

ketry instruction, say musketry one lesson and drill the next? Also, insist on efficient adjutants, who should possess musketry certificates, and having their men under canvas for proper instruction should be able to produce very smart corps."

### Canadian made Snider Ammunition.

THE matter of improving the quality of the Snider ammunition manufactured at the government cartridge factory at Quebec, continues to receive the most earnest attention from the Militia Department, and the lessons taught by experience having been borne in mind, the results obtained are such as to give promise that the riflemen's grievance against the factory product will soon be a thing of the past only. Then, the reliability of the marksman being equal to that of his cartridges, bulls eyes and highest possible scores all round will follow as a matter of course.

It will be remembered that in consequence of a long series of complaints a commission was appointed in 1885, the members being charged with the duty of locating the trouble, or troubles, as from their report there seemed to be room for improvement in several respects. An erroneous impression seems to prevail with many deeply interested in the matter, that little or no action has been taken in furtherance of the recommendations of the commissioners' report. The facts are quite otherwise.

The powder used seemed to the commission to be the chief cause of trouble. It had been manufactured in Canada without a proper specification having been furnished the makers. It was therefore recommended that a powder of a higher grade be obtained, to be manufactured according to a fixed standard, and duly tested during manufacture. The trouble about the quality of the powder has since been removed, in another way, involving less immediate expenditure while ensuring the desired accuracy of result. This has been done by again taking to the use of Waltham Abbey powder. While it is possible that powder just as good might have been obtained in Canada, it was thought best to take the other course as best calculated to establish confidence in our ammunition.

In English made cartridges a variation of 4 grains is allowed in the charge of powder. Thus while 70 grains was the standard fixed, anything from 68 to 72 was accepted. Four grains variation in the charge of two cartridges means a difference in the initial velocity of the bullet equal to more than 50 feet. The commission thought this altogether too much, and recommended that the limit be made one grain, as in the United States laboratory, instead of four. This recommendation has since been carried into effect.

In accordance with another recommendation, the coiled case devise at the factory has been adopted. This case may be several times filled, the cost of shooting being thereby reduced to those willing to go to the trouble of putting up their own ammunition.

The late Professor Bayne, of the Royal Military College, who was a member of the commission, was of opinion as the result of careful experiment, that the centre of gravity in the bullet was slightly in advance of its true position; the effect of this being to cause the point to droop and the bullet to fall short. Since then his views upon this subject have been emphasized by the testimony adduced at the D. R. A. competitors' meeting here last summer. In consequence the Militia Department have ordered rigid tests to be made at the factory, to ascertain to what extent this defect exists, and how it may be remedied. The Department having taken the matter up will do everything possible to remove this remaining source of trouble, for none could be more anxious than the militia authorities that our Canadian made ammunition shall be equal to the best.

That it has been bad in the past none will deny; that it has im-

proved since the first complaints is well known to all who have been using it; and that this improvement will be continued to the fullest extent will be the wish of all.

### Militia General Orders (No. 2), of 13th January, 1888.

#### No. 1.—QUEEN'S REGULATIONS AND ORDERS FOR THE ARMY, 1885.— *Discipline.*

Notice has been received that the following changes have been made to sections VI and XXII Queen's Regulations and Orders for the Army, 1885.

They are now published for the information of all concerned:—

"Section VI.—Para. 35. The following sections of the Army Act, 1881, will be substituted for those enumerated in this paragraph, under which offences may be disposed of by a commanding officer without reference to superior authority:—6, except on active service; 8 (2) (threatening or insubordinate language only), except on active service; 9 (2) except on active service 10 (except sub-sec. 1), 11, 14, 15, 18 (1) (3), 19, 20, 21, 22, 24, 27 (4), 33 (except cases of enlisting from Army Reserve), 34 and 40.

"Add, after "authority" in line 12, "by letter briefly stating the circumstances of the case and accompanied by the prisoner's company defaulter sheet."

"Para. 46. For the words "may, at his option," in line 4, substitute "will." After "barracks," in line 7, add "but in the case of officers of less than three years service he may, at his option, limit their power of award to three days' confinement to barracks. In the event of any officer being so wanting in tact as to render him incapable of fairly and justly using this power, a report should be made to the Adjutant-General through the general officer commanding."

"Para. 99. Omit words after "laid down" and substitute—

"But in the absence of a previous conviction or aggravating circumstances or of antecedents appearing to require a severe lesson, or of unusual prevalence in the regiment or garrison of the species of crime forming the subject of the charge, the limit of the imprisonment awarded should not exceed from 28 to 56 days, according to circumstances, for the following offences: Leaving guard or post; offence of sentries; insubordinate or threatening language; disobedience not of a grave nature; resisting escort, not involving an attempt at serious injury; breaking out of barracks; neglect of orders; absence; failing to appear at parade; being out of bounds; drunkenness; release of prisoner or allowing prisoner to escape (not wilfully); escaping from custody; loss of kit, etc.; irregularity or omission in regard to returns (not fraudulent); minor contempt of court martial; false answer on attestation; conduct to prejudice, etc.

"An addition of from 7 to 28 days being made in the case of each previous conviction or of any circumstances that aggravate the gravity of the offence.

"A punishment not exceeding from three to six months ought, as a rule, to suffice for the above offences, even when more than once repeated or when committed under circumstances that aggravate the gravity of the offence, or for the offences of—Striking a superior officer; disobeying a lawful command (graver cases); desertion; fraudulent enlistment; false evidence; false accusations; ordinary theft; frauds.

"A sentence of imprisonment exceeding six months should be reserved for the offences last enumerated, when attended with circumstances which add to their gravity, or with several previous convictions, or for an offence under Sec. 32, Army Act; while a sentence that amounts to or exceeds one year's imprisonment should be imposed only in cases of disgraceful conduct of an unnatural kind, gross violence to superiors, repeated desertion or fraudulent enlistment, or in cases of persistent offenders whom ordinary punishment has not had the effect of restraining from serious crime. In this last class of cases an additional sentence of discharge with ignominy is, as a rule, advisable.

"When a prisoner is convicted on two or more charges, the sentence should be that which is considered adequate for the gravest of the offences, with some addition for each of the other charges."

Para. 135. Omit the words from "except," in line 2, to "decision," in line 4, and substitute "deal with the case."

Sub-para. (3.) Omit lines 2 to 15 inclusive, and substitute—

"At home stations the general officer commanding will dispose of the case on its merits. If a court martial is ordered, the case will be dealt with under Sec. 33, and not under Sec. 13 of the Army Act. Whether punished or not, the man will be relegated to the army reserve, unless the general officer recommends his being held to army service on his last attestation, when reference will be made to headquarters for the decision of the commander-in-chief."

Omit the words from "the pension," in line 31, to "district," in line 36, and substitute "the officer who was charged with his payment when in he reserve."

Add at end of sub-para. (3) "The relegation will take effect from date of committal."

Sub-para. (5.) Omit the words from "General," in line 3, to "merits," in line 5, and substitute "the case will be disposed of on its merits, and, if trial be ordered, will be dealt with."

Para. 137. For line 1 substitute "When it is decided to try.

#### No. 2.—SCHOOLS OF MILITARY INSTRUCTION.—*Passes.*

The following will be carried out in all schools of military instruction until further orders as a tentative measure. Commandants will report at the end of each month the result of this change in the existing regulations:—

"Passes may be granted, under the following regulations, to well-conducted soldiers, to enable them to visit their friends or to remain out after hours. Non-commissioned officers, not below the rank of sergeant, may remain out of barracks up to 12 o'clock p.m. without special permission. If they wish to remain out after that hour, they must obtain leave from their commanding officer; but they are not required to have passes within the limits of the garrison in which they are quartered; if they proceed beyond these limits, they must be provided with passes on the proper form—

(a). Passes should not be granted for periods of absence exceeding one week. For longer periods a furlough is necessary.

(b). Non-commissioned officers below the rank of sergeant, and very good men in the receipt of G. C. pay, or who have had no entry in the company defaulter book during the last 12 months, may be granted permanent passes up to 12 o'clock p.m.

(c). Well conducted recruits may be granted passes to visit their friends once a month, or oftener, if possible, from after the last drill on Friday until tattoo on Sunday. If there are no Sunday trains their passes may extend till after the arrival of the first train on Monday.

(d). Passes up to midnight will be granted by officers commanding troops, batteries, and companies; those for longer periods must be signed by the commanding officer.