

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

[This paper does not necessarily share the views expressed in correspondence published in its columns, the use of which is freely granted to writers on topics of interest to the Militia.]

THE COMMAND OF THE GRENADIERS.

EDITOR MILITIA GAZETTE,—Your remarks in reference to the retirement of C. O.'s were rather rough on the retiring officer of the Grenadiers (Major Mason) who the readers of the GAZETTE would suppose had resigned because Lt.-Colonel Dawson would not retire and let him have command of the regiment, and that Lt.-Colonel Dawson has only been in command of the Grenadiers for two years. Now Colonel Dawson will have been four years in command at the end of spring drill and on June 1st he is three years Lt.-Colonel. Nextly, Major Mason did not ask Col. Dawson to make way for him, nor did he ask any other member of the regiment to suggest such a thing, and he has consistently refused to give his reasons for retiring, and has kept the matter from the public as much as possible.

In your remarks you say "after an officer has built up the corps": from this your readers would suppose the Grenadiers had been run down to the lowest ebb when Col. Dawson took command, which is as contrary to fact as possible, for the Grenadiers were in better condition then than ever before or since, and as good as they are ever likely to be again.

I will close by saying that I do not think it would be advisable to compel C. O.'s to retire at the end of any given period.

Yours, &c., NEMO.

[NOTE.—Our correspondent mis-quotes the MILITIA GAZETTE. We assigned no reason for Major Mason's retirement, but on the contrary stated our lack of information concerning the business affairs of the Grenadiers. We took exception, on principle, to the demand made by a Toronto newspaper that Col. Dawson should resign "to make promotion," but certainly did not state or suggest that Major Mason had made any such demand or request. And we made no comparison of the past and present efficiency or standing of the Grenadiers.—EDITOR.]

COMMANDING OFFICERS.

EDITOR MILITIA GAZETTE,—Touching the late expression of the opinion that commanding officers should be retired after a given time, in order to give promotion to others, it appears to me that it would be very unfair. I for one have no desire to see good officers leave the force, not even to gratify ambition that may appear laudable. We need all the live and efficient officers we can get. If our Deputy Adjutants General would honestly make use of the knowledge they gain at the camps as to the ability of officers and insist on having "the duffers weeded out" a great step towards efficiency would be taken. It must be patent to them that many a company and battalion is placed at a disadvantage by bad command. It is the officers who have not and never will have the tact to instruct and command who keep "the force" back. Retire this class and there will be promotion sufficient to gratify legitimate ambition.

HUMBOLT.

Foreign nations show no lack of appreciation of the importance of the cavalry arm, and it is evident that it is destined to play a most important part in the next great shock of arms. England neglects her cavalry, as we do, but on the Continent every effort is being made to fit it for efficient service.—U. S. Army and Navy Journal.

THERE must be great merit in SLOCUM'S preparations. His OXYGENIZED EMULSION of PURE COD LIVER OIL, has taken the first place as a cure for consumption and kindred diseases. Every druggist sells it and no household should be without it. The remedy is reliable and invaluable.

THE RIFLE.

[Secretaries of Rifle Clubs and others interested are invited to send in the chief scores of practice or other competitions.]

The following are the scores of the three practices of the Ottawa Rifle Club already held this season:—

25TH APRIL.—200, 500 AND 600 YARDS—SNIDER.

H. H. Gray 27 26 25—78	W. A. Jamieson . 19 21 23—63
G. Maillene 21 27 24—72	J. E. Hutcheson . 24 23 16—63
A. P. Sherwood . . 22 27 22—71	C. S. Scott 26 24 13—63
E. D. Sutherland . 26 25 19—70	J. G. Lyon 17 26 19—62
J. B. Tyrrell 25 22 19—66	J. Wright 15 27 19—61
J. A. Armstrong . . 17 25 22—64	Dr. G. Hutchison 24 18 19—61
J. H. Ellis 22 25 17—64	R. Tink 21 18 20—59

2ND MAY.—200, 500 AND 600 YARDS—MARTINI.

J. H. Ellis 27 34 28—89	A. P. Sherwood . 23 27 29—79
C. S. Scott 29 29 27—85	J. A. Armstrong . 23 28 28—79
J. E. Hutcheson . . 23 29 32—84	J. G. Lyon 29 24 26—79
H. H. Gray 26 30 27—83	Dr. G. Hutchison 29 28 22—79
S. M. Rogers 29 24 28—81	R. Moodie 26 28 24—78
W. A. Jamieson . . 26 28 26—80	T. C. Boville . . . 24 24 28—77
E. D. Sutherland . 32 29 19—80	G. McMartin . . . 23 30 24—77

9TH MAY.—200, 500 AND 600 YARDS—SNIDER.

J. E. Hutcheson . . 27 34 29—90	A. P. Sherwood . 30 24 26—80
J. B. Tyrrell 29 28 29—86	G. Maillene 30 26 24—80
C. S. Scott 31 31 24—86	T. McJanet 28 27 24—79
S. M. Rogers 32 31 23—86	R. N. Slater 31 22 23—76
J. W. O'Grady . . . 30 23 32—85	T. C. Boville 26 30 20—76
C. M. Wiggins . . . 30 30 24—84	J. Moodie 23 25 27—75
J. Wright 30 30 23—83	W. A. Jamieson . 25 24 26—75
J. P. Nutting 30 26 26—82	F. W. Smith 30 21 24—75

"G" COMPANY, QUEEN'S OWN RIFLES.

With a view of encouraging rifle shooting in the company a series of prizes are offered by the officers and non-commissioned officers. Capt. Bennett gives \$10 for the highest aggregate by a company squad team. Lieut. Mercer offers two prizes of \$5 each for the six highest scores made by first and second class shots respectively, at 200, 400 and 500 yards, at regular Saturday afternoon practices. Corp. Worthy offers prizes of \$3 and \$2 to be fired for on the same conditions by members who have never fired in a company match. Corp. Routh offers \$3 for the five highest scores at Saturday afternoon matches by members who joined in the fall of 1889 or spring of 1890; and \$2 for the highest aggregate at 600 yards in the League matches. There will also be a practice team competition, for teams of four men each to be chosen by the rifle committee on the basis of last year's scores and the teams to be as nearly as possible of equal shooting strength. The following are the rifle committee: President, Capt. Bennett; Vice-President, Lieut. Mercer; Treasurer, Col.-Sergt. Sanson; Secretary, Pte. H. E. Routh; Executive, Sergt. W. F. Stewart, Corp. F. C. Worthy, Corp. Linton.

The manufacture of smokeless powder on a large scale is to be commenced in the United States. Mr. Tracy, the Secretary of the Navy, has signed a contract with the Dupont Powder Company, at Wilmington, by which that firm will be enabled to establish works for the making of gun-cotton and smokeless powder for naval uses. The Government Institute at Newport has been found to be insufficient, the torpedo station there being incapable of accommodating both the educational and manufacturing institutes. The new contract is important from the fact that it provides for the first gun-cotton plant established in the United States. The firm has not indicated to the department its process of making smokeless powder, but its agents have been observing the tests made abroad, and are prepared to carry out the wishes of the Government. The ordnance experts of the Government have also been investigating the results arrived at in Europe, and they have decided that the time has come to introduce smokeless powder in the United States Navy.