

THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE

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MILITIA GENERAL ORDERS.

No. 19, of 13th December, 1889.

Topics of the Week.

A very interesting addition to the literature of the war of 1812-15, has just been made by the publication, in pamphlet form, of an essay compiled by Lieut.-Col. C. S. Jones, commanding the Dufferin Rifles of Canada, and read before the officers and their friends at Brantford on the 2nd inst. This treats of the battle of Stoney Creek, fought at the place so named, some six miles from the present city of Hamilton, at midnight on the 6th June 1813. In this, 700 British and Canadian soldiers, under Col. Harvey, surprised an army of 3500 marauding United States troops, camped for the night at Stoney Creek, and after an hour's engagement put them to rout. The U. S. Brigadier Generals Chandler and Winder, the first and second in command, were taken prisoners, together with upwards of 100 officers and privates. The British loss was 1 officer, 22 non commissioned officers and men killed; 12 officers, 124 n. c. o. and men wounded, and 58 n. c. o. and men missing. The essay closes with an expression of regret that no stone has yet been erected to perpetuate the memory of this deed of valour.

The rifle league scheme continues to flourish, and as will be seen by reference to the list in another column the league has been equipped with a full complement of officers—provisional, of course. We are informed that the object the promoters had in view in naming such a list at this time, was simply to give definite shape to the affair, so that it may be taken hold of in earnest at the annual meeting now fixed to take place at Ottawa on the 5th of February, the day of the annual business meeting of the Dominion Rifle Association, which always brings a number of outside riflemen to the Capital. It would be quite fitting to discuss, between now and then, whether such elaborate machinery is needed at all for the league; and whether, should such a large governing body be deemed advisable, representation should not be accorded each team entering, in place of having a fixed number from each shooting centre, as suggested. Time will be precious on the day of the meeting, and it would be well to have such matters as this talked over well in advance.

An effectual bar, in many cases, to the militiamen becoming good shots, is the expense incidental to practice. While there will always be a sufficient number of men with leisure and money to keep up the show of general rifle practice now seen, as a general rule the militia cannot afford to practise enough to become reasonably efficient. In view of this state of affairs, we would respectfully suggest to the Minister of

Militia that he take into consideration the advisability of reducing the price of Snider ammunition say to one cent a round. Even if part of the money now paid to rifle associations were diverted to this purpose, it would be a good idea. It would certainly thus be more widely distributed.

Were the cost of rifle shooting lessened to the Canadian force, the Government might make reasonable efficiency compulsory as a condition of obtaining drill pay and allowances. Such a step was taken a few years ago by the British Government with respect to the Volunteers, and the result there was referred to by Lord Harris in a recent address to the 1st V. B. Sussex Regiment. He was delighted, he said, to hear their Colonel state that the corps had succeeded in coming up to the musketry test imposed, and he was happy to know that those results corresponded to a great extent with the results in all corps of the country. Three years ago they found that Volunteers had merely to fire a certain number of rounds without any inducement to make a good pattern on the target. That appeared to them to be ridiculous, and they thought it their bounden duty to encourage every volunteer to become a good shot, and he was happy to say the result of their insisting on efficiency with the rifle had proved to be no great discouragement to the Volunteer force. It had got rid of a certain number of men, but perhaps they were not of much use to the Army.

The *United Service Gazette* notes that the Imperial Government will shortly be asked to contribute to the cost of lengthening the graving dock at Esquima'tt, British Columbia. The amount originally granted by Parliament for the construction of this dock was £50,000, and now another £10,000, being just half the sum needed for this work, is applied for. It has been discovered that the dock, which is only 430 feet in length, will not be nearly long enough for the mail steamers which the Canadian Pacific Railway Company are constructing, and as the Imperial Government is greatly interested in the new mail service it is thought that they will not unwillingly subsidize the improvement of the Esquima'tt Dock. If the proposed work is carried out the dock will be without exception the finest on the Pacific coast.

The volume of the Public Accounts just issued shows the total expenditure for militia purposes, during the fiscal year ended 30th June last, to have been \$1,323,551, of which the large proportion of upwards of one-third, or \$489,588, went for the support of the permanent corps and the schools in connection therewith. The Royal Military College expenditure was \$51,236. The drill pay amounted to \$286,637; the cost of clothing to \$113,774. The cost of the ammunition expended was but \$43,157. Besides the militia expenditure included in the total given above, there is a military pension list amounting to \$36,391. Of this, \$25,942 is on account of the North-west rebellion of 1885. The North-west Mounted Police, who serve in our new territory the purpose of a military force, cost in the fiscal year \$829,701.

Regimental and Other News.

A team of the Ottawa Amateur Athletic Club went to Montreal on Saturday last to have a return match with the Vics, and were for the second time defeated, this time handsomely.

Noticing the departure of Capt. Wise, who sails from New York this week to rejoin his regiment, the Ottawa *Citizen* says: "When Colonel Middleton, Commandant of the Royal Military College, Sandhurst, now Lieut.-General Sir Fred. Middleton, was appointed to the command of the Militia of Canada, he selected for his Aide-de-Camp Lieut. Wise, of the Cameronian Regiment, a young Canadian officer, one of the first class of graduates of the Royal Military College, Kingston. The appointment was received with general satisfaction, and the fact that General Middleton had made his selection from the Canadians serving in the army was favorably commented upon. Lieut. Wise upon his appointment received the rank of Captain in the Militia while in Canada, and now that his term of service has expired he is about to rejoin his regiment, which is at present in India. Captain Wise entered the army in 1880, after graduating with honours from the Royal Military College, Kingston. So far his military experience has been confined to England, Malta and Gibraltar. He accompanied General Middleton to the North-West in 1885 at the time of the outbreak of the rebellion, and there distinguished himself while serving on the General's staff as aide-de-camp. He had his horse shot under him and was wounded in the foot, from which casualty he rapidly recovered. In a few weeks he will be on his way from England to India. As an "Ottawa boy" we feel interested in his success in the profession of arms, and as a Canadian we feel confident that his military career will be such as will do credit to the country."

THE DUFFERIN RIFLES.

"D" Co., Dufferin Rifles (Capt. McGlashan), held their 14th annual supper on Wednesday the 11th inst. "D" Co is noted for its entertainments of this kind, and the one on the 11th was no exception to the rule, and reflected great credit on the committee entrusted with the management. A new departure was made this year in having the invitations issued by the non-commissioned officers and men alone, the officers being present as guests. Amongst the guests were Lieut.-Col. Jones, Major Rothwell, Surgeon Harris and Capt. Wilkes (Adjt.), and Capt. Tuck (37th Batt.), also Mayor Huyd and Ald. Bowlby, Heath and Read. After full justice had been done to the substantial, the cloth was removed and the chairman, Col.-Sergt. Moon, proposed the usual loyal toasts. Until nearly two o'clock toast, song and speech followed each other in rapid succession, until Auld Lang Syne, followed by the National Anthem closed an evening long to be remembered in the annals of "D" Co.

SKILL AT ARMS.

At Kingston, on the 10th inst, Sergt.-Major Morgans competed with and defeated Prof. Reid, who lays title to the Canadian championship in skill at arms. The contest took place in the roller rink, in the presence of a large assemblage. The military and professional men were out in numbers, Major-Gen. Cameron, Lt.-Col. Smith, Lt.-Col. Cotton, and, in fact, all the officers of the artillery and infantry regiments were eager witnesses of the contest. Every young man of sporting proclivities, both in the Royal Military College and in the city, crowded the benches. The arena was ample and was kept clear, so that the utmost fair play could be given. G. E. Cooper acted as second for the Torontonian, and Quartermaster McCarthy, late of the Royal Horse Artillery, filled the same position for Morgans. By mutual consent, Major Drury of "A" Battery, was made referee. During the evening, and between the various appearances of the chief competitors, local men gave exhibitions of club swinging, sword feats, boxing, and quarter staff attack. Prof. Reid and Morgans were received with cheers as they advanced to the centre and began the first contest, foils v. foils. There were some fine parries and *ripistes* indulged in, but in attacking Prof. Reid showed himself an adept, and speedily ran up the five points which constituted him the winner. Morgans made three. In one bout Morgans disarmed Reid. "That was the first time I was ever disarmed with the foils in my life," said Prof. Reid afterwards. Prof. Reid made two points by a rush just previous to the conclusion of the combat. It was admitted that he showed more science than Morgans, who depended more on his strength. The second combat was sword v. sword, and here again Reid showed to fine advantage. By his skilful and forceful application of the manoeuvre known technically as the beat over the blade, he disarmed Morgans twice, and was soon announced the winner by five points to two. There was considerable applause at the way Reid did his work. But afterwards the science of Prof. Reid was discounted, for in the after contest agility and strength were the mainstays for making points. Morgans in the third performance carried a sword, while Reid wielded a bayonet. This was a lively contest, but Morgans, by his cat-like springs and his

clever guarding, made it lonely for his competitor. Five points were secured by Morgans, chiefly by grasping Reid's bayonet in his left and cutting with his right. Reid retired without making a point. The fourth contest was bayonet v. bayonet. Reid by fair work made two points, but he had not the clear eye of Morgans, whose thrusts were timely and vigorous. Amid great cheering Morgans made his fifth point by landing Reid on his back. He caught his adversary fair on the breast, and the throw was one that almost took the Professor's breath away. It was impossible for the contest between Prof. Reid on horseback with the sword, against Morgans on foot with the bayonet, to occur. Prof. Reid had tried to secure an animal, but his trials were futile. No horse could stand on the slippery floor. In lieu of this it was finally arranged that Morgans should meet Reid with a bayonet, the other to flourish a sword. In this contest Prof. Reid found himself unable to cope with Morgans, whose bayonet found his breast in rapid succession. The countering was good, but Morgans forced the fight with great energy. Two points were secured by Morgans, and Major Drury announced him as the victor of the match by seventeen points to twelve. Had Prof. Reid won this contest he could not have beaten Morgans in the maximum number of marks. As a final exhibition, the contest was continued until one point more was secured, and this Morgans readily took. There was cheering for Morgans, who, it is now supposed, will claim the championship of Canada. The whole affair was characterized by the utmost good nature. Prof. Reid admitted his defeat. He still maintains his supremacy as a fencer and swordsman. Both can rest on their laurels in what they demonstrated were their specialties.

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.

LONG SERVICE REWARDS.

EDITOR MILITIA GAZETTE,—Kindly permit me to ask through your columns some of our military Members of Parliament or our esteemed Minister if the Government have any intentions of carrying out the suggestions made by Gen. Luard while in command of the forces here. With regard to service badges, as near as I can recollect, what he recommended was as follows: for three years service, one bar; six years, two bars; nine years, three bars; twelve years a medal. Now as one who has served twelve years and in one company and in one regiment, and who has served on every occasion with the regiment during that time, and not without considerable loss, I think it would be an act that would be very much appreciated by members who have served for that time, and would be an inducement for them to remain in longer, and would also be something to show that they had served their country for that time. I would like to hear the views of some other members.

NORTH-WEST.

Toronto, 16th December, 1889.

New magazine rifles and 200 rounds of black peller ammunition per man are to be issued to the infantry battalions of the Aldershot division, the first issue taking place on the 16th inst. In anticipation of the re-armament all the infantry armourers have been sent to Enfield to receive practical instructions in the parts of the rifle and its magazine attachment, and early in the new year special manoeuvres will be held to thoroughly test the qualities of the weapon in the field, and as nearly as possible under active service conditions.

The United States having been roused to the knowledge that it has a long coast line dotted with rich cities to defend, is taking vigorous action to provide itself with a respectable fleet. Thirty-one modern cruisers have already been built, or are ordered. The Secretary to the Navy now recommends the construction of twenty battle-ships, and the same number of coast defence vessels carrying the thickest armour and the most powerful guns. These vessels, he states, will take from twelve to fifteen years to complete, and he urges that eight armoured battle-ships be authorised at the coming Session of Congress. As so many cruisers have been already built or authorised, he recommends that no more of this type be ordered until the battle-ships and coast defenders are rearing completion. The Secretary specially condemns any plan of construction that does not provide double bottoms. He deprecates any large increase in the number of gun-boats, which, he says, add nothing to the real strength of the naval force. The Secretary calls special attention to the lack of torpedo-boats, and recommends that Congress authorise the construction of at least five such boats of the first class. The vote asked for the American Navy next year amounts in the aggregate to \$25,599,253.

The Rifle.

D COMPANY VS C BATTERY.

On Saturday the 7th inst, a telegraphic match was fired between "C" Battery, R.C.A. at Victoria B.C., and "D" Company, I.S.C. at London Ont., with ten men on each side, ranges 200, 300 and 400 yards, 5 rounds at each range, any position. The scores were, "D" Company 578, "C" Battery 504, leaving the infantry winners by 74 points.

CANADIAN MILITARY RIFLE LEAGUE.

We have been forwarded a copy of a circular printed in the interests of this proposed institution, and promulgating this list of provisional officers:

President, Lt.-Col. The Hon. J. M. Gibson, Hamilton; 1st Vice-President, Lt.-Col. Anderson, Ottawa; 2nd Vice-President, Major Delamere, Toronto.

EXECUTIVE—Ontario,—Major Mason, Hamilton; Major Perley, Ottawa; Major Sam Hughes, Lindsay; Capt. Russell, Bowmanville; Capt. W. C. Macdonald, Toronto. Quebec,—Lt.-Col. Miller, Quebec; Lt.-Col. Massey, Montreal; Capt. J. Hood, Montreal; Capt. Sims, Montreal; Lieut. Desbarats, Montreal. Prince Edward Island,—Capt. Longworth, Charlottetown; Lieut. Hooper, Charlottetown; Lieut. Weeks, Charlottetown. Nova Scotia,—Major Garrison, Halifax; Capt. Barnhill, Shubenacadie; Lieut. Dimock, Windsor. New Brunswick,—Lt.-Col. Maunsell, Fredericton; Major Hartt, St. John; Capt. Hartt, St. John. Manitoba,—Lt.-Col. Boswell, Winnipeg; Major Buchan, Winnipeg; C. N. Mitchell, Winnipeg. North-West Territories,—Capt. Wyld, Battleford; Staff-Sergt. J. C. Gordon, Prince Albert; Mr. Jowett, Regina. British Columbia, Lt.-Col. Prior, Victoria; Capt. P. Æ. Irving, Victoria; Capt. Scoullar, New Westminster.

Treasurer, Capt. J. Bruce, Court House, Toronto; Secretary, W. R. Pringle, 63 Front St. West, Toronto; Asst-Secretary, A. D. Crooks, Toronto.

It is noted that, "The first business meeting of the executive will be held at Ottawa, on the afternoon of Wednesday, February 5th, 1890; this being the day on which the annual business meeting of the D. C. R. A. is held."

The conditions, which are substantially the same as published some weeks ago, are as follows:

The object of this league is to encourage rifle practice, and to encourage the old shots to teach the young, and also to make it an object to attend practice. The teams to be limited to regimental teams. For the season of 1890 the teams to be composed of ten men each, but for the season of 1891 to be twenty men, and for 1892 twenty five to fifty men, and so on. Each regiment may enter any number of teams, and it will not be necessary to have the same men on the team each match. But when a man once fires with a team he cannot fire with any other. The entrance fee will be \$10.00 per team, or when a regiment enters more than one team, \$10.00 for the first team and \$5.00 for each additional team entered, the said fees to be devoted to the purchase of a trophy and other prizes and to defray incidental expenses. Entrance fees must be forwarded to the Treasurer on or before the 1st April (who will acknowledge the receipt of same) in order to leave plenty of time to make the final arrangements.

The ranges and position will be 200 yards (standing or kneeling), and 500 and 600 yards (any position with head to target) seven shots at each. No pool target or sighting shots allowed. The matches to be fired on Saturday afternoons throughout the season, the dates of which will be fixed by the executive council, and the results to be exchanged by telegraph, and the team having the highest aggregate score to be winners of the trophy, and the other prizes to go to the next highest teams. It is probable there will be two matches in May, two in June, two in July and one in August. Rifle, the Snider. The telegraph charges will be reduced to a minimum, and it is estimated that the rate will not be more than 50 cents per team per match.

Range officers will be appointed by each team, whose duty it will be to watch the scoring and marking, and to be able to vouch for everything being correct. The range officer must not belong to the corps for which he is acting. The names of range officers to be submitted to the executive for approval. The team's total and weather detail to be telegraphed and the fuller details such as the individual scores, shot for shot, etc., to be forwarded by mail on score sheets which will be provided.

Retired officers will fire with the regiment from which they retired, or, if living in another locality, they may fire with the regiment of the place in which they reside, but whatever regiment they start with they must stick to. In the event of a regiment being in camp on any league match day, its team or teams may fire there, on condition that they notify the Secretary a week previous.

The foregoing conditions are not to be considered as final, and may be altered by the executive.

RIFLE PRACTICE IN MASSACHUSETTS.

Col. Horace T. Rockwell, inspector-general of rifle practice for Massachusetts Volunteer Militia, in his annual report says:

"In respect to our present system of rifle practice, I stated in my report of last year that the work done and the results accomplished indicated progress, and the system was working satisfactorily 'for the time being.' I added, however, some suggestions with reference to possible change and improvement, which have only been acted upon in a very limited way, but which are still pertinent. I have long recognized the difficulties attending an attempt to make rifle practice equally obligatory with other duty, but I believe the time has come when the State should require the duty, and that if in enforcing the requirement it becomes necessary to slightly increase expenditures, the outlay will be more than repaid. The *esprit de corps* which has induced some of our organizations to voluntarily make considerable outlays beyond the allowances of the State cannot be relied on throughout the force; nor can it be expected that those who have heretofore done so will still continuously maintain their high standard at a large pecuniary cost to themselves. I recommend:

1. That all organizations equipped with small arms be required to parade by companies (or battalions, when practicable) on two days in each year, for rifle practice, and be allowed compensation at the rate of \$1 per man for each day's duty; also that each organization be permitted two other days for voluntary practice (and qualification), with allowance for actual transportation.

2. That on all assigned dates inspectors, or other officers detailed, be present to supervise and verify the work, pay and transportation to be allowed.

3. The above allowances to supersede any issues of, or allowance for, ammunition.

4. That armoury practice with ball cartridge be discontinued as a requirement.

5. That, with a view to facilitate as to convenience of ranges, and to simplify with respect to badges, our present requirements for qualification be revised.

In the Mother Country.

In an address Lord Harris recently delivered at the thirtieth anniversary of the formation of the 1st V. B. Sussex Regiment, he said it was not only a pleasure to have an opportunity of attending at an interesting occasion such as the present, but he conceived that it was also a duty. It was more than one of those slight acts of courtesy to be present at an occasion of that kind, for it was the duty of anyone in a public position, and who by race and natural preferences took an interest in the military profession, so far as he could by his presence on such occasions to show that he was desirous of encouraging the Volunteer Army. He thought there were two or three very obvious reasons why the whole country should do its best to encourage the Volunteer Army. In the first place it appealed to their pockets, for if it were not for the Volunteer service and the comparatively slight cost they put the country to, they should have to have a large army and more expensive line and militia forces. It was a great advantage to commerce, for it saved them from conscription, and enabled men to utilize a few of their leisure hours in military drills, while they could give the bulk of their time to commercial purposes, and because it interested the young men of their great towns, where there was far too little opportunity for physical exercises, and gave them the opportunity, and afforded them the encouragement of bracing their limbs and hardening their muscles. On all these grounds it appeared to him that far beyond the military advantages of a volunteer army, the volunteer service was doing a great deal of good to the country.

The remarkable growth of the Volunteer Engineer movement in Cheltenham, under Colonel Rogers' popular direction, has made it a necessity to provide a drill hall for the use of the Battalion. It is interesting to note that the Cheltenham Engineers had their commencement in 1874, when a company was formed and attached to headquarters at Gloucester, where two companies were stationed. In the first year of the history of the corps 74 men were returned as efficient. In 1877 a second company was formed in Cheltenham, and the increasing strength of the force necessitated the erection of a lecture hall for engineering purposes, which was provided at a cost of £200. The corps was again increased in 1888 by a third company at Cheltenham, and in June of the present year the importance of this branch of the service being recognised by the War Office, authority was granted to form a distinct battalion in the county, with its headquarters and staff at Cheltenham.

In addition to the ordinary establishment of seven companies, a cadet company at Cheltenham college is also attached. Consequent upon these alterations and increase of establishment, it has been necessary for the corps to extend its premises; and to do thus the property adjoining the present lecture hall in Swindon road has been acquired, and the erection of a new drill hall commenced, the whole costing about £2,800.

Says the *Volunteer Service Gazette*: "The Army Orders for the present month contain an unwelcome surprise in the form of a regulation that in future the annual allowance of ball cartridge to Volunteer Infantry and Engineer corps is to be at the rate of only seventy-five rounds per efficient member instead of ninety. It would seem to be a retrograde step to reduce the supply of ammunition just when special efforts are about to be made to improve the shooting of the volunteers. And we cannot see how the step can be necessary, because by the Regulations any surplus ammunition that there may be at the end of the year has to be deducted from the normal supply for the following year. Indeed, if we understand the matter rightly, the only result of the new regulation will be to put new difficulties in the way of private rifle practice, which we believe it is most desirable to encourage."

In an exhaustive summary of the annual returns of the Scottish Volunteer corps, the *Glasgow Herald* has this paragraph which will be read with particular interest by the Canadian friends of the officer mentioned: "As for the Mounted Rifles, it appears that for ten years the Border Mounted have stood alone in representing this branch of the force, and it is due very much to the zeal and activity of the officers that the troop owes its continued existence. With Lord Melgund at their head, the troop was kept well in hand, and the popularity of the commander had not a little effect in bringing in recruits to replace those who annually retired. In 1885, its total strength was 40; but in 1886 the strength was raised to 56, and in the Jubilee year the figure was 57; last year, however, the total strength dropped to 49, and though there is only a reduction of one this year it shows that there is a tendency to fall off. The retirement of Lord Melgund from the command, since his appointment as Brigadier-General of the South of Scotland Brigade, must be felt as a severe loss. His personal influence was great, and the responsibility that now devolves on the officers still left in the troop is correspondingly greater. Last year the non-efficients only numbered seven, while this year they are almost doubled."

In a recent address to a Volunteer battalion, Lord Wolseley reiterated his oft made remark, that there was no subject to which a corps should pay more attention than to shooting. It must be remembered that soldiers were invented—it was the reason of their being—that wherever necessary they might be able to kill their enemies. If a soldier could not shoot well it was impossible for him to take the field and perform the duty that was the object of his existence. In fact, unless he could shoot he was not an efficient soldier, and a bad soldier was an encumbrance. It would be far better that, instead of wearing a red coat, he should stay at home with his mamma. (Laughter.) There were a great number of people who thought that if a battalion marched past well—looked remarkably fine and marched like a wall—it must be a good one, and efficient to perform all its duties. He had no hesitation in saying that a battalion might be able to march like a wall, be well set up with necks stiff and fingers extended down the seams of their trousers, and yet be useless. Drill was not to be decried; it was very necessary; but he was glad to know there was growing up, abroad and at home, a feeling that the days in which battalions were treated as military machines and estimated by the manner in which they performed those marching drills, was past and gone; and that a time was coming in which the inspecting officer would not go so much to see a battalion on parade, as to see what it could do on the ranges, at 400, 500 and 600 yards. He was sorry the army did not shoot so well as it should, and thought this greatly arose from the old-fashioned habit generals had of going to see regiments march past and no more. But latterly a great deal had been done to improve the shooting of the army, and the same thing might be said with regard to the volunteers. Latterly, extra inspectors of musketry had been appointed to go round the country and look after the shooting of the volunteers; and the commander-in-chief had approved of assistant instructors of musketry being appointed in corps; and a number of volunteer officers were about to be sent to Hythe, that they might be

trained as instructors. That the instruction might go on, he was glad to say that the Hythe instructors—who already were being hard worked—had voluntarily given up their Christmas holidays in order to attend to the volunteer officers who would go to Hythe. Next year every volunteer battalion should have a passed officer able to instruct it in musketry.

Reminiscences of the Franco-German War.

On Nov. 18th Brigadier-General Macdonald delivered an address on "Recollections of a visit to the Franco-German war," before the members of the East of Scotland Tactical Society, in the rooms 51 Hanover Street, Edinburgh. Colonel Dods occupied the chair, and there was a large attendance, many being unable to secure admission.

Brigadier-General Macdonald said there were some lessons of importance to be learned from a view of the battlefields of the Franco-German war. One thing must be impressed on their minds in the first instance, and that was that they were not dealing with a case in which two combatants of equal strength, organization and skill were engaged. There could not be any doubt in the mind of anyone who had seen these battlefields that organization, discipline, and all these matters which went to make up an efficient soldiery were lamentably deficient on one side, and on the other they were on the highest possible pitch which they could attain during a time of peace. In the first place as regarded bad organization in the case of the French at the opening of the war, the superior officers of the French army were all supplied with elaborate maps of Germany, but they were not supplied with any maps of France. In the next place, the maps with which they were supplied were very inferior to the German maps, and when they did come to be supplied with maps of their own country they were not so accurate, or of so recent date, as the German maps of their own country were. One of the most valuable points that could be conceived in the face of an enemy endeavouring to enter France by Alsace and Lorraine was to have munitions and provisions in that district. But not only were there no munitions there, but no forage for the horses or biscuits for the men. The magazines were entirely empty, and the Emperor discovered within the first few days of the opening of the campaign that the rations of biscuits were short, and he wrote asking if it was not possible to get bread made in Paris and sent on.

One would imagine that now-a-days the very first thing to be done in war organization would be that whenever war was declared attention would be directed to transport by railroads, but a most remarkable thing happened just before the capture of Sedan. The railroads there were not in charge of the military authorities at all. On that account when a train with a large quantity of munitions arrived at a station for the French army, because one or two German shells reached the station the stationmaster ordered the train off, and it was never seen again. And again, when two companies of engineers were sent to Donchéry to blow up the bridge there, on their arrival there the stationmaster was in such a funk that he would not stop the train for a sufficient time to enable them to get their tools out, and the engineers were left and their tools went on. There was also this, that general demoralization spread over the whole of the French army in consequence of this state of things. Reconnoitring was extremely bad on three separate occasions. On the very first occasion of their encountering the enemy the Germans opened fire upon them while they were still engaged in the ordinary work of attending to the camp, and the Germans were within gunshot of their camp.

The Intelligence Department of the French was also extremely bad, so much so that Marshal McMahon himself was under the belief that the German army engaged when Sedan was taken numbered 70,000 or 80,000 men, when there could not have been anything less than twice and a-half that number. These were the disadvantages to which the French army were exposed, and in consequence of which they were so severely defeated. The Emperor was blamed a great deal for what happened, and of course he was responsible as regarded bad administration. But he seemed to have had a considerable amount of military instinct, and if the army had retreated when he made that proposition, probably the incident at Sedan would never have taken place. They were not to consider this as a fair contest between men equally well equipped, looked after, and organized, and with a military command, kept free from the control of political considerations. Brigadier-General Macdonald then proceeded to describe the battles of Gravelotte and Sedan, as the two most important that took place in the campaign. The battle of Gravelotte comprised a series of engagements, in which the Germans invariably lost a greater number of men than the French, but they always made their points. The two most remarkable features of all their work were these, that the Generals seemed to work towards one another. They were not waiting their orders, but on many occasions seemed to anticipate what their orders would be. They were always on the alert, and always ready to help one another. Their readiness to fight on one or two occasions led them into contests that were not wanted.

But that was a good point if they were strong. When taking the initiative, as they all did, they kept in the lines of the general scheme put before them. They were trusted by their chiefs, and never failed.

The other most remarkable feature of all, and one that would interest artillerymen, was this, that throughout the campaign the Germans always had their batteries up early in their engagements. They pushed them forward with great courage, even in places of great danger, and always fought to the very last with cavalry and infantry, and yet during the whole of that war they only lost two guns, which they recaptured within the course of half-an-hour. He had noticed in the Tactical Society a very great tendency to dribble with guns, and keep the whole of them back till they found something for them to do. But the Germans went on the principle of getting their guns forward, and they always found a use for them. The engagement at Gravelotte was one of the most difficult that the Germans had to accomplish, indeed so difficult that they only accomplished it to the extent of one-half.

He described the relative positions of Gravelotte, St. Hubert, Amanvilliers, St. Privat, which were all in a line running from south to north, and which were held by the French, and Roncourt which was to the north-west of St. Privat, so that the Germans, instead of being to the eastward pushing the French westwards towards France, were actually then to the west and pressing the French back unto Metz. The French were under the impression that the intention of the Germans was to turn their left, and working round, get them off from Metz, and the Germans were under the impression that the portion of the French army reaching from Gravelotte to St. Hubert was the extreme point, whereas it reached north to St. Privat. Part of the work of the Germans during the day was to keep pressing at St. Hubert, and the French were successful in repulsing the attack at that place. St. Privat was the most fearful place for an army to march upon that one ever saw. The ground there was fan-shaped and sloping, just a sufficient slope to give advantage to the French, and there was no cover whatever except a line of trees. The Germans advanced from a village about a mile to the west of St. Privat, and the army reserved for this purpose consisted of the best troops they had. The moment they appeared they met with a most murderous fire, and it was almost incredible that in the course of ten or twelve minutes between 6,000 and 7,000 men were *hors de combat*. That was attributable to two or three causes. One was not creditable to the French. They fired very badly during the war, and the cruel fire, practically without aim and at the extreme gauge distance, was very brutal. But in proportion as the Germans advanced they lost fewer men. But there was a gorge running west and east between Amanvilliers and St. Privat which the French ought to have known but did not. A German officer obtained leave to take about 200 along that gorge towards St. Privat, and when they appeared at the mouth of the gorge, nine battalions of the French army who were being held in reserve took refuge within the walls of St. Privat. They crammed into St. Privat, and five-sixths of their number probably were thus useless. The Germans took St. Privat and captured a large number of prisoners, and this was the turning point of the engagement. The battle offered one of the most extraordinary instances of bravery on the part of the Germans that the world had ever seen.

He said he would next turn to a very different state of things in connection with the great battle of the Sedan, in which they had one of the most marked instances of the direful things which happened to the French from their total disregard of proper reconnoitring. About two miles from Sedan was a place called Donchéry. By a diagram on the board he showed the position of the two armies, remarking that they passed at parallel lines northwards of Sedan. Donchéry was situated two miles from Sedan, and the Germans were pushing the French westwards toward Sedan. To show the anomalous position occupied by the French army, he said that the King of Prussia viewed the battle from a position behind the French lines. At Donchéry there was a very fine bridge which crossed the Meuse, and it was this bridge which the French Engineers wanted to blow up when their tools were conveyed beyond that place by rail. Not only did the Germans get possession of the bridge, but with great energy they made another bridge at the same place. In the middle of the night the Emperor Frederick, the then Crown Prince, started with his army from Donchéry to move round the French army, and he completely surrounded them. Now, he could see how the French were placed. They had not the slightest idea of what the opposing force was doing. One would have thought that when they were alarmed about the bridge they would have reconnoitred the ground between it and their own lines, but they did not do anything of the kind. The result was that by breakfast time the Crown Prince's army had surrounded them, with the ultimate consequences which were already known to them. The French were practically drawing back on themselves, and were fighting with their faces towards what was formerly their rear. One of the most gallant things that ever was done was performed in the course of the day, and during the progress of this battle. There was a small place which was called Floing, of which the German-

got possession about ten in the morning. The German infantry never altered their formation in the least in order to arrest the French. The German infantry, he said, if they would keep cool, with the weapons they now possessed were absolutely invulnerable against cavalry. He thought that he mentioned to them that one of the most extraordinary things was that the French Marshal did not know within one hundred thousand men the troops that were against him there.

As to the present, he said that when he was abroad he had the opportunity of seeing some of the French manoeuvres. He had not, however, the opportunity of seeing French soldiers on ordinary parade. A sight he witnessed was a review of marines brought in from all parts of the country. They were exercised in all the work which belonged to their branch of the service. Very sturdy fellows some of them, carrying weights upon their backs which would have surprised the volunteers and regulars in the British service. He saw the attack and the volley firing of these marines, which was very good indeed. In many respects the faults one saw were the same as he met with at home. One of these was a tendency to do things as if they were being put down in a book. There was a question sometimes about the straightness of the line, but he would venture to remark that a line like a dog's hind leg was very often a better line for fighting purposes than a straight one. The attack on that occasion was very similar to their own. Speaking of what he observed at Metz, he said he saw two infantry battalions being inspected in the early morning, one at six o'clock and the other at half-past seven. The general appearance of these men was on the whole very creditable, although a great many of them were not to be compared to those of this country in height or physique. The march past was finished in six or seven minutes after the inspecting officer had ridden down the lines. Then he saw the attack which was in a good many particulars the same as was practised at home. It was exceedingly well done, and exceedingly nice to look upon. He could not say so much for the French. In the German army the sound principle had been adopted that they were not to be kept at all times under restraint. In the German army they could hear the word given "without step." At these reviews they saw the men walk past the inspecting officer perfectly well, but the moment they were past every commander formed up his men as he thought best for the next formation. It had become a fixed idea with some that the British soldier or volunteer could not march without touch. The Germans marched without touch, and when they saw a great army march past they would observe that the arm that was not bearing the weapon moved perfectly free with the natural motion of the body. The lecturer next spoke of the discipline of the German and French armies, and said that in Germany every private had to salute every other man who had a stripe on his arm. The same rule held good among the officers. He thought it would be a very good thing if more of them were to go across and see the work done by these foreign armies. One learned a great deal from it, and it would help to take them out of the old grooves into which they had settled down. In visiting these battlefields he had passed through the most beautiful pieces of country he had ever seen in his travels abroad.

A most cordial vote of thanks was awarded the lecturer on the motion of the chairman.

[It should be remembered that the French "marines," of whom Gen. Macdonald speaks, have little or nothing in common with the R. M. L. I. The French "Infanterie de la Marine" is, in fact, we believe, a special body of troops available for, and almost entirely employed in, colonial service on land.]

The United States Government finds no difficulty in adding ships to the Navy, for that is merely one way of spending the annual surplus, but it cannot get men. The pay of the sailors is already more than is given in any other naval service in the world, but the American, it seems, does not take kindly to maritime discipline. An attempt is now being made by private volunteer effort to provide reserves, somewhat on the lines of our Naval Artillery Volunteers. The Navy Department has promised to provide training hulks for harbour use, and all arms and uniforms. Unlike our own force the American volunteers will have command of unlimited funds, and nothing that the State can do will be left undone to make the movement a success.

It is not generally known, at least to the public, that every time one of the big guns of the British Navy is fired bang goes a moderate income. The 110-tonner costs £153 for shot, powder and cartridge—thus: 900 lbs. of powder, £70; 1,800-lb. projectile, £80; and silk for cartridge, £3. But the 110-tonner only lasts 95 rounds. It will then be absolutely unfit for use. The original cost of the gun is £16,500, its worth may be reckoned at £174 per shot, making the total £327 every time the gun is fired. Calculating in the same way, the 67-tonner, which costs £10,000 to construct, and will be useless when 127 rounds have been fired, costs £184 per shot; while the 45-tonner, with an initial cost of £6,300 and a gun life of 150 rounds, costs £98 per shot.

Speaking of veterans of the U.S. National Guard, the Rev. Chaplain Maynard, at a recent military dinner, among other things, said: "I cannot look at the soldiers' faces that are around me without remembering what an amount of drill and preparation you have all had, and consequently, what a ripe knowledge of military experience most of you must possess. It is useless to prophesy about the future, but no one can say, when a highly-trained organization of military men, such as the veteran citizen soldiers, may not be needed. In large cities social life varies; the best can only be oftentimes obtained by joining a good regiment; men form attachments on the common ground of mutual self-respect, and the result is that the memories and friendships of old National Guardsmen cease only with the shadow of the tomb. The happiest and holiest recollections to all are their college reminiscences and school days. It is the Auld Lang Syne of hallowed memories; but change is constant, and it needs just such an organization to keep in security the priceless heirlooms of regimental life."

Militia General Orders (No. 19) of 13th December, 1889.

No. 1.—STAFF.

His Excellency Lord Stanley of Preston, Governor-General, has been pleased to make the following appointment upon his Staff:

To be Extra Aide-de-Camp, from 18th October, 1889, Lieut.-Col. W. M. Herchmer, late 14th Battalion, from Retired List (*Assistant Commissioner North-West Mounted Police*), and to have the substantive rank of Lieutenant-Colonel in the Active Militia; from the above date.

No. 2.—REGULATIONS AND ORDERS FOR MILITIA, 1887.

Royal Schools of Military Instruction.—N. C. Officers and men joining.—The following is added as sub-paragraph (2) to paragraph 1057, of the Regulations and Orders for the Militia, 1887:

(2). The standard for *chest measurement* is not less than 34 inches; height for Artillery, not less than 5 feet 6 inches; for other Corps, 5 feet 5 inches.

No. 3.—ACTIVE MILITIA.

Permanent Corps.—Brevet.—The following officers have been granted the rank of Captain in the Militia, under the provisions of paragraph 28 (2), Regulations for the Permanent Corps, 1889:

Regiment of Canadian Artillery.—Lieutenant and Captain Victor Brereton Rivers; from 10th August, 1886. Lieutenant and Captain Thomas Benson; from 21st August, 1886. Lieutenant George Hunter Ogilvie; from 29th August, 1888.

Infantry School Corps.—Lieutenant and Captain Robert Cartwright; from 29th October, 1888. Lieutenant Edmund Chinic; from 29th October, 1889.

4th Regt. Cav.—The Troops of this Regiment will in future be designated by letters: No. 1, Kingston, to be "A" Troop; 2, Napanee, "B" Troop; 3, Loughborough, "C" Troop; 4, Picton, "D" Troop.

1st Brig. Field Art.—To be Surgeon, Henry Howitt, vice N. L. McPhatter, M.D., resigned.

1st Bn.—To be Captain, Lieut. J. D. G. Lefebvre, R.S.I. Lieuts. W. Abbott and H. S. Hunter resign.

2nd Bn.—2nd Lieut. T. M. Harrison resigns.

27th Bn.—No. 2 Co.—2nd Lieut. Thos. Wood resigns.

32th Bn.—Lieutenant and Adjutant W. J. Holden, R.S.I., to have the rank of Captain; from 13th June, 1889.

43rd Bn.—To be Adjutant, Capt. S. M. Rogers, R.S.I., from No. 1 Co., vice Evans, appointed Lieutenant in Infantry School Corps.

No. 1 Co.—To be Captain, Lieut. John Waller de Courcy O'Grady, R.S.I., vice S. M. Rogers, appointed Adjutant.

57th Bn.—Surgeon Major Robert Kincaid, M.D., retires retaining rank.

68th Bn.—No. 8 Co.—To be 2nd Lieutenant, prov., Sergeant William Wallace Tupper, vice C. S. Cooney, failed to attend Annual Drill.

77th Bn.—To be Major, Captain and Brevet Major Alex. Bertram, R.S.I., from No. 1 Co., vice H. C. Gwyn, promoted.

No. 1 Co.—To be Captain, prov., William Edward Sheridan Knowles, vice A. Bertram, promoted.

To be Lieutenant, prov., Charles Napier Pirie, vice T. A. Bertram, retired.

2nd Lieut. H. H. Pirie resigns.

No. 3 Co.—To be 2nd Lieutenant, prov., Thomas Craig Ptolemy, vice J. Aikins, appointed Adjutant.

85th Bn.—No. 2 Co.—To be Lieutenant, prov., J. Arthur Grenier, vice H. A. Bussière, left limits.

No. 5 Co.—To be Captain, 2nd Lieut. A. T. Patterson, V.B., vice Charles Letourneux, who retires retaining rank.

To be Lieutenant, prov., Robert King, vice Wilfrid H. Jackson, left limits.

To be 2nd Lieutenant, prov., Ulric Brosseau, vice A. T. Patterson, promoted Captain.

87th Bn.—The date of appointment to the Honorary Rank of Captain, of Paymaster T. P. Morin is 30th May, 1884, and not as given in General Orders (17) 31st October, 1889.

CONFIRMATION OF RANK.

Lieut. Robert Torry, R.S.I., No. 4 Co., 31st Bn.; from 30th November, 1889.

Lieut. Arthur Stevenson, R.S.I., 57th Bn.; from 30th November, 1889.

2nd Lieut. H. B. Witton, R.S.I., 13th Bn.; from 30th November, 1889.

2nd Lieut. W. J. A. White, R.S.I., 14th Bn.; from 30th November, 1889.

2nd Lieut. G. T. Denison, jr, R.S.C., Gov. Gen.'s Body Guard; from 2nd December, 1889.

2nd Lieut. D. A. Macpherson, R.S.I., Gov. Gen.'s Foot Guards; from 5th December, 1889.

No. 4.—CERTIFICATES GRANTED.

Rank, Name and Corps.	Class.	Course.	Grade.	Percentage of marks obtained		
				Written.	Practical.	Aggregate Percentage.
<i>Royal Schools of Cavalry.</i>						
2nd Lieut. G. T. Denison, jr, G. G. B. G.	1	S	A	92	89	90
Sergt. J. Sloan, G. G. B. G.	1	Lg	B	78	84	83
Sergt. W. S. Servos, 2nd Regt.	2	S	B	73	65	68
<i>Royal Schools of Infantry.</i>						
2nd Lieut. D. A. Macpherson, G. G. F. G.	2	Sp	A	62	52	57
do H. B. Witton, 13th Battalion.	2	Sp	A	76	66	71
do W. J. B. White, 14th do	2	Sp	A	71	68	69
Lieut. R. Torry, 31st do	2	Sp	A	58	58	58
do A. Stevenson, 57th do	2	Sp	A	76	62	69
Sergt. J. W. Bramley, 19th do	1	S	B	71	72	71
do F. Blanchfield, 10th do	2	S	B	62	63	62
do W. R. Burrell, 12th do	2	S	B	64	69	66
do C. Dunlop, 12th do	2	S	B	65	68	66
do S. Shunk, 12th do	2	S	B	51	59	55
Private R. M. Turnbull, 13th do	2	S	B	62	63	62
do W. A. Porter, 14th do	2	S	B	52	62	57
Corporal W. Sutton, 19th do	2	S	B	54	59	56
Sergt. J. Allaway, 34th do	2	S	B	65	68	66
Corporal R. Fulford, 40th do	2	S	B	60	57	58
Sergt. G. Thompson, 56th do	2	S	B	70	64	67

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