

belonging to the East Surrey regiment through a complete course of musketry training, including target practice, without extending by a single day the six weeks' training, ordinarily necessary, even where no target practice is included. Col. Fitzroy, the officer commanding, who has not only permitted the experimental classes, but has followed them with the warmest interest, cannot fail to be gratified at finding his recruits, after their bare six weeks' course, at once able to take their place at the ordinary rifle range, and make sure of not only hitting the target, but of making a good score of points with nearly every shot. And this brilliant result has been achieved at the most trifling cost. A miniature range of thirty yards was improvised in a corner of the barrack square, a few rough boards were put up in an outhouse to serve for a cartridge factory, and a bullet mould and a few simple tools, with a couple of Martini-Henry drill rifles with the breech converted at the cost of about ten shillings, so as to take the miniature cartridge, were provided by Major Richards to complete the establishment. It only remained to provide a couple of thousand rounds of the miniature cartridge, which is of the same calibre as the Martini service cartridge, though the bullet is much shorter and lighter, and the powder-chamber is much reduced. Major Richards considers it an essential part of the system of training that every recruit should learn not only how to shoot his ammunition away to advantage, but how to replace that which has been used; and much of the extraordinary interest which the recruits, to a man, exhibit in the work is probably due to the fact that the two natural propensities, inherent in all of us, to construct and to destroy are both satisfied in the miniature bullet system of training. As soon as a few score rounds have been shot away the men who have fired them are marched up to the rough bench and set to work, some to knock out the old cap, replace it with a new one, put in a fresh charge of powder and a new bullet and wads, and others to recast fresh bullets from the battered ones picked up on the range after being fired. This plan has the incalculable advantage of providing a practically unlimited supply of ammunition at a merely nominal cost, for it is found that each cartridge case will shoot on the average of thirty bullets before it requires to be thrown away. Any regiment can, in fact, keep itself continually supplied with the miniature ammunition at a cost of from 5s. to 7s. per 1,000 rounds, for the only expense after the first outlay, which is very small, is limited to the cost of powder and caps. The shooting at the miniature target forms a part of the daily programme of work of the camp at Merrow down; a certain number of men who have become very expert at making the cartridges, preparing every morning about 500 rounds, which are fired in the evening after four, when the drill parades are over for the day. In addition to a certain quantity issued free to each company, the men are allowed to purchase ammunition for practice, and the range is constantly occupied to its full extent by the men desiring private practice. The officers and non-com. officers, too, are often found at the range, which has become most popular with all ranks. The actual range is thirty yards, but by the reduction of the bull's-eye and inner ring the target at that distance represents a third-class target at 200 yards. One officer, Lieut. Fraser, has had one of his targets, made a few days ago, nailed up on a post as a challenge to all comers. It counts nineteen points out of a possible twenty in five shots, a record which is not likely to be easily broken, though several scores of eighteen have been made in the attempt. The miniature targets are of paper, with a bull's-eye 1 inch and an inner ring of 3 inches diameter. These are simply hung on a nail driven into a stout log, which answers for the butt. The marker sits within an iron mantlet, and spots on an enlarged target raised above his head. Expert shots can generally get ten or twelve shots within a 2-inch ring, and sometimes closer. Misses are rare among men who have gone through a brief course of instruction, and the average of the shooting has been very largely improved. Many scores averaging centres are recorded, and a majority score more than half the points possible. The practice has been carefully observed by the inspecting officer, Col. Hercy, and by Col. Davis, and both of these officers have thanked Major Richards in the warmest terms for the introduction of a system of instruction which tends to engage the attention of recruits, and to materially develop and improve their shooting powers at little or no cost to the nation.—*United Service Gazette*.

In the arts of war as well as in the arts of peace, Canada is taking a leading place in England this year. Canadians did well at the Wimbledon meeting a few weeks ago, and at Shoeburyness they have more than maintained former prestige. The welcome extended to them on every hand at Shoeburyness, as at Wimbledon, must have been most gratifying, and in no formal way was the hope expressed that their visits may become fixed events for each recurring autumn. Lord Wolseley, indeed, in reviewing the Shoeburyness forces, went further. He even ventured to hope that next year, the jubilee of Her Majesty's reign, might be signalled by a visit to the artillery camp of representatives of all the great colonies of the Empire. The suggestion is worthy of consideration. It has already been found practical at Wimbledon, and there is reason to hope that the invitation of the British National Artillery Association may another year meet with as much success in the other colonies as it has done in Canada.—*Canadian Gazette*, August 19.

The Shoeburyness Team.

THE following interview with Lieut.-Col. Oswald, by a Montreal *Star* reporter, will be read with great interest in view of the correspondence on the subject which has lately appeared in these columns, and in connection with the explanatory letter of Lieut.-Col. Macdonald, president of the council, published elsewhere in this issue:—

“ ‘Any complaints as to the constitution of the Canadian artillery Shoeburyness team should come from the other side, not from here,’ remarked Lieut.-Col. Oswald, who has just returned from England, to a *Star* reporter this morning. ‘The cry which has been raised that because some A and B battery men form part of the team it is not a fair contest against the English volunteers emanates, I am told, from a few irresponsible parties who are jealous of the continued success of the team. The constitution of the Canadian team was agreed upon in 1881, when the invitation was issued by the National Artillery association and accepted by it. It was then understood that the team should embrace two men from A, two from B battery, two gentlemen cadets from Kingston, and the balance from the different provinces. Such a selection was made with the object that the different provinces might profit by the experience and increased knowledge they derive on the other side. Were any change to take place in the constitution of the team, I can assure you it would be most unpopular in England, as the battery men and the cadets are great favorites.’ ‘But is it a fair contest between Canadian volunteers and British volunteers?’ ‘You cannot draw a comparison between the two services. The English volunteer artillery brigades are composed of from eight hundred to a thousand men, with a regularly attached adjutant, who in most cases is a commissioned officer in the Royal artillery. The Brigade is undergoing training the whole year round, and it is a very easy thing to select a smart team from it. Our men are taken from garrison brigades and field batteries from all over the Dominion, and it is only with the assistance of the A and B batteries they are got into shape. The composition of the Canadian team gives entire satisfaction on the other side, and it is a pity that the success of the team should be spoiled by a few Canadian grumblers. You must remember the twenty Canadians competed against 2,000, including the Royal arsenal men from Woolwich.’

Col. Oswald, who only returned from England yesterday, says that the colonial exhibition which has attracted so many colonists to London, has had the effect of inspiring a great revulsion of feeling towards the colonies, and a great effort is being made to have the celebration of the Queen's jubilee next year an occasion for demonstrating the strength of the colonies by having representatives of all arms present from the different dependencies of the Empire.”

Personals.

Sir Adolphe Caron, Minister of Militia, was expected to sail from England for Canada on the 26th ult.

As noted in our news columns, Lieut.-Col. Gibson has been promoted to the command of the 13th battalion, in room of Col. Skinner, resigned. Col. Gibson began his military life when, during the patriotic excitement incident to the “Trent affair,” he joined the University rifles, over twenty-four years ago. After completing his very brilliant college course, he joined the 13th battalion, in July, 1863, as a private. From that time onwards he steadily passed through all the ranks until, working his way up with the steady industry and ability which characterize the man, he has finally achieved the highest station attainable in Canadian military life—the command of a regiment. Col. Gibson is more than usually well qualified for his command. Apart from the fact that he has long held a first-class military school certificate, he possesses much valuable experience. He has been an active and influential promoter of rifle practice amongst the Canadian volunteers. He himself is a famous rifle-shot, with a brilliant record in the Dominion and Wimbledon rifle contests. In 1879 he won the Prince of Wales prize at Wimbledon with the highest score ever made with the Snider-Enfield rifle. In addition to many accomplishments, practically advantageous for a commander of volunteers, Col. Gibson has the well-merited esteem and regard of the officers and men of his regiment, who unanimously hail his promotion with expressed approbation. We wish him long life to enjoy his many honors, assured that no one has a larger share of public confidence or is more entitled to it than he.—*Hamilton Times*, August 28.

6th Fusiliers.—The 6th Fusiliers, of Montreal, contemplate a trip to Brockville early in September. Three days will be spent under canvas there, and the men are expected to benefit considerably from the experience.