

reserve supplies, either of men or munitions, on hand, and that this is essential, particularly at the remote stations. The remedy proposed for all this is to organize an intelligence department divided into two sections, the first charged with the task of gathering all information relative to foreign navies, inventions, trials, and foreign maritime matters generally; while section two would organize war preparations, including naval mobilization and the making out plans for naval campaigns for all contingencies, corrected periodically and frequently.

Personals.

Major-General Strange is mentioned as a candidate for parliamentary honors in Alberta, N.W.T.

Major-General Middleton, returned to Ottawa on Monday after his Winnipeg trip, and on Tuesday left for Peterborough, to inspect the 57th there.

Major Gwynne, for many years intimately connected with the volunteer service, and who, at the time of his retirement, held the rank of major in the 41st battalion, died at Brockville on Monday, from the effects of a severe cold contracted last spring. He was buried yesterday with military honors.

Mr. Wm. Downs, who served with the Midland battalion in the North-West, and who has been suffering from an ulcerated abscess brought on by exposure, was examined by the medical board at Kingston, a few days ago, and recommended to go into hospital there for treatment.—*Port Hope Times*.

It is reported in the press of Nova Scotia, that Major-General Laurie has been invited to enter political life. In this connection the *Yarmouth Times* says:—"A brave soldier who has won honor at the hands of his sovereign; a gentleman who has actively identified himself with the agricultural interests of our province; an officer who voluntarily left home and family and placed his life and sword at the disposal of our country in the time of peril, General Laurie is one whom any country might be proud to see representing it in parliament."

During Major-General Middleton's stay in Winnipeg a private dinner in his honor was given at Government House. The following ladies and gentlemen were present:—Capt. Wise, A.D.C., Mr. and Mrs. C. J. Brydges, Lieut.-Col. and Mrs. Houghton, Hon. A. A. C. LaRiviere, Capt. Fred. Gautier, Madame Fred. Gautier, Madame and Miss Gautier, Mr. Oswald, Miss Anne Bowell. On Thursday last there was a five o'clock tea and reception at Government House, the General and Lady Middleton being present and receiving the guests.

An Unrewarded Hero.

SINCE the institution of the Victoria Cross there has been considerable disputation as to the wisdom of the policy which inaugurated such a decoration. Many who could not be called cynics declared that to decorate a soldier because he was brave, was almost as doubtful a compliment as to congratulate a woman for being chaste. Bravery is supposed to be a soldierly attribute, inseparable from the profession of arms, and to make a special merit of it was held in some quarters to be a mockery and an insult to the warrior. It was difficult too, to define the limit where the soldier ceased to perform the mere duty of being brave and earned a special distinction for extraordinary courage; the records of the Victoria Cross show some curious instances of this difficulty. But Sir Frederick Roberts told the other day at Simla the story of a deed which, had it occurred in Roman history, would have made the hero of it immortal, and yet in English story it has had no place, and the doer of it has received neither reward nor fame. His name possibly has been forgotten—"unhonoured and unsung."

But here is the story of the deed, as told by the present Commander-in-chief of India, an eye-witness of the scene: "At the relief of Lucknow, when a heavy fire from the loop-holed walls was making terrible havoc in the ranks of the storming party of the Sikanderbagh, a young Sikh, of the 4th Punjab Infantry, passed his arm through the wicket of the gate and endeavored to draw back the bolt with which it was barred. A sword-cut from within nearly severed the hand from the wrist; nothing daunted, he withdrew the injured arm and thrust in the other one. This shared the fate of the first, but not before the bolt had been drawn, and the gallant Sikh had the satisfaction of seeing his comrades stream through the gateway, which by his determined bravery had been opened for them." There was no difficulty in defining the boundary line between courage and heroism here, but no Victoria Cross was granted; the rules of the order did not recognize an exceptional case of

a native soldier. The story, however, will now find a place in England's military history amongst other bright deeds that the world "will not willingly let die."—*Broad Arrow*.

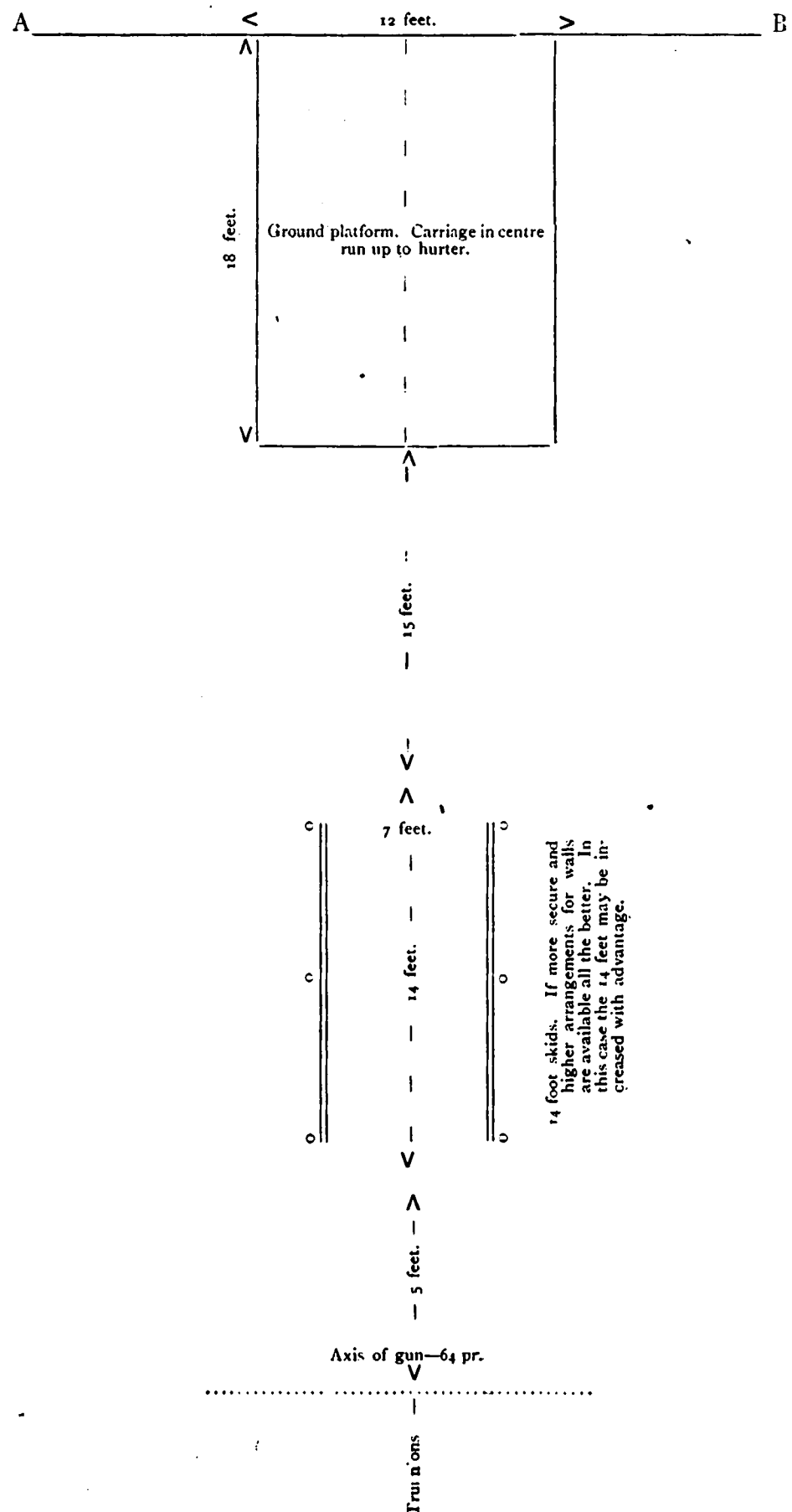
Shifting Ordnance Competition between A and B Batteries, Royal Schools of Artillery.

THIS competition, for the prize of \$25 offered by the Dominion artillery association, was held in Quebec early this month, and was as usual extremely interesting and close. We give now the conditions of the competition, and its result. The former are as follows:—

Two baulks about 14 feet long to be placed as below to represent a passage 7 feet wide, 15 feet from rear of platform.

The baulks to be secured by pickets outside. The gun to be on skidding with its axis 5 feet from entrance to passage, trunnions on medial line.

The gun to be placed on a temporary sleigh and taken through the passage on rollers and mounted up the side of carriage by parbuckling, the same skids that formed the sleigh being used.



As the baulks represent walls no man is to be allowed to step over them or to work from outside them. No handspike, roller or skid to be at any time allowed to project beyond their line.