

It is strongly recommended that the Department of Militia and Defence be asked to increase the time allowed Non-Commissioned Officers and Gunners of Field Batteries by say four days for preliminary drill before going into camp, to be devoted to gun drill, foot drill, aiming drill, position and duties, lectures on ammunition, etc., thus allowing the whole of the time in camp to be employed in field movement, taking up positions, coming into action, and other necessary work which is now left undone for want of time.

The Council would again press upon the Artillery in the different Provinces the advisability of their forming Provincial Associations; as by united action and help alone can the further success of the Association be assured. The hope is expressed that the Commanding Officer of each Battery will urge his subalterns to become members of the Association.

The report concludes with fitting acknowledgments to the Inspector and the Assistant Inspectors of Artillery, and the Officers of "A" and "B" Batteries, R. C. A., for their continued kindness in carrying out their arduous duties as umpires and range officers; and also Major Lindsay, Quebec Field Battery, for his services at Camp Quarter Master and Transport Officer at the competition at Island of Orleans, Quebec.

### The Rifle of the Future.

What will prove to our readers a very interesting addition to the literature anent the new arm of the British forces, is furnished by the London *World* of the 26th December, where this appears:—

"A curious comment on Mr. Stanhope's frequent assurances as to the perfection of our new magazine rifle is furnished by the dissolution of the Committee on Small Arms before its labours are complete, and by the announcement that there will be no issue of their new rifle until an alteration of the pattern has been experimented upon. The fact is that many of the reports, and especially that of the Hythe School of Musketry, are dead against the Lee-Enfield magazine weapon, in which very great defects have been made patent by practical trials. It is more than probable that for the present no new repeating rifle will be issued, but that our troops will be armed with Martini rifles converted into magazines according to the ingenious plan submitted by a Canadian officer, and recently experimented with very successfully. The only question now remaining for decision, I understand, is whether these Martini magazines shall be used with Henry barrels, or with the new small-bore fitted to the present stocks."

The "Canadian officer" referred to is, of course, Captain Greville Harston, of the Grenadiers. His useful invention appears to successfully withstand all tests, and to maintain its popularity while one by one of the other inventions in the way of improved weapons goes out of popular favour.

### Major-General Oliver, C. M. G.

It was a source of pleasure to his many friends in Canada to learn of the well merited distinction accorded to the late Commandant of our Royal Military College, in making him a Companion of the Order of St. Michael and St. George. Major-General J. R. Oliver received this honour on New Year's Day, a pleasant New Year's gift surely. In connection with the circumstance a review of this officer's meritorious career is timely.

In 1855, while an undergraduate at Cambridge, he entered at a week's notice for a competitive examination for commissions in the R. A. and R. E., passed fifth out of 150 candidates, and was gazetted to the Artillery, but afterwards offered a transfer to the Engineers. He joined No. 3 Company, 14th Battalion, R. A., and served with it in England till May, 1857, when it was ordered to South Africa. A few days after its arrival at Cape Town news came of the Indian mutiny, and the company was at once sent on to Calcutta, which it reached in September. Having received a Field Battery equipment it was detailed to march to Cawnpore, 600 miles distant, with Col. Barker's column. Just as it was starting, orders arrived for Lieut. Oliver to proceed direct to Cawnpore on horseback, there being no Artillery officer with the small garrison that was holding that post. Soon after his arrival there he was placed in command of a hastily equipped 4 gun bullock battery, and joined General Windham's field force, taking part in the

severely contested actions at the Pandoo Nuddee (26th Nov.) and Cawnpore (17th and 28th Nov). At the subsequent investment of the Cawnpore entrenchment by the rebels he had charge of a very exposed 2 gun battery, and he took part in their final defeat on the 6th December.

On the 22nd December he rejoined the Field Battery, which had arrived from Calcutta, and marched with it to Futtehgrah, sharing in the fights at the Ralee Nuddee on the 3rd January, 1858, and General Walpole's affairs on the Ramgunza River. Returning to Cawnpore in February the company was attached to the siege train, and served all through the final siege and capture of Lucknow in March. Lieut. Oliver accompanied it through the subsequent hot weather campaign in Rohilkund, and was present at the actions of Bareilly, Thahjihawpore Bunnai Fort, and Mohumdee. The company was then ordered to Agra and Gwalion to join the Central India forces. Two marches short of Gwalion it was ordered back, and was subsequently sent to Allahabad, where it arrived with only 50 men out of the original strength of 150 fit for duty, and those 50 looking nearly worn out.

The rainy season of 1858 was spent at Allahabad, and the company marched in October to join a field force, and took part in the subsequent cold weather campaign which finally crushed out the mutiny, including the capture of the Fort of Rampoor Russeah, the passage of the Gogra at Fyzabad, and the affair of Muchleegaon.

In these campaigns the total distance marched was about 1,400 miles. For his services at Cawnpore Lieut. Oliver was (on being promoted Captain) recommended for a Brevet Majority by Generals Sir J. Dupuis and Sir C. Windham.

In 1859 he was appointed to the Horse Artillery and ordered to join "H" Battery at Secunderabad. He was, however, in the meantime invalided to England, and did not join it until its return there in 1861.

In 1862 he passed through a long course at Shoeburyness, and in October 1863 joined a Battery of Horse Artillery at Benares, to which he had exchanged.

In November, 1863, Lieut. Oliver and the two Lieut. Camerons were selected to join a mountain battery which was being raised at Meera Meer for the Umbeyla campaign. This was over before the Battery was ready and the latter was sent to Peshawur. On its being ordered to Bhotan in 1864 Lieut. Oliver rejoined it from the Hill station of Murree, and had charge of the European detachments for the journey down country. Subsequently served as captain with the Left Column in the Bhotan campaign, and commanded its Artillery at the capture of the forts of Dalimkote and Chamoorchie; mentioned in despatches; recommended for employment in Survey Department.

In January, 1865, he was invalided to England for jungle fever, caught in Bhotan, and joined the Staff College in September, having passed in second after an examination at a month's notice while at Murree.

In December, 1866, he left the Staff College, passing out second, and also passing the special examination for the Ordnance Survey.

In 1867-68 he commanded the Royal Artillery at St. Helena, and was for six months specially employed by the War Office as Acting Engineer for Fortification Surveys.

In 1869 he was nominated successively Superintendent of Artillery Records, Instructor of Topography at Sandhurst, Brigade-Major at Shoeburyness, and Brigade-Major R.A. at Aldershot. In the last-named capacity he served till promoted Major in February 1874, and was on the Army Corps Staff during the great manoeuvres of 1871 and 1872.

Promoted Major in 1874 he fell to the command of a Field Battery in England, but was in 1876 detailed for several months for special temporary work at the Intelligence Department of the War Office.

The following year he was appointed a Professor at the Military College, Kingston. His service there is well known in Canada.

It is correct to address the Lords of the Admiralty collectively as "My Lords," but it would be equally appropriate to add, "I hope your Warships are getting along satisfactorily."—*Punch*.

The *Rousskii-Invalid* gives some more details as to several methods invented by Russian officers within the last few years for the purpose of enabling their men to cross rivers. One of these is by means of ration-bags. Captain Boulanov, of the 5th Battalion of Sappers, has taken the men of his company across a stream by means of a raft formed of such bags. Eight ration-bags filled with straw, tied with a piece of twine, and kept together by means of tent-pegs, form a raft, the whole being covered up with three camp tents tied together. On such a raft, which can be easily constructed in fifteen or twenty minutes, four men can safely cross over with their cloak, rifle, and cartridges. A single ration-bag stuffed with straw will enable a man who cannot swim to cross a stream by using the bag as a bladder or life-belt.