

Regimental and Other Notes.

The St. John, N.B., *Gazette* complains of the lack of equipment of 62nd Fusiliers, and says: "The military district of New Brunswick is woefully lacking in necessary accoutrements. There are a few tents—perhaps enough to shelter a thousand men—but, beyond this, there are none of the necessaries for equipping a camp. Because of the convenience of mobilizing, city corps are always the first to be called out in cases of emergency. Therefore the city corps in this district should be supplied with the necessary equipments for a campaign. There should be baggage wagons, camp kettles, tents, valises, haversacks, water bottles, and all other articles essential for an army on the march. At present the stores are kept either at Ottawa, Quebec, Kingston or Toronto. There are a few stores at Halifax, but not enough to equip the Nova Scotia contingent of itself. It would cost no more to keep the stores at St. John than it does at Ottawa, and if only for the appearance of things there should be sufficient stores here to put a thousand men in the field in case of necessity. Should our men be called out to suppress a riot or protect property, or for any other service requiring them to be on active duty for a fortnight, their efficiency would be greatly impaired because of the lack of accoutrements."

THE NINETIETH BATTALION.

The 90th excursion to Rat Portage for Dominion Day was, as these events usually are, a big success, in spite of the mean behaviour of the clerk of the weather. The corps mustered at 10.30 p.m. Saturday and marched, E Company occupying the position of honour, down to the cars, headed by the brass and bugle bands, which alternately dispensed sweet music to the midnight air. After settling and making all snug for the journey, song and dance became the order, the band wagon in particular showing up in great form. After the boys had somewhat eased themselves off, "lights out" was sounded, and the sonorous breathing of the I.B.D's. succeeded to the music of the mouth organ. Of course everybody was on deck at daybreak, and many were the exclamations of delight heard in the cars as the beautiful scenery surrounding Rat Portage began to come into view. The entire population of the city turned out to receive the boys, after which the "muster" was sounded for bathing parade (not undress). A march of at least a mile was necessary before a spot was found sufficiently secluded to enable the fastidious to assume the garb of nature without in any way shocking that blushing modesty which is so characteristic of the 90th Battalion. In the forenoon the regiment paraded to the English and Presbyterian churches.

At 6 a. m. on Monday morning the reveille sounded and brought out the boys bright and early to prepare for the parade at 10 a. m., and then they mustered and formed into quarter column, marching up Main street, where the military movements were to take place. The route was gaily decorated with banners and flags, and a great crowd was on hand to see the fun. The march past was splendidly done, and brought frequent rounds of applause from the onlookers. A feu de joie was then fired, much to the alarm of a squad of Indians who were watching the battle from the top of a neighbouring hill. Lieut. Rowley, who, in the unavoidable absence of Capt. Swinford, was in charge of E Company, received many congratulations for the steady manner in which his company went through the movements.

Correspondence.

[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 COLONEL HAS THE CALL.

EDITOR MILITIA GAZETTE,—I have this day received a marked copy of the MILITIA GAZETTE of 6th June last, which had been sent to me addressed Royal United Service Institution, London, England, and followed me back here with the idea, I suppose, of fastening upon me the authorship of the now famous letter signed "Canadian" in the *Broad Arrow*, so I suppose I had better follow the example of Major General Oliver, C.M.G., and deny it in toto over my signature.

In the service clubs in London the authorship was generally credited to Col. Ridout, formerly adjutant of the R.M.C., Kingston. If this is a mistake perhaps that gentleman will correct it.

C. GREVILLE HARSTON, Captain,
Late R.M.S.I.

Toronto, 8th July, 1889.

In military appointments, it is the duty of the inferior officer to assist his commander in the mode in which that commander may deem his services most advantageous.—*Wellington*.

Six torpedo boats to be worked with petroleum fuel are to be immediately commenced for the Russian Government. Four will be added to the Baltic fleet and the other two will be sent to the Black Sea.

The Rifle.

Several immense scores are recorded in the English service papers to hand this week. At the Edinburgh rifle meeting, in the first stage of the competition for the Caledonian Challenge Shield, fired with Martinis at Queen's ranges, Col. Sergt. Ingram, 3rd Lanark, headed the list with 33, 32, 34—99; and John Rodger, of Hawick, was even with him in the total, with three 33's. There were three 97's, one 96, and eight 95's, the total number of competitors being 424. At the Jewel competition of the English Twenty club, Pte. Gilbert of the H.A.C., who shot on the Park Range, made 34, 31, 35—100. He had an inner for his sixth shot at 200, and two magpies (the first and sixth shots) at 500. Pte. Gardiner of Keswick made 33, 32, 34—99. There were seven 97's, ten 96's, and six 95's.

Says the *Volunteer Record*: "In a previous issue we referred to some marvellous scores said to have been made by Pte. Higgins, of the 2nd Gloucester, in the beginning of this month—scores of 101, 100, and 103 having been credited to him. Our prodigy is said to have since put on the highest possible aggregate—i.e., 105 points—in practice, and 103 points in competition. Last week we mildly confessed to some degree of scepticism in regard to the genuineness of the pill we and our readers were asked to swallow. The latter report but confirms this sentiment. When next it is sought to induce a guileless public to believe that something so entirely *hors ligne* in the way of shooting has been achieved, it would be as well if the performance of the individual so distinguishing himself could be properly certified."

THE MASSACHUSETTS MEN AT WIMBLEDON.

Application has been made to the council of the N. R. A. for permission for the visiting Massachusetts riflemen to use in the Wimbledon matches open to military breech-loaders the improved sights and wind gauges attached to their Springfield weapons. Very properly the council refused to accede to this rather bold request, notwithstanding that the visitors had it backed up by the signatures of about fifty British riflemen. The following correspondence explains itself:

To the Council of the N. R. A.—The memorial of the undersigned competitors in a triangular match between the counties of Devon, Gloucester, and Middlesex, at Dunball:

1. In 1879 the American War Office adopted a sliding wind-gauge rear sight as the Regulation sight for the Springfield rifle in the hands of the Federal troops.

2. But, not being contented with it, after a long course of experiments with various patterns of screw and aperture sights, they ultimately, in 1884, adopted the "Buffington" screw wind-gauge aperture sight, which superseded the sliding sight of 1879.

3. The team of American riflemen about to visit this country, to whom the council have tendered a cordial welcome on behalf of the volunteers, will bring with them the Regulation Springfield rifles, in use in the American army; but as matters stand, they will be unable to fire a shot in competition at Wimbledon in various M. B. L. series, because the Buffington Regulation sight is barred by the rules.

4. The Committee of the South London Rifle Club have petitioned the council that our American visitors may be permitted to use their Regulation Springfield rifle in various M. B. L. competitions at Wimbledon, but a resolution was passed declining to accede to their request.

5. Your memorialists most respectfully protest against the exclusion of the Regulation arms of a foreign State from the category of experimental military (M.B.L.) rifles at Wimbledon, as a breach of international courtesy on the part of the council.

6. And your memorialists cordially endorse the request of the South London Rifle Club that our American visitors may be permitted to use their Regulation Springfield rifles in the several M.B.L. competitions at Wimbledon.

To the above the Secretary of the N.R.A. returned the following answer, directed to Mr. C. F. Lowe, who had forwarded the memorial:

SIR,—I have the honour to acknowledge by direction of the Council of the N.R.A., the receipt of your letter of the 17th inst., in which you forward a memorial drawn up by the members of the various Volunteer corps who competed in a triangular match at Dunball, requesting that the Council will permit the American visitors to use at Wimbledon in their various M.B.L. competitions, their regulation Springfield rifles. I am directed by the Council to state that they regret that, for the reasons already given when replying to a similar request from the South London Rifle Club, they are unable to accede to that of the memorialists. The reply to the members of the S.L.R.C. was that the Council consider that it is not desirable that the general rules of the N.R.A. respecting the sights of military breechloaders be departed from. The Council of the N.R.A. hope that you will be so good as to take an opportunity of communicating this reply to the memorialists.