

not only an unnecessary but an injurious waste of force. Better, far better, to expend the same energy in rectifying the many shortcomings which practical experience has shown to exist in the Militia system, and earnestly, unremittingly and unanimously point out what we believe to be the proper remedies. To accomplish anything it is necessary not only to secure the ear of the Department but also to persuade the Government of the day. This can only be done through the medium of a thoroughly awakened and properly educated public opinion, and it is in that direction that all our strength should be put forth.

The Queen's Regulations, section VI, para. 7, strictly prohibit deliberations or discussions having the object of conveying praise, censure, or any mark of approbation towards anyone in Her Majesty's service, and every officer is held responsible who shall allow himself to be complimented by means of presents of plate, swords, etc., or by any collective expression of opinion. Commanding officers are also required to prohibit the practice of presenting testimonials, in any shape, to superiors on quitting service or on being removed from their corps. This rule has not been strictly regarded in Canada, and it is no unusual thing to hear of resolutions of thanks passed at meetings to officers for services rendered. During the autumn camps a very popular lieutenant-colonel was presented with a piece of plate by the officers under his command. The presentation was the outcome of the kindest feelings on the part of the latter and was a complete surprise to the former. The rule—a very proper one—had, however, been disregarded and he was called upon to explain. It will perhaps be some comfort to him and to them to learn that irregularities of the kind are not confined to the Canadian Militia, but sometimes take place in the British Army. The following extract is from the last number of the *Army and Navy Gazette*: "The command of the 2nd Battalion, Connaught Rangers, has passed into other hands, Colonel J. Browné, the last colonel of the old number (94th), having completed his five years. His farewell dinner took place at the barracks, Templemore, on New Year's Eve, when he was presented with a small token of remembrance by his old comrades. On his leaving the day after, the horses were taken from his carriage, and he was drawn to the station by the officers of the regiment; and he received from all ranks a heartfelt "good-bye" that it must be his greatest pride to remember. He leaves a name not to be forgotten by any who have served under his imperial rule, and a regiment second to none in discipline and efficiency."

The *Welland Telegraph* makes a strong appeal to the County Council for a grant of money to aid in the purchase of helmets for the 44th. It points out that the small annual grant is quite insufficient to provide proper clothing and accoutrements, and that it is the duty of the councils, as representatives of the people, to assist their local regiments by money grants, specially or annually, and throws upon them a measure of responsibility as to "whether we have for a regiment a mere mob of ill-trained, undisciplined units, dragged together once each two years, or a well organized and effective battalion, well equipped and of good appearance, of which we may all be justly proud." There can be no question that the weak points in our system are the small pay and deficient equipment given to the rank and file. For fifty cents a day we cannot get the best class of men to go into camp, nor even secure the same men for two successive trainings. The clothing changes owners every year, consequently seldom fits or looks smart, and the head and foot gear are anything but uniform. It is not fair to expect the men to serve their country at a pecuniary loss and to provide articles of clothing out of their own pockets. An increased grant would make all the

difference in the world, and it matters little whether it comes from the Government or the municipal councils. Our wideawake neighbours south of the line pay their State Militia a dollar and a quarter a day, and in Australia we believe the amount is even greater and the equipment of the very best.

The Deputy Adjutant General and Brigade Major of this district, and the Inspector of Artillery, are at present engaged in taking stock of the Militia stores at headquarters. This work is being done under the regulation requiring a check on all stores to be taken during the month of January in each year. The work has been thrown late this year in consequence of the storekeepers not having fully made up for the ground lost during last year's activity.

#### THE MUSKETRY TRAINING OF "A" COMPANY, I.S.C.

Referring to a recent communication in the *CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE*, in which it is stated that "K Co." Infantry School Corps fired but 20 rounds at target practice during the summer of 1885,—while we cannot know accurately what "K Company" did in this direction—we profess to be "posted" in the doings of "A Company and Staff" of that corps, and it may interest your readers to have the details of both target and judging practice as carried out, both in 1884 and 1885, at the annual encampment—where much time and attention are devoted, not only to these practices, but to the preliminary drills which precede the practices, and where the following drills have been carefully carried out during six days each year: 1, Theoretical principles; 2, cleaning arms; 3, aiming drill; 4, position drill; 5, blank firing; 6, judging distance drill.

*Extract from orders of 3rd August, 1885.*

Individual Target Practice—Twice over the course prescribed in Para. 415, R. & O., 1883, as follows:

Every n. c. o. and man to fire 10 rounds at 200 yds. standing; 20 rounds at 400 yds. kneeling; and 10 rounds at 500 yds., any military position

Those who obtain 80 points will be classified as first-class shots and marksmen; those obtaining 60, but failing to obtain 80, as second-class shots; and those failing to obtain 60 as third-class shots.

Independent firing—5 rounds at 300 yds., six targets.

Volley firing—5 rounds at 300 yds., six targets.

Skirmishing—10 rounds, between 400 and 200 yds.; single target.

Judging Distance Practice—Four exercises of four answers each; between 200 and 800 yards, four answers to each register. Not more than one exercise to be executed in a day.

Within 20 yds. if not over 500 yds. . . . . 2 points.

" 30 " " " " " " . . . . . 1 "

If over 500 yds., within 30 yds. . . . . 2 "

" " " " 40 " . . . . . 1 "

Those who obtain 16 points and upwards will be classified as First Class. Those failing to obtain 16 points as Second Class.

6—Prizes will be given as follows: Best shot in corps who obtains highest aggregate score in the individual practice; prize by Commandant.

Best shot in company, gold company badge.

Best shot in each squad, \$4.00.

Second best shot in each squad, \$3.00.

Third best shot in each squad, \$1.00.

Skirmishing—best target, \$5.00.

Skirmishing—second best target, \$3.00.

Best at judging distance in each squad, \$2.00, second best, \$1.00.

The above prizes were presented to the successful competitors at the annual inspection of the corps by the Major-General, who took occasion to express satisfaction at the steps taken to attain efficiency in this important direction.

#### THE MAN BY THE SEA.

The *Amberst Gazette* continues its extracts from Col. Winslow's journal, giving an account of the stirring times in Nova Scotia in the historic days of 1755.

Private John Burk, who has just been discharged from the Suffolk Regiment, is supposed to have been the oldest soldier in the British army, having enlisted in 1847. He had six good conduct stripes, and was refused the seventh on the ground that six was the maximum number allowed. He had served in the Crimean and Indian mutiny campaigns, in China and Afghanistan.