

send them out into the country at least once a week to practice attacking or defending a prepared position. Not to practise collective fire under a section commander, but every man to judge his own distance and fire independently at his own target; and then let him inspect the results of his fire. Teach him to stalk his enemy as a sportsman stalks his deer—never to waste a shot—always to fire from under cover. In fact, I would make him a 5 per cent., aye, even a 10 per cent. shot. How invaluable would such a force be on the battle field! how almost infinite the uses to which they could be put! how enormous the amount of destruction they could accomplish!

Not only this, but what an incentive to every soldier in the battalion to work himself up to become eligible for one of the crack companies! This is what we want; *inducements* to make men shoot. Prizes are very well, but unfortunately they are usually won by the half-dozen crack shots in the company—the same men year after year. There is no incentive to a moderate shot to improve himself. Besides, a soldier will always think more in the end of an honorary distinction, such as a cup, badge, or medal, than he will of a money prize. At least such is my experience, although I do not pretend to say that he by any means despises such a prize.

I may be told that my scheme is impracticable because at most stations there is no ground available for this special training. Very well; confine it then to the battalions of the 1st Army Corps only. Quarter these battalions at stations where ground is available—Aldershot, Shorncliffe, the Curragh, Devonport. Form not companies only, but battalions of picked shots in the same way as we train mounted infantry battalions. Develop the good material that exists in the Service, give the soldier who develops practical soldier-like qualities an opportunity to raise himself above the dead level of mediocrity that crushes him down under our present system. It is a common saying that the army that marches best will win the next great conflict, but what about the army that shoots best? Has it no chance? I venture to think it has the very best chance, and this is my excuse for writing the above article.—*United Service Magazine*.

### H. M. S. "Crescents" Great Run.

The "Crescent" is expected at Devonport on July 10, and if the homeward journey is performed as punctually as that outward was, she would drop anchor on the 9th. In any case this cruise of the "Crescent" is remarkable and to be made a note of. That a war vessel can run to Sydney and back again in a little over three months, without a hitch to machinery, developing between 2,000 and 3,000 horse power for a coal consumption of 60 tons a day for all purposes, and giving a speed of from 12 to 13½ knots

an hour, will be a revelation to some people. But, it may be said, this is not to be compared with the performances of steamers of the Mercantile Marine. We are not sure that when the complete record of passage and stoppages comes to be known, it will not bear comparison, even in this respect, but the point is that the merchant ship does not transfer battle force, the cruiser does. It is no uncommon practice with the alarmist to draw pictures of the sudden descent of hostile vessels on the colonial ports, but we are not told, as a rule, whence these marauders come, nor how they get away without the knowledge of the British authorities. Nor is account taken of the fact that from the moment such vessels leave their base, they begin to use up the provisions, and stores, and coals, which are absolutely necessary for the prosecution of their object, and the replenishment of which must be most difficult without their whereabouts becoming known. At all vulnerable points in the British possessions there are now squadrons which may be considered sufficiently strong to hold their own against any marauding force likely to be despatched to a distance, and the knowledge that we have in reserve a number of cruisers of such strength as the "Crescent," capable of transference to a threatened spot, even so far away as Sydney, in from forty to fifty days, must be of a reassuring nature.

### The Annual Rifle Matches.

#### How the Ranges Are Most Easily Reached.

August is the month in which all the principle rifle matches take place in the Dominion. The dates fixed for them are:

Province of Nova Scotia Rifle Association, at Halifax, commencing . . . . .

Province of New Brunswick Rifle Association, at St. John, N.B., commencing . . . . .

Province of Quebec Rifle Association, at Montreal, commencing August.

Province of Ontario Rifle Association, at Toronto, commencing August.

Dominion Rifle Association, at Ottawa, commencing August 28.

At each of these the usual liberal prizes are offered, and it is expected that there will be larger gatherings of the best shots in the country this year than on any previous occasion. To keen marksmen these meetings are most enjoyable events, not only for the pleasure afforded by indulgence in their favorite pastime, and renewing old and making new acquaintance, but in the enjoyment of a pleasant holiday outing. All the ranges are most easily and conveniently reached by the Canadian Pacific Railway, the great connecting link in the Imperial highway, whose service in the transportation of Her Majesty's troops between Halifax and Vancouver has received the highest encomiums from the British Admiralty. With a substantial and well constructed road bed and easy riding cars—the equipment being the finest of any railway on the Continent—the nervous system of the intending competitor is not so shaken and

effected that he finds himself out of condition and badly handicapped in the competitions. In the superb sleepers of the Canadian Pacific he is enabled to make a long journey with the greatest ease and comfort, and reaches his destination thoroughly rested and refreshed, and without that weariness and tired feeling usually attendant upon travelling; in the dining and buffet cars, excellent meals are provided which can be eaten leisurely as the train speeds along; and the elegant first-class coaches are perfectly comfortable.

The Canadian Pacific is the shortest, quickest and pleasantest route to Montreal and Ottawa from Halifax, St. John and other points in the Maritime Provinces, and from Toronto and other western points; as is also between Montreal and Ottawa; and the reduced rates to competitors is only one of the many inducements it offers to riflemen who intend to compete at any of the matches.

Full information regarding rates, sleepers, etc., can be procured from any of the agents of the company.

On June 19 the remains of Lieut.-Col. Charles Erskine, 92nd Highlanders, who lost his leg at the landing of Aboukir in 1801, and died two days afterwards, were removed from the unmarked grave in the desert where they had lain undisturbed for ninety-three years, and reinterred in the military portion of the Protestant Cemetery at Alexandria, in accordance with the wish of Mr. H. D. Erskine, of Cardross, Sergeant-at-Arms of the House of Commons. Major-General Henderson, commanding the garrison of Alexandria, provided the escort from the 1st battalion East Yorkshire Regiment, and the Rev. W. O'Neill, Chaplain to the Forces read a portion of the burial service and delivered a short impressive address at the grave. It will be remembered that the skeleton, which, excepting a few small bones of the hands and feet, was in a perfect state of preservation, was discovered at the Aboukir camp by Private Bardwell, Medical Staff Corps, who gave publicity to the discovery in the *Times*, and the finding of a locket buried with the deceased enabled the Sergeant-at-Arms to identify the remains of his grand uncle. In the wall of the Alexandria Cemetery is a marble slab, which has evidently once served as a Moslem tombstone, found about fifty years ago. It bears the following inscription: "Sacred to the memory of Qr.-Mr. Simpson, of 26th L.D., who was killed in the campaign of 1801, glorious to the British arms, which will be recorded in history. Let the reader look to it for the battles in Egypt."

### FOR SALE.

Rifle Officer's Saddlery complete Saddle, Bridle, Shabraque, plume etc. In good order.

C. S. JONES.

Dept. of Crown Lands,  
Toronto.

### WANTED.

Second-hand, in fair condition, Dragoon Officer's Steel Hilted Sword; set white Sabretach Slings, white Sword Belt Slings, Nickel or Steel Box Spurs, Dragoon Forage Cap. Apply to

CHAS. B. HALPIN,  
Portage la Prairie, Man.