

Militia General Orders (No. 1) of 12th January, 1888.

No. 1.—ROYAL MILITARY COLLEGE OF CANADA.—Annual Examination for Candidates, 1888.

The annual examination to be held in the present year, for candidates desiring to be admitted as cadets to the Royal Military College of Canada, Kingston, will commence at the District Staff Office, at the headquarters of the several military districts in which candidates reside, on Tuesday the 12th day of June—the medical examinations to be held the day previous. The subjects and books in which candidates will be examined are as follows:—

Obligatory or Preliminary Examination.

(1) Mathematics:	Marks.
(a) Arithmetic, including vulgar and decimal fractions, simple and compound proportions, simple and compound interest, partnership, profit and loss	500
(b) Algebra, including simple equations	500
(c) Geometry, first book of Euclid, or its equivalent	500

If Euclid is not used as a text book, the candidate is to mention at the head of his answer paper the name of the author of the text book used.

(2) (a) Grammar, English or French. Writing English or French correctly, and in a good legible hand from dictation	500
(b) Composition, as tested by the powers of writing an essay, precis or letter, in English or French	500
(3) Geography, general and descriptive	500
(4) History, British and Canadian, general	500
(5) French: grammar and translation from the language	500
(6) Latin: grammar and simple translation from the language into either English or French as may be preferred by the candidate	500
(7) Elements of freehand drawing, viz: simple copies from the flat; outline only	300

*French will, for the present, be optional, and may therefore be omitted by a candidate.

No candidate will be considered qualified for a cadetship or be allowed to count marks in the "Further examination" unless he obtains a minimum of one-third of the total number of marks in each of the subjects; 1 (a, b, c, together) 2 (a and b, together) 3, 4, 6 and 7.

Voluntary or Further Examination.

(1) Mathematics:	
(a) Algebra—up to and including quadratic equations	1000
(b) Geometry—up to and including third book of Euclid, or its equivalent	1000
If Euclid is not used as a text book, the candidate is to mention at the head of his answer paper the name of the author of the text book used.	
(c) Theory and use of common logarithms, plane trigonometry, mensuration	1000
(2) English or French literature—limited to specified authors	1000
(a) The examination to include Primer of the history of English literature, by Rev. Stopford Brooke, and Shakespeare's play of Julius Cæsar; or, for French speaking candidates, some standard French author, but not necessarily "text" work	1000
(3) Geography—physical, particularly of Dominion of Canada and United States	1000
(a) Examination in Colton's Outline of Physical Geography.	
(4) History—British and Canadian, limited to certain fixed periods	1000
(a) Examination in history of the British Empire, embracing the Stuart and Brunswick periods, and the period from 1812 to the present time (any school author) of Canadian history.	
(5) French Grammar, and translation from English into French or from French into English	1200
(6) Latin, including Cæsar's Commentaries, Book IV., from chap. xx to chap. xxxviii (inclusive). Book V to end of 23rd chap., and 1st, 4th, 6th, 7th and 9th Eclogues of Virgil. Translation into either English or French as may be preferred by the candidate	1500
(7) Drawing—copies from the flat; shaded. Simple object drawing	1000
(8) Elementary geometrical drawing	1000

No "voluntary" subject, except mathematics and drawing, shall gain a candidate any marks, unless he obtains a minimum of one-third of the marks assigned to that subject.

The marks obtained in the "obligatory" subjects will be added to those gained in the "voluntary" subjects, to make a second total.

It is to be understood that English speaking candidates use the papers prepared in that language, and that French speaking candidates use papers prepared in the French language. The object of this permission is to allow candidates to write their examination papers, except where, from the nature of the question, it is otherwise required, in English or French, whichever may be the language with which they are most familiar.

The standard of knowledge of English required from French speaking candidates for the present, will be: To write and speak English sufficiently to understand and be understood in that language.

Candidates should make application to the Adjutant General, Ottawa, by 1st May, in order that arrangements may be made for their examination in June.

NOTE.—Candidates will be permitted, after examination, to retain the printed examination questions, provided no rough work or scribbling has been done thereon, of which the supervising officer of the local board having assured himself, he will initial the printed questions to be retained.

Lord Wolseley is very decided on the value of dressy uniforms. "The soldier is a peculiar animal," he says, "who can alone be brought to the highest efficiency by inducing him to believe that he belongs to a regiment infinitely superior to those around him. In their desire to foster this spirit colonels are greatly aided by being able to point to some peculiarity in dress." Again he says: "The better you dress a soldier the more highly he will be thought of by women and consequently by himself."

"No Surrender" is the name of a new publication dated Washington, D.C., and devoted to the American fishing interests and "imperilled interests of the United States which have once again become objects of prey to the British and Canadian governments."

Correspondence.

[This paper does not necessarily share the views expressed in correspondence published in its columns, the use of which is freely granted to writers on topics of interest to the militia.]

MINIATURE MEDAL CLASPS OBTAINABLE IN CANADA.

To the Editor of the Canadian Militia Gazette:

SIR,—We notice an inquiry in your issue of the 19th inst. as to where the clasp for the North-West (miniature) medal can be obtained. You refer to an English firm, completely ignoring the three Canadian firms whose advertisements you have. To our knowledge two of these have the clasps which you were asked about.

CANADA FIRST.

[NOTE.—The three advertisers here referred to are, we suppose, John Martin & Co., Montreal, and N. McEachren and John F. Crean, Toronto, but we had no knowledge that their stock included these clasps.—EDITOR.]

GARRISON ARTILLERY.

To the Editor of the Canadian Militia Gazette:

SIR,—Every lover of this country, and especially the garrison gunners, should feel under deep obligation to "Linch-pin" for the manner in which he has treated the subject of "Garrison Artillery" in your valuable journal of the 12th inst.

I do not quite agree with him, however, in his classification of the armament now in the various forts. For instance he shows the 64 pr. as "medium" where it should be under the head of "siege or guns of position"; nor is it quite correct to term the 7-in. B.L.R. gun an "armour piercing" one, for though it did good work at the bombardment of Alexandria in 1882 at 1,200 yards range, at 1,000 yards with a battering charge of P. powder its projectile will only penetrate a plate of 7.5 inch, and I think it is not necessary to point out to "Linch-pin" that few—very few indeed—of the war ships at the present time are so lightly armoured as that. I may further state that the armour of to-day is far superior to that manufactured only a few years back, as it is steel faced or compound armour. I would also point out to him that the six 32's in No. 1 fort, Point Levis, are not even "guns," but are "carronades" for the purpose of defending the ditch or escarp. I observe he has not given Kingston credit for one 20 pr. B.L.R. gun (a gun of position), nor Montreal for a 40 pr. B.L.R. (a siege gun). Long since the Imperial Government proposed placing mortars in works, that piece of ordnance has become obsolete, and for shell fire the rifled howitzer has been employed for some years. However there is no use in "splitting hairs" over the matter, for truly it is a sad state of things, and the authorities incur a grave responsibility for allowing it to continue a single day longer. Look at the Australian colonies—a young country compared even to ours. They are well provided with guns, works, and a torpedo corps. Our Government has bestowed a paternal regard on the field batteries, giving them modern guns and all the needful stores, when we, who are (or should be) the more scientific branch of the arm, are entirely left out in the cold. I would here refer to your leading article of the 12th inst., and state my opinion that if the Government would only lay all the facts of the case before parliament and ask for a special grant, money would be at once voted which should be spent in purchasing 10-in. guns for Quebec, St. John and other exposed points, and 7-in. guns for Kingston, Montreal, Prescott, St. John's, and all stations where light armoured vessels could approach.

It is, however, fair to say in reply to "Linch-pin's" strictures that in my part of the country at least, all stores asked for in reason are supplied, even to handspikes, which the poor "Garrison Captain" at St. John's has apparently failed to obtain, and if the men of that battery have "only a foggy recollection of how to bore and fix a fuse" it is simply for want of proper instruction. Exception must also be taken to "Linch-pin's" remarks as to "fuses," for the 15 second fuse now on service is one of the latest pattern, and the same can be said of the R. L. fuse, mark II. I regret what he has written on "gas-pipes," also his remarks on the Toronto Garrison Battery. The subjects are far too serious and painful to joke upon.

Let us hope that better days are in store for us, but so long as the men of garrison batteries possess the insatiable love for rifle shooting and seem rather desirous of transforming themselves into indifferent riflemen than attaining the proud distinction, within their reach, of becoming expert gunners—expert at all events in the use of the guns entrusted to them, and become so conversant with the general principles of gunnery, as to be ready at any time to be rapidly taught to manipulate any other armament which might be placed at their disposal; and again, so long as so much precious time is lost in battalion drill, the garrison artillery of this country will never attain that high state of proficiency when every man will have become—as it should be his pride to be—an efficient garrison gunner.

January 23rd, 1888.

DRIVING BAND.

"MY OLD CAPE."

THERE hangs my cape, faded and worn and old,
Many a tender secret could that old blue cape unfold
Of girlish charms and lover's alarms,
And the scrapes of a soldier bold.

A friend of years is my ancient cape,
A friend both tried and true,
Cupid himself invented the shape,
Which was ample enough for two.

As a wrap to cover a thin white dress,
It was always in great demand;
For under its shelter who could guess
I was holding a dear small hand?

The stars peeped out from above;
But the moon went under a cloud,
As I whispered the tale of my own true love,
Too sweet to be spoken aloud.

With a dainty shake of her golden head,
The dear little rogue whispered back;
"I've fallen in love with your cape," she said,
"So I'll take you as part of it, Jack."

So many years since then have flown,
When I won my girlish wife,
Now my cape and I are left alone
To travel the path of Life.

There; I've talked you to death, no doubt,
Have a toddy? Mix one for me, too,
Why, bless me! my pipe has gone out,
And the bugles are sounding tattoo.

— F. T. SIDNEY, U.S. Army and Navy Journal.