

able unless necessary, and all experience plainly indicates that it is not."

In conclusion I do not propose to submit any conclusion of my own, but must say that after a very careful perusal of the above report, together with the tables annexed, I am of the opinion that the test of the two rifles referred to has been most carefully, fairly and thoroughly carried out, and is well worthy of being received as an authentic record of the respective arms.

I remain, your obed't servant,

J. G. HOLMES, Bt Major, CA,  
Adj't R S G

Citadel, Quebec, 29<sup>th</sup>, '81

\*To explain the apparent error in this statement I may say, with reference to final velocities at different ranges as shown in table, in which the Martini, owing to its heavier bullet, has the advantage the Springfield uses a cartridge containing 85 grains of powder, in which the final velocities were as follows

	30 yds.	100 yds.	600 yds.	The initial velocity being with this cartridge 1450 feet per second.
S	1165.5	882.1	733.9	
M.H.	1013.1	850.4	732.7	

**North West Mounted Police.**

To the Editor of the CANADIAN MILITARY REVIEW.

Sir,—As one of the "old hands" of "B" Battery, Royal School of Gunnery, and knowing you to be a lover of fair play, I think it my duty to members of both Schools to try and give a true account of our treatment in the N W Police Force, knowing many false reports are circulating in Canada.

First, let me speak of the rations issued daily to each man beef and bread, each one and a half pounds, potatoes, or other vegetables in lieu of them, one pound, tea, one third of an ounce, sugar, two ounces, coffee, half ounce, salt and pepper sufficient for use. We get a yearly issue of clothing— one stable suit, two pairs of both riding breeches, serge tunic, cloth tunic and forage cap, two over shirts, two undershirts, two pair drawers, four pair socks, two pair stockings, one pair riding boots, one pair ankle boots, 1 pair moccasins, besides a service issue of buffalo coat, cloth coat and cape, fur cap, a large waterproof bag, hoddall complete, with burnisher and brushes, also a cork helmet for summer wear when in full dress.

Then in regard to barrack work, we attend stables three times a day, and never over forty minutes at a time, and drill two and a half hours daily, any man having to perform a barrack fatigue being excused from drill for the day.

Then as to how a man may get along here. Three School of Gunnery men who joined the Police a few years ago in the ranks have now rose to commissioned officers. Four out of six troop sergeant-majors, besides several sergeants and corporals are School of Gunnery men.

The adjutant of the force is also a School of Gunnery officer. And now, Mr. Editor, I only wish to say to my brothers in arms of the two Schools that if they desire a change of scene let them try this Force, and I am sure they will be treated, let us not say as gentlemen, but as well or I may say, better than in any service in the world.

I subscribe myself,

T. H. GILCHRIST.

Fort Walsh, June 16th, 1881.

**Camp Niagara.**

THE MINISTER OF MILITIA.—THE INSPECTION

The brigade marched on the ground, and formed the line of columns in close order. From this position they deployed into line. Hon. Mr. Caron came on the ground, accompanied by Col. Ross, Col. Strange, R.A., and Major Short, "B" Battery. Col. Denison met the party on the field, and when they rode up in front of the centre battalion they were received

with a general salute. Then the Minister of Militia rode along the line inspecting the troops. When this was done they were formed again into line of columns, and were put through the movements of changing front, retiring, halting, fronting, and advancing in echelon from the right, where they formed an alignment, from which they wheeled into quarter column distance for the march past. The saluting point was close to the trenches of old fort George. The cavalry went past in the column of troops, the artillery in line of close intervals, and the infantry and rifles at quarter distance. After wheeling once the infantry marched off the parade ground and took up a position on the west, where they halted. The cavalry and artillery passed again in review, first at the gallop, and afterwards at the charge. The observation was made by old soldiers who were among the spectators that the infantry marched well, the artillery also very well, with a fine soldierly appearance, and the cavalry not so well when they were passing at the charge. They did better going past in squadrons. The officers of the battery, Major Gray, Lieut. Meade, and Lieut. Beatty, were complimented on the appearance of the battery. This closed the march past. The cavalry was then drawn up in line, took open order and went through the sword exercise.

The troops then formed square, and the Minister of Militia made a short address. He said he could not forget that in this particular spot the early history of the country was concentrated. Upon this very plain, and about these old ramparts, the fiercest battle of the war of 1812 was fought. He assured them that coming from the old Province of Quebec he was glad to meet the men of the Province of Ontario. And it was right that the spirit of the old U. E. Loyalists should still exist in the breasts of the sons of Ontario. It gave him much gratification to see the condition of the troops, and to offer the praise which was their due. He was not a professional soldier, but he knew enough about the force to see that they deserved commendation, and hoped that under their efficient officers they would always be found ready to turn out if their services were required. And surveying the field on which they were assembled, he hoped no Government nor political change would ever lead to a sale of this historic ground. He complimented Col. Denison and the officers under his command on the condition of the camp. He was pleased to learn that the men had been very orderly and well behaved in camp. This was the first camp he had visited in his official capacity, and he assured them that he would carry away with him a favorable impression.

The officers were ordered to take post, and the corps were marched to their respective parade grounds, and dismissed.

**Sharp!**

The Toronto Field Battery, men, guns, horses, &c., embarked at Niagara on the *Chicora* in the short space of nine minutes. On arriving at Toronto the Battery was on the march, clear of the dock, fourteen minutes after the boat touched the wharf.

**The Burst Guns.**

Great pressure is being brought to bear upon Mr. Trevelyan to increase and hasten the delivery of 43-ton breech-loading guns to the Navy. It is not, perhaps, quite clear where these guns are to come from; but, judging from the *Standard*, it is made tolerably evident that a large order would be acceptable at Elswick. Mr. Trevelyan will probably be told that the *United Service Gazette* is the representative of some particular gun system, because we have lately advocated a careful selection of strong guns in order to protect the officers and men of the Fleet from the effects of the explosion of the weapons placed in their hands. But this is not so. We are in truth the organ of those officers and men, and, being such, shall not shrink from our duty. We call the attention of Mr. Trevelyan to the fact that the 43-ton gun of the *Argomars*—the very class of gun he is pressed to push into the English Navy—has burst with fatal consequences. The 100-ton gun of the *Zulu* was constructed on the same lines—namely, wrought-iron hoops shrunk over a steel tube. What the fate of that gun was Mr. Trevelyan probably has heard. He has probably also heard that many officers and men of the Navy utterly repudiate the theory started in London, that the *Thunderer* gun was doubly loaded. Can it, therefore, be wondered at that it is not so? and is it not reasonable to demand that the new Ordnance Committee should be permitted to thoroughly investigate the strength of wrought-iron steel-lined guns before committing