

sent to brigade camps, would mean drill at regimental headquarters, for there would be few corps that could muster their men annually for district camps. This change would very considerably reduce expenditure while conducing to greatly increased efficiency in the force.

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For some time past the Defence Department of Victoria has been considering the desirability of forming a military college on the lines of the one at Kingston, Canada, to train Colonial candidates for commissions in the Imperial Army. Major-General Tullock, the commandant of the Victoria Forces, has recently reported to the Minister of Defence upon this proposal. The Commandant is of the opinion that it is not at present practicable to establish a military college on the lines suggested. He thinks that the course of instruction at the University, taken in conjunction with the military training obtainable in the colony, provides the necessary means for producing officers as fully qualified as any that pass into the Imperial Service from the Canadian College, and he expresses the belief that the Royal Military College at Sandhurst would be a better model for the colony than the Canadian establishment.

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Canadians are undoubtedly proud of the Royal Military College and the work it has done, and is doing. It must not be forgotten, however, that this work is being done at very heavy expense to the community, and that each gentleman cadet maintained at the college last year cost the country nearly \$850. If money can be found then so readily for the education of the classes, it ought certainly to be obtainable for the instruction of the masses, and there ought to be sufficient left in the treasury to drill annually the militia force of the Dominion.

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The council of the New Brunswick Rifle Association calls the attention of commanders of rural companies of militia to the fact that new Snider-Enfields Mark II may be obtained from the Department of Militia at Ottawa, in exchange for unserviceable weapons now in their armouries. It will be necessary to have the unserviceable arms condemned by the Brigade Major or other inspecting officer, and a report to this effect forwarded to the Department at Ottawa with a request for the exchange.

This fact ought to be borne in mind by all officers of the force who have or wish to have good shooting men under their command. A large majority of o'd Sniders now in use are utterly useless for accurate work, and it is no infrequent sight to see some young volunteer, anxious to learn how to shoot, trying to hit the target with a weapon so used up that the ball does not catch the grooves one inch in a foot, and with the sights battered in every direction; the inevitable result of which is that after a vain effort to make a score the youth retires disgusted with himself, and convinced he will never become a shot, but utterly unconscious that it is all the fault of the rifle.

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Mark III is a good serviceable weapon, and shoots very well for a Snider, at 600 yards. The tendency of the majority of them is to shoot to the right, but this may easily be remedied by any armourer or gunsmith. There is one difficulty in connection with them which must be carefully borne in mind. They foul very quickly, and in many cases the fouling cakes in hard lumps around the breech. It will well repay anyone using one and wishing to make good scores, to clean regularly, even to the extent to running a breech brush through after each range. Now is the time to effect an exchange in order that the new arms may be in the armouries before the shooting season begins.

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We direct attention to the annual meeting of the Ontario Artillery Association, the official announcement of which will be found in our advertising columns. The meeting will be held at the Canadian Military Institute, Toronto, on Tuesday, the 23rd inst., at 2 p.m.

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#### SIR FREDERICK ROBERTS ON MUSKETRY.

At the close of the Bengal Presidency Rifle Association meeting at Meerut, Sir Frederick Roberts (for so we must still call him till his title is chosen), after referring to the success which had attended the Association during the past five years, in which period the number of competitors had increased from 150 to in round numbers nearly 2,000, and the prize list from 6,000 rupees to 50,000 rupees, to the improvement in the rifle range at Meerut, equipped with a series of 40 targets with all newest improvements, and to the general development of interest in the affairs of the Association spoke as follows:—

So much for the Bengal Presidency Rifle Association and my interest in it. I must now dive a little deeper into the subject, as I have often done before, and tell you why I lay so much stress, not only on marksmanship, but on musketry in general. It has become the fashion in our army of late years to copy foreign armies—too much so, perhaps, considering that the conditions of our service are so utterly different, and that he who follows must always remain behind. Still in matters which are of equal importance to all countries, and all systems which are alike applicable to all armies, it would be foolish not to consider the views held by our neighbours, or not to adopt those views if they are suited to the requirements of our army and we are likely to profit by them. For instance, in paragraph 47 of the German Field Exercises, which I would wish to bring to your notice, it is laid down as an axiom that “in the case of infantry *versus* infantry the result depends, apart from moral factors, on the musketry training, fire discipline, and the direction of the firing.” In other words, during a battle, the material power of our world-famous infantry depends, in the opinion of these high German authorities, entirely upon its musketry, an expression which with us includes all three factors mentioned in the above regulations. This is the leading paragraph of the chapter describing the action of infantry *versus* infantry, and there is no subsequent qualification of the rule. I need hardly say that I myself entirely concur in the principle thus enunciated; indeed, ever since 1882, just ten years ago, I have been doing my very best to get this principle recognized and acted on. Much has been done to bring about the desired standard of efficiency, how much you will understand when I tell you that the bulk of our infantry in India are now actually more efficient in a musketry sense than were the select marksmen of regiments at the time of the last Afghan war. Having regard to the satisfactory progress which has been made during the past ten years, and knowing, as I well do, that much still remains to be done, you will not be surprised at my anxiety to do my utmost to promote rifle meetings as helping to cultivate and maintain a high individual standard, which, if not, as I have remarked before, the all-in-all of practical musketry, is yet the indispensable preliminary step, and a very wide step too, in the right direction. Nor are the latest contrivances of human ingenuity calculated to lessen my belief in the importance of marksmanship or musketry. It has been urged by the opponents, and acknowledged by the advocates of a high musketry standard, that the value of accurate shooting is considerably discounted by smoke and by the difficulty of judging distance; but the flat trajectory of modern rifles to a very great extent obviates the latter difficulty, especially at decisive