

Regulars vs. Militia.

Trials of skill with the rifle between H. M. Troops and our Volunteer Militia, though frequent a few years ago have now, we regret, become a novelty, our Halifax comrades alone enjoy the opportunity. At the Nova Scotia Provincial meeting of 1877, a silver challenge cup (presented by Col. Laurie) and \$500 cash was offered for competition between ten officers and men from any battalion in the Province, regulars or militia. Nine teams entered, including a team from each of the line battalions in garrison, the regulars shooting their Martini-Henry's against the Sniders of the militia, the results was that the militia left the regulars at the foot of the list, the two leading Snider teams (the 63rd and 78th) scoring over 150 points more than the Martini-Henry's. We have now to report the tables turned.

A few weeks ago on the strength of challenges from the 20th and 97th regiments, the crack-shots of the district repaired to the ranges at Bedford. Forsaking their old friends (the Sniders), they shouldered the Martini-Henry's recently loaned by government, and, perhaps too confidently, measured strength with the regulars. Seven shots each, 200, 500 and 600 yards was the rule, the following the result:

OFFICERS 20TH AND 97TH VS. OFFICERS 63RD AND 60TH A. M.				
	REGULARS.	200	500	600 YL.
Capt. Partridge, 97th.....	26	22	26	74
Lieut. Groves, 97th.....	28	26	21	75
Capt. Fleetwood, 20th.....	39	27	21	78
Capt. Geoghan, 20th.....	31	29	26	86
Lieut. Baker, 20th.....	27	29	23	79
Lieut. Hammersley, 20th.....	28	23	29	80
				472
MILITIA.				
Capt. Mumford, 63rd.....	31	31	25	87
Lieut. Egan, 63rd.....	32	29	26	87
Capt. Walsh, 63rd.....	31	27	21	79
Lieut. Howard, 63rd.....	28	26	20	74
Qtr Mtr Corbin, 60th.....	27	25	21	73
Lieut. Weston, 60th.....	29	24	15	68
				468

It will be noticed that the militia led by 14 points at the two first ranges, but eventually lost the match, the regulars scoring 18 points more than their opponents at 600 yards.

TEAMS OF TEN OFFICERS AND SERGEANTS 1ST BATT. 20TH AND 97TH VS. HALIFAX BRIGADE.

Seven shots each 200, 500 and 800 yards.				
	REGULARS.	200	500	800 YL.
Capt. Partridge, 97th.....	27	29	27	83
Lieut. Groves, 97th.....	30	26	27	83
Capt. Fleetwood, 20th.....	32	30	15	77
Capt. Geoghan, 20th.....	27	30	21	78
Lieut. Baker, 20th.....	30	29	10	69
Lieut. Hammersley, 20th.....	28	30	8	66
Sergt. Loft's, 97th.....	19	30	13	62
" McGill, 97th.....	27	27	27	81
" Howell, 20th.....	29	20	14	63
Sergt.-Maj McKim, 20th.....	26	33	20	79
				741
MILITIA.				
Lieut. Howard, 60th.....	25	28	30	83
Maj. Graham, H. F. B.....	26	27	22	75
Capt. Mumford, 63rd.....	27	30	14	71
Lieut. Egan, 63rd.....	31	33	7	71
Sergt. Taple, 63rd.....	25	26	18	69
" Hickey, 60th.....	29	25	6	60
Lieut. Weston, 60th.....	23	23	18	64
Sergt.-Maj. Harris, 1st G. A.....	22	22	20	64
Capt. Walsh, 63rd.....	26	21	9	56
Qtr-Master Corbin, 63rd.....	30	26	2	58
				671

In this match, the militia were behind at each range, 70 points in all, half their short-comings being at 800 yards. Sergeant McGill, of the 97th ran up a pretty score of three 27's for his team, while Lieut. Egan, 63rd, after scoring within six points of a "possible" at 200 and 500 yards made but seven points at the long range.

97TH REGIMENT VS. 63RD BATTALION (A. M.)

Seven shots each, 200, 500 and 600 yards.				
	97TH REGIMENT.	200	500	600 YL.
Capt. Partridge.....	30	32	25	87
Lieut. Groves.....	23	29	19	71
Sergt. Inst. Marsh.....	28	22	25	75
Sergt. Brown.....	25	11	6	42
" Mitchell.....	25	28	15	68
" Jones.....	25	22	21	68
" Rhodes.....	21	28	29	78
" Hodgkiss.....	27	24	31	82
" McGill.....	26	27	30	83
" Loft's.....	29	30	29	88
				742

63RD BATTALION.				
	200	500	600	YL.
Qtr-Master Corbin.....	22	32	8	62
Capt. Walsh.....	22	23	20	65
Lieut. McInnes.....	18	24	23	65
Lieut. Egan.....	30	23	29	82
Capt. Mumford.....	28	21	30	79
Sergt. Power.....	30	16	18	64
Sergt. Taple.....	25	22	21	68
Sergt. Shepherd.....	23	29	26	78
Corpl. Percy.....	27	19	23	69
Pvt. Mumford.....	27	20	2	49
				681

Sixty points in favor of the 97th regiment, and their opponents beaten at every range. The weather was reported "all that could be desired," and the best of feeling prevailed throughout. Considering the short time the weapon has been in their hands, the Halifax militia have no reason to be ashamed of their score, and a little adversity will do them no harm; we have no doubt that when the peculiarities of the Martini-Henri are better understood by our Halifax comrades, future contests they may engage in, will result in much closer totals than those we have just noticed.

On the 14th inst., a return match was fired between H. M., 97th regiment and the 63rd battalion, again resulting in favor of the regulars, by 20 points; ranges as in previous contest, the day was fine but wind rather troublesome. The following are the scores:

97TH REGIMENT. Points.		63RD BATTALION. Points.	
Color Sergt. Loft's.....	87	Sergt. Larkin.....	86
Sergt. Jolly.....	81	Qtr-Master Corbin.....	80
Lieut. Groves.....	75	Sergt. Shepherd.....	78
Sergt. Hodgkiss.....	74	Corpl. Percy.....	72
Sergt. Rhodes.....	74	Captain Mumford.....	72
Sergt. Mitchell.....	73	Sergt. Taple.....	71
Capt. Partridge.....	72	Lieut. Egan.....	71
Sergt. Major Dwyer.....	70	Lieut. McInnis.....	66
Sergt. McGill.....	69	Sergt. Power.....	64
S. Sergt. March.....	60	Capt. Walsh.....	61
	735		715

It is not likely that another contest will take place this year, meantime it is to be hoped that next year our Martini-Henry teams will be found not only competing in such friendly matches as we have just noticed, but that they can confidently enter for the Inter-National Military match at Creedmoor.

An Incident in my Experience.

BY LARKSPUR.

I can vouch for the truth of the following incident, which occurred not many years ago, in one of our crack regiments. The drill-instructor—one of the old stamp of martinet-sergeants—who was the terror of every recruit, and the remorseless tyrant of the awkward squad, was putting a sergeant's firing party through the funeral exercise. Having opened the ranks, so as to admit the passage of the supposed *cortège* between them, he ordered the men to 'rest on their arms reversed.' Then, by way of practical explanation, he walked slowly down the lane formed by the two ranks, saying as he moved, 'Now I'm the corpse—pay attention.' Having reached the end of the party, he turned round, regarded them steadily with a scrutinizing eye for a moment or two; and then remarked in a most solemn tone of voice. 'Your 'ands is right, and your 'eads is right, but you 'avn't got that look of regret you ought to 'ave.'—*North Lincoln Sphinx*, (A Regimental periodical, 2nd Batt. 10th Foot.)

Books for the Service.

*The Canadian Field Artillery Manual* By Lieut.-Col. T. Bland Strange, R.A., Dominion Inspector of Artillery. (Quebec: Gunnery School press).

A complete and very useful manual, it supplies a want, created by a zealous rivalry between the Field batteries of our volunteer militia. An increasing interest, aided in no small degree by the exertions of the Dominion Artillery Association, is now taken in all that pertains to their arm of the service. Something more than a mere performance of the paid drills of the year is required if batteries aim to win the honors annually conferred by their association.

The work is unique; science, drill, technical, tactical, and practice of Field artillery have never before been treated of in a mere manual of instruction. The following which we clip from the preface explains itself:

"It is desirable to have a uniform system of Artillery instruction throughout the Dominion, as closely as possible in accordance with that of the Royal Artillery, but the excellent text books of the latter distinguished service, are more scientific, voluminous, and costly, than is considered necessary for the militia artillery of Canada. They treat of varied drills and exercises, and describe the armaments, some of which are becoming obsolete, and others not yet introduced or likely to be supplied to Canada. The information required for a militia artilleryman is, therefore, diffused through many books and manuals difficult of ready reference, and confining to a non-professional artillerist, whose time is limited, as his periods of instruction are short, and of necessity, interrupted by civil occupations, expensive works being seldom within his reach."

The object has been to condense, as far as is consistent with simplicity, changes are as much as possible avoided, and nothing essentially at variance with the present practice of Royal Artillery is introduced.

Artillery instruction is divided into Technical, Tactical, Disciplinary, Scientific.

The two last could only be slightly touched upon in a work like the present.

The scientific instruction has therefore been limited at first to a clear explanation of elementary gunnery suitable to intelligent Non-commissioned officers, subsequently to be extended to Range finding and rough Surveying, as well as such elementary Fortification as is absolutely necessary for the requirements of an Artillery officer.

The Technical includes the gun and its ammunition, use, and rules for practice.

The Tactical comprises drill.

1. As a steady, training exercise for men and horses.
2. As training to surmount obstacles.
3. Artillery tactics proper; the movements, selection of position, and working of guns before an enemy.

The Disciplinary portion includes the care and management of men and horses.

The branch of the service for whose benefit the manual has been issued, are to be congratulated upon having this excellent work within their reach. All branches of the service may read it with profit.

To even the casual reader the book cannot fail to prove interesting and instructive. The book is by no means dry reading. The portion devoted to "fighting tactics" compiled chiefly from the artillery retrospect of 1870, by the same author, is indeed the reverse, and is not without solid interest for Canadians.

The production of the manual under difficulties affords an example of energy and pluck. A fire destroyed much of the authors manuscript, and consequently delayed its appearance. The printing is the work of amateurs serving in the battery, and from first to last shows a steady improvement in the art. Illustrations were necessary, and here a difficulty arose, but it was disposed of by employing the papyrograph process, which has answered the purpose admirably; in short, the book has been written by a soldier for soldiers, printed by soldiers, and will, we trust, be read by the soldiers of Canada.