

connection with which a letter was received.

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The Halifax "Acadian Recorder" says:—"The result of the shifting ordnance at Halifax last August has been made known. In the "A" shift, in which seven teams competed, the Charlottetown team, of which Lieut. Dover was No. 1, captured first place with the accompanying prize of \$40. Sgt.-Major Gibbs' team, H.G.A., was second. Lt. Marshall's (No. 1 Co., H.G.A.) won the "B" shift and \$40, the P.E.I. team being 7 seconds behind. While Halifax has done splendidly in securing first and second prizes, artillerymen will be disappointed that they were not awarded first in both events, which they had believed would be the result. In the "B" shift the result depends altogether on time, while in the "A" shift there is a time limit of 15 minutes, but otherwise time does not count, except in case of a tie. The competition is decided on points, and in this shift the P.E.I. team was awarded full points, while the H.G.A. lose five points for dismounting and a similar number for carrying the gun around, and thus the Island team receives the first prize, notwithstanding that Sgt.-Major Gibbs' team did the shift in 9 min., 25 1-5 seconds, while the P. E. Island team took over 14 minutes. This is certainly an unsatisfactory way of awarding prizes, and will no doubt be the subject of much discussion among artillerymen."

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The Halifax Artillery are very much disappointed and disgusted with the above decision, for any artilleryman knows that a team that can beat another five minutes in a gun shift should be awarded first prize, as the other team is simply not in it with them.

HAMILTON.

The results of the competition for general proficiency among the companies of the 13th Battalion are announced and indicate that the average efficiency of the regiment is even higher this year than last, when it won the Gzowski cup. The competition was won by A Company with the others in the following order: D, B, H, G, E, F, C. The marks gained by companies out of a possible 1,500 are as follows: A Company 1,364.60, D 1,358.26, B 1,316.65, H 1,221.22, G 1,216.69, E 1,166.21, F 1,153.41, C 1,118.78. D Company led in drill, with B a close second. The highest marks earned last year were 1,316.52.

QUEBEC.

Dr. Oliver, chief of the medical staff at Halifax, gave an interesting exhibition Wednesday evening, Dec. 6th, at the Garrison Club, of his improved field kit. A large number of military men were present and all evidently took the deepest interest in the new accoutrements. Among them we noticed Colonels Duchesnay, Montizambert and White; Capts. Indale, Ray, Dunn, Montizambert, Dunbar, Richardson, Surgeon Parke, Lieuts. Hussey and Van Felson. The inventor had three, namely his own, i.e., the improved Oliver

kit, that now in use in the Imperial army, the Slade-Wallis and the Valise kit, now in use in the regular Canadian militia. Another kit, the obsolete affair at present in use among the irregular Canadian militia, was also on view.

Dr. Oliver pointed out the advantage of his kit and began by showing how to pack it. The knapsack is principally composed of leather and into it were packed the hold-all, containing knife, fork, spoon, button metal, etc., pair of rubber shoes, hard brush, pair of socks, soap, towel, flannel shirt, canteen and ration when on the march. The knapsack is supported behind the hip by the waist belt and by shoulder straps which also support the folded cape behind the shoulders. In preference to the coat cape Dr. Oliver recommends his water proof sheet with an oval opening in it for the head, and straps with which to fasten it. In case of severe rain two men may join theirs together and by arranging them with bayonets and ramrode form a shelter. In case of the ground being damp they may lie upon them. There are straps on the knapsack in order to facilitate converting them, if necessary, into saddle bags for mounted infantry. On the waist belt, there hangs on the right side a water bottle within easy reach. The arrangement of the belt and braces obviate the necessity of belts across the chest in a tightening and restraining position. The arrangement also obviates the necessity of a counterpoise to keep the load in position and thus makes it unnecessary to keep the waist belt very tight. Another improvement is the fact that there is only one cartridge pouch instead of three and it is so arranged that a man can easily lie down and fire his rifle in the new rig, while this position was almost impossible in the old one. It is possible too, to carry 160 rounds of ammunition (Lee-Metford) in the new arrangement, while 88 was the maximum in the old. The arrangement of the shoulder straps is such as to leave the shoulders perfectly free, and it is possible to unhook the bag, swing it round to the side with the greatest of ease and thus take out anything that may be required without assistance and without taking off the whole kit. There is no trouble in getting at the great coat which a man may easily himself remove from its position on his back by simply opening a hook. By opening the waist belt and one hook the whole kit may easily be taken off intact. On the belt there is a modified frog which carries in addition to the bayonet, the handle of an entrenching tool, the blade fastening under the knapsack. There is not nearly as much overheating of a man's back under the new arrangement as under the old. A man's load consists of the coat weighing, say, five pounds, and the knapsack and contents weighing 8 or 9 lbs., certainly not more than ten. The distribution of the ammunition figuring on Lee-Metford would be 100 rounds in pouch on front of waist belt, 30 rounds in stout canvas breast pocket for immediate use and a reserve of 40 rounds in two small pockets on the knapsack, inside of which a larger quantity might be

stored if necessary. The great beauty of all this is that it obviates the necessity of ammunition wagons or pack horses which could not follow a column in a modern engagement for half an hour.

There is a small and much lighter though not less serviceable bag which may be exchanged with the knapsack in cases where the base of supplies is close up or for guard duty, etc., and which is, as the inventor himself thinks, more likely to be adopted than is the heavier style. He thinks that with straps and belts, all made out of best English bridle leather the cost of the last mentioned style would not be over \$3 per man for a quantity.

Another beauty of the Oliver equipment is the fact that the belts and braces are all made of leather, simply stained with a dye and rubbed with wax which renders it water-proof. After this the more wear that it gets the better the leather becomes polished and the soldiers' nightmare—pipe clay—is banished.

The weight of the whole is distributed so as to come as nearly as possible in the centre of gravity where it is least felt and if a man feels so disposed he may open the waist belt and the load will not become displaced, everything hanging naturally in position for the shoulders are the point of application of the chief aprt of the weight.

There is a large canvas bag provided for all extra clothing that a soldier may require but this will be brought up by the transport waggons in reserve say a day after the arrival of the advanced column.

Several of the officers present tried on the equipment and all professed themselves as delighted with it. There was the maximum of supplies with the minimum of size and weight and perfect freedom of action of the shoulders and every limb of the body.

It should be added that in the contents carried in the knapsack can be stored sufficient meat for three days. The haversack and provision bag are done away with.

Time and space though compel me to stop here. Dr. Oliver has left for Ottawa to urge the adoption of his kit by the Federal Government. The eminently practical men who saw it exhibited are unanimous in its favor.

PETERBOROUGH.

Thanksgiving Day has passed and with it the seventh annual inspection of the 57th Battalion, Peterborough Rangers. Never did our city corps come out of a searching, extremely careful and eminently thorough military examination with more credit, honour and glory to themselves than did the Rangers on yesterday. "The boys," as the citizens love to call the gallant red coats, came out of the trying ordeal "with their military honours thick upon them." The whole battalion, from its doughty commander to the most lately sworn in private, shares alike in the enconiums and rewards which have been so signally and yet worthily won. Once more the fame of the local regiment of volunteers—it