

One of the Intelligence Corps who remained in the North-west seems to think he has been neglected. In writing to one of his comrades here he says: "I wish you would send me up a little praise in a registered letter. I have not had any yet, though I have tried all sorts of ways to secure my share. I wore a Winnipeg Field Battery cap, yellow braid and all, for a day, but that did not take. I tried the Glengarry of 'Winnipeg's Pride,' the 90th, and the great unwashed, the gaffers and newsboys, called me 'Scotchey'—I guess the cap did not fit—and now I go begging for praise. You may call me a hero about six times, a saviour of my country two or three times, a warrior, soldier and such like—do not forget to dub me a veteran—and I will be under an everlasting obligation to you."

It was intended to publish the result of the Field Artillery competitions at Toronto in this issue, but we have decided to hold them over for a week in hopes that the result of the competitions in the East will have been received, so that the prizes can be announced at the same time. Of the Western batteries, No. 2 of Guelph, with 476, leads Toronto by two points.

### RIFLES AND RIFLE SHOOTING.—XXII.

IV.—BY CAPTAIN HENRY F. PERLEY, HEADQUARTERS STAFF.

Both the V and the "bar" have their advocates, but the "bar" is recommended, as possessing advantages as a wind-gauge not to be obtained by the V; but whichever is adopted, let it be adhered to. Color with white and black only; use only a white line to denote the centre of the "bar," and learn to judge with the eye the proper distance to be taken for wind allowance. In an unsteady, or fish-tail wind, the proper position of a "line" cannot be determined. There are many ways of coloring the foresight, and any quantity of little machines for making different shapes of white, but the simple white block and black tip are the best of all.

Use the "Vernier" for shifting the "bar," which raise or lower if shots "ricochet" or miss high, but do not attempt to correct the elevation by taking fuller and finer sights, or by aiming higher or lower on the target. Neither of these courses will prove to be so satisfactory as moving the "bar." If a "full" sight or "half" sight be adopted, stick to it.

Some aim directly at the "bull." This is a mistake, as the foresight covers it to such an extent as to render the point of aim uncertain. Take for the point of aim the lower corner of the "bull" on either side, so as to give it a full view, and permit the *black* foresight to show up on the *white* target.

It is best to err on the side of a low shot, the dust raised by the striking of the bullet affords much information. Often a side miss for a sighter, is as good as a hit.

It is well to contract the habit of noticing the direction and strength of the wind, and the firer should be on the alert whilst on the range to note the indications afforded by flags, the rustling of leaves, and the smoke from his neighbor's rifle. So long as the wind remains steady there is not any difficulty in dealing with it, for the allowance, once found, remains a constant, but, when it is constantly changing, both in direction and force, in fact is a "fish-tail" wind, then it is that the skill, knowledge and judgment of the marksman is tested to the utmost.

The action and effects of light must be carefully noted, and as a change of light acts upon the aim differently with every person—for as a rule the eyesight of no two persons is exactly alike, it is impossible to lay down any general rules upon the subject. Every man by observation will probably be able to deduce rules for his own guidance.

Keep a record of all shooting made, whether good or bad; and if the details heretofore mentioned are followed, the knowledge gained will prove of advantage in the future. At a match, on completion of the score, do not leave the firing point until a comparison of the hits made is had with the register keeper.

Take great care and pains with the first shot. See that the lock of the rifle is in working order; that the bar has been raised to the proper elevation; place the body in a comfortable position; load carefully; hold the rifle plumb; note the point of aim; make the right allowance for windage; take in the exact amount of foresight; fix the eye on the target aligning the sights as well, and press the trigger. If it should prove to be a miss, study carefully the signs given where it

may have struck. If no signs are to be had, and the shot appear to be an unaccountable one, ask if carelessness had not something to do with the mishap, if too long an aim had been taken, or the breathing restrained to such an extent that the muscles of the chest set up a tremor; or it may be the steady pressure on the trigger, gave place to a jerk at last; and, perhaps—for such a thing often occurs—an error of 10 degrees had been made in elevation.

Keep the rifle clean, free from dirt and rust, and the lock in good order. Look after the breech-block occasionally and treat it to an oiling, it is a very necessary adjunct to a Snider, and sometimes jams during a match; jamming means dirt, dirt means carelessness, and fair and square neglect. Do not clean the rifle with the ramrod, use the bullet and string, wiping from breech to muzzle. A rifle should be cleaned in all its parts at least twice a year, by this is meant that the lock and breech block should be dismounted, each part cleaned and carefully oiled. Clean the barrel between ranges, and always after a match; oil the stock, or on a wet day, when a dry stock imbibes wet, a warping or twisting will take place, which has its effect on the thin soft barrel of the Snider.

On a bright hot day the fouling cakes and hardens, increasing the resistance to the passage of the bullet; this means an increase in elevation. The contrary takes place during a dull damp day. If the shooter believes that any benefit is gained by blowing in either end of his barrel, let him continue to do so; but to be in keeping, that other "fad" of wetting the end of the bullet ought to be indulged in as well.

Training for a match is not required, nor is it desirable. Generally speaking, a good state of health is all that is necessary; anything which tends to lower it will probably affect the shooting. So will the immoderate use of liquor. It has been pithily stated that "men accustomed to irrigate," should not indulge during a match. Let those who smoke, smoke still, and not leave it off before a match. Losing the accustomed stimulant, the nervous system becomes affected. Inordinate smoking, like extra nips, does not tend to steady the nerves. Avoid a heavy hearty lunch or dinner at a match, low scores afterwards appear to be the general result; neither does it do for marksmen to engage in foot races, jumping matches, or in feats of strength or agility, during a match. Wear old and loose clothes; before firing unbutton the suspenders, take off both collar and tie, and unbutton the shirt at the neck, for if the muscles of the throat are in any way compressed, a tremor is caused, which is fatal to steadiness. Use a mat under the elbows, and the sling on the rifle always.

"Look to your rifle, and do not permit it to look at any one." Never carry it loaded, and when "cease fire" is sounded, if at the firing point and loaded, open the breech. An ounce of prevention is worth innumerable pounds of cure in the case of a rifle bullet.

At practice, or at a match, each man should devote himself entirely to the object in view, and not allow his attention to be distracted by engaging anecdote, or exciting argument. If an unfortunate dispute should arise as to score, hits, etc., refer at once to the proper officer, and if ruled against, do not give way to anger or disappointment.

Do not be anxious about what your neighbor may be doing, and if his score is a better one than you are making, do not suppose that it arises from any fancied idea that he has superior advantages; his score cannot be altered by any amount of anxiety on your part, and it is certain yours will not be improved.

At a match be chary of taking advice given unasked; and weigh well the replies you may get to your questions. Rely on your own judgment, knowledge and skill, and watch well those whom you know to be good steady shots, and if you win, you know exactly how your score was made, and if you lose, you cannot blame your neighbor if you took his advice.

*To be continued.*

### FURTHER NOTES FROM THE FREDERICTON CAMP.

Referring to previous notes as to the steps taken at the Fredericton Brigade Camp to ensure efficiency by encouraging competition in the different corps in cleanliness of arms, accoutrements and clothing, as well as in the internal arrangements of the camp, and in target practice, we reproduce the Commandant's breaking up order to show the effect produced by these competitions, and also brigade orders giving a "general idea" of the field manoeuvres on the last day in camp. Indeed the field manoeuvres on that day and on two or three previous days were both interesting and instructive, showing that much can be accomplished during the limited time in camp, if from the start attention be paid to details by all, from the commandant down to the private, and if all put their shoulder to the wheel. Undoubtedly the allusion made by the commandant to the permanent corps assembled for the first time in brigade camp in this province was well deserved. With-