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LIEUT.-GENERAL SIR JOHN ROSS, who has been appointed to succeed Lord Alexander Russell in the command of the British troops in Canada, has had an eventful and highly creditable career. Born at Stonehouse, Cumberland, England, in 1829, he joined the rifle brigade in 1846, as second lieutenant, and first saw active service on the outbreak of the war with Russia in 1854. As adjutant of the 2nd battalion he made his influence felt in the exceptional discipline displayed by the troops at the Battle of the Alma. On November 5, in the same year he took part in the victory of Inkerman. His Crimean services were rewarded with promotion to the rank of brevet-major and the conferring of three medals. On the outbreak of the Indian mutiny at Meerut, 1857, he was engaged with his battalion in the suppression of the Sepoys' revolt, and was present at Cawnpore, and subsequently at the relief and capture of Lucknow, which virtually brought the mutiny to a close.

PROCEEDING then to Central India, Major Ross served with distinguished success under Sir Hugh Rose, as commander of a camel corps, which he had raised and organized immediately after the fall of Lucknow. For these services he was raised to the rank of brevet lieutenant-colonel, received a medal and was made a C. B. In January, 1864, he was present at the action of Schuhkudder, for which he received the North-West Frontier medal; and to this a clasp was added for his services in command of the Bengal troops in the Perak expedition of 1875-6. At the close of the Russo-Turkish war, when the late Lord Beaconsfield made his magnificent *coup* by massing the Indian troops in readiness to appear on the scene of action, and thus demonstrated to the astounded Muscovite the enormous reserve force on which England could rely in case of war, it was Sir John Ross who was selected to command the Indian brigade at Malta, and on his return to Hindustan after the collapse of the Eastern crisis he resumed the command of the Calcutta District brigade, which he had temporarily resigned for the purpose of making the European demonstration. During the war in Afghanistan he commanded the reserve division of the field force under Sir Frederick Roberts, and with him he made the memorable march from Cabul to Candahar in 1880, as commander of the infantry brigade. For these services he received the thanks of both Houses of Parliament, got the Afghan medal and the star of Candahar, and was made a Knight Commander of the Bath. In 1881 he was appointed to the command of the Poonah division of the Bombay army, which position he filled till the year 1886, when he retired with the rank of lieutenant-general.

CAPTAIN D. STEVENSON and Quarter-Master-Sergeant T. Maxwell, of the Montreal Brigade of Garrison Artillery, have compiled an aid to instruction of the gunners of their corps, which will doubtless prove of great utility. It might be profitably adopted by other garrison corps, as it comprises in the compass of a very small pamphlet the more important points of a Canadian gunner's duties. The first seventeen pages gives a synopsis of the requisities in the training of garrison artillery, adapted from a memorandum issued by Major Walford, R. A., B. M., at Shoeburyness, and then follow from the *Manual of Garrison Artillery*, 1887, the drill for 64-pr R. M. L. guns on common standing carriages, and for 40-pr. R. B. I. guns on travelling siege carriages; repository exercises and definition of gunnery terms. Improvements which we should suggest for future editions would be an enlargement of the print, margin, etc., and full references to the sources from which the instructions were taken, so as to give them the stamp of the highest authority.

WHEN staunch political supporters of the Minister of Militia rise in the House to publicly press, on behalf of men who have served under them, for an allowance which he has refused, it may be taken for granted that their claim is a just one, or they would not thus compromise the government. It is a matter of notoriety that the men who served in the North-West had in many cases to do without articles of clothing and equipment which the law says shall be provided at the public expense. That more claims such as that put forward on behalf of the York-Simcoe battalion were not presented, is due largely to the fact that, serving for patriotism, the men did not wish to diminish the credit they had thus earned by mercenary wrangling. They believed that the country was disposed to act fairly, and in dealing with them the government should have exercised not only justice but generosity.

THE estimates for the fiscal year 1888-89 submitted since last issue, show that the militia authorities have not yet come to a determination to act upon the suggestions for the improvement of the efficiency of the force so persistently made by the officer commanding and other officers employed at large salaries to give advice on such matters. Despite the fact that it is on all sides admitted that the ammunition allowance is too small to allow the men to have sufficient practice to be of any benefit to them, the vote asked for this purpose shows no increase. Neither is there any addition in the vote asked for drill pay, or expenses connected with the annual drill. The sole increases are \$2,400 added to the payments to brigade majors for salaries and expenses; and \$40,000 for the permanent corps, the latter being consequent on the increase in the establishment made since last year. Provision is made for the salaries of only six D. A. G.'s in place of eight last year, the decrease being consequent on two more officers of the permanent corps undertaking these district duties. The saving thus made in salary and allowances, amounts to \$3,400. The total vote asked for militia purposes is \$1,319,900, an increase of \$32,000. It is not too late yet to take steps to have something additional appear in the supplementary estimates.