

**British Columbia.**

**F**IRING for the challenge cup presented by Major Prior has been completed by Nos. 2, 3 and 4 batteries of the B.C.G.A. In the preliminary practice eight men fired one solid shot and one shrapnel shell, the highest possible score being twenty-two points. In the second practice the four highest in the first fired two solid shot and one shrapnel, the possible score being thirty-two points. No. 3 battery has distanced all competitors. The following are the detailed scores made by Nos. 2 and 3; those of No. 4 were not obtainable:—

NO. 2 BATTERY.				NO. 3 BATTERY.			
	1st Pract.	2nd Pract.	Tot.		1st Pract.	2nd Pract.	Tot.
Sergt-Major Sinclair.....	13	26		Sergt Williams.....	20	17	
Sergt Sargison.....	11			Sergt Atkins.....	13		
Corpl Worsfold.....	12	3		Sergt Newbury.....	20	24	
Br Drake.....	8			Corpl Braund.....	14		
Br Crease.....	11			Br Winsby.....	17	25	
Gr Walker.....	14	14		Gr E Flemming.....	14		
Gr Langley.....	10			Gr H Flemming.....	13		
Gr Sullivan.....	13	18		Gr Langley.....	21	12	
	92	61	153		132	78	210

The total number of marks made by No. 4 as 114. It will be seen that Battery Sergt-Major Sinclair of No. 2 heads the list in the 2nd or competitive practice, his score, twenty-six points, being the highest individual score made on the range. Next comes Br. Winsby, who made twenty-five points. The firing of No. 3 battery was very creditable, and the boys deserve all the honours they have got. It will be noticed that the "crack shots" with the rifle have also become "crack shots" with the big gun.

**M**ORRIS tube competitions form an important feature of the attractions offered at the 62nd Fusiliers' club house at St. John, N.B. A match between the privates and non-commissioned officers is now in progress. The prizes are made up in a manner similar to that in many contests which have taken place at Drury and other ranges. Each competitor puts in five or ten cents, and at the end of the week the pool is divided into two prizes, the leader taking two-thirds and the second highest one-third. These competitions are proving the means of attracting members of the corps to the club, and the shooting is watched with interest. The next match to take place will be between four officers and four non-commissioned officers.

Pte. T. W. Bashford, late of the 2nd Kings Royal Rifles, now serving in the R. S. of I. in Fredericton, N.B. has been presented by Lieut.-Col. Maunsell with the Khedive's star for the campaign in 1884-85, for the relief of Gen. Gordon at Khartoum. This star was given for forced marching. Pte. Bashford is also the wearer of the Egyptian medal and two bars—engagements Abu Klea and Nile, '84 and '85; also one medal and two bars for Afghanistan—engagements Ahmed Khel and Kandahar; also star for Gen. Roberts' march from Kabul to Kandahar, 459 miles in 21 days. He states he is expecting another medal and bar for the Maori expedition in 1880.

Our militia do nothing in winter. They neither drill nor study. This should not be so. It may not be necessary for them to dress in uniform and attend parades, but there is no reason why they should not go through a course of instructive study during the winter months. They can learn how to shoot by the Morris tube, they can be taught tactics just as they can be taught chess; they can be shown how to erect field fortifications on a black board, they can learn how to make positions, fascines, curtains for batteries, signalling and many other things as well indoors as outside, and there should be no reason why the militia should be idle during the four or five months that the snow is on the ground. Men who take an interest in military matters can easily find profitable instruction in military study in winter, and if it is not done, we are inclined to blame the authorities for not giving proper accommodation more than any one else. — *Montreal Star.*

The Yarmouth artillery had a full dress parade on Sunday, the 20th ult., and marched to Trinity Church, headed by their pipe and drum band. The *Times* thinks that Capt. Jolly certainly has an excellent company of young men. The annual inspection of clothing and accoutrements has just been held by Col. McShane, brigade major for the district.

On the evening of Thanksgiving day the band of the 27th battalion gave the first of the season's series of concerts in the Sarnia town hall, where they were greeted by a large audience. A notable feature of the entertainment was the presence of the St. Clair Reserve Indian band in handsome uniforms. Says the *Sarnia Canadian*: "The Indians performed a selection and a march and were loudly applauded, their playing being quite equal to that of the average rural band and certainly surprising as the result of the limited opportunities for musical culture within the reach of our Indian brethren. The 27th band appeared to good advantage in the pieces they presented. The overture William Tell taxes the abilities of the strongest orchestras and is especially exacting upon the resources of a reed band. Its performance would do credit to much more pretentious organizations than the 27th."

**Correspondence.**

OUR ROYAL SCHOOLS OF ARTILLERY.

To the Editor of the Canadian Militia Gazette:

SIR,—The recent organization of "C" Battery R.C.A., has changed the whole *tout ensemble* of the Regiment of Canadian Artillery. Now that "A" and "B" Batteries have lost so many of their best men by the establishment of "C" Battery, is not the present time a proper one for the re-organization of the regiment? "A" and "B" Batteries are at present essentially garrison batteries divided into dismounted and mounted divisions; the former has eight horses, the latter 16; the unfortunate eight in addition to their battery duties being used for the instruction in equitation of the cadets of the R. M. College.

In Quebec and the Maritime Provinces are stationed the majority of the garrison artillery—and after recent events we may say Ontario has none. Ontario has 10 out of the 18 field batteries. Montreal and Winnipeg batteries are as convenient to Kingston as to Quebec, Richmond and Shefford are also not much out of the way.

The schools were organized for the instruction of field and garrison artillery officers, non-com. officers and men, but there has not been kept at either station a proper establishment for the instruction of field artillery, and no matter how zealous the commandant and his staff may be, it is impossible to do their duty by field artillery on a reduced strength. We know that after much exertion each battery can SOMETIMES turn out two guns with four horses—without waggons. Now our regulations state that a field battery shall have 51 horses, exclusive of officers' horses and four spare. So it seems the authorities expect that an officer that can handle eight horses,

should be capable of manœuvring with 55. Therefore at present at neither of the schools can any extended instruction in artillery work in the field be given.

There are very few field artillery officers now on the militia list, who ever drilled with four guns and waggons, and though for motives of economy the powers that be in Canada do not consider waggons necessary, even in store—still should occasion demand it they would be of use, as witness the following extract from Col. Irwin's report on the artillery for 1885. With reference to the Northwest rebellion he says: "No ammunition waggons of recent or serviceable patterns were available, and no forge or store waggons were taken to the Northwest. The want of these means of conveying necessary supplies, etc., was felt throughout the whole campaign."

The battery at Quebec might with advantage be turned into a garrison battery armed with some of the modern guns—as even the breech loading guns at Quebec are fast becoming obsolete. The "gas pipes" there and at Kingston might be either converted into rifled guns or sold for old iron. They would help to pay for a few new ones.

The battery at Kingston could be turned into a field battery, with a reduced strength of say 100 men.

We have the staff, the non-commissioned officers and men, guns and harness; we want the waggons and horses, and the reduced strength of one battery would more than pay for the increased stabling accommodation and feed of horses.

Gen. Strange and Lieut.-Col's Irwin, Montzamlert and Cotton in their various reports for the past ten years have recommended that an increased establishment for the instruction of field artillery be kept up.

One of these officers in his annual report is my authority for stating that 2 guns and 6 horses, 2 waggons and 4 horses, 1 forge waggon, etc., equalling a total of 30 horses, is the lowest establishment which can be maintained with any pretence to efficiency, and this is further proved, he states, by the experience gained during the late rebellion.

The necessity of a school for the instruction of garrison artillery at Kingston has ceased to exist owing to the gradual extinction of the garrison artillery in Ontario, which now consists of one battery of 42 men, equipped with the usual smooth bore of ante-Crimean memory.

My excuse for this long letter is my interest in the field artillery and the knowledge that my views are shared in by many of its officers.

SHORT COURSE.

**The Common Sense Soldier.**

**M**EN rush to arms 'mid war's alarms  
And wreath their brows in glory,  
But as for me I'd rather be  
The man who tells the story.  
Where muskets flash the soldiers rush,  
Meet treason's dash and quell it,  
But I am one when all is done  
Would rather live to tell it.

When men portray the deadly fray  
The picture fires the spirit,  
But all men know the artist who  
Has drawn it was not near it;  
It spoils the joke when powder smoke  
Is near enough to smell it;  
The dyes they use fail to amuse—  
I'd rather live to tell it.

For some must die and some must fly  
Whene'er the battle rages;  
If left to me I'd quick agree  
Which way to earn me wages.  
Some leave a name adorned by fame  
For hardy in song to swell it  
In anthems loud, but I'm not proud,  
I'll live along and tell it.

So here's to all who fight and fall,  
To comrades brave and plucky,  
And here's to him with life and limb,  
Bedad, I think him lucky!  
Let honor keep the boys who sleep,  
Nor future years dispel it,  
And here's to those who struck the blows  
And still live on to tell it.

—Judge.

**The Target.**

THE 44TH BATTALION MATCHES.

The annual matches of the Niagara Falls and 44th Battalion Rifle Association took place at the Suspension Bridge range on Monday, the 21st ult. The competitors do not appear to have experienced unalloyed happiness, for one has written thus, describing the general experience:—

"The weather was very cold and about two inches of snow on the ground; the wind was blowing a hurricane, drifting the snow across the range from right to left, which at times completely hid the target from view. It was simply impossible to make a score. We dare not postpone the matches, owing to the lateness of the season, for fear we might not get a better day. No doubt rifle shooting should be practised at all times of the year and under most unfavourable circumstances, but I think I may safely promise you, that as far as our association is concerned we will not fix so late a date again. Hereafter we will strive to combine pleasure and practice by shooting our annual matches during the long warm days of the year. Having to stand ankle deep in snow, muffled to the ears, with the mercury way down below freezing point, backing the fiercely cold blasts, shivering and waiting for our turn to shoot, and endangering our health, is scarcely what one would think would be in the interest of rifle shooting.

The prize winners and their scores were as follows:—  
Match No. 1.— 500 yards; 7 shots.

\$5 S Bradley.....	21	\$1 J A Vanderslays.....	10
4 M Kelliher.....	20	1 A Purdon.....	10
3 G Wright.....	20	1 R Lawrence.....	8
3 Geo A McMicking.....	19	1 F Lawson.....	7
3 W H Clark.....	19	1 J R Peckham.....	6
2 J Blount.....	17	1 G Phemister.....	5
2 R N Campbell.....	16	1 G E Buckley.....	4
2 C Pratt.....	15	1 Thos Mitchell.....	3
2 R P Skinner.....	15	1 J C Bartle.....	2
2 W Wylie.....	14	1 W Pew.....	2
1 Geo Madden.....	11	1 A Mitchell.....	0
1 C H Shirley.....	10		