

## Quebec.

AS I think yours readers have not heard from Old Quebec for sometime, I venture to give you a few pointers about "the boys."

The 9th Voltigeurs turned out in full force last Thursday for the c. o.'s parade. The regiment looked exceedingly well, and the steadiness of their drill was much admired. The D. A. G. and several officers of the other city corps were present in mufti, and as usual the fair sex lent an additional charm to the proceedings by their presence. During the evening Mr. Chas. Thibandeau, late of the Quebec Field Battery, presented a gold medal to one of the privates of No. 4 Co., as a prize in one of the late shooting competitions, and after drill the event was celebrated by the company in a convivial gathering of the most pleasant kind.

The 8th Royal Rifles, though rather short of men, and very short of officers, manages to keep up its old reputation for smartness and efficiently. They are looking forward to having a field day on the 10th, but if the present weather continues they will have no other than fields of "the beautiful."

The Q. O. C. Hussars and the Quebec Field Battery, are beginning to stir with the advent of spring, like the bear at the citadel. However the bear found out he had come out too soon and had to go back to his hole in the snow. I hope this will not happen to our dashing mounted men.

Here is something that will interest "Linch-Pin":—

How is it that in the Army List for January, '88, we find in the Colonial Militia, the list of the Canadian Militia corrected to the 14th November, 1883? Is it anybody's business at headquarters to keep the home authorities posted on that point? and if so, could it not be done every year? I notice that the other colonies are brought down to 1886 or 1887.

X POUNDER.

## The Militia Pastime.

WITH your permission, Mr. Editor, which I shall take for granted until you suppress me, I propose to occupy some space in your columns week by week. My hobby is rifle shooting, and it has become pretty fully developed with the approach of seasonable weather.

I will first give a lift to your simultaneous rifle match idea, which does not appear to have been received with much enthusiasm, one having to search in vain through your issues of the past few weeks for the suggestions, endorsement or comment which you invited. Now, in India, where they have these things regularly, I believe the General Commanding interests himself in them. I have by me an address of General Roberts in this connection, in which he expressed his sense of the vital importance of accurate shooting, and held it to be the bounden duty of officers to encourage to their utmost rifle shooting among soldiers and volunteers. Experience in campaigns, he said, showed the great results achieved by a handful of men expert with the rifle, but it remained to be seen what could be effected if a brigade or division or a whole army corps were composed of crack shots. If he ever commanded an army in the field again, he should select those regiments who were not merely well drilled, but who had shown at a musketry range that they could shoot well. The General can find lots of good shooting stuff to choose from in India, judging from the scores made at this simultaneous match about which I started to write, and which was fired last fall. The rifle used must have been the Martini. Each team consisted of 10 men, and the conditions were—seven rounds a man at 200, 500 and 900 yards. The 2nd Warwickshire won with 918 points, Simla made 888, and the South Wales Borderers at Tounghoo made 847, the Scottish Borderers at Meerut 805, and 9th Dragoon Guards at Mhow 787. Highest possible score, 1,050.

THE more matches there are between cities, associations or regiments, the greater will be the public interest in the sport, and the wider will open the public purse in aid of its development. Just fancy what a boom will be given to rifle shooting were there are great weekly contests, as in lacrosse, cricket and other sports. Why, all the young fellows would be rushing to join the volunteers, and the sleepy musketry instructors would possibly wake up to a realization of the fact that their duties embrace more than to look grand on review day. Forestalling this possibility I will give here a few hints from an experienced musketry instructor on the methods of training recruits. He says: "The best method of teaching a beginner to shoot, after he has been well instructed in "preliminary practice" and aiming drill, is to let him fire a few rounds of ordinary ball cartridge into a sand bank, placing him at about 25 or 30 yards distance from it, making him use the three recognized "military positions," carefully scrutinizing every act as to the relative positions of fore-finger and trigger, check and butt, eye and sights etc., and when satisfied that the man is capable of letting off his rifle without "funking," then he may be safely taken to the regulation firing point and commence his classing. The utmost watchfulness on the part of the instructor is still necessary to see that the rifle is not accidentally fired in consequence of the finger being placed prematurely on the trigger, and to instantly stop the man should he show the least tendency to "funk" his shot. This is easily noticed, for when a man is nervous and is going to snatch at the trigger and "bob" the muzzle down, a peculiar twitching of the face occurs, which a practiced eye notices directly. By a little care, hundreds of bad ricochets would be prevented, and the safety of ranges ensured. Accidental shots are seldom fired. Ninety-nine per cent. of the mischievous ones and those that lead to ranges being closed are ricochets." All the musketry instructors I ever saw at camp or city class firing seemed to consider that they occupied on the range the position of taskmasters to make sure that the recruit in disposing of his ammunition did not hit anything which would suffer damage from the bullet.

To their discredit be it said, very few of our non-commissioned officers know enough about the rifle to be of the slightest assistance to a musketry instructor who, having a proper conception of his duties, finds himself unable to fulfil them alone in the allotted time. The reason is not far to seek. I know of no corps where a man has to pass a practical examination in rifle shooting in order to obtain his stripes. He gets his promotion perhaps because he is a good fellow socially, or if there is any examination it is only on the drill book, a parrot like repetition of which is too often looked upon as the great desideratum. It thus happens that the non-commissioned officers, the natural leaders of the men, have no interest whatever in rifle shooting, and general apathy results. If I ran a corps and could by any means raise the ammunition I would have half the drills done on the rifle range in place of in the drillshed. In England a volunteer must be able to attain a certain standard in shooting to be entitled to Government pay.

SPEAKING recently at Hyde in this connection, Sir Henry Dale was outspoken in declaring that each man who became a marksman was distinctly a point of defence for his country. A hundred marksmen, he considered, could hold out against an army. To his mind there was no nobler patriotism than that shown by the volunteers of England, men following all sorts of occupations, earning their bread by the sweat of their brow, giving up time for the greater security of England, for they formed a great insurance society, a society which preserved this country in peace and honour. Nothing had done greater good for England than the formation of the volunteers. During the twenty-eight years which they had existed many men had passed through the mill, and there was not one of them, however old he might be, who had not felt that the habits of discipline and regularity which volunteers cultivated had done him great good.

THE MAGPIE.

## Militia General Orders (No. 7), of 20th April, 1888.

## No. 1.—REGULATIONS AND ORDERS FOR THE MILITIA, 1887.

*Organization—Commissions and Promotions.*—The following is added as sub-section (2) to paragraph 81, Regulations and Orders for the Militia, 1887:—

"(2) It is to be understood that Artillery and Engineer Certificates will qualify for appointments or promotions in the Infantry.

*Transport.*—The following is added as sub-section (2) of paragraph 608 of the Regulations and Orders, 1887:—

"(2) If the journey is to be made over more than one line of railway or public conveyance, a separate requisition will be issued for the transport required over each independent line. This is necessary in order to facilitate settlements, and prevent confusion in the accounts to be rendered by each company.

## No. 2.—PERMANENT CORPS.

*Travelling allowances on joining.*—Officers appointed after the 1st of April, 1888, to a commission in one of the permanent corps, will be allowed transport and subsistence en route from their homes on joining, provided the distance is over 200 miles, or from the place where they are when their appointments are made, if the cost is not more. The journey when commenced must be continued without unnecessary delay. No allowance will be made for distances under 200 miles.

Each married officer will also be allowed transport and subsistence en route for his wife and children, provided they proceed with him, and the distance is over 200 miles.

Officers will only be entitled to free carriage for such furniture and baggage as the transport company carries free of charge with the passenger. Neither transport nor subsistence will be allowed for servants.

## No. 3.—ACTIVE MILITIA.

**2nd Regt. Cav.**—No. 6 Troop.—To be captain, Lieut. Alex. Servos, R.S.C., vice Brown resigned.

**Regt. Canadian Art.**—To be quarter-master, from 9th April, 1888, with honorary rank of captain: Edward Palmer (formerly Paymaster Prince Edward Island Provisional Brigade of Garrison Artillery), vice White.

Quartermaster Palmer has been detailed for duty with "C" Battery.

**Co. Mounted Infantry, Winnipeg.**—To be lieut., from 6th April, 1888: Archibald Cameron Macdonell, Graduate Royal Military College.

**Winnipeg Field Bat.**—Lieut. A. G. Ross resigns.

**1st Brig. Gar. Art.**—To be majors: Capt. W. A. Garrison, R.S.A., vice Mowbray, promoted. Captain H. A. Boggs, R.S.A.

To be captains: Lieut. F. W. Parker, R.S.A., vice Garrison, promoted. 2nd Lieut. W. J. Stewart, R.S.A., vice Boggs, promoted.

To be lieutenants: 2nd Lieut. J. S. Dimock, R.S.A., vice Maxwell, promoted. 2nd Lieut. C. R. Reynolds, R.S.A., vice Parker, promoted.

2nd Lieut. James Donovan resigns.

**2nd Batt.**—To be 2nd lieuts., prov., Private Thomas Milner Harrison, vice Mercer, promoted.

Private Thomas Denton Derwent Llwyd, vice Johnson, promoted.

**3rd Batt.**—Lieut. and Adj. Duncan Macpherson, R.M.C., to have the rank of captain.

**5th Batt.**—To be 2nd lieut., prov., John Stephen Ibbotson, vice W. L. S. Jackson, who resigns.

**6th Batt.**—To be 2nd lieut., prov., Albert Knight Shorey, vice Chambers, promoted.

**7th Batt.**—No. 6 Co.—To be 2nd lieut. prov., Colour-Sergeant Alfred Colclough O'Brien, vice Cleghorn, resigned.

**12th Batt.**—No. 8 Co.—To be 2nd lieut., prov., Sydney Barrington Elliot, vice Williamson, resigned.

**13th Batt.**—To be captain, Lieut. S. C. Mewburn, V.B., vice J. C. Gillespie who retires with rank of lieutenant.

**16th Batt.**—To be major, Capt. M. D. Strachan, M.S., from the adjutancy, vice W. H. Orchard who retires retaining rank.

**22nd Batt.**—No. 7 Co.—To be captain, Lieut. W. F. Van Buskirk, R.M.C., vice Thos. Stoddart, left limits.

To be 2nd lieut., prov., Sergeant Charles Adolphe Beaupré, vice William Gray, left limits.

**24th Batt.**—Lieut. and Adj. J. B. Rankin, M.S., to have the rank of captain, from 13th April, 1888. To be major, Capt. J. B. Rankin, M.S., from the adjutancy, vice Brown retired.

**32nd Batt.**—No. 1 Co.—To be lieut., prov., Harry Smith, vice T. I. Thomson, left limits.

No. 2 Co.—To be 2nd lieut., prov., John Harold Ruettel, vice R. F. Robertson, who resigns.

**35th Batt.**—No. 5 Co.—To be 2nd lieut., prov., Bugler Charles Franklin Ward, vice J. F. Deane, who resigns.

**39th Batt.**—No. 2 Co.—To be lieut., prov., Private Thomas Robert Atkinson, G. M. Charters, who resigns.