

Correspondence.

[This paper does not necessarily share the views expressed in correspondence published in its columns, the use of which is freely granted to writers on topics of interest to the militia.]

A CERTIFICATE OF CHARACTER QUESTIONED.

To the Editor of the Canadian Militia Gazette:

SIR,—In the last GAZETTE I offered to take the Minister of Militia into my confidences, now I wish to make a few remarks to him, anent Quebec made ammunition and "Dropshot's" letter in the GAZETTE of the 24th ultimo. He very rightly complains of the answer made in the House of Commons to the Hon. A. G. Jones, which answer is fully reported in *Hansard* of the 4th May. He says that the department had to go to British Columbia for evidence of the reliability of that ammunition. The Minister said he had received a letter from Col. Holmes, who thought "it might be desirable from the standpoint of the department, and also from the standpoint of the force, to give his experience." We will let that go for everything that it is worth—but one point that I must take exception to is "the standpoint of the militia." One swallow does not make a summer, neither does one commanding officer's opinion make perfect cartridges.

Later on the same day, in answer to the same Mr. Jones (I presume), who desired to be informed whether the clothing manufactured in Canada gave entire satisfaction, the Minister's answer was, judging from its briefness, emphatic in the affirmative. Now, if he quoted Col. Holmes' opinion on the cartridges, it was only fair that he should also have quoted the opinions of other permanent corps officers on the clothing, and had I written the reply to this last question of Mr. Jones, based upon the reply given to him on the cartridges, *Hansard* would have read as follows: "I should not undertake to express my own opinion on this subject against that of prominent militia officers, both inside and outside this House, but there was an article which appeared in a certain newspaper criticising the quality of the clothing issued to the militia. On looking over the Militia Report, 1887, I find comments made by Col. Cotton, R.S.A., Kingston, and Col. Montizambert, R.S.A., Quebec, who thought it might be desirable from the standpoint of the militiaman to give their opinions. These two officers are in a position to know the exact quality of the clothing, its wearing capacity, its dye, etc. The first officer said "the clothing is not satisfactory." * * * The dye of some is inferior, and clothing blue when issued, shortly turns to a green or claret colour. The second Colonel is convinced that "the material of the great coats issued to the men is so indifferent that it does not wear as it should," and "the quality of the material—especially in cloth tunic—is very inferior." That is how *Hansard* would then have read.

Now, if the same line of argument had been followed respecting the clothing as with the cartridges the reply could not have been made (page 1267, *Hansard*), "I do not admit that we issue any clothing of inferior quality." The militia members in the house must read the militia reports very carelessly. It is a great thing to have an indolent enemy.

LINCH-PIN.

A soldier servant of Sir Lowry Cole, having been asked by his master respecting the date of some incident, replied: "Yer hanner! It was jist afore the peace broke out on us."

The officers commanding A, C, B and G Companies of the 13th Battalion met in the armoury on Monday evening last to select days for the weekly rifle practice of their respective companies. It was arranged that A and C Co's should shoot on Monday of each week; B and G on Tuesday. The remaining company officers have as yet not selected range days.

In consequence of the combination of Nos. 3 and 4 military districts, and the D.A.G. no longer residing at Ottawa, the Princess Louise Dragoon Guards and the Governor-General's Foot Guards, both of which corps are often required to turn out for escorts, guards of honour, and like duty on short notice, have been placed under direct orders from headquarters, Ottawa.

Despite the fire, the June issue of The American Magazine is an exceptionally brilliant number. The illustrations and letter-press are excellent, and the contents varied and entertaining. Among the notable features is an interesting and finely illustrated paper on "Our Defenses from an Army Standpoint," by Gen. O. O. Howard; Mrs Gen. John A. Logan contributes a graceful article on "The Art of Entertaining," a subject she is well qualified by experience to handle; and George Edgar Montgomery has a charming paper on "Dickens on the American Stage," that will be read with much interest by the great army of the distinguished novelist's friends. The article is illustrated by portraits of leading actors, showing their conception of Dickens' characters. The month furnishes Zitella Cocke with the text for a pretty poem "June." "Barbados: The Elbow Island," is described in an illustrated paper by Dr. William F. Hutchinson.

Militia General Orders (No. 11), of 1st June, 1888.

No. 1.—REGULATIONS FOR THE ANNUAL DRILL OF 1888-89.

Camps—Adverting to No. 1 of General Orders (10) 11th May, 1888, the places of the several "Camps of Exercise" are as follows, viz:—

Military District No. 1.....	Stratford, Ontario.
do 2.....	Niagara, do
do 3 and 4...	Gananoque, do
do 5.....	Sherbrooke, Quebec.
do 6.....	Three Rivers, do
do 7.....	
do 8.....	Chatham, N. B.
do 9.....	Aldershot, N. S.

Transport—The following is added to No. 1 of General Orders (10) 11th May, 1888, next after fifth paragraph under heading "Transport":—

"Field Batteries will march to camp if the distance is not more than six miles. If more than six but under 25 miles an allowance in money at the rate of 4 cents per mile will issue for such of the men as cannot be carried on the horses, gun carriages and limbers of the battery.

No. 2.—QUEEN'S REGULATIONS AND ORDERS FOR THE ARMY, 1885.

Discipline.—Paragraph 33, section VI, Queen's Regulations and Orders for the Army, 1885, has been amended by erasing the following words, commencing in line 16 and ending in line 19: "They will be previously examined by a medical officer with a view to their being admitted to hospital, if not in a fit state to punishment."

No. 3.—REGULATIONS AND ORDERS FOR THE MILITIA, 1887.

Veterinary Surgeons—The following is added after paragraph 80, in the Regulations and Orders for the Militia, 1887, viz:—

"Veterinary Surgeons recommended for appointment will be required to hold a Certificate of Graduation or a Diploma from a recognized Veterinary College, the holding of which is to be specially certified to by the officer commanding the corps; if either of these are not held, a satisfactory certificate of professional ability is to be forwarded to headquarters with the recommendation for appointment."

No. 4.—PERMANENT CORPS.

System of Rifle Practice for Non-commissioned Officers and Men.

Preliminary Practice.—To consist of position drill (when practicable), and blank firing.

Target Practice.

1st Stage—30 to 50 rounds—All ranks to fire five rounds at each range of 50, 100, 150, 200, 400 and 500 yards. At least eight points to be made at each range before proceeding to the next, and for this purpose an additional series of five rounds to be fired, and repeated if necessary, until the necessary number of qualifying points are obtained, or until a total of 50 rounds have been fired.

2nd Stage—20 to 30 rounds—All non-commissioned officers and men qualifying in 1st stage to fire 10 rounds each at 500 and 600 yards.

At least 20 points to be made at each range before proceeding to the next and for this purpose practice will be continued until 15 rounds are fired at each range or until the necessary qualifying points are obtained.

3rd Stage—Final—30 rounds.—All n.c.o. and men qualifying in 2nd stage to fire 10 rounds at each 200, 500 and 600 yards, qualifying points, 20 at each range. All men obtaining 165 points or upward in the three stages, and who have qualified in each stage, to be considered marksmen.

Volley Firing.

At the conclusion of the practice all n.c.o. and men to fire 10 rounds each, volley firing at 300 yards, in two ranks with bayonets fixed, front rank kneeling.

Position—At ranges from 50 to 200 yards, will be standing, over 200 yards, any military position.

Targets for Range Practice.

3rd class.—Size, 6 ft. by 4 ft.

Bull's eye—12 in. in diameter.

Centre—3 ft. in diameter.

Outer—Remainder of the target.

2nd class.—Size, 6 ft. square.

Bull's eye—2 ft. in diameter.

Centre—4 ft. in diameter.

Outer—Remainder of the target.

3rd class targets to be used at distances from 50 yards to 300 yards inclusive.

2nd class targets, from 300 to 600 yards, inclusive, volleys to be fired at a target 6 ft. by 12 ft.

Value of hits.—Bull's eye, 4.

Centre, 3.

Outer, 2.

When the circumstances of the range will permit, the system of scoring will be as detailed on p. 113, Regulations for Musketry Instruction, 1887, but in all cases the above dimensions of targets and value of hits to be maintained.

Note.—Not more than 20 rounds per diem are to be fired by any soldier at above practice.

Manuals of Instruction to N. C. O.

The following Manuals of Instruction will be issued free to the undermentioned n.c.o. of the Permanent Corps, viz:—

Instruction and Movement of Cavalry—Sergeant Major, Sergeant Instructors, Sergeants, Cavalry.

Cavalry Sword Exercises—Sergeant Major, Sergeant Instructors, Sergeants, Cavalry.

Rifle and Carbine, Manual Exercises—Sergeant Major, Sergeant Instructors, Sergeants, Cavalry and Mounted Infantry, Artillery and Infantry.

Regulations for Musketry Instruction—Sergeant Major, Sergeant Instructors, Sergeants, Mounted Infantry, Artillery and Infantry.

Field Exercises—Sergeant Major, Sergeant Instructors, Sergeants, Mounted Infantry, Artillery and Infantry.

Regulations for Mounted Infantry—Sergeant Major, Sergeant Instructors, Sergeants, Mounted Infantry only.

Field Artillery Manual; Siege and Garrison Artillery, Vols. I. and II.—Sergeant Major, Sergeant Instructors, Sergeants, Artillery only.