

and the interest that has to be paid is no mean item. To hold the meeting again at Bisley would cost from £8,000 to £10,000, and, as there are now no funds available to meet this charge, some extraordinary efforts will have to be made if the National Volunteer Carnival is to be continued. The winter meeting of the National Rifle Association will take place shortly, and on that occasion the members intend, it is believed, to thrash the question out. There is no doubt that the Association has saddled itself with an immense expenditure, and how it will relieve itself of its burden is a matter calling for the gravest consideration.

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"AN OLD FILE" writes to one of the English service papers to correct the grammar of the sentries' form of challenge. He says: "Who comes there?" is the modern form of challenge. Now a person is never said to "come there." If it was "Who goes there?" as it used to be, or "Who comes here?" or simply "Who comes?" or "Who's there?" then there could be nothing to say against it; but, as it is, it is contrary to general usage, for a man is said to "go there" and to "come here," but never to "come there."

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EXPLANATION of the source of the rumour of Lord Wolseley's desire to come to Canada, in thus given by the *United Service Gazette*:—"Much amusement has been caused to those in the know by the various rumours that have been started in consequence of Lord Wolseley having contemplated taking a well-earned holiday and having selected Canada, where he intended to go on a salmon-fishing tour, as his destination. The story grew until it got to be believed in certain quarters that Lord Wolseley had expressed his desire to be transferred from Dublin to Halifax, although Sir J. Ross has been out only but two and a half years, and a glance at the *Army List* might have shown the improbability of the tale. Lord Wolseley, however, considering the short time he has held the Irish command, and that important changes in the distribution of troops in Ireland are in view, has abandoned his trip, at any rate for the present. Had he gone, the *quidnuncs* would doubtless have discovered some grave political reason for the step."

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A correspondent of the *Army and Navy Gazette* writes:—"In these days of simplicity in drill, &c., for the young soldier, it seems folly to have two sorts of rifle drill or exercise where one would do for the whole Army. British troops are being armed with the magazine rifle, and Native regiments have the Martini-Henry—both rifles almost alike in length. Would not one 'shoulder' or 'advance' arms do for all? The 'long rifle shoulder' is useless, and would never be used on service. Everything can be done from the 'advance.' It is awkward, difficult to do properly, hideous when not done properly, bad enough at the halt, and impossible, except to big strong men, on the move, and after all merely a 'show' position. Were the 'long rifle' drill done away with, it would be a great boon to the men, and we should then have only one rifle and carbine exercise for the whole Army."

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

(This paper does not necessarily share the views expressed in correspondence published in its columns, the use of which is freely granted to writers on topics of interest to the Militia.)

THE PROPOSED HOLIDAY PARADES.

EDITOR MILITIA GAZETTE,—General Herbert is a new broom, and, no doubt, in propounding his scheme of holiday parades and voluntary camps, imagines he is going to make a clean sweep in militia matters. To those in authority it may be very pleasant to imagine a holiday parade and the benefit (imaginary as well) it will be to the Force—with a big F. and how happy each member of the Force will be to partake of such benefit, and the glory and honour and praise that will accrue, especially to the Major-General, from such a parade. But there is another way of looking at a holiday parade. Holidays—enforced holidays—are infrequent. The bulk of the militia are men who have to work for a living, who cannot afford to take a holiday, but when an enforced holiday arrives would like to spend it after their own fashion, and many there are who will take the wife and children off for the "holiday" and thus enjoy it together. To such men a "holiday parade" partakes of the nature of a fraud; it takes a man's time for nothing, it prevents him from spending his idle day after his own manner, and it compels him to spend his money where no money should be spent. It is about time that the Militia Service of Canada was put on an honest footing, and that the maintenance of battalions, and batteries, and troops, should not be at the expense of the individual members of such troops, batteries, etc., but at the cost of Canada. Not content with saddling the expense of the different corps in Canada on the corps themselves, the successor to the late alleged trader in furs would wish to pile more expense on the unfortunate militia, and certainly not for the benefit—the infinitesimal benefit—which would accrue from a "holiday parade." If General Herbert wants to have a parade, let him arrange that "all expenses" will be paid, and not place the cost of his proposed exhibitions of feathers and lace on a body of men who have sacrificed much, from the pocket sense of view, to make and maintain the militia of Canada as effective as it apparently is.

If a display is wanted, the "Honorary A.D.C.'s" to the Governor-General might be paraded at noon on the 24th May next and inspected in the "goose step."

SNAP CAP.

February 14, 1891.

THE RIFLE LEAGUE.

EDITOR MILITIA GAZETTE.—In your issue of 12th inst. you have an article on the "League." With your kind permission as one who is fond of shooting, and, to use the words of a contemporary, "having the purest motives," I would like to give expression to a few thoughts that have been awakened in my mind by your article, and also by the letter of said contemporary, who signs himself "Buckshot," which seems a very appropriate synonym, as he scatters his ideas over a vast area. First, then, as to the number comprising the teams. Ten men seems to be the greatest number wanted by the old shots, of which I take Buckshot to be one. Now, sir, if ten is to be the number of the teams, then I hold the League has failed of its object, which, as I understand it, is for the encouragement of rifle shooting in battalions. We know that most regiments can muster a ten men team, but beyond that have to put on rather weak men, and I believe that I am about the truth when I infer that our Winnipeg friend views with alarm the prospect of a twenty or twenty-five men team from his regiment.

I write with the purest motives, to again quote from his