

MORE SAVING AT THE SPIGOT.

From Elora Lightning Express.

In our last we stated that the 30th Batt. would assemble in Guelph, on Saturday, for annual drill. Since then the detailed Government instructions have been received by the Commanding Officer, and they imperatively say that six clear days are to be spent by Rural Battalions in camp, during which period drill of six hours each day shall be exacted; and that such six days are to be exclusive of any Sunday that may intervene. Lt.-Col. Higinbotham, upon receipt of these instructions, determined to call the Battalion together to-morrow, one day sooner than originally intended, so as to permit the men to leave at the end of the following week. We were in error, too, in stating that the men would receive \$6.50 and rations. The circular says, in allusion to pay, "The non-commissioned officers and men who shall have fulfilled the above conditions (relating to drill for six clear days) will receive \$6.50 each," and further, "tents and blankets will be furnished by the department, but *all expenses for rations, or for any other service while in camp, or on the march must be borne by the Volunteers out of their drill pay in the usual manner.*" This arrangement will necessitate nine days from home for the Mount Forest, Hollin, Erin, Amaranth, Elora, Fergus and Arthur Companies, for which time each man will receive six dollars and fifty cents, and pay his nine days' food? Transport will be allowed on the same terms as last year. All living at a less distance than 15 miles will march in, or provide conveyance at their own cost; all located at a greater distance than 15 miles will be allowed 25 cents per man: each way, in lieu of transport, and 5 cents for every distance of not less than five miles additional. As the Government does not intend to furnish anything more than tents and blankets a special allowance of \$6 per company will be granted to those actually performing drill in camp, for camp kettles, tins, &c., on a certificate from the Commanding Officer, at the end of the acquaintance roll, that they have been provided by the company. In other words, each company, say of 55 men, is to furnish itself with camp kettles, tins, knives and forks, spoons &c., &c., for the munificent sum of Six Dollars! Sir Geo. E. Cartier knows how to economise—how to effect "a great saving"—how to make the militia cost much less burden to the people, but he seems to forget that although it is possible to bring a horse down to a straw a day, it is far more possible that it will die on an armful. Volunteers are not hirelings. They are men, and feel and act like other folks. The miserable parsimony indicated in the Circular of Instructions from which we quote, is the death knell of Volunteering in Canada. Those already enlisted will faithfully respect their oaths, and their duty but henceforth it will be difficult to get any young fellow of spirit to willingly come forward to fill the Volunteer ranks, when he sees how lightly his services are valued, and in what a trumpery manner a living pittance is doled to him while in camp. We must have a reform in these things, or a conscription. It is for the country to consider which state of things is most desirable.

Before leaving Liverpool Prince Arthur visited Messrs. Laird's dockyards, and lunched on board Her Majesty's new iron-clad turret ship "Captain," which vessel Messrs. Laird have just completed for the Admiralty.

GUNPOWDER EXPLOSIONS.

The following extracts are from the *Quarterly Review* of July, 1868:—

The explosion at Erith shows what may occur at any moment. This is specially interesting as being the greatest on record as having happened in this country, or perhaps any other. The *Times* of 2d October, 1864, states—"There is nothing in modern times to compare with the calamity, in the feeling of widespread terror which it produced, or in the intense interest which it has since excited."

Early in the morning of the 1st Oct., 1864, two barges laden with gunpowder were lying off the jetty communicating with Messrs Hall's magazine discharging their cargoes. There were in each barge probably 100 barrels, in Messrs Hall's magazine about 750, and in the other magazine probably 200—in all, about 1150 barrels of 100 lbs. each, about 51 tons. Nine or ten people who were about the magazines were killed, and about the same number dangerously wounded and burnt. All London was shaken as if by an earthquake. The shock was heard distinctly fifty miles distant. A mass of earthwork 150 feet in length, forming part of the river bank, was carried away *en masse*, threatening the surrounding country with inundation. The houses of the magazine-keepers were levelled to the ground. Some shops at a mile distance had the whole front blown in. Houses two miles and a half distant had the window sashes destroyed, and windows of houses ten miles off were shivered by the concussion. The amount of gunpowder exploded has been stated as about 115,000 lbs. The bare statement of the amount, however, will fail to convey a sufficiently definite idea to most persons, and a distincter notion may be got by comparison with other explosions.

The Lottie Sleigh, a barge loading in the Mersey, contained 25,000 lbs., or about 11 tons, probably about a fifth or sixth part of the quantity at Erith. It shook the whole town, and shattered the windows throughout the city. No life was lost, for the explosion was foreseen, and everyone had withdrawn from the vessel.

General Grant made a mine under the fortifications of Peterborough, and when it exploded it carried a fort into the air, and buried 240 Confederates in its ruins. It was said to have had such a startling effect that it actually made both armies pause in the attack and defence which were to follow the explosion. The amount exploded was but six tons, or not 14000 lbs.

From another newspaper the writer quotes:—We have been taught what gigantic dangers lurk near our abodes, and how loosely the Legislature has guarded against the chances of these tremendous disasters.

After the explosion at Erith, the public mind was alarmed, and an inspection of magazines ordered, but it was never carried out, and the subject will probably be forgotten till a second "Erith" explosion again calls public attention to the subject.

On the 13th prox. the Frontenac Battalion of Volunteer Militia, (47th) under Col. Hercher; and Battalion of Lennox and Addington, (58th) under Col. Fowler; three Troops of Volunteer Cavalry, under Col. Sweetman, Majors Wood and Duff, and one Company of Garrison Artillery, (that at Nabanee) will be brigaded and encamped near Kingston for two weeks. Two Medals for the 47th Battalion for Lieut. Bailie and Sergeant Bailie (both of the Barriefield Company) have been received by Col. Hercher, to be presented to the fortunate winners when the battalion is brigaded.

The ladies of the Bouffremont family are not very happy as wives. A few weeks ago the Princess sought a separation from the Prince, and a few days ago the Dutchess applies for the same relief from the Duke. It was the Dutchess, it may be remembered, that figured lately in the poisoned *bon-bon* affair, when her Polish admirer attempted to take the Duke off, by means of the lolly-pops to be given to him by a member of the *demi-monde*. The Dutchess charges her husband with accusing her of being a *particeps criminis* in the affair, and never publicly or privately repudiating the libel against her. The court pronounced a separation between the ducal pair, but as they have been living assunder for years, the pain of legally parting them cannot be severe.

A VETERAN.—About three years ago a paragraph crept into these columns announcing the death of a pensioner at Niagara named Jones at the age of 103 years. The report of his death, we are informed, was incorrect. Jones is still alive and hearty at 106 years. On Wednesday last he actually rowed a boat containing two ladies and himself up the Niagara river for a mile or so. The current in the river runs at the rate of from four to six miles an hour, and to row a boat against such a current must be set down as something extra for a man 106 years of age. Jones was discharged from the British army 76 or 78 years ago, and it is likely is now the oldest pensioner on the list. Indeed, so long has he been receiving a pension that the Horse Guards have frequently thought that some deceit was being practised, and have instituted inquiries to ascertain whether the man was alive or not, and were no doubt surprised to learn that he was. Jones has no relative living, and must feel extremely lonely.—*St. Catharines Journal*.

CORRESPONDENCE.

HASTINGS RIFLE ASSOCIATION.

BY OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.

A general meeting of this Association was held in Belleville on Wednesday the 25th August for the purpose of making arrangements for commencing shooting, and also for the despatch of general business. The Secretary reported the Association to be in a flourishing condition, but he had not as yet received returns from the various officers in the northern part of the county as to the number of members there. A committee was appointed for soliciting subscriptions and donations for prizes for the forthcoming first annual prize match, to be held sometime in September, and also to canvass for members.

Your correspondent yesterday had the pleasure of inspecting the range of the Hastings Rifle Association. It is without exception the best range up to 600 yards that he ever saw. A large mound, some sixty or seventy feet long by about forty feet high, has been erected alongside the Grand Trunk embankment, and he must be a "duffer" indeed who would shoot over it.

Altogether the "Bay of Quinte Boys," which is the favorite designation of those living in this district, have good reason to be proud of their rifle range, and no doubt they will try hard in the way of shooting to prevent the prizes being carried off by those from a distance at the coming prize meeting.