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Correspondence.

The Editor desires it distinctly understood that he does not hold himself responsible for the opinions expressed by correspondents.

DRESS REGULATIONS.

To the Editor of the Canadian Militia Gazette.

SIR,—Permit me to enquire what are the dress regulations in Canada during the winter season? Not long since I was passing through Kingston, and having to remain over Sunday attended divine service in the English cathedral. To my surprise I found officers in every variety of military overcoat; some with short jackets trimmed with fur, others in long coats with fur collars, and a third class in cloaks with gilt buttons; and in all three cases these gentlemen belonged to the artillery arm of the service. I noticed rifle officers with their sword-belts over their overcoat, and in other cases officers of rifle corps wore their belts under the coat. Kingston being the seat of the Royal Military College and School of Artillery, I could not help thinking that a greater uniformity of clothing, and in the manner of wearing it, might reasonably have been expected. But this was not all. After the church parade formed I saw that the artillery wore long boots, and the cadets of the R.M.C. short ones. That is, the gunners were in winter uniform at both extremities, and the cadets clad for summer work up to their ankles. My own recollection of the practice in vogue in Kingston, Montreal and Halifax, when these cities were garrisoned, is that the troops put on winter uniform at a fixed date and removed it when ordered in the spring. Surely a similar system might well prevail in Kingston under the direction of the senior officer of the garrison.

Yours truly,
CENTURION.

MUSKETRY INSTRUCTION (?) IN CAMP.

To the Editor of the Canadian Militia Gazette:

SIR,—The season for camps of exercise again approaching, permit me, through the columns of your paper, to make a suggestion regarding what I consider the most important, as well as the most neglected, part of a militiaman's training, viz., musketry instruction. I think you will allow that before being marched to the range some kind of preliminary instruction would be highly beneficial if not positively necessary. Now, may I ask what instruction our militia get before proceeding to fire?

I will describe what I saw in a certain camp last year. A battalion of six companies was marched to the range, halted and fronted opposite the targets; the names of the men selected to open the ball were called out, and they were told to step to the front and "blaze away." No caution to adjust the back sight before firing. No caution to fire without hurry or excitement. No caution of any sort, but just blaze away. The order to blaze away was obeyed with alacrity, the companies vying with each other as to who would get through first. Until this little game was "spotted" the markers could not signal the shots properly, and the discs were struck several times. As one may suppose the percentage of hits was not a large one. I may also mention that the cooks, grooms and orderlies, besides hosts of lazy men who found favor in the sight of their officers, were permitted to remain behind in camp, thus escaping the most important part of the training.

And now for my suggestion. Suppose a battalion of six companies. On the day after its arrival in camp every officer, non-com. officer and man whose name appears on the muster roll of "A" company will be struck off all duties and handed over to the musketry instructor. The day might be divided as follows:—One hour position drill, 3rd practice; one hour aiming drill; one hour lecture; judging distance drill. On the following day the company would proceed to the range and complete its practice, when "B" company would be struck off in like manner. "F" company would find cooks, etc., for "A" company while at musketry. "A" company returning the compliment to "F" when its turn arrived, and so on until all had completed.

For the purpose of carrying out this scheme a small outlay on the part of the Government would be necessary for the purchase of a stadiometer, or range-finder, blackboard, etc. An assistant instructor would also be necessary. I fancy I hear someone say, "Ah, there's the rub!" "The Government will not stand any extra expense for the militia," etc. Well, Mr. Editor, it may be so, but I maintain that the extra efficiency of the militia would amply compensate the country for the little extra expense. In conclusion, sir, I would beg to say that if you or one of your numerous readers has hit on a scheme let's have it—"trot it out."

6th April, 1887.

Yours truly,
FUSILIER.

LONG SERVICE MEDALS.

To the Editor of the Canadian Militia Gazette:

SIR,—This "long service" medal question seems to be somewhat mixed. In the first place, long service in the Imperial army is a totally different affair from that in our Canadian force, and not to be for a moment placed alongside of it. Moreover, it is not indiscriminately awarded by giving medals to all men who have served 18 years, neither are chevrons with extra pay given for it. In the Imperial service these latter are given only to privates for "good conduct," and carry extra pay with them, but four bars are the maximum, and when a man is promoted he wears them no more.

The "good conduct" medal carries with it a gratuity and is given to the soldier of 18 years' service, and if a private he must possess four good conduct bars, besides must be recommended by his C.O., and the regulation, which is stringent, says he "must not be recommended unless known to be in every way worthy to receive the medal."

Another medal is given to sergeants, called "meritorious service" medal and bears an annuity with it, but should the recipient already possess the former medal, he can only wear the latter. The "distinguished conduct in the field" medal, from its designation, is a war medal. But all of the soldier's medals can be at any time forfeited for bad conduct, as specified in Queen's regulations.

Now from the above it would just be absurd to give, indiscriminately, medals simply for long service (to the Canadian troops), and as the good conduct chevron is only worn by privates it is inappropriate.

Therefore let the department devise a neat and distinct badge, that a man will value and like to wear, and not a non-com's stripe turned upside down. The stars worn by the British volunteer artillery team that visited Canada some time ago appeared to be neat and very appropriate.

The giving of a long service medal will certainly tend to depreciate that decoration. In fact the wearing of medals won at rifle matches should be limited, and perhaps absolutely abolished.

XXX.

CORRECTIONS TO THE LIST OF ACTIVE SERVICE SINCE CONFEDERATION.

To the Editor of the Canadian Militia Gazette:

SIR,—In October 1871 a raid was organized from Minnesota into Manitoba, and fears were also entertained of an insurrection of a portion of the people, to act in concert with the raiders. The raid took place, the insurrection miscarried. Lieutenant-Governor Archibald called upon all loyal men to rally to the support of the Queen's representative. The then small city of Winnipeg furnished a small battery of mountain artillery under the late Colonel (then Captain) Kennedy and a very strong and efficient company under Major (then Captain) Mulvey. The parishes north of Winnipeg at once sprung to arms and furnished several more companies. These were all placed in Fort Garry in garrison and earth-works were thrown up. Major (now Lt.-Col.) Irvine, late N.W.M.P., was in command of the two permanent companies still remaining at Fort Garry. He at once formed a small flying column, consisting of the two service companies, Capt. (now Major) Herchmer in command, and the battery and company before mentioned. This column was about 200 strong, but had no fighting, as the raiders were dispersed by United States troops, but it had a march of 45 miles and return, and was held on active service for some time longer. Military district No. 10 has no credit for this in the list as compiled and published two weeks ago.

Ottawa, April 18, 1878.

Yours,
ONE WHO WAS THERE.

SMALL-BORE SHOOTING.

To the Editor of the Canadian Militia Gazette:

SIR,—I would ask a little space to explain my small-bore notions. A Snider is not mechanically accurate, and with its rough sights, there is a considerable margin for chance. A man gets to a certain point of proficiency and does not take any more trouble, being contented with what chance gives him. Now a "match small-bore" allows of no chance; it carries exactly where it is held. If a man has not observed wind and weather, or has flinched in the pull off, his success will be small; chance will not help him. However, "every dog has his day," and if you now think the "match small-bore" is obsolete, would it not be well to have a match for any military or open sighted rifle, as under M.B.L. rifles in N.R.A. rules. There are a dozen such matches at Wimbledon, and it is generally allowed that there are M.B.L.s superior to the M.H. In Canada would it not be well to get the best training for our men with the best rifles, and that training they will put to good account, whatever be their military weapon.

A SMALL-BORE SHOT.

Regimental Notes.

(We wish to publish information respecting all the doings of all corps. Will the officers interested, particularly at a distance, assist us by having news relating to their corps promptly forwarded?)

Cobourg.—At the meeting of the town council held on the 11th a letter was read from Lieut.-Col. Rogers, commanding the 40th battalion, stating that as the Northumberland infantry were to take part in the celebration of the Queen's jubilee in June next, and as all the battalions in the district except the 40th had the new regulation helmet, he was desirous that they should not appear at a disadvantage. The letter explained that the Militia Department would not make the issue, and therefore the cost (about \$90 per company) of providing helmets had to be met either by private subscription, or assessment on the volunteers, or grant from the municipalities in which the headquarters of the different corps were situated. A petition to the council from the officers commanding the Cobourg companies accompanied Col. Rogers' letter. "In accordance with the suggestion therein contained," the petition read, "we respectfully pray your honorable body to appropriate a small sum towards the creditable equipment of Cobourg's militia at the Queen's jubilee."

The reading of the letter and petition was received with ironical laughter by the councillors.

A Member.—"Yes, we'll give them *hell(mets)*."

The Mayor.—"This is the most ridiculous petition I ever, —well it's most extraordinary."

Councillor Wilson.—"They should petition the city council of Kingston, if the jubilee is to be held there."

Councillor Deering.—"They should petition the Minister of Militia. This council should not entertain it for a moment."

Councillor Hewson said he was in favor of granting the prayer of the petition. Other places took enough pride in their volunteers to assist them in this way. He moved that the sum of \$25 be granted to the two town companies.

The Mayor said he was surprised to receive such a petition. What had the members of the Town Council to do or what did they care about Her Majesty's brave militia? They had no money to throw away upon such an organization.

Councillor Hewson said that the record of the Canadian volunteers showed that they were entitled to something better than the scornful contempt of Mayor Clarke. They should be taken by the hand.

Councillor Wilson said the town companies were not volunteers to Cobourg. Cobourg did not recognize them.

Captain Snelgrove was granted permission to address the council in support of the petition. Having urged its reasonableness at some length, he thanked the council for their mock courtesy to our citizen soldiery, and sat down amid the applause of the lobby.

Councillor Hewson reminded the council that the volunteer force of the country was not brought to its present state of efficiency by the Government, but by the volunteers themselves. The people did not know when their services might be required as they were two years ago.

Councillor McCallum sarcastically said those who had the honor and glory of wearing a red coat should pay for it.

The Mayor again rose to remark that this application for aid to Her Majesty's militia force was perfectly ridiculous. He would not give them 5 cents. If there was any inefficiency it was probably the fault of the officers.

Councillor Battell said he would like to do something for our own volunteers, but he couldn't agree to vote for the amount asked for by Councillor Hewson.

On motion of Councillor Deering, the clerk was instructed to write to the officers and inform them that the Town Council would not entertain their request.

Toronto.—Just before Christmas the n.c.o's and men of C company, I.S.C. formed a quadrille club, holding their first assembly on New Year's eve; ever since they have held weekly assemblies, which have furnished a great deal of amusement, both to the members of the corps and their many lady friends. On Monday evening the 11th, they held the last of the season, which proved a great success, fully thirty couples being on the small drill shed floor at once. A splendid programme was fur-