

smouldering camp fire. When the time came for the targets to be removed he succeeded by his earnest entreaties in inducing the contractor to leave them up a week longer, and when the last day came he might have been seen jumping up between shots and dancing around to restore the circulation to his benumbed members. Now, sir, I leave your readers to judge to whom among the Ottawa shots belongs the honours in this contest. Great Scott! if his *Moody* associate and the other *habitués* of the Rideau Range would give expression to their opinions in this matter there would be a *Carroll* of harmonious accord in which the *Steward* and *Cook* of the range would join proclaiming that I have *Wright* on my side. I have sometimes thought that a gifted writer might produce something entertaining to lovers of the rifle by publishing a work on, say, "People I have met on the Rideau Rifle Range"; and I am sure "Ottawa First" possesses all the qualifications which personal observation and a lively imagination could lend to such an enterprise. If he would undertake the task he could give it a more extended scope, say, "People I have met on the ranges of Canada," for there is not a provincial or local range that he does not possess some reminiscences of. After all I have advanced in my defence it might seem to some that it I have shown your correspondent to be better entitled than I am to the distinction under discussion I have, by implication, admitted that I am a close competitor. But, sir, I would remind you that I am but a novice at shooting, that the last season was my first at the range, so had I been less assiduous in my practice I would have deserved the reproach of all genuine lovers of the rifle. My successful rival, on the contrary, has been a crack shot for many years and cannot, therefore, urge in his defence the need of practice.

I ought to apologize for taking up so much of your space in the discussion of a topic of no real value and very little interest. I think, however, it is only fair to myself that a proper presentation of this matter should be placed before your readers.

MARTIN HENRY.

Ottawa, December 25th, 1890.

#### A CRITICAL REVIEWER.

EDITOR MILITIA GAZETTE,—I am troubled in my mind, and only the vent that is given in the privilege of using your good little paper, can relieve the affliction—but to the point. When the "GAZETTE" came to hand this evening (a day later than usual), it was eagerly opened in the hope of spending a nice half hour with the shooting minds of the Dominion, but woeful disappointment awaited me. Nearly five pages of "ads": Tom Mitchell's "stogas," Hamilton's Blasted Powders, Fits Cured, Claxton tooting his own horn, Pike's sinister question, if "you are going camping." (This must be the essence of sarcasm to Ontarians at this season of the year.) Then the different makers of rifles urging the quality of their goods as if the name on the barrel had anything to do with it. And then the whole of the last page is covered by the assertion that "Electricity is Life." Kemmler didn't find it so, and it *Baers* out the truth of what I say on the surface. All these instead of curing my ailment aggravated the trouble. And it is only in the hope of being able to linger on until the New Year, when we are promised more news, in a better form of paper, and the said paper properly clothed, for you know, sir, that your child, the GAZETTE, has been allowed to go naked for about four years. This has a serious side, what with exposure to the cold, miserable, damp, muggy weather of the east, so trying to a young constitution. Your progeny has now come to an age when common decency demands, that the child shall be clothed and not allowed to wander over the land in a swaddling band any longer. There, sir, my grievance is aired, and like "Short-stocks," my vitals are being exercised, over the result.

We notice with satisfaction the reference this week to Pringle, Davidson and Burns, as being enthusiasts, and would say that it is to such men that the shooters of the Dominion have to look for the development of our favourite pastime. Quick, open, generous enthusiasts! Oh! that we had more in every city. We think, however, that "our" man leads the van. With one more remark, we are exhausted. Clarence Timothy Burns is a mixture. His first name is essentially English, and associated with conspiracies, nightmares, etc.; his second has a greenish hue, and to it is attributable his pugnacity. His third, gives him genius, in all its branches. With such a combination it would be impossible to get a better fellow than C. T. B., but I would add that it has always been a conundrum to Manitobans where he got the notion of going shirtless to the Dominion matches; he couldn't do it here.

A Merry Christmas to you, Mr. Editor, and a prosperous New Year for your "child," is the wish of

BUCKSHOT.

#### THE MILITIA AND THE SCHOOLS.

EDITOR MILITIA GAZETTE.—Your issue of Dec. 4th contained an article on "Our Militia," written by Capt. Cartwright, in which he makes some suggestions for the improvement of Canada's only army.

We, who are not of the permanent corps, may agree with him that there is decided room for improvement in all branches of the service, but it is another thing when he advocates calling out only ten men per company for annual training. We presume that only ten men are to be called out because it costs less than twenty.

Some years ago, the number of rank and file in every troop and company was reduced, also the number of horses in each battery.

In Ontario there are now over seventeen thousand men on paper, half of whom are called out every year. According to the Soldier's Pocket-Book, an army corps requires seventy combatant and one hundred and thirty-six TRAINED non combatant staff officers. In No. 2 military district there are more men than in an English infantry division, which requires a staff of ten combatant and fourteen non-combatant staff officers. I am afraid that in the event of all the militia in Ontario being called out, that there would be as much difficulty in filling the staff appointments as there would be in finding partially trained men to fill up the skeleton battalions. Anyway, what is the use of trained companies of ten men? It is numbers that hold the corps together. There is always more difficulty in recruiting for say one battery and troop than there is in recruiting for corps like the 2nd, 10th, 13th, etc.

During the recent North-West campaign, there was thousands of dollars wasted for want of an efficient staff that could have immediately proceeded to the field, and we saw the transport, intelligence and commissariat departments filled with civilians who knew nothing about their duties, and the results were time and money lost, and the bulk of the work in the end having to be done by chiefs of departments.

We have the schools, and I think their staffs might form the staff officers for each district. Increase the number of officers in each school, and increase their pay after a certain number of years' service, if they are not lucky enough to be promoted. Do away entirely with the rank and file in all the schools, keeping a certain number of non-commissioned officers for instructional and staff duties and a few men for grooms, cooks and servants. The money saved in this way could be utilised in paying for the increased number of officers, and in calling out every winter the corps that are not intended to send to camp, and drilling them in barracks, say for twenty-one days. In that way there would be all winter several thousand men ready for any-