

Niagara this year on one day out of the twelve, (the Sunday that was spent in camp) a small regimental guard consisting of 1 n. c. o. and 6 men was mounted by each regiment for twelve hours, but this only gave a very small number of men the experience of performing the duties of sentries. On actual service a good knowledge of the duties of a sentry is perhaps the most important and valuable knowledge a soldier can possess, as not only the safety of his own life, but the lives of his comrades, depends upon the intelligent manner in which he performs his duty.

A good story is told of what happened to a guard at one of the permanent schools of instruction. The barrack guard consisted of 1 n. c. o. and 3 men, forming a one sentry post. The n. c. o. and two of the men were French Canadians, the other men was an old soldier and an Irishman. It was a winter's evening and dark, so while the Irishman was doing his "sentry go" the French Canadian n. c. o. of the guard and the other two men promptly deserted and nothing was heard of them for many days. The Irishman reported the matter as soon as he could to the orderly officer also a French Canadian, who thought that the proper thing to do under the circumstances was to make a prisoner of the Irishman; he was therefore confined. Next morning Pat was brought up at the orderly room before his commanding officer. The charge was read by the Adjutant: That at seven o'clock last night while he was on sentry duty he had allowed the n. c. o. and two men of the guard to desert. The orderly officer was evidence against poor Pat. The c. o. said he believed the evidence to be true are that the charge had been proven and turning to the Irishman said "now what have you to say?" Sor, I sarved for twenty-one long years in Her most gracious Majesty the Queen's Connaught Rangers, and sure sor haven't I got me long sarvice medal and me good conduct medal to prove it. I have sarved too for one very long year "God save me" in the Canadian Permanent Corps and sor wid all me long experiance this is the furst toime that ever I hurd that in addilshun to performing the dooty of his bate a centry had charges of the non commussuned ofisur of the gaurd. The c. o. glanced at the Adjutant, the Adjutant looked at the orderly officer, the orderly officer stared at the prisoner, Pat was deeply engaged looking at the pattern of the paper on the ceiling. There was a long pause, "silence reigned supreme," at last the Sergt.-Major took matters into his own hands and said sternly and loudly to Pat: "Prisoner right turn, disuiss." Pat obeyed the order then turning to the c. o. put his forage cap on gravely, saluted him and marched himself away to the canteen looking very wise but with a "merry twinkle in his eye."

#### A GLIMPSE ACROSS THE LINE.

While our militia are busy at this season of the year putting in their training, it is perhaps interesting to know that our neighbours across the border are doing

the same thing. The American system is a little different from ours. In the State of New York they have what they call a state camp ground at Peckskill. It is well fitted up with convenient tents, huts and buildings and there is a competent staff of officers drawn from the United States army; one or two battalions go into camp for seven days at a time and as one force marches out another force marches in, thus keeping the camp going for months, each two regiments being relieved by one or two others. This is what the Army and Navy Journal published in New York says of the Seventh Regiment just returned from Peckskill: "Among the interesting features of the battalion drill during the week was the presence of three bicycle orderlies acting as messengers for the Majors during drills and at other times as messengers for the adjutants office. They rode over very rough ground with great ease and seldom dismounted. Colonel Henry, U. S. A., and General McAlpin were greatly impressed, and as a result head quarter orderlies will it is said use bicycles instead of horses hereafter. . . . Unlike other regiments, the 7th is as well drilled and disciplined on the day after it arrives in camp as on the day it leaves it. . . . Officers, n. c. o's and men knew their duties, when they arrive and do not have to be taught, the A.B.C. of extended order or battalion drill. Each junior officer is fully prepared and competent to take the place of his seniors and n. c. o's are able to take an officers place in an emergency. This was frequently evidenced during the week as at guard mounting which was conducted entirely by n. c. o's and when 1st Sergts took command of platoons and corporals of sections, nothing could account for this state of affairs, but the fact that officers and men study previous to the encampment. Throughout the week Lt.-Col. and Brevet Brig. General Henry, 5th U. S. Cavalry, detailed to the camp by the War Department, gave afternoon lectures on the bluff overlooking the camp, to the officers and n. c. o's. He explained the different grades of n. c. o's, their posts and duties under different circumstances. On Wednesday the subject of his talk was the "handling of a battalion going through a defile."

#### OUR NAVAL MILITIA?

Although in Canada we have as fine material as there is perhaps in the world to form a naval militia, yet we have no force of this kind. New York State is in advance of us in this respect, for it has one or two battalions of naval militia. The Army and Navy Journal has the following: "The following instructions have been issued by Adj.-Gen. McAlpin. The summer tour of duty of the naval militia of the State of New York for 1895 will be based on the assumption that a foreign war is imminent and that it is essential, prior to hostilities, to obtain a thorough knowledge of the approaches to New York and the waters of Lake Ontario. The naval militia will therefore, in carrying out the below mentioned routine, keep in mind, as far as circumstances will allow, the foregoing essentials—The education of officers and men

in practical long-shore work; the preparation of a war-map, and the development of signaling and reconnoissance; the defence of the eastern end of the Sound, and of Lake Ontario with torpedoes and obstructions; the study of the waters and the shores of Gardiners and Peconni Bays, this study to include the selection of sites for permanent signal stations and camps."

#### The Bisley Team.

We regret that owing to a delay in our English mail we cannot give in this issue a complete detail of the scores made by our team at Bisley. In our next we will have a complete record of all the prize winning scores made by them at the meeting.

#### The Dominion Rifle Association.

The annual matches of the association take place, in Rideau Range, Ottawa, on August 26, 27, 28, 29 and 30, and the programme which is just to hand promises, as usual, a good week's sport to riflshot. There are no changes of any importance revealed by a cursory glance at the list of the different matches, excepting a change in the distribution of the money to the secondary prizes winners—making the drop in values a little less rapid than it has been in past years. The Hon. Mr. Dickey has continued the handsome gift of his predecessor, so the Honorable the Minister of Militia's Match will again be the biggest plum of the meeting, after the Gov. General's. Altogether it is a good programme, so there is no doubt that a large attendance will gather on the Rideau Ranges to shoot in what will probably be the last meeting of the D. R. A. will hold on this range.

#### B. C. Rifle Association.

This association will have held its 22nd annual prize meeting at Goldstream on 25th to 26th July and judging from the programme the meeting will be a very pleasant one for the competitors. The prizes are not very large, but they are numerous, and the prize list offers riflemen plenty of chances for glory in the way of opportunities for winning cups etc. We will publish the scores of this meeting in our next issue.

The question whether or not Major-General Herbert will resume his duties in Canada, has been settled by the receipt of the General's resignation, which has been accepted, and his connection with the Canadian militia force is, therefore, terminated. The names most frequently mentioned as his successor are those of Col. Johnson, a Canadian by birth, who has been frequently referred to as Major-General Herbert's successor, and Col. Gascoigne, commanding officer of the Scots Guards. Col. Gascoigne is a very distinguished officer of the Guards, who served with his corps through the Egyptian campaign. He is Deputy-Adjutant General of London, in the volunteer service, and has had a great deal of experience which would, no doubt, be of very great service to him should he be commandant of the Canadian militia.—St. Johns News.