

every one who sees a soldier of the modern average height shouldering or trying to shoulder it : it is that arms cannot be shouldered nor carried at a slope in consequence of the magazine catching under the man's arm or on his shoulder, and that when the magazine rifle is used the manual drill is all out of gear. In effect, hoping for the best, we have come to the conclusion that, whether as regards the mechanism of the rifle or magazine action, the ammunition or the projectiles, there is reason for anxiety and uneasiness, and that earnest efforts at a satisfactory solution of difficulties are imperatively and instantly demanded." The British Government has, so far, expended upwards of a million pounds on the Lee rifle.

Naturally it is not often that Canadian opinions on the art of War are quoted in the mother country, but it is gratifying to find occasionally a complimentary reference to the writings of some of our military students. Such an instance recently occurred on the occasion of Col. Hutton's lecture on Mounted Infantry, in which he quoted Colonel Denison "the able Canadian officer who wrote the 'History of Cavalry,'" to show that so far back as the days of Alexander a sort of mounted infantry was employed in making a rapid advance to seize and hold an important position. Colonel Hutton ably traced the development of this arm down to the most recent period, with a special reference to its important functions during the American war of secession.

### Correspondence.

[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.]

#### ORDERLY ROOM CLERKS.

EDITOR MILITIA GAZETTE,—*Re* my letter on the status of Orderly Room Clerks at the Schools of Instruction, I beg to add a few further remarks, as this is a matter which should be ventilated.

On active service or at brigade camp, for instance, the O.R.C. is recognised as a member of the Staff, as per paragraph 866, Regulations and Orders 1887, where he has only the work of a Battalion to do ; but when not on active service he has not only the work of a Battalion, but also of a Brigade or District.

In one or more of the Schools of Instruction the O.R.C. is appointed an Acting Staff-Sergeant, thus entailing great expense, as there is no allowance to cover the cost of trimming the tunics with gold lace, &c. The mere rank places the man in a most peculiar position ; he is not eligible to become a member of the Mess, and if he were elected a member it would cost him very little less per day to pay expenses than his daily rate of pay amounts to.

The rank is absolutely necessary to prevent that familiarity with his comrades which would render him liable to talk of the private business of the office outside.

Like the Quarter-Master Sergeant, the O.R.C. is an absolute necessity, and he must be a well-educated man to fill his position satisfactorily. His holidays are few, and the work is immense in some of the large military districts.

I sincerely hope that this letter will obtain the consideration of some of those who will be able to do something in the matter. It cannot prove a very costly arrangement to do something to place the Orderly Room Clerks of the Schools of Instruction on a proper footing with the remainder of the Staff.

JUSTICE.

25th November, 1890.

#### THE SHIFTING ORDNANCE COMPETITION.

EDITOR MILITIA GAZETTE,—Some few days ago, Col. Moore sent you a copy of the Charlottetown *Examiner*, containing a letter over my signature, which was intended for publication in the GAZETTE. This was not done, but instead a paragraph referring to the matter in question, which is not satisfactory, but rather makes matters worse. You say that Montreal abandoned the undertaking on account of the unfavourable condition of weather and ground. In the first place this is not the fact : for the weather was all that could be desired, and the ground was in as good condition as ever the same ground was. In the next place the Prince Edward Island team had exactly the same weather and

ground, except that Montreal did their work first, and to an extent left the ground cut up for us. It did rain on the day Halifax was to shift, and we did not blame them for not trying, but after being allowed to do it at home, we do not feel rightly treated when they try to make a wrong impression. Now, Sir, you published the lengthy report of their work, and I ask you to publish my letter in the interest of all that is included in fair play.

I am not on your subscription list, but your action in this matter may materially change the list of your Prince Edward Island subscribers.

E. D. STERNS.

CHARLOTTETOWN, P.E.I., 18th Nov., 1890.

#### THE MILITARY RIFLE LEAGUE.

EDITOR MILITIA GAZETTE.—I noticed in your issue of 23rd October, the probable programme, dates and order of shooting of League matches for 1891, which is to include entry of company teams of five men to enable isolated companies to compete. Now, belonging as I do to a country corps, and knowing the obstacles in the way of a country team competing, I would suggest that the first match be not sooner than the 24th May ; then two matches in June ; two matches in July (first and last Saturdays if possible); and first Saturday in August. The programme mentioned omits June altogether, which is really the month farmers have most time for practice. My reason for naming the above dates is that putting in crops generally ends about 24th May ; haying commences about 4th July and ends about 25th ; and harvesting commences about the second week in August. I would like very much to have a team from the 50th Battalion compete, but the men could hardly be got together on the dates published.

Huntingdon, Q., 15th November.

G. L. M.

#### THE COMMAND OF THE BISLEY TEAM.

EDITOR MILITIA GAZETTE.—I note in your issue of the 13th November, that the command of the Bisley team of '91 has been located "at least geographically," and hasten to set my little objection before you ere it be too late. I cannot see why the command should go to a Nova Scotian purely on a question of sentiment—that is just what the question narrows itself down to in my mind. That an officer should be picked to command a team of riflemen at the largest rifle meeting in the world, because he belongs to a province whose turn for the honour has come along in the natural course of events, seems to me to be simply ridiculous. It is true that the Commandant of the team is generally looked upon as a figurehead, and that the Adjutant is there to do the work for him, but the honour of being appointed Commandant should certainly be worth working for in other ways than by pulling wires with Headquarters. It seems to me that the commanding officer of a regiment who takes a lively interest in its shooting capabilities, knows his men personally, spends a lot of money on shooting and can tell the difference between a bull and a mag when signalled, is infinitely a better man for the position than the officer who sits at his desk, writes a cheque for a subscription for his regimental association, and dispenses pleasant words and smiles at the annual presentation of prizes, knowing nothing more of rifle shooting than that it costs a good deal of money. Yes! Mr. Editor, in my humble opinion this Commandant business should be entirely a reward of merit, and I must confess to a feeling of regret that a most capable, energetic and obliging officer, seems to have been overlooked this year. I refer to Lt.-Col. Fred Massey of the 6th Fusiliers. I feel that I need do no more than mention his name to show you what an error it would be to pass over his right to recognition by the D.R.A. He has fairly won his place as Commandant if anybody has, and my regret is all the deeper, when I hear that if Col. Massey is not appointed to the command for '91, he possibly never will be able to accept an appointment, as pressure of business demands his retirement from the active forces, after a service of nearly 25 years. Were I a member elect of the Bisley team of '91, I could not wish for a better qualified commanding officer and I think Mr. Editor that you and very many of your readers will quite agree with

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