

By a judicious selection of qualified officers for Staff employment at brigade camps and field-days the force will be materially improved, and it will serve to encourage officers in obtaining the necessary qualifications.

Trusting that this matter may commend itself to the powers that be, and particularly in view of the contemplated issue of Regulations and Orders which will be up to date, so as to permit of its being embodied in the same.

I remain, Your obedient servant.

PRO BONO PUBLICO.

Sarnia, Ont., 27th March, 1893.

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The Editor of the MILITARY GAZETTE, Montreal.

DEAR SIR.—In your last issue you have a paragraph stating that Sergt. Bewley of the Royal Grens. had presented the Sergeants' Mess of the 13th Batt., Hamilton, with a photograph of the sergeants of the Grenadiers.

Your correspondent was mis-informed, as the picture was unanimously voted to the Sergeants of the Grenadiers at the last monthly meeting. By correcting you will oblige.

Yours truly,

TRIGGER-GUARD.

Toronto, March 24th, 1893.

Stray Shots.

The Victoria Cross has been awarded to 370 soldiers and 39 sailors, including officers, surgeons, and one clergyman. The youngest recipient of this much-coveted decoration was Drummer Wagner, a lad of fourteen, who was the first to enter Magdala in the Abyssinian War.

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An awkward incident occurred at the review of troops held at Secunderabad the other day in honour of the Austrian Archduke Franz Ferdinand. In response to Col. Ludlow's special request 75 men of the Hyderabad Volunteers turned out in khaki. The question cropped up as to where they were to be placed, and Col. Elton, in command of the forces, suggested that they should march with the second battalion in rear of the Native Infantry. Col. Ludlow regarded this as a slight, and, rather than have his men occupy the proposed position on parade, he had them dismissed.

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A full line of Webley's revolvers will be shown at the forthcoming World's Fair in Chicago, in the show-case of Messrs. W. C. Scott & Son, the well-known Birmingham gun-makers. Webley's revolvers have now been adopted in the Imperial and most of the colonial services, and they are found to be effective and reliable weapons. The R. I. C. No. 1,476 has been adopted by the Queensland, Victorian, and Cape Governments.

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In the opinion of a military writer in the *Militar Wochenblatt*, the more severe the exertion the more carefully should the man or horse be kept from alcoholic stimulation. Col. Schack, the officer referred to, says:—"A horse, like every other animal, can be momentarily excited by alcohol; the action of the heart will be accelerated, but only to be quickly followed by reaction, and a corresponding exhaustion. So long as a man believes in the virtue of alcohol for himself, so long will he believe in its efficiency in the case of horses." In proof of his contention that alcoholic stimulants are injurious to horses, he remarks that Col. Spohr has so long been convinced by the experiments of such physiologists as Professors Donders and Bunge that alcohol is a dangerous poison that he would never dream of giving alcohol to a horse. He gave the treatment a fair trial many years ago, with the result that the animal lost flesh and was in a fair way to die. As soon, however, as these alcoholic "pick-me-ups" were discontinued, the horse recovered its vigor, and was able to be ridden long distances as before.

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The *United Service Gazette* reports that interesting experiments have taken place at Jullundur, with a lance invented

by Col. R. Eardley-Wilmot, 14th Bengal Lancers, in two pieces, joining with a bayonet slot in a brass socket. It is strong, light, and handy, and when the trooper is required to dismount, by a turn of the wrist he divides it in two, and drops the pieces into the bucket from which he has taken his carbine. It was tried during the squadron training of the inventor's regiment, and all are in favor of the new lance. When the men dismounted on the off side they were ready for action in less than half the time it took men who had to fasten the lance to the wallet by a strap. Mounting was also done from the off side.

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The Hawaiian rebels appear to be rushing things, and aping their American friends as much as possible. The *New York Army and Navy Journal* says that a firm in Columbus, Ohio, has received an order from the Provisional Government of the Hawaiian Islands for military clothing, in all respects like that of the fatigue uniforms of the U. S. Army for the use of the National Guard. The order is signed by John H. Soper, colonel commanding N.G.H. The army consists of 494 men. A dark blue silk battalion flag is also ordered, similar in size to the U. S. regulation flag, but with the coat-of-arms of Hawaii on a blue shield in the centre, surmounted by one star. In the centre of this shield is another shield, with three white and four red vertical stripes, bearing a resemblance to the U.S. shield. Over this shield is "Hawaii," and below is the date of the revolution, "January 17, 1893.

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There has been a great yearly diminution during the last ten years in the number of soldiers in military or civil prisons in England and Wales. In 1884 there were 1,117 soldiers in English prisons; in 1891 there were 433, and on the 31st of last December there were but forty-four. Last year not one soldier was sentenced to penal servitude. The expulsions for misconduct have decreased since 1888 from 2,020 to 1,590.

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Two soldiers stationed at Coblenz, on the Rhine, killed themselves on 7th March. One was in the artillery and the other in the infantry, and both had become tired of life because of the brutality shown them by non-commissioned officers. Since January 1 ten soldiers in the German army have killed themselves because they were unable to bear the abuse of their N.C. officers.

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The militia of the United States number a little more than 112,000 men. Every state and territory in the Union, excepting Utah, has a militia organization.

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Capt. F. Campbell, Deputy Assistant Adjutant-General for musketry in India, has contributed an instructive paper to the journal of the United Service Institution of India, with reference to improvement in revolver shooting. With regard to the Service pattern pistol, Webley's Revolver Mark I., the writer remarks that the bullet will penetrate nine half-inch deal boards at a range of 12 yards. Capt. Campbell is in favour of a large charge and a lighter bullet, so as to obtain greater muzzle velocity. Capt. Campbell reports that a marked improvement has taken place in revolver shooting during the past three years, and attributes it to the change in targets, a bull's eye target having been substituted for the old figure target. He advocates the discontinuance of "continuous practice," and would substitute "Rapid Fire practice" for it, as he considers that it is desirable to instruct the men to present and fire rapidly, and to contract the habit to fire low, so as to hit the trunk. There is no doubt that with the long pull of the revolver, a man aiming at continuous practice is apt to fire a great deal too high.

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Cavalry soldiers often sleep in the saddle after a fatiguing march, and, although it would seem to be impossible to march on foot and sleep at the same time, there are authentic instances of the performance of such a feat. Artillerymen in battle have been known to sleep from exhaustion under their own guns, which were constantly firing.