

32nd Batt.—Adverting to No. 4 of General Orders (15) 16th September, 1887, the appointment of Lieut. Jas. Henderson Scott to be adjutant, will date “from 14th August, 1886.”

35th Batt.—No. 5 Co.—2nd Lieut. F. J. Crease resigns.

36th Batt.—No. 5 Co.—To be lieut. prov., from 30th September, 1887, Pte. Samuel A. Neilley, vice Sutherland.

42nd Batt.—No. 3 of General Orders (9) 3rd June, 1887, is amended by permitting Captain and Adjutant Richard Thomas Steele, to retire retaining his rank of captain.

44th Batt.—No. 8 Co.—Lieut. W. B. Raymond retires retaining rank.

49th Batt.—No. 6 Co.—Capt. Jas. Alex. Orr having left limits, his name is removed from the list of officers of the active militia.

56th Batt.—No. 4 Co.—To be 2nd lieut., prov., Sergt. Lincoln Beckett, vice Hiram Malcolm Buchanan, who resigns.

65th Batt.—To be lieuts., 2nd Lieut. C. A. A. Laframboise, R.S.I.

2nd Lieut. M. G. C. E. Desnoyers, R.S.I.

2nd Lieut. F. S. Mackay, R.S.I.

66th Batt.—To be major, Capt. B. A. Weston, V.B., from the adjutancy, vice Curren transferred to and promoted in 1st Halifax B. of G. A.

88th Batt.—No. 3 Co.—To be capt., Lieut. J. E. Rossignol, M.S., from No. 5 Co., vice Auguste Gagné, deceased.

94th Batt.—No. 4 Co.—To be 2nd lieut. prov., Sergt. Joseph Sutherland McLean, vice W. Micheau transferred to No. 5 Co.

New Westminister Rifle Co.—To be 2nd lieut., prov., Reginald John Rickman, vice William McColl, who resigns.

CONFIRMATION OF RANK.

2nd Lieut. Andrew Guy Ross, R.S.A., Winnipeg Field Battery; from 21st August, 1887.

2nd Lieut. Frank Coote, R.S.I., No. 8 Co., 89th Batt.; from 31st August, 1887.

BREVET.

Permanent Corps.—To be captains (under provisions of par. 502, R. & O. 1883):

Lieut. Victor Brereton Rivers, R.M.C., Reg. of Canadian Artillery; from 10th August, 1887.

Lieut. Joseph A. G. Hudon, R. S. G., Reg. of Canadian Artillery; from 10th August, 1887.

Lieut. Thomas Benson, R.M.C., Reg. of Canadian Artillery; from 21st August, 1887.

No. 5.—CERTIFICATES GRANTED.—ROYAL SCHOOLS OF CAVALRY.

First Class “Special Course.”

Rank and Name.	Corps.	Percentage of Marks Obtained.		
		Written.	Practical.	Aggregate Percentage.
Capt. L. D. C. F. Bliss.....	Ottawa F. Battery .	.92	.87	.88

ROYAL SCHOOL OF ARTILLERY.
Second Class “Special Course.”

2nd Lieut. A. G. Ross	Winnipeg F. Bat. .	.85	.50	.67
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First Class “Long Course,” Grade “B.”

Sergt. H. Donaldson.....	1st Prov. B. F. Art ..	.72	.87	.81
Sergt. R. Gillies.....	Durham F. Battery .	.81	.83	.82

First Class “Short Course,” Grade “B.”

Bombr. S. Field.....	“A” Batt. R.C.A. .	.74	.71	.72
Bombr. R. Gore.....	do	.81	.74	.76

Second Class “Short Course” Grade “B.”

Acting Bombr. C. de Chamard	“A” Batt. R.C.A. .	.74	.56	.63
Gunner G. Brimstone	do	.61	.55	.57
Gunner J. Foote.....	do	.78	.63	.68

ROYAL SCHOOLS OF INFANTRY.
First Class “Long Course,” Grade “A.”

Lieut. H. O. Morphy	2nd Batt. .	.85	.83	.84
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Aggregate percentage obtained at R. M. College, 74.

Second Class “Short Course,” Grade “A.”

2nd Lieut. F. Coote.....	89th Batt. .	.72	.62	.67
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First Class “Long Course,” Grade “B.”

Sergt. E. Lamontagne.....	9th Batt .	.61	.84	.71
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Rifle Shooting in the Canadian Militia.

THE BENEFIT RECEIVED FROM RIFLE ASSOCIATIONS—SOME REASONS WHY OFFICERS SHOULD PRACTISE WITH THE RIFLE—THE SHOOTING MEN THE ENTHUSIASTS OF THE FORCE—GIVING IT A PERMANENCE OTHERWISE WANTING.

To the Editor of the Canadian Militia Gazette:

SIR,—In your issue of the 15th ult. there appeared a letter signed “Lt.-Col.” which purported to express the seriously considered opinion of the writer upon the utility of our rifle associations to the volunteer force. It must have been read by many riflemen among your subscribers and I am not a little surprised that it has not, ere this, met with some rejoinder. The writer after 25 years’ experience and observation confesses that he is unable to see that any real benefit is conferred upon the rank and file of the force by the large amount of money granted to the associations, and he likewise indulges in the shortsighted objection to officers and n. c. officers being allowed to compete in the matches. He styles his letter his “last shot,” and somewhat confidently anticipates that it will be a bullseye. I cannot but hope that he has miscalculated either the weight of his projectile or the resisting power of contrary opinions, and that his “last shot” will prove in the end to be but a melancholy cypher. The following is my own “candid and thoughtful” opinion upon the matter, and I trust that, though falling short, it may possibly ricochet to the mark; or, better still, help to give the proper elevation to others among your correspondents.

Now, when it is said that “no real benefit is being received from our rifle associations it is not out of place to ask—what kind of benefit is expected? What is the peculiar work of an association? “Lt.-Col.” evidently considers that the associations are charged with the work of improving the general standard of marksmanship throughout the force; a work surely which they were never designed to effect, and which only can be effected by means of a regular course of musketry instruction and the annual firing of at least 60 rounds per man; a regimental work this, I take it, which should form part of our annual drill and be enforced by the militia authorities. I certainly think it is quite beyond the scope of rifle associations.

Rather am I of the opinion that the associations in Canada, like the great National association at home, exist “to give permanence to the volunteer force and to encourage rifle shooting amongst its members.” If viewed in this light, I claim that in both particulars they are doing a necessary work and are conferring a benefit, and one of no small moment, upon the volunteer force, rank and file included.

Should we not realize that rifle shooting, which began with the volunteer movement in England, has developed into an earnest and manly sport, and a sport fortunately confined to enrolled volunteers? In reality our associations are promoting this sport and in so doing they are continually attracting men to the force. Those whom they attract they retain. “Lieut.-Col” if he is a commanding officer must be fully aware of the shifting character of our militia. It is no very frequent thing for men to enrol for a second period of service and oftentimes they drop out before the first three years expire. I venture to say that he has found few rifle shots so fickle, as their enthusiasm binds them to the service. Such, at least, has been my experience during 12 years connection with a shooting company and in all that time I have known but three shooting men who were wanting in military duty. If this is the experience generally in other corps, and I have reason to believe that it is, can it be said that no real benefit is being received from rifle associations? Could any benefit be more real since to the extent to which it is conferred it is converting the militia into a permanent force?

Also it is my opinion that the Provincial and Dominion associations are making the most of their means in encouraging rifle shooting. “Lieut.-Col’s.” suggestion is that the money now given to the associations be distributed regimentally and offered in prizes at the annual drill in camp. Now such a plan would certainly impart some additional interest to the target practice and the men who fluked the prizes would appreciate the accidental plunder. But rifle shooting is not acquired by simply firing 20 rounds at 200, 400 and 500 yards, even though some valuable prizes hang in the balance. The prizes must be offered in such a way as to induce previous practice and I am quite convinced that our pyramid system of rifle associations is the best suited for the purpose. The young shot of to-day begins his career in his local club or county association; he shoots on into the provincial and eventually into the Dominion, and the crowning encouragement from the first has been a place on the Wimbledon team. But in this happy progression “Lieut.-Col.” finds no value; he would prefer to dissipate the government grants at the several camps, where the benefit would begin and end with the scramble for the prizes. The 20 rounds once fired there would remain no inducement for any man to keep up his shooting or to touch his rifle until the ensuing camp. Probably the only sure result of this plan would be that we would have no rifle shots in Canada.

Now I admit with “Lieut.-Col.” that one great difficulty stands in the way of any general participation in the competitions by the members of the militia, be they officers, n.c.o’s. or men. It is a difficulty which must always exist. The majority cannot afford the time and the expense which a fair amount of practice entails. This is not, however, any fault of the associations; it is rather the necessary result of rifle shooting being a thing not learnt in a day. On this point we must conclude that until the government is prepared to issue yearly to each man several hundred rounds and require him to carefully expend it, skill in rifle shooting can only be attained by those who have some little time to devote to it. “Lieut.-Col.” seems to think that only the rank and file are affected by the want of time and money. My own observation leads me to believe that quite as large a proportion of officers and sergeants labor under the same difficulties.

And this brings me to the time-honored protest against officers and non-commissioned officers as competitors. “Lt. Col.” laments that so many of the prizes at the recent D. R. A. matches were won by them. A certain staff officer in Nova Scotia during the past summer, I believe, publicly expressed his disapproval of an officer being allowed to compete. So keen is their sense of consistency that they cannot tolerate the presence of an officer or staff-sergeant at the firing points because, if called into action, both would have to relinquish their rifles to the rank and file. I wonder who would be better fitted to command a section of skirmishers—a practical rifle shot or an officer who has been forbidden to trespass on a rifle range?

Those who hold the views of “Lt.-Col.” seem to think that officers are all rifle shots because they are officers possessing no end of time and means. Did it ever occur to them that they are officers because they are rifle shots? that the officers of to-day are the privates of yesterday? It is in the order of things that length of service brings promotion, and unless “Lt.-Col.” is prepared to refuse promotion to riflemen, they must of necessity wear the stripes and hold commissions. After having carefully gone over the list of competitors at Ottawa, I am prepared to state that at least three out of every five have passed through the ranks. In New Brunswick some 33 officers take part in the various competitions, and to my own knowledge 25 of these have served with the bayonet. I presume it will go without proof that all sergeants have done so.