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Topics of the Week.

It seems that Hythe must go, as well as Wimbledon. Owing to the increased range of the new rifle, two miles being the outside limit, the removal of the school of musketry has become a necessity. It has been suggested that the school should be located at the new N. R. A. site at Brookwood, but this is declared to be of doubtful practicability and of positive inexpediency.

The disbandment of the Honourable Artillery Company continues to be a topic of warm discussion in the English military papers, and one of the latest declares that "there is a strong opinion among a big section of the members of the company that there will be a tremendous exposure at the coming official inquiry." Can it be that the company were not quite so "honourable" as their corporate name would imply?

Waxing sarcastic at the expense of the British authorities, the *United Service Gazette* says: "Some interesting information reaches us with reference to the new repeating rifles of the Continental Powers, from which it appears that the German Army will be supplied with the new weapon within two years. In our case we believe that the process of production is so slow that the rifle will probably be obsolete before we have manufactured enough to reach round the Army, to say nothing of the Militia and Volunteers. Great things, however, are expected of the new rifle when it is completed and issued. It is claimed for it that it will kill at two miles."

In military circles general regret has been expressed at the unfortunate occurrence reported between Major Short of B Battery, R. C. A., and Lieut.-Col. Turnbull of the Cavalry School Corps, over which Major Short is to be called to account for alleged insubordination to his superior officer. From the brief telegraphic reports, it would seem that the Major too openly resented a comment upon the appearance of the Battery made by the Colonel at last Sunday's church parade. The reports have been received with much incredulity. So thorough a soldier is Major Short known to be that one can scarcely believe him guilty of a breach of discipline. It is to be hoped that the unpleasantness may be speedily smoothed over.

A Royal Warrant has just been issued in which it is ordered that the Commissariat and Transport Staff of the British Army shall be abolished, and that the Commissariat and Transport Corps shall in future be designated "the Army Service Corps," thus reverting to the title which was superseded several years ago. The object of the Warrant is stated to be "the re-arrangement and re-organization of the

Supply and Transport Services of our Army," and it lays down a variety of regulations for the constitution and government of the new establishment. All officers, non-commissioned officers, and men will be transferred from the extinguished branch to its successor with equivalent rank, the Warrant officers retaining the title of "conductor," but the higher denominations of "commissary," etc., being changed to the more ordinary terms which designate officers in the Army—colonel, major, captain and lieutenant.

A thorough re-organization of the German field artillery is about to take place, and on the first of April next there will be a clean sweep of an organization which by some was held up as a model of perfection. The Germans in 1872 separated garrison from field artillery, with the result that each of these services attained greater facilities and perfection in the duties peculiar to itself. Now they have decided upon making their artillery still more of a fighting arm. With this object in view, it is to learn its work with the other arms with which it is associated, and is to be assigned by brigades to the army corps, and will thus come under the immediate command of the General commanding such corps, instead of, as heretofore, being subject merely to an inspector of Artillery. In addition to this, a new functionary is to be introduced, with the title of "Inspector-General of Shooting." His sole duty will be to look after the shooting, and to see that the men under his jurisdiction make decent scores somewhere else besides on the official musketry returns.

The Dominion Artillery Association.

The Council of this organization have agreed upon their report, to be submitted at the annual meeting next month; and, as will be seen by the synopsis published below, they made several valuable suggestions looking to the improvement of the standing of the artillery force in the Dominion. That things are already shaping for the better may be gathered from the statement appearing in the report, that, while the batteries contributing to the Association during the past year numbered the same as 1887, the number of competitors increased by about 20 per cent, and the prize list 15 per cent, exclusive of the prizes presented by His Excellency the Governor-General for efficiency. It seems to be the aim of the Council that a reaction shall not be allowed to set in, but rather that the change for the better shall be made more pronounced.

Whilst, then, acknowledging the improvement visible in late years, the Council are of the opinion that it would be to the advantage of the force generally if it could be arranged to have a central competition, say at Quebec, for one or two officers and eight or ten men from each Field Battery, when they could all fire over the same range and under the same conditions, being satisfied that such a competition would be the means of much improvement in drill, discipline and practice.

The suggestion is made that a deputation be appointed to wait on the Major-General Commanding and request him to recommend the issue of a suit of canvas clothing to the gunners and drivers of Field Batteries for wear while cleaning guns and harness, grooming, or in the performance of other such duties.