

sion in Parliament, generally respected by members on both sides of the House. As might be expected from the senior Major of a first-class corps such as the 59th, he took a lively interest in all matters affecting the Militia.

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A Montreal friend very kindly writes this week: "I take this opportunity to congratulate you on the valuable addition to your paper, in the shape of an Athletic Department, as I agree with you that the love of sport goes hand in hand with improvement in drill, discipline and general usefulness.

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Winnipeg reports are to the effect that the Royal School of Instruction there, in connection with the Canadian Mounted Rifle Corps, has shown a marked change for the better since passing under the control of the young blood from the East, Lieutenants Heward and Evans. It is greatly to their credit that they have been successful where so many fairly capable men have signally failed, and that they may long continue to enjoy the reward of their exertions will be the hope of their many friends in the East.

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Lieut.-Col. Tracy, late of London, Ont., appears to be making himself highly popular at Vancouver, B. C., whence he removed several months ago to take the post of City Engineer. The abnormally rapid growth of Vancouver makes the position one of more than average responsibility, and it is satisfactory for Col. Tracey's many friends amongst the militia to hear of his marked success.

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The Halifax *Critic* is using a good means to popularise rifle shooting, by urging the fair sex to participate in the sport. This is from a recent issue:—

"It should be the pleasure and duty of every man who owns guns or revolvers to make their workings known to the women of his household, and the women should be glad to have the opportunity of adding to their accomplishments the ability to load and discharge a gun without endangering the lives of all in the community. Naturally, when first undertaking the task, a woman will sight her target, then shut both eyes and fire, but this plan is not usually successful, and if the shooting practice is kept up will soon be superseded by a more rational method. Since fashion has set her seal on rifle shooting for ladies, the prospects are that our fair sisters will learn all they can about the art of being good shots. Not only has Halifax a ladies' rifle association (quiescent for the present until spring returns once more), but the brisk little town of Kentville, which always seeks to be more than abreast of the times, has a goodly company of shots which bears the name "Kentville Ladies' Rifle Association," and to

prove the proficiency of some of the members we have only to say that one score of 93 out of 105 has been made, and others are near that figure. Such associations should receive encouragement, and the emulators of Miss Winnifred Leale, who it will be remembered made a splendid score at Bisley last year, should make great efforts to do themselves credit."

The position adopted in firing is the one great obstacle to participation by the ladies, neither the kneeling nor the prone attitude being in accordance with a lady's idea of elegance or neatness. If some enterprising club would have a rest constructed so that a lady might fire standing and still have for her rifle a support as firm as her male friends enjoy lying down, no doubt quite a few ladies would bravely take to the sport.

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Wheelmen, whether or not at present Volunteers, will be interested in hearing of a "tandem-tricycle-carrier," upon which Lt.-Col. Savile, 25th Middlesex R.O., has recently made a report after inspection, declaring that it "bids fair to prove of great service in military operations." It is the invention of a practical manufacturer at Reading, and carries with ease, at a good speed, the hitherto unheard of burden of 6 cwt. Col. Savile says: "It can be adapted for numerous military purposes, chiefly as an accessory to the ammunition carts and mules at present employed in distributing cartridges during an action. Ten of these 'carriers,' constituting a reserve of 80,000 rounds of ammunition, would be of immense importance. They could also bring machine guns to the front (a couple each), carry spare arms, tents, ambulance appliances, provisions, etc., or convey disabled men to the rear. Considering the difficulty generally attending the provisioning of mules and horses, the advantage of these 'carriers' which 'keep' themselves is obvious."

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In England the subject of military cycling is kept very prominently before the attention of the authorities, who do not, however, make much progress in the matter of encouragement of the cyclists or of regulations to secure uniformity in such of these auxiliary corps as are already established. One of the letters on the subject, in the papers last to hand, calls for a manual which should be to the military cyclist what the Manual of Rifle Exercises is to the musketry instructor.

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The manufacture of Martini ammunition at the Quebec Cartridge Factory

has passed the experimental stage, and a product said to be equal to the best English make is now being turned out. No doubt the lesson in carefulness taught by the first Snider product at Quebec, has been remembered in this instance, and if so there is no reason to suppose that this home made Martini ammunition will be other than first class. There has never been a time more opportune than the present for making a change from English to Canadian manufacture, for the English ammunition lately served out appears to have been the worst handled for many years. The military papers in England have ever since the last Bisley meeting regularly contained articles contributed from all over the country, in which the results of scientific examination are given to show that the ammunition is very unevenly put up, and that the powder used is of very inferior quality.

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The present pattern of artillery helmet having been found unsuitable, especially for such duties as range-taking, laying guns etc., an alteration in the head-dress is in contemplation. Certain helmets of a foreign pattern have been provisionally approved at the War Office, and some of these have been sent out to batteries to undergo a period of trial wear, in order to test their fitness as a head dress for artillerymen under various conditions.

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As an offset to the frequently disastrous results of attempts to establish military publications on this continent, it is refreshing to find one that has been a pronounced success, in at least paying its way and making those for whom it caters fairly well acquainted with each other's doings, despite the great distances separating them. The paper to which we have reference thus speaks for itself:—

"The receipts for subscriptions to the ARMY AND NAVY JOURNAL during the year just ended were larger than during any year since the first issue of the paper in 1853, nearly twenty-eight years ago. This is not due to any special effort, for we were less diligent than usual in calling attention to our accounts. It was the result of a steady growth, that has added a yearly increase to our list for the past twelve years. The result of the attempts to rival the ARMY AND NAVY JOURNAL have been such as to thoroughly satisfy the service that what ever may be their conceptions of the ideal newspaper, they never have seen, and are never likely to see, a service paper that equals the JOURNAL. We present this as the verdict of the services, and not our own, though candor compels us to admit that it is not far wrong. No one who has not had experience can realize the difficulty of publishing a service paper in this country. The experience of others emphasizes this fact, and proves to every candid observer how much reason they have to be satisfied with the JOURNAL."