

News of the Service.

NOTE.—Our readers are respectfully requested to contribute to this department all items of Military News affecting their own corps, districts or friends, coming under their notice. Without we are assisted in this way we cannot make this department as complete as we would desire. Remember that all the doings of every corps are of general interest throughout the entire militia force. You can mail a large package of manuscript, so long as not enclosed in an envelope, for one cent. At any rate, forward copies of your local papers with all references to your corps and your comrades. Address,

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British Columbia.

Westminster Wins.

The rifle matches at Vancouver, July 1st, in connection with the celebration, resulted most successfully to the Westminster team, which won the team match by a handsome lead over the next highest. A large percentage of the other prizes were taken by the Westminster marksmen. The feature of the day was the brilliant score of 99 points made by Mr. Sloan, of the Westminster team, but, apart from this score, there was nothing remarkable to relate, none of the other competitors reaching above 88 points. Mr. Sloan made 32 at 200 yards, 35 at 500 yards, and 32 at 600 yards. The team totals were as follows :

Westminster.....	511
Nanaimo.....	474
Vancouver.....	463
Victoria.....	460
H.M.S. Nympha.....	415
H.M.S. Wild Swan.....	348

In the third match in the Canadian Military Rifle League series the Westminster team again made a very satisfactory score, though not up to that of the last match. The feature of the shooting was the brilliant score of 96, made by J. H. Sharpe. Geo. Turnbull's 93 was also capital shooting. The Westminster team now stands about fifth in the league aggregate. The scores on Saturday were as follows, the ranges being 200, 500, and 600 yards, and conditions fair :

J. H. Sharpe.....	96
Geo. Turnbull.....	93
W. Miller.....	90
H. C. Chamberlin.....	87
R. Wilson.....	86
A. F. Cotton.....	84
W. J. Sloan.....	83
W. J. Corbett.....	83
Jos. Burr.....	82
W. Huston.....	76

Grand total..... 890

St. John, N. B.

ST. JOHN, N.B., July 22nd.—The Saint John County Rifle Association held its second spoon match on Drury range on Saturday, 13th inst.—Queen's ranges.

The following are the winner of spoons:

Class A—Col.-Sergt. Henderson, 62nd Fusiliers, teaspoon, 88.

Class B—Lieut. J. L. McAvity, 62nd Fusiliers, tablespoon, 91.

Class C—Pte. J. S. Frost, St. John Rifles, dessertspoon, 86.

The 62nd Fusiliers assembled at the Drill Hall on the evening of the 17th inst. under the command of Major H. H. McLean. At about 8:15 o'clock they were formed on the move into columns of sections to the right, and proceeded,

accompanied by both bands, through the principal streets of the city, being formed into line and halted in front of the Court House, where both bands played selections which were much appreciated by a large audience of citizens and strangers. The bugle band was loudly applauded after each selection. Many would like to see these proceedings repeated more frequently as they are not often treated to open air concerts of this kind.

One of the novelties of the parade was the singing of the men, accompanied by the band, whilst returning to the shed, marching at ease. I understand it is the intention of the officers to encourage this practice, as it breaks up the monotony of the march and adds much enjoyment to the men.

After returning to the shed the battalion was dismissed and the companies returned to their armories, where, owing to Major McLean's thoughtfulness, slight refreshments were provided, and the boys engaged an hour or so in eating and drinking and otherwise making themselves merry.

The fourth and last of the Military League matches was shot on Saturday afternoon, 20th inst., under favorable conditions of wind and weather; but during the final part of the match the smoke settled down making the sighting exceedingly difficult. I have not the scores before me but the following are the winners of the League Badges :

62nd Fusiliers, 1st team, Col.-Sergt. Henderson.

62nd Fusiliers, 2nd team, Pte. W. Maxwell.

St. John Rifle Company, Capt. E. A. Smith.

Orillia.

If one may judge from the general scoring in this town, and more especially from that of Capt. Dillon, Orillia must be a paradise for riflemen. The Orillia News Letter published the appended record of Capt. Dillon's shooting this season :

"Unless it rains soon to soften his nerve, Capt. Dillon will wake things up this fall at Ottawa at the Dominion Rifle Association matches. He has been doing some strong shooting, and his score on Saturday was the highest he ever made. He has fired over the local range ten times this season and following is his score :

200 yds.	500 yds.	600 yds.	Total.	Possible.
26	31	31	91	105
32	33	30	95	105
33	33	33	99	105
—	33	29	95	70
—	32	29	91	70
31	33	31	95	105
—	35	31	96	70
—	28	30	58	70
31	32	29	91	105
35	31	33	99	105

This is an average of 4½ points per shot for 182 shots in the ten consecutive shoots. The wind was favorable, and on Saturday last was what riflemen want to take the wrinkles out of the twist of the bullet. That is a 4 o'clock wind."

A correspondent sends in a diagram of Mr. Alfred Paine's score of 98, made with the Snider at 200, 400 and 500 yards in the last League match.

Unfortunately it reached us too late to be reproduced for this issue, but the score was made as follows:

200 yards.....	4 4 4 4 5 5 5—31
400 ".....	4 4 5 5 5 5 5—33
500 ".....	4 5 5 5 5 5 5—34
Total.....	98

We have placed the shots according to value as our correspondent did not give their rotation.

Should the Rural Militia Man take his Uniform home with him?

On the 16th instant, Captains Drinkwater and Gray, Lieutenant Corbould, Mr. Arthur Wallace, and Canon Greene, met to present a copy of "A Veteran of 1812" to Private Hugh Hugg, of the Orillia Volunteer Company, for neatness and good conduct, during the recent camp of instruction at the Park here. In making the presentation, Canon Greene spoke of the importance of neatness in a soldier, both for the benefits it conferred, and as indicative of character. Private Hugg briefly expressed his thanks. Captain Drinkwater complimented Private Hugg upon having earned first place among a company so well conducted and attentive to duty as that he commanded the present year. He was pleased with the result of the experiment of drilling the battalion in our own county, and hoped that it would become the established rule. The abolition of the canteen, and the substitution therefor of a reading and recreation room by the good people of Orillia, had proven satisfactory beyond his expectations. The good conduct of the regiment could not but prove beneficial in many ways—especially in raising the service in the estimation of the people, and inducing a good class of young men to volunteer. To do this fully, however, it would be necessary for the Government to permit the "rural" volunteers to take home and keep their uniforms, as was done by members of city battalions. A young man who took sufficient pride in his uniform to have it neatly fitted, would not consent to have it placed in store at the close of his first term of drill, and be forced to take chances of getting it or that worn by some person unknown when next he turned out for duty. Captain Gray said that next to good conduct in the presence of the enemy, neatness was the first quality of a soldier, and he congratulated Private Hugg on having earned foremost place in a company which had done credit to itself while in camp. He thought the battalion camps would have the good effect of bringing the volunteer force closer to the people, and one most useful result would be that, seeing how the money was expended and what the country was receiving for it, the taxpayer would not grudge a sufficient outlay to maintain the force in a state of efficiency. However, for a young country, he believed that Canada was attempting more than could be accomplished thoroughly. He believed that better results could be obtained by maintaining skeletons of battalions only—that is, the officers and non-commissioned officers, all of whom should be required to obtain military school certificates, and to drill in camp say one month each year. With such a staff always ready, emergencies could be met much more promptly than with a scattered volunteer force, ninety per cent. of whom never attended two camps of instruction, and under non-commissioned officers, many of whom were as ignorant of their duties as recruits. Lieutenant Corbould related some amusing experiences of his first camp, and Canon Greene told of active service with the Queen's Own Rifle Volunteers in 1866. Mr. Arthur Wallace thought the