

THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE

A Weekly Journal devoted to the Interests of the Active Force of the Dominion.

Third Year.
VOL. III, No. 37.

OTTAWA, THURSDAY, 15th MARCH, 1888.

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

CONTENTS OF THIS NUMBER

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Sound advice to the Dominion Rifle Association.
The Lansdowne Cup—His Excellency's parting gift.
An Empire in mourning.
Simplicity in drill nomenclature.
How the volunteers have benefited the service.
The new magazine rifle.
Its mechanism explained.
A treatise on rifle shooting.

CORRESPONDENCE.

A claim in equity, not in militia law—*For-sight*.
An old timer's recipe for artillery bullseyes—*Old Fuse*.

CORRESPONDENCE—CON.

The militia report for 1887—*Retired Officer*.
Canadian defences—*Driving Band*.

MILITIA GENERAL ORDERS.

No. 4. of the 9th March, 1888.

GOSSIP OF THE MILITIA.

DOMINION RIFLE ASSOCIATION.
Annual business meeting.

ONTARIO RIFLE ASSOCIATION.

The annual meeting of the council.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Current Topics.

LORD LANSDOWNE, in his address at the annual meeting of the Dominion Rifle Association, called attention to the small membership list, which he rightly considers is far below what it should be. It seems to us that with a little effort this might be very materially increased, but before anything effective can be done in this direction it will be necessary for the association to be more careful in distributing the good things at its disposal to see that membership for some fixed previous period shall be a necessary qualification for recipients. For instance, when the command or adjutancy of a Wimbledon team is to be allotted, a member of the association, and not an outsider, should be chosen.

THE Cup to be purchased with the parting gift of His Excellency the Governor-General will, in all probability, be made a challenge trophy for the teams entering for the principal event in the grand aggregate, the present Dominion of Canada match, which it is proposed to hereafter style the "Lansdowne match." There has heretofore been no trophy in connection with this competition, rather singularly; the corps whose representatives achieve the proud distinction of heading the list in the team competition having nothing to show for it except the badge which each of the five men receives in addition to the liberal money prize.

WILLIAM I, King of Prussia and Emperor of Germany, whose death occurred since last issue, only lacked a few days of the great age of ninety-one years. This eminent and extraordinary man was born March 23rd, 1797, was made Prince Regent Oct. 9th, 1858; became King of Prussia Jan. 2nd, 1861, and assumed the imperial purple as Emperor of Germany Jan. 18th, 1871. He has thus lived through a most momentous period of European history, and has taken part in political and national movements of almost unparalleled importance. He was a leading figure in the great movement ending, after all dissenting parties had by the Franco-Prussian war become united for the general good, in the establishment of the German Empire. His son, the Crown Prince, who is married to the Princess Royal of England succeeds to the throne, at an age which in any event would make his occupancy of brief duration, but the hand of Death is already stretched out towards him, and the German nation must very shortly be called upon to mourn the death of the second Emperor.

A LECTURE was recently delivered at London by Col. J. K. Maurice, R.A., Staff College, on "The advantages of a simple drill nomenclature consistent for all arms, apropos of an incident of the battle of Tel-el-Kebir." Lord Wolseley occupied the chair. Col. Maurice pressed the absurdity of the present drill nomenclature, for example: a "division" in artillery being two guns, in cavalry being one-quarter of the troop, and in infantry two or more brigades. In each arm of the service, he held, a "division" should mean the same, and so with other things. He further urged trying on parade all sorts of manœuvres not in the drill book, but which occur on active service, and told the well known story of the first autumn manœuvres on Salisbury Plains, when Col. Valentine Baker, executing a clever movement, got round and attacked the 60th in the rear. The Col. of the 60th did what is now called "change flanks" and faced his men about, saying the 60th had no rear, and the umpire give it against him "because there was no such manœuvre in the drill book." This might be drill, said the lecturer, but it was not war, and what we wanted was to assimilate our training of the men to what they would need in actual war.

AFTER a discussion, in which Col. Macdonald, of the Queen's Edinburgh, Lord Advocate of Scotland, and Col. Bell, U. S. A., and others took part, Lord Wolseley closed the proceedings by a long speech, in which he said that H. R. H. the Commander-in-Chief had been doing his utmost to simplify drill. He had lately cut out a lot of useless matter from the Drill Book, and the new simplified one would soon be issued. Lord Wolseley said the regulars were under great obligations to the volunteers, to whom much of the improvements in drill are due, as they bring into the service their energetic, practical-business ideas, free from the grooves into which regulars get by their training.

THE new magazine rifle is written up in the *Admiralty and Horse Guards Gazette* of the 18th February by the paper and by a correspondent. The latter states that this pet of the Small Arms Committee having been fired some thousands of times and at last finally approved of by them, was handed over to Major Lockyer to fire one magazine of cartridges and report. The results were not altogether such as might have been desired. The first and second shots were fired satisfactorily, but on the third shot the bolt blew out to the rear and nearly took the Major's thumb off, ripping the flesh up deeply. The wound being temporarily bound up the Major proceeded with the fourth shot, which being fired the extractor broke and the whole rifle was thrown out of action. From this it will be seen that the old objection to bolt actions—the bolt blowing to the rear still remains.

SOME hundreds of this new rifle, says the paper in which the above condemnation appears, are now being rapidly made at Enfield, and will be issued for extended trials. The bore being .303 of an inch enables our soldiers to carry one-third more cartridges than for the Martini-Henry rifle, and the magazines