

zine fire should only be used on emergencies, such as when the enemy exposed a body of troops at a long range, and there was an opportunity to pour in a hail of lead on them, and when at close quarters. By using the "under barrel" or the "butt" magazine the officers never could tell whether the men were using them or not and when the emergency came and the officer wanted to use them, they might be empty, whereas with a hopper holding eight or ten cartridges carried at the belt and fixed when wanted on the side of the action it could be seen in a minute and ordered to be removed if not required. These hoppers attached to the left side looking down the barrel were not the least in the way of the shooting. The difficulty we have always had was that it had been found impossible to attach these hoppers to the Martini until the simple system invented by Capt. Haston, of the Grenadiers, which was a feather in their caps, was submitted and the government had now got what they wanted.

The lecturer brought his interesting subject to a close by offering on behalf of himself and his brother officers at any time they wished to lecture to the volunteers.

A vote of thanks, proposed by Major Smith, I.S.C., seconded by Col.-Sergt. Dent, R.G., and a few words of thanks from Lieut.-Col. Grasset, brought the proceedings to a close.

Correspondence.

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

MEDALS FOR ACTIVE SERVICE PRIOR TO 1885.

To the Editor of the Canadian Militia Gazette.

DEAR SIR,—This year, the jubilee year of Her Most Gracious Majesty, will be a red letter era for those who will have honors conferred upon them. It is understood that all mayors of cities of over 100,000 population in the colonies are to be knighted or decorated, while other notables will receive distinctive honors. Would it not be a gracious act on the part of our Premier, the Right Hon. Sir John A. Macdonald, G.C.B., and his ministers and advisers, to gladden the hearts of the patriotic volunteers who willingly gave their services to their young country during the troublesome times of 1837, 1867 and 1870? A good word from our premier, through the Governor-General, to England's prime minister, and the thing is done. £500 sterling would about cover the cost for medals, and 320 acres of land to a few hundred men would cost the government nothing, and the advantage to the country by giving these volunteers land would be enormous. Surely the time is at hand when the services of these brave men should be recognised, and there never was a more opportune time for doing this. Give the boys of the old brigade a surprise, Sir John.

Montreal, April 4th, 1887.

ONE OF THE OLD BRIGADE.

CORRECTIONS TO THE LIST OF ACTIVE SERVICE SINCE CONFEDERATION.

To the Editor of the Canadian Militia Gazette:

DEAR SIR,—Allow me to correct an error in the statement of active militia called out, etc., in yours of 31st ult.

The force called out from this battalion and the artillery July 12, 1876, consisted of 130 men besides officers, not 45 as stated.

The following services were omitted:—Carquet riots, 43 men Newcastle field battery and 50 men 73rd battalion were on duty from 28th January to 4th February, 1875, at Carquet and Bathurst, N.B.

At St. John on 7th and 8th May, 1875, 50 men of the 62nd were on duty for one day during the strike of ship laborers.

At St. John after the great fire 140 men of the N.B.B.G.A. and 62nd went on duty on 22nd June, 1877, continued in camp on King Square for 12 days, and rendered efficient service in guarding government property, bank vaults, etc., and in preventing looting and incendiarism. They were relieved by a detachment from one of the Imperial regiments at Halifax.

Yours truly, E. T. STURDEE,

Capt. and Bt. Major,

62nd St. John Fusiliers.

St. John, N.B., April 5, 1887.

To the Editor of the Canadian Militia Gazette:

DEAR SIR,—I forget the year, 79, 80 or 81, Lt. Col. W. Osborne Smith, C.M.G., with a small picked force of 63 men, was called out "in aid of the civil power" and ordered to proceed by train to Cross Lake, on contract 15, on line of C.P.R. The duty was carried out and the riot and strike suppressed and ringleaders arrested. We were absent about a week. Your list, as published on the 31st March, fails to credit district No. 10, then in its infancy as regards organization, with this dangerous but successful little expedition. Parliament was in session at the time, and the present Minister of Customs was acting Minister of Militia, and I think a special act was passed to allow us to go "in aid of the civil power" into the then Territory of Kewatin.

Montreal, April 4th, 1887.

THE ORDERLY OFFICER.

SUGGESTIONS CONCERNING THE WIMBLEDON TEAM.

To the Editor of the Canadian Militia Gazette:

DEAR SIR,—As the annual D.R.A. meeting takes place soon, I will just give my opinion on a few important points in connection with the Wimbledon team.

1st. As to the selection of an adjutant of the team. By all means let him be an officer who thoroughly understands rifle shooting, and is also a good shot himself. If he has been on the Wimbledon team before all the better, as he will have an idea how the business of the team is managed.

2nd. In beginning practice at Cambridge, or other place chosen, let the members of the team shoot in threes, as they do at Wimbledon, and allow any three who wish to shoot together do so, thereby having a chance to compare their elevations, windage, &c., which will be of much benefit to them before they get through at Wimbledon. Also keep every form of individual competition out of the practice. Let the

practice of the men have nothing whatever to do with determining their places on the Kolapore team, for very often the men who are doing badly at practice come right to the front when they get to work on the commons. By keeping individual competition out it will be found that the men will assist each other more willingly than they would if there were something at stake. As it seems customary for the officers to give prizes for the week's practice, let them be given on the last day's shooting, as was done last year with good results, at the Queen's ranges.

3rd. One or two practices over Queen's ranges in different kinds of weather would be very beneficial, the men firing shot for shot under the same circumstances as nearly as possible, i.e., select targets where wind and light will affect them alike, and then let the adjutant take careful note of each man's elevation and windage, as nearly as possible, so that if Capt. Jinks was the first man to fire in the Kolapore match, after his shot was marked, the adjutant could tell Pte. Jones just what he ought to do to put him into the right spot. I do not mean that they would all make bull's-eyes the first shot, but under ordinary circumstances I do not see any excuse for men missing their first shot, as I have seen done in the Kolapore match, where they thoroughly understand each other's shooting. I would also advise the team firing shot for shot at the 800 and 900 yards practice, as that was the regulation in shooting for the colonial and Queen's prizes last year, I understand.

4th. One more thing, I think, should be looked after, and that is the awarding of the prize the Canada Club, of London, England, so kindly contribute for competition by the Canadian team. As far as I can learn, there are no conditions mentioned as to how this prize shall be won, it being seemingly left altogether with the officers commanding the team. I know from experience that it has been shot for under different circumstances two years at least. Now I think it would be advisable for the council of the D.R.A. to state the conditions on which that prize shall be won, and have it settled once and for all, so long as the Canada Club, as in the past, so kindly continue to offer their handsome prize for competition. I would say, let the highest man on the Wimbledon grand aggregate be considered the lucky winner.

I am well aware, Mr. Editor, that there is room for plenty of holes to be picked in the few hints which I have thrown out, but, sir, it is through the interest I take in rifle shooting and the well doing of our team at Wimbledon, along with your kind invitation to those interested to give expression to their views through the columns of your valuable paper, that has led me to start the ball rolling. It just amounts to this, those Kolapore cups that we Canadians are after, and so seldom get, are becoming harder to win each year. The N.R.A. have, within the last two years I believe, added £24 to the Kolapore prize list, which goes to the home team whenever they win the cup, so you see they are not going to lose the £24 if they know themselves. Thanking you for the valuable space in your highly appreciated paper, I remain,

April 11th, 1887.

BAR.

HONOR TO WHOM HONOR IS DUE.

SIR,—Having been absent from home for some weeks, I have only just seen the letter from "Field Officer" published in your issue of 17th ult., and I must claim the privilege of saying a few words in reply.

If there had been nothing in "Field Officer's" previous letter beyond what he says in the letter to which I have now referred, you would have had no communication from me on the subject, but the fact is very different.

Among other objectionable statements in "Field Officer's" former letter, he said, "I do not know whether you are aware of the fact, but I presume you are, that there were some officers commanding regiments in the late campaign who were openly reproved by their superior officers. These did not reach the scene of action," etc., thereby implying that they did not reach the "scene of action" on account of inefficiency or for some other objectionable reason. Now I know that no part of that statement is applicable to the regiment in which I had the honor to serve, nor did it fail in carrying out efficiently any order which it received; and I have heard of no regiment which failed in reaching any point to which it was ordered.

If there is any truth in this statement of "Field Officer," what right has he to make a charge in such general terms that it may be applied to any regiment which was not actually under fire? I most decidedly think that your correspondent is in honor bound to name the officers to whom he referred in such derogatory terms.

In my previous letter I said, "influenced by the kind of statements 'Field Officer' had made. Moreover I do not believe that 'Field Officer' belonged to the expedition at all, and if his personality were known, I think it is likely that his motive would be apparent enough." I regret to say that 'Field Officer's' second letter, beyond his assertion that he did belong to the expedition, does not go far to remove the impression which I had formed in this respect. He says that he was employed in the same class of service as the regiment to which I belonged, and was "in the same brigade." Now there were only two regiments which could be said to have been employed in that way, except for a short time, and if he was a field officer in either of these regiments he ought to know that neither was in brigade. "Field Officer" does not belong to the battalion with which I served, and thus, according to his showing, it is easy placing him.

The regiment in which "Field Officer" claims to have served was, in my judgment, (having seen it on the way out) one of the best in the North-west, and I am quite certain that if it had been ordered to the "scene of action," wherever that might be, it would have got there somehow, and would not have been found working like dry horses and droghers at distasteful and laborious work till nearly the end of the campaign. Only a portion of the regiment to which I belonged was employed in this manner. The headquarters were sent farther west to protect settlers against an apprehended Indian rising, and to prevent a junction of the latter with those already in the field. If it were the rule that no one was to be considered deserving of honor except those who were actually under fire, occasion might easily have been found to attack an Indian camp, but we considered it our duty to prevent an Indian rising, not to force one; and we succeeded. If a general Indian rising had taken place, some of the regiments not under fire would have been exposed to greater danger than those under fire ever were exposed to, and they were quite aware of this, and did their duty calmly and efficiently, ready for whatever might turn up.

I repeat that they best did their duty who did it faithfully and efficiently where and in what they were ordered, and that the services of those regiments were as conducive to the success of the campaign and were as necessary as the services of those who fought at Fish Creek, Batoche and Cut Knife.

Having made such derogatory remarks so publicly "Field Officer" is now bound in honor to name the officers to whom he referred so as not to cause a slur to be cast upon those who do not deserve it. If he fail to do this I can look upon him only as one who, encouraged by the immunity from attack which others had enjoyed when unduly lauding themselves at the expense of others who had done their duty as well as they, now seeks to gratify personal spite, possibly against his own commanding officer,