable instructor, but I learn with pleasure that he has not given up military life altogether. The junior officers of the 65th are now following a course of instructions under the able supervision of Mr. Gauthier. I had the opportunity of seeing them at work last week and was amazed at noticing the precision with which the several movements were performed. It is to be hoped that the officers of other corps (not qualified) will take advantage of such a good opportunity to study previous to passing their examinations. The young officers of the 65th will go to St. John's at the end of next March for a special course, and by that time, I have no doubt, they will be well up to their work and will return delighted with the results of a few weeks study.

As the GAZETTE takes great interest in the welfare of our militia I hope that you will insert this.

JOS. W. RENAUD.

Queries and Replies.

Q. What is the origin of the use of the Broad Arrow as a mark for British army property?

G. S.

A. The Broad Arrow was the cognizance of Henry, Viscount Sydney, Earl of Romney, who was Master-General of the Ordnance from 1693 to 1702. It was introduced by him, and has ever since been used to mark government, and particularly ordnance property. We had an idea it was used earlier than this, but can find no authentic account of such use. Can any of our readers help us?—ED.

Q. Can any of your readers tell me why the men should beat the "attack" every time they come to the "guard" in the bayonet exercise? It has been introduced in the schools, and I wish to know the authority for it.

HEAD PARRY.

Q. Will you kindly explain the authority under which the officers of the Princess Louise Dragoon Guards appear on a church parade in *full dress* uniform, and thus ignore the regulations defining "church parade order."

BUTTON STICK.

A. Will Button Stick please name the regulation defining "church parade order"; it seems to us a matter subject to regimental or district regulation; at least we can find nothing defining what shall be worn at church parades, and have delayed inserting his query, hoping for more light. Who can help us?

Mess Room Yarns.

"That reminds me."

Major-General Drayson, R.A., in a recent volume entitled "Experiences of a Woolwich Professor during fifteen years at the Royal Military Academy," tells some good stories about military red-tape. The best relates to his own Indian experiences: "In order to draw our pay it was necessary to forward on the last day of each month a certificate stating that the individual was then alive. During the months of June and July I was travelling in the Himalayas, in wild districts where no Englishman was within miles. On my return to Simla I forwarded a certificate on the 31st August, stating that I was alive, and requesting that my pay for June, July and August should be paid to my bankers. In reply I received a communication stating that my pay for August would be credited to me, but that there was no certificate to prove that I was alive in June and July."