

tion whether it would not be a preferable weapon for the present campaign—whether, in short, the best arm for one mode of warfare is the best for another. Where large continental armies are operating against each other in masses of hundreds or thousands in comparatively open country, long range and low trajectory are of great importance, and the British authorities are doing their utmost to improve their arms, in these respects, not being satisfied even with the Martini-Henry, which is so much superior to the Snider; but where a few scattered guerrillas are concealed in a thick bush whence they have to be driven foot by foot by careful skirmishing, where a range of more than a few yards is in the nature of things an impossibility, and where the only shot they are likely to get is, figuratively speaking, a flying one, then the rifle that can fire the most shots in the least time is the best weapon, as our brave boys have lately learned to their cost.

The D. R. A. should take a lesson from this campaign and organize matches for the encouragement of skilful skirmishing. Something they have done in this direction already by the establishment of the military matches, but not enough. The restriction of these matches to teams, the firing over the regular range, where every distance can be estimated within ten yards, and the large size and clear color of the targets, all present conditions differing from those which men would meet in action; and in so far fail to fulfil the object they have in view, yet the difficulties of making thoroughly satisfactory arrangements are obvious. It was intended last year to have fitted up a running man, but several circumstances combined to prevent the carrying out of the scheme; this year we trust the association will be able to introduce the novelty. We suggest that practical shots should think out some methods of introducing upon the Rideau range competitions that would to a reasonable extent simulate the conditions of such warfare as our militia are likely to be engaged in, and publish them in these columns, a course that would probably ensure for them full discussion and consideration.

#### THE WEEK'S MOVEMENTS OF CORPS ON ACTUAL SERVICE.

When we went to press last week news had just arrived that General Middleton's column, having been reinforced by four companies of the Midland battalion and by supplies received on the arrival of the *Northcote*, had advanced on Batoche, and had engaged the insurgents on the 9th; the *Northcote* acting as a gunboat and co-operating in the rear. On Sunday the engagement was renewed and the outworks of Batoche taken, and on Monday the troops, further reinforced by the D. L. S. scouts, continued to advance fighting until at last it was decided to charge the place, which was taken at the point of the bayonet, the rebels being totally routed and their forces permanently scattered. All this was not accomplished without further loss, there being eight killed in the three days' fight and about thirty wounded, of whom at least two have since died. On Saturday Riel was taken prisoner by General Middleton's scouts. This column has probably ere this reached Prince Albert, which has been in a state of siege since the 26th March. The 7th Fusiliers have been moved to Saskatchewan Crossing, it having been the intention to take them down the river to General Middleton's support, but this plan may now be changed. Col. Scott's Winnipeg battalion is also said to be marching on Clark's Crossing from Fort Qu'Appelle.

No movements of troops have occurred in connection with the Battleford contingent since last week, and the only event to chronicle is the capture by Poundmaker of a large quantity of supplies in transit to that point.

General Strange's contingent having occupied Edmonton, was reinforced by Col. Smith's Winnipeg battalion on the 9th, and on the

same day the General, with part of the 65th Batt., left for Fort Pitt by boat, Steele's scouts and police keeping him company along the bank. He proposes to re-garrison Fort Pitt, and to make that his base of operations against the neighboring hostiles.

The Montreal Garrison Artillery, which left on Monday last, has not yet reached Winnipeg, having been delayed longer than anticipated at the gap in the railway.

Three other battalions were ordered out previous to the General's victory and will probably go forward this week. They are the 32nd "Bruce" battalion of infantry from Western Ontario, consisting of eight companies, under command of Lieut.-Col. J. G. Cooper; the 1st Battalion, "Prince of Wales' Regiment" of Rifles, of Montreal, under Lieut.-Col. Frank Bond, six companies; and a provisional battalion of eight companies of infantry from New Brunswick, under Lieut.-Col. Maunsell, Commandant of "C" Infantry school, made up of four companies of the 62nd St. John Fusiliers, and one each from the 67th Carleton Light Infantry, 71st York Infantry, 73rd Northumberland Infantry and 74th Infantry.

#### RIFLES AND RIFLE SHOOTING.—I.

BY CAPTAIN HENRY F. PERLEY, HEADQUARTERS STAFF.

Some years ago four lectures were prepared for the information and instruction of the members of the New Brunswick Engineers at St. John, N.B., and they are now presented, amended to suit the changes which have taken place since their compilation, in the hope that with the prominence now given to them they may be productive of good in creating a desire, on the part of every member of the active force into whose hands this paper may fall, to learn, and learn thoroughly, the use of his rifle, and in stimulating those who have attained a certain degree of proficiency to strive to attain a higher standard. The lectures were not written as a literary effort, nor for the benefit of first-class shots, but for the benefit of those who were desirous of knowing what they had to do to become such, and it may be here stated that the writer was amply repaid for his trouble by the results which were obtained.

The first lecture treated of the history of arms, etc., and was written for the purpose of showing the changes that have taken place between the sling and the bow of earliest times and the Martini of to-day. The second lecture treated of explosives and projectiles and their manufacture. The third dipped lightly into theoretical principles, and the fourth took up the subject of shooting; and of the whole it must be said that the information they contain has been carefully selected from standard works, and is not given as being in any way original, and free use has been made of the portions selected, though no credit has been given to the original writer.

#### HISTORY OF ARMS, ETC.

Arms, whether for aggression, defence or hunting have existed since time immemorial, and are coeval with man. In the beginning stone was the material out of which arrow and spear heads, axes, hammers, knives, and farming and household implements were formed, and these have continued in use amongst barbarous tribes and nations up to the present day.

The stages in the progress of a nation from barbarism to civilization have been placed at three in number, and are defined as those of "stone," "bronze" and "iron," and it is maintained that ages or periods existed in which only implements of stone were in use; that with the discovery of copper and tin, the constituents of bronze, and also of the method of melting and combining them, bronze took the place of stone; while it in turn gave way to iron and its product steel.

The name of the "stone age" is therefore given to the period when weapons and household implements were made of stone, wood,