

It is satisfactory to learn that only a thousand of the Martini-Metford abortions have been issued in Canada. It was stated that 10,000 had been ordered. What has become of the remaining nine thousand?

So it appears that the new cartridge factory machinery received at Quebec was, as we presumed, for the manufacture of cordite ammunition for the new '303 rifle. Now that the consignment of the faked Martini-Metfords has proved a delusion and a snare, the question naturally arises, what are they going to do with it?

The editor of the Doylestown (Pa.) "Daily Democrat," is striving to convince the Pennsylvania Quakers of the value of military drill for school children the "Society of Friends" having protested against it. The Democrat says: "We cannot see how the introduction of a military exercise into the public schools would tend to undervalue the services of those in the peaceful walks of life. We think the 'Yearly Meeting of the Friends of Philadelphia' have taken a wrong view of the question, and especially of the demoralizing effect the drill would have. It would, we believe, raise the standard of patriotism, and increase public virtue."

This is what we think about the drilling of boys, and besides there is a practical dollars and cents side to the question as well. It is less costly and much easier to drill boys than men. That is why we think that the Dominion government should do more in the way of encouraging school cadet corps, and such invaluable organizations as the Highland Cadets of Montreal.

It is difficult to understand the principle on which so many employees and relatives object to young men entering the militia. We hold that the militia, apart from its value as a defensive force, altogether, has had a most beneficial effect upon the manhood of Canada. A British Army officer in a recent lecture before the Military Society at Aldershot made some very sensible remarks on the value of the trained soldier to the nation on his return to civic pursuits. The public are prone to forget, says the officer, that money expended in the training of a soldier, especially if the training is directed to making him self-reliant and resourceful, is wisely employed in the military interests of the nation. There is, moreover, another and perhaps an equally important consideration to be taken into account. The bene-

fit to the nation of having a large proportion of its population continually drafted back into civil life, with all the qualities which go to make good citizens, developed and strengthened by their military training, cannot be too highly estimated. That a man can be less useful as a fighting man or less amenable to discipline because he is capable of thinking and acting for himself is a theory of which we should be glad to hear the last.

Canadian Military Rifle League.

The following circular letter is just to hand from the Secretary of the Canadian Military Rifle League.

OTTAWA, 7th May, 1895.

SIR,—I beg to inform you that the League Matches will be held on the 1st and 15th June, and 6th and 20th July.

There will be three separate series, viz:—1st, Martini, Martini Metford or Lee-Metford; 2nd, Snider; 3rd, Snider Carbine.

Teams will consist of ten men. Entrance fee, \$10; but when more than one team from the same organization enter, \$10 for the first team and \$5 for each additional team.

Entries, accompanied by the fees, are to be made to Lt.-Col. Hodgins, Treas'r. Department of Justice, Ottawa, not later than 25th May. Cheques must be made payable at par in Ottawa.

Be careful to state for which series entries are intended.

Score Sheets and all necessary information for conducting the matches will be sent on receipt of entries.

The Dept. of Militia and Defence will issue free ammunition.

An offer has been made by the Canadian Pacific Railway Telegraph Co., to send scores by telegraph for fifty cents per team for each match. Instructions for telegraphing will be given with the rules and regulations on the scoring sheets.

It is a well recognized fact that the League has been the means of greatly increasing the interest in rifle shooting, and it is hoped that this year the entries will be more numerous than ever.

I trust therefore that your Battalion (Association) will be represented.

Your obedient servant,

E. D. SUTHERLAND,
Capt. 43rd Batt'n.,
Sec'y. C. M. R. L.

The State of the Commissioned Ranks as told by the "List."

This letter was inadvertently crowded out of our last issue.

An analytical examination of the Militia list of 1st January 1895, is instructive and may provide food for reflection to those interested. It shows that there are a few vacancies in the cavalry, and out of 77 lieutenants, 27 are still unqualified, eight of whose appointments date from 1881, 1886 and 1888, but the remainder were made within the last two or three years.

The seventeen field batteries have two captains and four lieutenants missing, and out of 30 lieutenants, 10 hold provisional appointments, two of the latter

dating from 1887 and 1889 respectively, the rest being recent appointments.

The garrison artillery also shows a few shortages, and among 68 lieutenants, 29 are unqualified, four of whose commissions date from 1883, 1884 and 1889, but the balance date within the last two years, and are chiefly in the British Columbia battalions.

In the two engineer companies all the officers are qualified, but there is one vacancy among the subalterns.

The examination of the infantry list shows a considerable shortage among the subalterns and is far from creditable in "qualification," clearly demonstrating a disregard of regulations, and the "laissez faire" policy of headquarters.

There are still four battalions to be raised to fill the gaps caused by the disbanding of the 4th, 18th, 24th and 95th, which leaves 92 regiments of "militia list efficiency" on the roster, comprising 622 companies whose full rank of commissioned officers should be:

Lt.-Col.	Majs.	Cpts.	Lieuts.	Adjts.	Qrs.	M.	Surgs.
92	73	612	1544	92	92	92	

But the list reports as present with the colors:—

87	147	577	967	62	90	92
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leaving a shortage of:—

5	26	45	277	20	2
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But out of the 147 majors, 577 captains, and 967 lieutenants there are still 2 majors, 28 captains and 576 lieutenants holding commissions "provisionally" and a great number of these contrary to regulations.

The provisional appointments of the two majors date from 1885 and 1887; of the 28 captains one each dates from 1878, 1883, 1884 and 1886, five from 1891 and six from 1892.

Of the 1st lieutenants one is as ancient as 1868, others in 1874, 1875 with many in the '80's, and among the 2nd lieutenants some go "way back" to 1871 and 1872 and so on up to 1894.

It is interesting to note that there is not one regiment strictly complete of its establishment in the whole infantry service; but the only one (a 7 Co. Batt.) that approaches that efficiency and heads the list is the 71st, all of whose officers are qualified, but there is one captain missing.

Among those whose rosters are complete but contain unqualified lieutenants, are the:—

72nd	(6 Co. Batt.)	has	2	Provisionals.
13th	8	"	4	"
62nd	6	"	3	"
5th	6	"	5	"
43rd	4	"	4	"
63rd	6	"	6	"
6th	6	"	8	"
85th	6	"	11	"

Of those which are short of officers and contain provisional appointments the:—

2nd	(10 Co., Batt.)	1 cffi.	sh.	& 1 Prov.
1st	6	"	2	" 9 "
G G F G	6	"	5	" 3 "
48th	8	"	3	" 6 "
10th	10	"	6	" 3 "

And so on, down to the

54th	(6	"	3	"	12	"
33rd	9	"	6	"	12	"
58th	10	"	6	"	15	"
86th	6	"	2	"	15	"