

say that my experience has deeply impressed me with their value to the country, and I would much prefer to see more of them established or the capacity of the present ones increased, to having itinerant schools. The officers have been very carefully selected, the instruction is very thorough, and the surroundings are what are necessary to make good soldiers. That little story about "two hours' drill and three hours' mess etiquette" seems to have been accepted both by yourself and your correspondent as a fact. It is, of course, only a joke. Full uniform is not insisted upon; the regulations provide that short course officers must have tunic, patrol jacket, undress trousers, etc., but the use of mess jacket and waistcoat and full dress trousers is left optional, and officers attending for a special course certificate are permitted to wear undress uniform. In my humble opinion the schools of instruction are admirably adapted to carry out the objects for which they were formed, and are doing a good work for the country. If they cannot accommodate all who apply for admission the remedy lies in the extension of the system. This is being done and will no doubt continue to be done. We can safely trust the energetic Minister of Militia and the able officers by whom he is assisted to be fully alive to the wants of the force and to be only limited in their actions by the amount of money voted by Parliament.

In conclusion, I would venture to suggest that it would add much to the interest of all articles and correspondence if the writers were to follow the practice in the English military papers and sign their names and rank.

CONSTITUTION FOR A SMALL RIFLE ASSOCIATION.

1. The name of this association shall be the Rifle Association.
2. The objects of the association shall be the encouragement and development of marksmanship in the
3. Any member of the may become a member of the association by the payment of an annual subscription fee—for officers of two dollars, for non-commissioned officers and men of fifty cents.
4. The officers of the association shall consist of a president, first and second vice-president, and a secretary-treasurer, who, together with five other members of the association, shall form a council, all of whom shall be elected annually at the annual general meeting of the association, and who shall have the management of all the business of the association.
5. In the event of a vacancy occurring in this council the remaining members thereof shall have power to fill such vacancy, provided that a quorum for this purpose shall consist of not less than five members of the council.
6. There shall be two auditors, elected at the annual general meeting, whose duty it shall be to audit the treasurer's accounts for the following year, and report thereon, at the next annual meeting.
7. The annual meeting of the association for the election of officers, members of council, and auditors (who must not be members of council) shall take place on the day in April in each year.
8. The presence of ten qualified members shall be requisite to constitute any general meeting of the association.
9. An extraordinary meeting of the association may, at any time, be called by the council, upon giving ten days' notice of the same to each member of the association, and shall be called upon receipt of a requisition signed by five members of the association; at which meeting no subjects shall be discussed beyond those specified in the notice.
10. The secretary-treasurer of the association shall give previous notice to each member of the association of every meeting of the association, and to each member of the council of every meeting of the council. He shall make and keep a true record of the proceedings of all meetings of the association, and of the council, have custody of the constitution, by-laws, and records of the association, and conduct its correspondence.
11. He shall be charged with the collection and custody of the funds of the association, and keep a regular account thereof, which must be submitted to the council whenever required. He shall also prepare and submit at each annual meeting, a statement showing the financial condition of the association.
12. The council shall have charge of and control all matters affecting the welfare of the association, subject to this constitution, and shall decide all questions of difference that may arise affecting the interests of the association.
13. The council shall have full control of the funds of the association.
14. A quorum of the council (except for the purpose of filling a vacancy therein) shall consist of three of its members.

15. Annual prize meetings shall be held at such times and places, and under such regulations, as may be determined on by the council. (*Add, if desired*—The council shall also arrange and regulate periodical practices of the association)

16. No change shall be made in these rules, except at a general meeting; and the secretary-treasurer shall notify each member in writing of the proposed change at least ten days previous to such meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE.

SNIDER AMMUNITION.

To the Editor of the Canadian Militia Gazette:

SIR,—If the Department of Militia would only move in the matter, the rifle-men of Canada could have cheaper ammunition. Last September an exhibition was made in the ammunition tent, Rideau range, during the D.R.A. matches, of the process of reloading shells, and it was then stated—unofficially—that the Department of Militia would, on payment, furnish bullets, caps and powder, at a fixed price per 100, and the machines for reloading as well.

In the report of the department, at page 231, reference is made to a spinal shell for reloading—"that half the price of Snider ammunition is saved at each reloading," and that "reloading tools could be procured very cheap (\$15 a set);" and on page 233, are "directions for reloading brass coiled Snider B.L. cartridges."

Permit me through your columns to ask the Minister of Militia to have published, where and how bullets, powder, &c., can be obtained, and the price, and if his department will supply, on payment, sets of reloading tools.

SNAP-CAP.

THE CARTRIDGE COMMISSION REPORT.

To the Editor of the Canadian Militia Gazette:

DEAR SIR,—I read in your column of "Comment and Criticism" some very appropriate remarks about the D. C. ammunition we are to use this season. Moreover that the "boys" threaten, among others, the members of the cartridge commission with a "lively time" if this ammunition is not up to their standard. Now "boys" don't be in too big a hurry, but let us wait till the report is issued, and then, in justice to the commission, read and digest it carefully, draw our own conclusions, and then make it extremely lively where those "lively times" are merited. In the meantime let those printers hurry up and give out the report.

OLD BOY.

ANNUAL PRACTICE.

To the Editor of the Canadian Militia Gazette:

DEAR SIR,—The general, in his report, very rightly recommends rifle practice at short ranges. But the last general orders on record requires 20 rounds to be fired at annual practice as follows: five rounds at 200 yards, ten at 400 yards, and five at 500 yards. Rifle practice is now beginning all over the Dominion, but no G. O. in accordance with the general's recommendation yet appeared.

During the annual drill there is not much time to devote to musketry instruction, to do it thoroughly, and recruits have to take their chance on the rifle range; therefore it is next to impossible to make them hit the target even once in five shots at 200 yards, for it is invariably the case that the officer in charge, doing his best to instruct, only finds out the cause of the "missing" at the last round, then he away to 400 to meet with worse results. It would be more to the point to fire 10 rounds at 200 yards, or, in fact, not let the man go farther until he can score at that range, even if he fires his whole 20 rounds in the attempt. Give us more ammunition for the annual practice, and fire at 100, 200 and 300 yards, with some skirmishing at unknown distances between those limits. Long range shooting may be indulged in by those proved capable of it, but outside of the annual practice.

To illustrate the necessity of practice at unknown short ranges, the following speaks for itself:—Last year, for a variety, I constructed five oval targets, 10 inches by 14, as described in 1879 rifle exercises, on page 257, and stuck them on the side of a hill. Five of our best men, who, by the way, are not satisfied if they do not score 27 or 28 points out of a possible 30, at 200 yards kneeling, each chose a target, and with six rounds each started from about 175 yards to skirmish to 100 yards. The line was halted by command, and kneeling, several shots were fired at the unknown distance independently, then advanced and fired till the thirty rounds were expended. On examination the targets contained about *eight hits* all told. Verbum sap.

SHORT RANGE.

THE ACTIVE MILITIA AND THE SCHOOLS.

To the Editor of the Canadian Militia Gazette:

SIR,—Having read with considerable interest the correspondence on this subject, and particularly the letter signed "Miles," and which I am sorry to see displays a feeling which I was quite unaware existed, namely, animosity and a certain amount of jealousy on the part of the active militia towards us, permit me to correct one of the statements made in his letter, published in your paper of the 30th March.

He says: "The schools, or, as it is becoming the fashion to call them, the permanent corps, were established as *auxiliaries* to the active force, for the express purpose of providing a means of instruction for the officers of that force. On that basis, and that only, did Parliament vote the money for their establishment."

The italics in the above extract are mine, and I propose to try and show how wrong the above statement is, and how unjust, both to the permanent—or, as they should be called, the regular—corps, and to the House of Parliament, the members of which have now for fifteen years voted the necessary supplies for their pay and maintenance.