

Capt. Kenny, who was adjutant of the Halifax Provisional Battalion, will be the new adjutant of the regiment in place of Capt. Menger, who will be appointed junior major.

Lieut.-Col. Macdonald addressed the officers and stated that much to his regret he found that his official duties were such that he could not spare the time necessary to continue in command, and he had therefore sent in his resignation and had handed over the command to Major Humphrey.

The Shooting of the Volunteer Force.

(United Service Gazette.)

Lord Wolseley's remarks at the prize distribution of the Artists Corps, following on his recent utterances in the Midlands, will undoubtedly greatly strengthen the hands of officers commanding in getting their men to pay more attention to rifle shooting.

It is to be hoped, also, that when the National Rifle Association have fixed on a site for their new quarters we shall find evidence in the preparation of the prize list that weighty words such as Lord Wolseley's have not fallen upon heedless ears.

Following on the lines indicated by the Adjutant-General, we would suggest that every corps should not only be called upon annually to furnish the details of drill and points obtained in the third class, but that an actual summary should be prepared showing the number of men who have fired in and passed out of the third class; similar information as to the second and also as regards the first, showing at the same time the percentage who have not endeavoured to do more than perform their minimum rifle practice—viz., passing out of the third class.

We should then obtain actual data as to the shooting capacities of those who do shoot, and statistics as to the number who practically do not. From the first we should be able to calculate the respective classes, and from the latter we could say "Only exercised in the third class," and hence, having made no practice in the higher classes, no reliable information would be for the time forthcoming as to the shooting capacities of these untried men.

That this want of practice is not wholly the fault of the volunteers themselves is too self-evident to admit of discussion. It is, in effect, asking men to make bricks without straw.

Let the Government authorities give the volunteers accessible ranges, limited, if may be, to 300 yards, and built on the model of the Wormwood Scrubs ranges, and add to these ranges the advantage of night firing by the aid of artificial light, and there will be no want of forwardness on the part of volunteers to avail themselves of the chances of practice in the higher classes, for it is well understood that, by reducing the size of the targets, second and first-class shooting can be admirably carried out, even on a range limited in extent to 300 yards.

As the case stands, the ranges are far away and daylight shooting is *de rigueur*. Hence men must give up their business time to fire even their third class, and consequently, in the great majority of cases, content themselves from *force majeure*, by doing the very minimum of shooting.

Lord Wolseley most truly says that wars are won by "mass shooting," but unfortunately the opportunities for "mass shooting" are what are so conspicuously absent; whilst the crack-pot shot, whose time is often his own, can find plenty of time to gather up pots and trophies, his unskilled brother must plod along at his desk or occupation because his daylight hours are those in which his daily bread must be earned.

Mr. Herbert Miller disputes the contention of Lord Wolseley, and says that crack shots are of the greatest utility, owing to their splendid shooting at long ranges. Everyone will admit that if we could have all long-range marksmen, we must be infinitely better than having only men who can shoot well at short distances. Lord Wolseley's argument, however, is this: Don't waste all your energies in trying to make 10 per cent. of your corps long range marksmen, but rather devote your time to making the whole fair shots, if only at short ranges.

First let us get this done, and then we have to endeavour to lead our fair shots still further onward. These are important words of advice, which, as we have said, will be gladly followed by officers commanding; but to make them effective the Government must intervene and provide the necessary practice grounds, and afford facilities for shooting at such times as the volunteers can give.

The authorities do not hesitate to trust valuable arms to the possession of our volunteers. Why not make the matter appreciable by granting ranges also? The corps will willingly pay annual rent; but with their limited financial resources they cannot be expected to provide ranges suitable to prevent requirements, especially as, even if they did, any nervous neighbour can, at almost an hour's notice, get a range closed on the ground of its being supposed to be dangerous to some one near it.

The first of the 110-ton guns for the *Victoria* is now ready, it is reported, to be placed on board the ship at Chatham.

Gleanings.

Major-General Gildea, C.B., in the course of a recent address, said: "The drill of the army has been changed many times in my memory, and now a new drill book has been issued; but in whatever form it is taught to the recruit, the benefits he derives from it are far reaching. It teaches him punctuality; it teaches him to give his entire attention to his instructor; it teaches him to work with other men; it teaches him implicit obedience to all orders without remark or argument; it teaches him cleanliness, for he has not only to appear at every parade perfectly clean in his person and clothes, but also in his arms and accoutrements; and it gives him a desire to excel and be the smartest and best dressed man of his squad, and to pass into the ranks of his regiment amongst his trained comrades, where he sees good and smart soldiers, and those who do their duty, respected by all ranks, and he soon learns to respect them and himself at the same time. In the regiments in which discipline is the most strict *esprit de corps* is strongest, and these regiments are the best. Soldiering in such regiments is far easier and happier than where discipline is slack, and a recruit soon finds this out and falls into the *regime* going on around him."

The *United Service Gazette* makes clear the distinction between machine and quick-firing guns, which, it appears, are sometimes confounded together. The machine gun is loaded automatically, and will fire until the reservoir is exhausted. The cartridges of the quick-firing gun must be inserted by hand, as those of an ordinary fowling piece are. These latter are often made of large calibre, while none of the former as yet in service exceed 1 inch in calibre, and usually have the same calibre as the infantry rifle. Some of the gun making firms have produced quick-firing guns as large as 70 pounders, and some even larger are contemplated. The largest quick-firing gun in the British service at present, however, is the 2.24 Hotchkiss gun for naval use. The cartridges for quick-firing guns are made of metal, and in general appearance are very like huge revolver or rifle ammunition, and the empty cartridge cases are extracted automatically.



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By Order,
A. P. BRADLEY,

Secretary

Department of Railways and Canals,
Ottawa, 9th March, 1889.

Outing.

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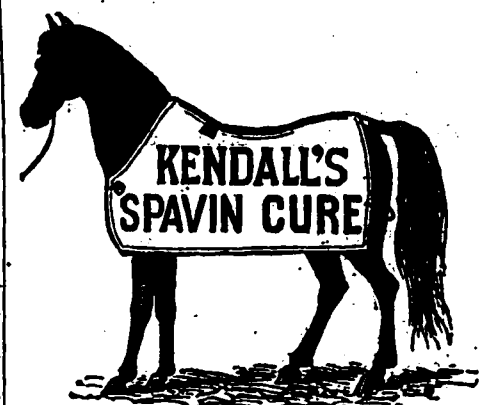
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