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Topics of the Week.

Lord Wolseley is one of the most active promoters of the cadet movement in England. He considers the military training of boys to be of enormous advantage to them, and of the greatest possible use to the army. Such endorsement will be encouraging to those of our volunteer officers who have, as noted recently, been devoting themselves to training the boys of the high schools and other educational institutions.

Elsewhere in this issue will be found the official circulars of the Dominion Artillery Association setting forth the conditions of the field and garrison artillery competitions to be held in September under the auspices of the association. The garrison batteries will compete at Quebec from the 9th to the 13th of September, and the field batteries at Kingston from the 24th to the 28th of the same month. Substantial prizes are offered, full particulars as to which have been published in recent issues of this paper.

This is from a prize essay recently written by Col. A. A. Woodhall, Surgeon U. S. A.: "All non-commissioned officers should be sober, vigorous and zealous; not perpetually nagging, but untiring and impartial. A sergeant often proves his excellence by what he does not do as well as by what he does do. Sergeants and corporals should have their own messes; should have a garrison club room for themselves; should be given certain privileges as to lights and hours, and should be held to a rigorous compliance with the spirit as well as the letter of the regulations."

Those in authority who look with favour upon the rigours to which our militia are often wilfully subjected when they turn out for their annual training, may find matter for reflection in this account of how the State of New York looks after her fighting men: "The theory of the camp of instruction at Peekskill is that by making every officer and man comfortable, all the time may be given to military instruction. The regiments in the cities have a few battalion drills and ceremonies during the course of the year, but the separate companies, being by themselves throughout the State in small towns, have no such opportunities. Neither the regiments nor separate companies have sufficient opportunities for outdoor parade, guard mounting or guard duty. All this must necessarily be learned in camp. If, therefore, details were sent in advance from each organization to put up tents, and men while in camp were required to look out for themselves, all the one week of their stay would be necessary to make themselves comfortable. So the State very wisely considers it money well spent by having ready for each organization as it comes into camp, good sound tents already put up, and bunks

and mattresses and blankets ready for use, an excellent mess arrangement, that furnishes meals that could not be procured in the city for less than \$1 a day. There is, therefore, nothing to concern the State soldier as regards his well being, and all his time can be devoted to drill, military discipline, and the learning of his military duties. Notwithstanding the fact that every organization in the State Guard has been in camp before, except two recently organized, yet there are always recruits enough to make each camp tour practically a new one. Taken in this light, the tour of the 7th Regiment was eminently successful."

So strong and so general is the attachment for it with our shooting men, that they will we are sure hear with alarm that one of the subjects upon the tapis is the consideration by the council of the N. R. A. of the propriety of prohibiting at future meetings the use of rifle slings in competitions restricted to volunteers. The common sense of such a proposition it is hard to understand, unless all adjuncts not available on service are to be prohibited.

"Few men are surprised," says the *United Service Gazette*, "that reinforcements are on their way to Egypt. It is clearly evident that unless we are going to hand Egypt over boldly to the Soudanese—or to the French—we must take a little trouble to drive the invading dervishes back to their native wastes. Those amongst us who prophesied that the abandonment of Khartoum and the evacuation of the Soudan would not save Egypt from the inroads of the Mahdi's followers are naturally pointing to the fulfilment of their anticipations. A still larger number of those who interest themselves in Egyptian affairs are asking how matters would stand to-day if our Government had taken the French hint, and scuttled out of Egypt. The present trouble would give France a very good opportunity of stepping in and taking our vacated place. Did she desire this?"

Here is an idea in the line of rifle shooting which might with advantage be worked upon in Canada. With a view to improving the musketry of the English Yeomanry, Colonel Edwards, of the 2nd West York (Prince of Wales' Own) Regiment, has got up an inter-regimental rifle match, to be shot at regimental headquarters. Nearly every regiment has entered, and has further subscribed to a challenge cup, and as Colonel Edwards has obtained the sanction of the authorities at Hythe to include this competition amongst the annual army rifle matches, there is every probability that it will become an annual event. Hitherto the great expense of sending teams up to Wimbledon or any other centre has militated against any general competition throughout the force; it is hoped, however, that the inter-regimental match will have a very marked effect upon the shooting of the Yeomanry. In Canada the plan might be tried in each district; the district regimental champions to fire for provincial honours, and the provincial champions for superiority in the Dominion. The only thing of the kind now established in Canada is the inter-provincial match which takes place annually between New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island. True, there are regimental competitions at the Provincial and Dominion rifle association meetings, but the teams are so small that no effort is required to get the men together and very little general interest is taken in the contests.