

other regiment in the Dominion of Canada, under the following conditions: Both sides shall turn out as many men as possible, when the top 50 scores will decide. Ranges 200, 400 and 500 yards, 5 shots each range. This match to be for the championship of Canada, represented by a trophy valued from \$100 to \$300. Men composing teams must be efficient members of their corps for at least 12 months prior to match, which must be shot on neutral grounds.

Any or four of the above matches can be arranged for and shot in one day; men and money ready in a week's notice. I would suggest that matches take place about June 1st, 1889.

I shall be pleased to hear from our Lindsay and Fenelon Falls marksmen, so as to decide the question of supremacy. I might also state that we here in Toronto will be pleased to give the visitors a banquet, *win or lose*.

I would suggest that in the event of any matches coming off the Editor of the MILITIA GAZETTE be appointed referee and stakeholder.

All communications addressed to the undersigned will be cheerfully answered.

G. M. DONNELLY,  
77 Colborne St., Toronto.

P. S.—Since starting above, I found out quite accidentally who "Doubting Thomas" is, and must say, with pleasure, he will be one of a team, if not teams; he is a good one.

Toronto 19th February, 1889.

#### THE MILK IN THE COCOANUT.

EDITOR MILITIA GAZETTE,—As there seems to have been a good deal of remark caused by the scores made in Fenelon Falls on New Year's day, I rise to explain. The shooting was done at 200 yards, ten shots each, with two sighting shots, prone position.

FORESIGHT.

Toronto, Feb. 15th, 1889.

#### THE VALISE EQUIPMENT.

EDITOR MILITIA GAZETTE,—In the Militia Report for 1888 I see a recommendation from a staff officer to change our present valise equipment for "a simple bag slung miner fashion by brown leather shoulder straps, etc." I have had some experience with knapsacks, valises, bags and belts, both on service and on pleasure, and it appears to me that the present valise is a convenient sack which will hold all that a soldier needs to carry placed in a compact form so that when opened he can find anything he may want almost without disturbing the remainder; whereas with the bag you must empty it to find what you want. It is also, in my humble opinion, a better looking bag than a potato sack and in the long run equally as economical. As to belts, I think that a buff belt is preferable to a brown leather one for the following reasons:

When washed clean it looks equally as well as a new brown leather one and when pipeclayed infinitely better, and will not soil the wearer's clothes.

It is soft and pliable and will not cut or chafe the wearer.

If thoroughly wetted, when dry can be again softened without any preparation, by simply rubbing in the hands.

When soiled can be easily cleaned and is more durable than brown leather.

On the other hand, the brown leather is more easily soiled or stained, and when soiled more difficult to clean; some stains it is impossible to remove. It is more liable to chafe the wearer if hard; if soft it will stretch. After wetting and drying it becomes hard and will crack, unless some sort of grease is used on it. If grease is used the wearer's clothes are soiled.

I know of one corps on service in the North West in 1885 whose officers procured India rubber "kit bags" and brown leather belts, while the men wore the valise equipment. On their return the brown belts were almost useless and the "kit bags" more dilapidated than the valise which did not cost half as much. Not a single valise or buff belt was condemned that had not had more than three years' previous service.

BUFF.

#### REGIMENTAL BUGBEARS.

EDITOR MILITIA GAZETTE,—Knowing your paper is always open to letters on subjects of interest to its readers, I beg for space enough to insert this under the above heading.

In every regiment there are "chronic growlers," better known to the initiated as "bums"; also a number of men known as shooting men, or as I overheard remarked the other day "Pothunters." This name was applied to a well known shot in a Toronto regiment by a member of the same in my hearing. I took a note of the names of both parties simply to compare their pedigree as to usefulness in the art of war. I found my way to the armoury on drill night. I saw Pothunter on parade and he

looked neat and soldierly; found he attended parade regularly—had a good character for sobriety and honesty. "Regimental bum" was there also, but to-night he was not as trim as usual—button off tunic, which was spotted with beer, leggings not exactly black, but a good cigar in his mouth; attended drill indifferently, not a reliable shot, but somehow had managed to hang to the regiment for years. The remark was so uncalled for and so inappropriate that I could not help thinking that the sooner the regiment is purged of this class of men the better. Men who go about corner saloons and lounging places circulating nasty reports and applying offensive names to comrades in arms who are at least superior to themselves, are a disgrace to any organization and should be weeded out. "No," he would not be a Pothunter—he considered mean—could make a borrowed half dollar go further in beer than most men can who pay their fees. The cause of these remarks is usually found in the inability to shoot well enough to be a Pothunter—cry down what you cannot do yourself is the motto. This kind of underhand work is what dampens the ardour of young shots who would perhaps spend time and money to become proficient. But as soon as they win one or two first prizes and become fairly good, then the "company poor shot" and the "regimental bum" call them Pothunters and such like. Now everyone knows that all shots in a regiment have the same opportunities to win prizes, and if the man who gives most time and attention to shooting wins most prizes he should have all the more honour. One good steady shot in a field of action is worth a dozen well drilled "bums." Would it not be better to stop all such talk and pursue a more generous course—make it an honour to be a good shot, be proud of the skill shown by any of your own regiment and in so elevating them elevate the standard of public opinion. Swear by your own comrades—do not debase them.

INQUISITOR.

#### U. S. Army Rifle Practice.

The first general orders, issued by Gen. Schofield at the opening of this year, has reference to the new scheme of rifle practice, which he will, on the suggestion of Col. Blunt, introduce for use in the regular army. The first order reads:

I. The first edition of the work on rifle and carbine firing, prepared by Captain Stanhope E. Blunt, Ordnance Department, inspector of small-arms practice at the headquarters of the army, having been approved by the Secretary of War for the use of the army, and the militia of the different States, under the title of "Firing Regulations for Small Arms," it will be distributed to the army, and the methods therein prescribed will hereafter be the authorized guide in all matters pertaining to the subject which it covers.

II. For the target year of 1889 the officers and enlisted men (except those "present not firing"), who in the past year were classified below the grade of marksmen, or in that class with a total of less than 340 for those firing with the rifle, or less than 310 for those firing with the carbine, will follow the course prescribed for the second season's practice; those classified as marksmen with these totals, or as sharpshooters, will follow the course prescribed for subsequent seasons; other enlisted men will follow the recruit course, and other officers the second season's course.

III. The officers at the headquarters of the army, the divisions, and departments charged with the supervision, under their commanding generals, of the course of instruction in rifle, carbine and revolver firing, will be known hereafter as inspectors of small-arms practice.

Order No. 2 amends certain sections of the regulations which will now read:

481. The Army will be annually allowed for the instruction of the soldier in target practice, small arm ammunition as follows:

a. For each officer or enlisted man firing with the rifle, to the value of \$4.

b. For each officer or enlisted man firing with the carbine, to the value of \$3.50.

c. For each enlisted man of the cavalry arm and for each officer and sergeant of any arm, for revolver practice, to the value of \$1.

d. For the further instruction of the soldier (more especially the recruit) and for firing at drills, funerals, etc., such an amount of rifle and carbine blank cartridges as the company commander deems requisite, not exceeding 2,000 rounds for each company of infantry or battery of artillery and 4,000 rounds for each troop of cavalry will also be allowed.

e. In addition each troop of cavalry will be allowed 5,000 rounds of blank revolver ammunition.

f. In addition to the above allowances each regimental staff and band, each battery of artillery and company of infantry will be allowed for gallery practice 6,000 round balls, 15,000 cartridge primers, 15 lbs. powder, 15 lbs. lubricant, and each troop of cavalry 8,000 round balls and 20,000 cartridge primers, 20 lbs. powder and 20 lbs. lubricant. But when the rifle or carbine bullets fired in range practice can be recovered