

Perley's article complete subscriptions will be received dating back from the establishment of the paper, and a complete file forwarded, to new subscribers who so desire it.

The general orders in Saturday's official *Gazette* contain the nominations to the medical boards of the several military districts for investigating claims of those who last spring received wounds or injuries, or contracted disease which might wholly or partly incapacitate them. The personnel of the several boards is such that the most critical could not find fault with them, well known practitioners being selected in each city. The regulations under which these boards are to work, and the nature of the cases which they are to investigate are also fully stated, and it is as much as said that commanding officers and others concerned should look sharp and bring forward any cases that they may know of.

The *Gazette* also contains the usual promotions, etc. This week there is no change in any rank above that of major. One surgeon is appointed, one major is dismissed the service, and two captains are appointed majors, each of whom has been an adjutant—a position that seems lately to have become a fortunate opening for promotion. One of these is the indefatigable captain of the new Winnipeg School of Mounted Infantry, and we congratulate Major Buchan as heartily on his promotion as we did the service a few weeks ago on securing him for the school. Quite a number of young officers have been passed through the military schools and been confirmed in their ranks, and amongst them are no less than seven of the 62nd, who succeeded in obtaining first-class special course certificates—lucky 62nd.

The appointments summed up show that eight new names have been added to the militia list, while nine have been dropped, so there is a net loss of one officer, a state of affairs that appears too frequently. There are besides ten promotions of officers already on the list.

The scores of the eastern field batteries have not yet come to hand, and we are reluctantly compelled to hold over the record of those which have made returns for a future issue.

RIFLES AND RIFLE SHOOTING.—XXIII.

IV.—BY CAPTAIN HENRY F. PERLEY, HEADQUARTERS STAFF.

Be on hand at the firing point when wanted. Do not think just at that time that you are out of sighting tickets or cartridges. If away, do not run. As Captain Heaton says, "if you run, you may be in time, but you will have spoiled your shooting and will be sure not to win, whereas if you walk, you may be in time, and consequently win," to which may be added the advice, be at the firing point in ample time, always remembering that no person has any right to keep a squad waiting through negligence, dilatoriness, or sheer indifference; and men who are guilty in this respect should be visited with all the pains and penalties made and provided.

If beaten, never say "don't care," but come up smiling at the next match. Do not grumble at the rifle, or the cartridges, or the range, or the weather, because you are not successful, but turn your misses to good account by trying to ascertain why and how they were made. A grumbler is a nuisance anywhere, and is never so happy as when he can make his neighbors as miserable as himself.

Comply honorably with all the rules governing a match; and do not make any objection to another unless he is taking an unfair advantage, behaving dishonestly, or disobeying the rules. If you are a better shot, beat him, if not—complaints come with a bad grace from you. If, unfortunately, complaints have to be made, make them in a straightforward manner to the proper authorities, taking care at the outset that you are fully able and prepared to defend your cause.

Do not make any experiments during a match, reserve all that sort of thing for practice days, and take as much pains, if losing, with your last shot as with the first; do not throw a cartridge away, it is a waste, and it is better to retire than to do this.

When one has done his best and is beaten, then own up like a man, and do not attempt to blame the rifle, or the weather, or the ammunition, for being the cause of defeat, the cause must be looked for elsewhere.

There is one thing which should be borne in mind by all shooting men—that the rifles they use are those placed in their hands as members of the Active Force of Canada for the purpose of drill and becoming proficient as soldiers in their use, which is their legitimate place. The militia authorities do not consider it to be necessary that any corps in Canada shall undergo thorough instruction in musketry, drill takes the most prominent place, and how to march past is of more importance than knowing how to shoot the rifle; but be this as it may, every man to whom a rifle is issued should pride himself on becoming efficient in its use on the range, and on being as well one of the best drilled men in his company or battalion. Shooting men should remember that a systematic and intentional neglect of drill can only be construed as a slur on the corps to which they belong. The man who shoots because it pays, which is a mercenary feeling, and is always ready to engage in pot-hunting, scratch matches at a favorite range, or gambling for sweepstakes, makes but a poor soldier. Such as he shoot for the sake of winning prizes, perhaps to be sold at a future time, forgetting, it may be, that prizes should be viewed in their proper light, viz.: rewards for good, true and honest shooting. If this is to be deprecated in the private of any corps, it is to be deprecated in a ten-fold degree in the case of an officer, for, if officers who are shots do not drill, it can hardly be expected that their corps or company can excel or even be proficient in that for which they are enrolled, viz.: the duties of a soldier. It is to be regretted that so few of the officers of the force take an interest in shooting, forgetting that it is part of their duty to teach their men how to shoot.

It has been said "that many persons regard rifle shooting as an amusement." It is an amusement and something more also. It takes many qualities to make up the perfect marksman. He must have nerves of steel, muscles of iron, an intelligence prompt and unerring, a patience that cannot be exhausted, a courage capable of enduring under adverse circumstances, and that most valuable quality of all, of not being unduly elated by success. Men who fulfil such conditions are obliged to be abstemious, devoted to the work in hand, patient and untiring, and representatives of the true school out of which are turned manly men and good citizens. But this is only half of the work which rifle shooting has accomplished. It is the chief condition of success in war. It often happens that the results of the experience of many years, and the improvements of science are to bring men back to the point whence they started. So in war. In very ancient times the great quality of the soldier was personal skill in the use of weapons. Those who were successful were not so because of any particular system of tactics, but because every man exercised his highest control over his arms. In the middle ages, the yeomen of England swept the battlefield because they had been taught to use the long-bow with unerring skill; and the knight was victor in the lists who had the most perfect command of the animal he bestrode, and the lance he wielded. An unskilled warrior in armor and mounted on the horse of a Bayard, would only have made himself ridiculous. When powder began to be used, accuracy was not taught nor needed. Now, however, that the breech-loader, the weapon *par excellence* of accuracy, is in the hand of every soldier, it is an absolute necessity that each man should know his weapon thoroughly. The great point with the soldier of the present day is, not to waste a shot; that requisite can only be obtained by constant and careful practice in time of peace.

The following advice, clipped many years ago from *Forest and Stream*, may not be amiss as a conclusion to this series of lectures:—

"Treat your local editor and the reporter who comes on the ground during a match with the greatest courtesy. If he does not understand it all at a glance you may be sure he will be at the bottom of it in a remarkably short time. Above all remember that ranges and rifle associations are made chiefly for the soldier, and the element so unfortunately called 'the sporting man' must have no place in them. Sedulously keep down all bets or wagers, or anything likely to convert your association into a gaming club. So far in this country (U.S.), and it may be one of the reasons for the great success of the rifle movement, no missionary association has ever been purer and freer from gambling pollutions, than our rifle organizations."

THE END.

A few of Mr. Bedson's friends and admirers gave that gentleman a dinner on Saturday night at the Manitoba Club, as a slight recognition of their appreciation of his valuable services during the late campaign as chief transport officer of the North-west field force. There were about forty gentlemen present.—*Manitoban*.