

THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE

A WEEKLY JOURNAL DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF THE ACTIVE FORCE OF THE DOMINION.

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CORRESPONDENCE.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS.

COMMENT AND CRITICISM.

Solid drawn shells for the Snider.
Reloading shells.
Reducing the cost of ammunition.
Improper wearing of uniform.
Col. Kirkpatrick's case.
Experiments in rifle matches.
This week's general orders.
The new lieutenants for the permanent corps.

CONTRIBUTED.

Notions of a noodle—*Misty*.

SELECTED.

Reflections on tactics (conclusion)—*Col. Knollys, R.A.*

SELECTED.

Rifle shooting in Europe.
The Elcho challenge shield at Guildhall.

CORRESPONDENCE.

A question of dress.
The failure of gun carriages, &c.
Honors wanted for the field force.

REGIMENTAL NOTES.

THE TARGET.

N. B. Prov. Rifle Association.
The year's work of the Ottawa Rifle Club

EXTRACTS FROM MILITIA GENERAL ORDERS.

it for each successive shot, and we are sufficiently convinced of their good judgment as to be sure they would not do it without the best of reasons.

Whether we get reloadable shells or not the Militia Department ought to do something to cheapen our ammunition. On some of the English ranges the Canadian team could purchase Snider ammunition at threepence, or six cents, a packet; here it usually costs us twenty cents, and the effect of the great difference in price is certainly not in favor of the extension of rifle shooting in the country. It is a question of course for the decision of the Minister of Militia whether it would not be a good investment to sell ammunition at less than cost price. None would be wasted, the crack shots would not fire any more than they do at present prices, and the effect would be to induce new men to fire who are now frightened by the prospect of the considerable expense incurred in sufficient practice to attain a fair degree of proficiency.

The privilege of wearing Her Majesty's uniform is very properly restricted to those only who possess an undoubted right thereto. The occasions on which it may be worn are, in the case of n. c. officers and privates, strictly defined by para. 42 R. and O., 1883, and in the case of officers, although for certain private and unofficial entertainments the rules are not very strictly defined, yet their observance is so regulated by custom as rarely to lead to a breach of decorum. Lapses will, however, occur, chiefly, we believe, through ignorance or inadvertence, and the above remarks have been suggested by the unusual spectacle at a recent public carnival at the Roller Rink of one or two *soi disant* officers in full dress uniform, as well as several n. c. officers and privates, some of them actually wearing side arms, all displaying their borrowed plumes for the admiration of the fairer sex. Comment is unnecessary, but we hope that the actual owners of the uniforms in question will take better care of them in future, and that their temporary occupants will see fit to qualify themselves on another stage for their assumed privilege.

The newspaper discussion upon the advisability of the presentation to Lieut.-Col. Kirkpatrick has brought into prominence that officer's popularity with his men, and shows that he has at all times taken an active interest in their welfare, besides spending large sums for their benefit. We have not so many commanders with the means combined with the desire to undertake such public-spirited assistance to the force that we can afford to lose any of them, and we should greatly regret that any circumstances should have led to the resignation of Col. Kirkpatrick. One thing, however, is certain, intemperate discussion of the position by the colonel's friends, denunciations of authorities, or repudiation of the rules of the service by the newspapers, will not in any wise help to settle the question as we should all like to see it settled.

The account given by Major Anderson in another column of some experimental rifle matches at the late meeting of the 43rd R.A. is use-

COMMENT AND CRITICISM.

Passing through Toronto last week I called at Captain Cooper's beautifully appointed gun shop on Bay street for a short chat about rifles and shooting, and there saw solid drawn brass shells for both the Martini and Snider rifles—for the former of Eley's make, for the latter of American manufacture. In each case the type is similar to the well-known American central-fire standard brass shell, and looks much more simple and substantial than the complex structure now in use. As there is a commission now engaged discussing the merits of our homemade Snider ammunition it would not be amiss to refer to them the advisability of adopting in Canada, in the interests alike of safety, simplicity and economy, solid shell cartridges.

Economy would be gained by the fact that the solid drawn shells are capable of being reloaded an indefinite number of times, so that, although the first cost is greater, being for Snider ammunition about \$27.50 per thousand, against \$16 for English made cartridges, they would be much cheaper in the long run if a rifleman chose to undertake the labor of loading them himself, as the materials for recharging them would cost only some \$6 or \$7 per thousand. Some American shots are so impressed by the superiority of homemade cartridges that in important matches they use but one shell, cleaning and reloading