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Topics of the Week.

It seems to be very probable that 1889 will witness another "positively last appearance" of the National Rifle Association at Wimbledon. Out of the number suggested the authorities have so far been unable to agree upon a new site.

This, from the United Service Gazette of the 3rd inst., will be news to our readers:-"There is a rumour current in Clubland to the effect that the command of the Canadian militia will be vacated on Jan. 1 by Lt.-General Sir F. D. Middleton. We should not be surprised if the report were correct, for it is no secret that the Dominion authorities are very difficult to work with. It is only fair to say, however, that since he has held the appointment General Middleton has worked wonders in the way of improving the organization and status of the force he commands." The paper quoted does not appear to be aware that not many months ago Sir Fred. Middleton's term was extended for two years. It is only reasonable to suppose that when the extension was arranged the General was satisfied to work with the Canadian authorities, and the latter have been accused by no one of a sudden change for the worse. By the way, ought not difficulties to be an attraction to a fighting man?

The United Service Gazette has been hearing something else of interest to Canada. It is this: "We hear on very good authority that the absorption of Newfoundland into the Canadian Confederation is virtually decided on, and that the conclusion of the arrangement is mainly delayed by the pending trouble between Canada and the United States. The accession of Newfoundland would complete the work of confederation achieved in Canada by the Confederation Act of 1867, of which important measure we are not unlikely to hear a good deal more by way of precedent for other parts of the Empire." Canadians generally would be pleased if the information proved to be correct; but the prospects of a federation do not seem to have been advanced any by the recent discussion of the subject in Newfoundland.

A cable message has been received stating that the seven Engineer commissions accepted by Canadians have been allotted, and that the gentlemen were expected to report at the School of Military Engineering on the 25th of November, inst. These are A. E. Panet, (son of the Deputy Minister of Militia); T. Joly de Lotbiniere, of Quebec; W. B.

Leslie, Kingston; C. B. Farwell, Sherbrooke; A. P. Bremner, Halifax, N. S.; P. C. Girouard, Dorval, P. Q., and T. Adams, Kingston. This year the Imperial Government offered the following commissions in the regular army to graduates of the Royal Military College: One in Cavalry, three in Artillery, one in Infantry, seven in Engineers. The Cavalry commission was accepted by E. C. Hamilton, of Montreal, who is now with the 3rd Hussars. The Artillery commissions were accepted by F. C. L. Barker, of St. John, N. B.; A. C. Cayley, of Toronto, and T. N. Johnston, of Quebec. These also joined their respective corps. W. T. C. Heneker, of Sherbrooke, accepted the Infantry commission, and has for some time been with his regiment, the Connaught Rangers.

Those of our friends in the rural corps who sometimes say there is nothing to be said about their organizations to interest general readers of the MILITIA GAZETTE, should peruse the interesting budget from the 21st Essex Fusiliers which appears in another place in this issue. "Hotspur," as an Essex man, has good reason to be proud of the corps, as the writer knows from his observation of them at the last camp at Stratford; and with a live commander such as Col. Wilkinson, the 21st will not be apt to lose the high place they have gained in the favour of the people of the county, as manifested by the attentions bestowed upon the corps by the parliamentary representatives.

The recent visit of the Emperor of Germany to Vienna and Rome, and the deep significance given to this outward show of the Triple Alliance, seem to have raised the alarm of the French to a sensitive degree. First, the attention of the French public was called to the Alpine passes and to the local troops for the defence thereof. Next, the question was raised of the Northern frontier, and the Germans were accused of a schene for invading France through Belgium. Now, the Italiansare supposed to entertain aggressive ideas by way of Switzerland; and, finally, the Moniteur de l'Armée calls the attention of the Government to the defenceless state of the island of Corsica. To the Italian formidable fortifications at Maddalena, and their division of troops in Sardinia, it is said that the French cannot oppose more than one regiment of Infantry, while not a fort on shore nor a ship in the harbours is in state fit for even temporary defence against a coup de main.

In reference to the new German drill-book, a correspondent writes to the London Times as follows: "Many a thinking soldier who has truly studied this truly wonderful book is anxiously asking himself the question, "Will this book also be read, thrown aside and forgotten?" or will thousands of these soldiers in a neighbouring land learn and apply its letter and spirit, and gradually in years to come force its influence on ourselves? Will those who are busy revising our own drill-book dare to publish a work one iota more behind the times than the German one, and if they are bold enough to do so what will happen? In 1869 the present Adjutant General of the army wrote: "Drill is now more essential than ever in the formation of an army; but instead of teaching a man complicated evolutions that may have a fine theatrical effect in Hyde

Park, but which are about as useful to a soldier in action as a knowledge of the hornpipe would be, let us drill him day after day, and if necessary all day, in the manœuvres of battle, until he is proficient in them." In the same year poor Capt. May wrote his famous pamphlet scandalizing official Germany by propounding the theory that the very loosening of close order formations caused by the breech-loader in 1886 was not a thing to be deprecated and forbidden, but that, properly directed and controlled, it would be the fighting of the future. He fell before Metz, and will never experience the thrill of pride he would have felt on reading the official drill-book of the day. At last the absurdly unnecessary gulf between drill and tactics is bridged over, and German officers have received a book of instruction to teach them and those under them for war and not for parade. Let it be translated into our language as soon as possible, and read and re-read by every officer in our service. A comparison between it and our present drill-book will be found to be so ludicrous that the usual 10 or 20 years probation will be considerably shortened. Although we Englishmen cannot now boast the honour of having started a new state of things, we can at least point to a semi-official work written in 1869 in which many of the leading ideas are emhodied.

In the "Battle of the Swash and the capture of Canada," just published in New York, Mr. Samuel Barton presents, on the lines of the "Battle of Dorking," an account of what happens in 1890, when the British fleet arrive off Sandy Hook, cross the bar and sail up the Swash and main ship channels. After they have swept away everything within reach night comes on and under the cover of the darkness powerful electric lights, fastened to spar buoys and fed by storage batteries, are sent floating down among the British vessels, which hastily open fire upon the supposed vessels carrying search lights. Taking advantage of the confusion thus created the Vesuvius slips out and sinks one vessel, when she is in her turn disabled by two fast gunboats firing 4-inch rapid guns. The Destroyer meets with a worse fate. After partially destroying two ironclads she goes down head first and never comes up. The British fleet is finally driven off by two naval rams, which utterly destroy with dynamite two of their vessels. But they return and bombard New York, while the American fleet takes refuge up the river at Yonkers. The author's purpose is to stimulate the agitation of the question of providing for building up the U.S. merchant marine, as an auxiliary to the navy. As a means of introducing himself to the good graces of Congress Mr. Barton presents this dedication: "To the Senators and ex-Senators, members and ex-members, of past and present Congresses of the United States of America, who, by their stupid and criminal neglect to adopt ordinary defensive precautions, or to encourage the reconstruction of the American Merchant Marine, have rendered all American seaport towns liable to such an atrack as is herein but faintly and imperfectly described, this historical forecast is dedicated, with much indignation and contempt, and little or no respect."

The autum manœuvres of the 6th French Army Corps take place on a line extending from Vouziers (Ardennes) over Sainte Ménéhould (Marne) to Sainte Mihiel (Meuse), a line running almost parallel to the river Meuse, and to the railway from Mezières to l'hionville. Altogether 38 vattalions of infantry, 12 squadrons of cavalry, 12 batteries of field artillery, and two companies of engineers will take part in the manœuvres, under the command of General Février.

Gal 2 con. art.

The Emperor Francis Joseph of Austria while witnessing some target practice near Vienna, Sept. 28th, came pretty near being shot. He had ordered the bugle to sound cease firing in order that he might inspect the target. The officer in command of a battery situated 1000 yards away did not hear the signal, and as it was impossible for him to see the Emperor as he adavnced owing to the depression in the ground, the battery again fired. Fortunately the Emperor and his suite were out of he line of fire.

Canadian History vs. General Butler.

(By J. Elton Prower.)

General Benjamin F. Butler's article in *The North American Review*, called "Defenceless Canada," exceeds in carelessness if not ignorance in the statement of facts any article on the subject which I have ever read. That an American General should be so ignorant of the most important military events of Canadian history may excite the surprise of the foreigner, but when the same general presumes to write on Canadian affairs the article should hardly be allowed to pass without comment.

Of course he has a right to his opinion as to the conduct of the British Government being "disingenuous, cowardly and selfish" with regard to the South at the time of the war. There is no doubt that the large leisure class in England had a sentimental sympathy with the great Southern landlords, and many British subjects both at home and in the colonies looked forward to a possible time when Canada would hold the balance of power on this continent, but these opinions were by no means universal either in Britain or the colonies, and in any case they were somewhat natural and justifiable.

But to take his historical "facts." General Butler is anxious to prove that the winter is the proper time for a successful Canadian invasion, and says: "At the time of the invasion of Canada by Wolfe, in 1759, he made preparations for a winter campaign, waiting as long as he dared to get up the St. Lawrence without being impeded by frosts, and he landed above Quebec about the 10th of September, with the intention of besieging Quebec, the best fortified city in North America. He evidently reckoned upon supporting his troops largely from the resources I have indicated" These resources were the well filled larders and granaries of the French Canadians.

Now there is everything in history to indicate that Wolfe's plan was to take Quebec by bombardment and a "coup de main," and when his first attack—the one by the Montmorency and the Beauport flats—failed, a council of war was held and the general opinion seems to have favoured sailing away and giving the whole thing up until the next open season. Even the forlorn hope at Wolfe's Cove seems to have come completely as an afterthought, a suggestion of General Monkton's. The only foundation for the idea of a winter campaign on that occasion appears to be a vague suggestion to fortify and occupy Isle au Condre by a few troops provisioned by the fleet until the next spring.

To continue, General Butler says: "He (Wolfe) could have had no thought or belief that the rash and too brave Montcalm, almost within an hour one might say, could quit the shelter and protection of the thick walls of Quebec and its heavy artillery and deploy the French troops on the Plains of Abraham, and thus trust himself and his country's cause on the result of a man for man fight to repel the dashing charge of the

impetuous English General."

Would General Butler be very much surprised to learn that General Wolfe and his army on arriving at the heights were very much nearer the "thick walls of Quebec and its heavy artillery," than either Montcalm or his troops, and that the battle was almost won when the sun rose to find Montcalm and his army eight or nine miles off at Beauport and on the Montmorency, while the English army was deployed on ground which not only commanded Montcalm's whole camp but also the City of Quebec, and was within a mile and a half of the very walls. The truth is that Montcalm was compelled to fight at once or give up the game, as in twenty-four hours' time the British army would have been entrenched on what is perhaps the very strongest ground in North America, and from where all the armies of France could not have dislocged them. He was far too good a general to trust his "rabble" (as I think he called it) in a hand-to-hand conflict with the trained veterans of Wolfe, when it could be avoided, and he was right, as, although he had some very fine French regiments with him, far the larger part of his force consisted of half armed and half disciplined militia totally unaccustomed to fight in the open. The heights were the key of Montcalm's great entrenched camp, and when the attack on the English position failed the French army, shattered and routed, retired, not on Quebec, which could not have held them, but across the St. Charles to the low ground of Beauport

Let us quote once more from General Butler. In showing how much more ready the chivalrous New Englander is to respond to the call to war compared to his dull, money-making cousin who prefers the ancient institutions of his ancestors, he says:

"Later on when England called upon the loyalty of her colonies to assist her by furnishing troops to fight an unjust war against some naked Negroes in Africa, Canada answered the call after a month's delay, by furnishing volunteers of all descriptions to the extent of one regiment of fighting men and some boatmen, her population then exceeding 4,000,000.

Did England call for assistance to her colonies? The contrary was the case. Many Canadian volunteers offered their services and well got

snubbed. One solitary Major was the only Canadian allowed to accompany the expedition in Egypt and represent the full 4,000,000, or the

fighting qualities of such.

When at one period Lord Wolesley organized a boat expedition and thought through former experience that the Canadian voyageur would be the proper man, he applied to Canada and the number was filled up at once to the great disgust of the Thames watermen, and I think I may reflect the sentiments of very many in this country in the speech of a militia Colonel, though very much after mess, when he said "that if England had asked for sixty thousand fighting men instead of six hundred boatmen she would have had them all the sooner."

The glamour of poetry which General Butler has thrown over his article by making "the wandering Esquimau" (in the far north) "mistake the flashing of the midnight sun reflected from our glorious flags for the scintillations of the aurora borealis," does not excuse his woeful ignorance or perversion of facts in his more serious statements, even if Butler's Esquimau becomes as famous a harbinger of Britain's decay as Macaulay's New Zealander who is to sketch the ruins of St. Paul's from the broken arch of London Bridge. From a limited acquaintance with the wandering Esquimau I am sure he would very much prefer the tender mercies of the Hudson Bay Companies' officers, to the Knights of the Carpet Bag.

To conclude it is to be hoped (from a Canadian point of view) that in case an invasion of Canada by the United States should unfortunately occur, the generals commanding the armies of the Great Republic may display as profound an ignorance of Canadian military history and topography as does General Butler.

St. John, N.B., Asking Fortification.

(Daily Telegraph, 9th November.)

Early in the history of the Dominion the necessity of providing for the defence of Canada against possible invasion was seriously considered. It was then pointed out that only Halifax and Quebec of all our Dominion cities were fortified, and that neither of these was in a position to be of any use in defending the provinces against a land attack. If Quebec province were invaded the invader would make Montreal his point of attack, because it is defenceless, possessed of great wealth and is the converging point of many railways. Ottawa, equally defenceless, would be an object of attack because it is the seat of government, and a railway and distributing centre. But in one sense neither of these cities possesses the importance of St. John, which, in the event of war, would be the main gateway for Canadian commerce, and a strategic point of the first importance. St. John guards the entrance to a great river, and the rich valley which includes half of the wealth and population of our province. Having the Chignecto ship railway completed, as it will be within a few years, with the Bay of Fundy, the Gulf and River St. Lawrence, there would be a covered way for the passage of ships from the great lakes to the Atlantic. St. John, if strongly fortified, would stand sentry at the gate of this system.

We hope and trust that the day may be long distant when we shall be called to fight for our homes and firesides, but our common sense tells us that Canada cannot always escape the common lot of nations. And in the event of war with our neighbours, about which they are from time to time blustering, it is clear that St. John might be early made a point of attack. Its contiguity to the border, and its strategic importance would alike lead to this result. The natural inference is that our city, now practically defenceless, should be fortified and made ready for an emergency. Our neighbours are fortifying their seaports and building an ironclad fleet. While they do this we, with but one-tenth of their numbers, cannot afford to neglect the opportunity to strengthen our position and defences.

The opinions of experienced engineers have been expressed to the effect that St. John can be made quite as strong as Halifax against attacks by sea, and almost impregnable by means of earthworks against a land attack. The Dominion Parliament once voted to borrow \$5,000,000 to be expended in fortifications, one million of which was to be set apart for St. John. Since then the scheme has dropped out of sight for the time, but it must some day be revived. Canada has two principal Atlantic seaports, St. John and Halifax. The latter is fortified, the former defenceless. There is quite as much reason why St. John should be fortified as Halifax.

Signor Brin, Minister of Marine, at a recent banquet at Turin, said the navy, which in 1866 was worth \$30,000,000, is now valued at \$70,000,000. The recent manœuvres bore testimony to the fact that a large portion of the fleet could be manned without recourse to unusual recruiting measures. The progress made in naval affairs was very satisfactory, considering that Italy did not aim at an aggressive policy.

The Volunteers' Schools of Instruction.—I.

(United Service Gazette.)

In bygone days many gentlemen of means and leisure would frequently apply for a commission either in the Militia or Volunteers, and, as no examination as to fitness for command was then in vogue, the sorry sight was often witnessed of officers standing behind their companies, with a long-suffering non-com. at their elbow, giving the necessary cues for the word of command, to be repeated parrot-fashion by the officer.

All this, fortunately, is now done away with, and every volunteer officer is now required, at or before the second annual inspection after his being gazetted, to pass a moderate examination showing that he is acquainted with the duties of his position, and can fairly give the words of command.

A certificate of proficiency, however, varies very considerably in its value, as we shall proceed to show.

Any non-commissioned officer appointed to hold a commission is absolved from further compulsory examination, provided he held a sergeant's certificate of proficiency, which is signed by the commanding officer and adjutant of the corps to which he belongs.

These certificates were formerly often somewhat laxly given and were sometimes looked upon as a reward for long service rather than a

strict test of military knowledge and fitness for command.

That a non-commissioned officer is, pari passu, a better man than an ordinary untried civilian goes without saying, and in referring to the "p" certificate held by officers formerly non-coms. it is merely as an illustration of the different value attaching to the various forms of the certificate, all of which however, are recognized as conferring the right to an additional capitation of 50s. per annum.

Next we have the certificate obtained by a "pass" before a military board, consisting usually of a regular officer and an adjutant of militia or volunteers. Any officer who cannot spare a month to go to a school may present himself at these boards, providing he has previously satisfied his commanding officer and adjutant that he is fit to go up for examination.

The test in this case consists of about half an hour's instruction drill to a company, then some company drill, giving necessary words of command, the manual and firing exercise, followed by examination papers on guard mounting, company and battalion drill, and the duties of superintending practice at a rifle range.

If an officer qualifies in these subjects, usually a matter of about half a day's examination, he also obtains a "P" against his name in the

Army List

It will be observed that both the above represent examinations of men who have previously learnt their work; but the schools of instruction, to which we now come, teach the officer his work and examine him during and at the end of his course, and, if successful, he obtains the higher distinction of "p.s." together with pay and lodging and light allowance calculated for the number of days under training, together with travelling allowance once each way to and from the head-quarters to the school.

That all officers who can spare a month should go to a school is so obvious, from the results obtainable, that we venture, for the benefit of those who may not yet have undergone the ordeal, to give a synopsis of the course adopted.

Until somewhat recently every candidate was required to attend daily from 10 to 12.30, and again from 1.30 to 3.30, thus taking up practically the whole of a professional man's day, if we include the time occupied in changing uniform for musti, and during which a hansom has transferred him to his place of business.

Now the practice is for officers to attend at a quarter to nine in the morning, and do the whole day's work at one spell, thus enabling them to leave the barrack-yard at half-past twelve, and so be in business well by mid-day.

This has been found to be of the greatest assistance to volunteers, of whom the very great proportion are engaged in business of some description. Amongst the twenty candidates or so usually composing a school, from two-thirds to three-fourths are generally officers from volunteer corps, the remainder being made up from candidates from the militia.

The instruction given is so thorough and complete in every particular that it is not surprising to find the fame of these "schools" extend far beyon the immediate circles of the officers who have passed there. Quite recently officers from our Australian Colonies, and some even from India, have presented themselves to be thoroughly ground in the profession they have adopted, either for their amusement and relaxation in spare time, or from the higher sense of duty to their country.

Since the Duke of Edinburgh has been in command of the Mediterranean Squadron, says a *London Times* correspondent, "it has been longer at sea, and cruised more incessantly during the year than any squadron in the world."

Personal.

It will be heard with regret that Lieut.-Col. Bond has it in contemplation to retire from the command of the 1st Prince of Wales Rifles.

The return of Lieut. General Laurie, just re-elected M. P. for Shelburne, N. S., was gazetted last Saturday.

Lieut.-Col. Gibson, M. P. P., the popular commander of the 13th Battalion, is again spoken of as about to enter the Provincial Cabinet.

Capt. Hughes, who recently resigned his commission in the Queen's Own, has established himself in the wholesale grocery business at Seattle, Wyoming Territory, U. S. A. He retained his rank on retirement.

Major Wicksteed, formerly of the Governor General's Foot Guarc's, has returned to Canada after an absence of twelve months in England and on the Continent of Europe. The Major had served for fifty years in the active force when he retired last year.

Gen. Bingham, Earl of Lucan, died on Monday. He was eightyeight years old. He was made a Knight Commander of the Bath for his services in the Crimean campaign, during which he took part in the charge of the light brigade at Balaclava. He had held the rank of general in the army since 1865.

Lord Lansdowne, Viceroy of India, has completed the formation of his staff, which has been approved by the Queen. The following appointments have been made by the new Viceroy: Military Secretary, Lieut.-Col. Lord William Beresford, V. C. Aides-de Camp—Capt. H. Streatfeild, Grenadier Guards (who will also act as private secretary); Capt. the Hon. C. Harboard, Scots Guards; Mr. H. A. Pakenham, Grenadier Guards; and Surgeon E. H. Finn, Coldstream Guards.

Lieut-Col. Ross, ex-M.P., died at Picton, Ont., on Monday. For the last 25 years Mr. Ross had been a prominent figure in the County of Prince Edward, financially and socially. He represented that county in the federal parliament from 1863 to 1878. In the general election of 1878 he declined to be a candidate. In 1863 he and Mr. Bog, now Lieut. Col. Bog, organized the 16th Battalion, and he was at once appointed colonel, and retained the command up to 1883, when he resigned. During the Fenian raid of 1866 Col. Ross tendered his battalion to the Government and they were ordered to Kingston. He was Mayor of Picton from 1860 to 1864, and again in 1885 and 1886. Col. Ross was extensively engaged in mercantile business for 40 years and at one time was rated a very wealthy man. He was in his 71st year.

The Rifle.

Major Garrison, H.G.A., has won the aggregate silver medal offered by the Halifax Rifle Club for this year. It was decided by the scores of two meetings, one in June with Snider at 200, 400 and 500 yards, in which Major Garrison scored 92 points: and one in October, with Martini at 200, 500 and 600 yards, in which his score was 82. In the latter match the leading score was a 92 by Major Egan, made up of 27, 32 and 33 in the order of the ranges.

The 37th Battalion Matches.

The 22nd annual rifle matches of the 37th Battalion were held at York, Ont., on the 17th and 18th October, with the following prize winners:

and 500 yards; 7 rounds at each range; short Snider rifles.

\$4 Capt. Griffith, 4 Co	\$1 Lieut. Vanloon, 4 Co
2ND MATCH -Onen to memb	ers of the hattalion only rays

2ND MATCH.—Open to members of the battalion only; range, 400 yards; 7 rounds; short Snider rifles.

\$4 Capt. Griffith, 4 Co 32	\$1 Corpl. Wardell, 6 Co	26
3 Capt. Tuck	1 Pte. Ruddy, 1 Co	26
2 Pte. W. Hewitt, 1 Co 28	1 Pte. Tobicoe, 4 Co	25
1 Sergt. Nelles, 1 Co 28	I Sergt. Wickett, I Co	25
1 Pte. J. Griffith, 4 Co 26	1 Ptc. Runchey, 1 Co	24

3RD MATCH.—Open to members and ex-members of battalion; range 500 yards, 5 rounds; short Snider rifles.

2 Pte. W. Hewitt, 1 Co	\$1 Corpl. Williamson, 1 Co
1 Pte. Tobicoe, 4 Co	-

4TH MATCH.—All comers; rannges, 400 and 500 yards, 5 rounds at each range; short Snider rifles.

\$4 Capt. Tuck, staff 36	\$1 Sergt. G. Wickett, 7 Co	20
3 Pte. Tobicoe, 4 Co 3:	I Pte. Runchey, I Co	20
2 Pte. J. Nelles, 1 Co 33	I Lieut. Vanloon, 4 Co	2 8
I Capt. Griffith, 4 Co 32	1 Pte. W. Hewitt, 1 Co	27
I Sergt. Nelles, I Co 31	1 Sergt. L. Wickett, 1 Co	24

5TH MATCH.—All comers; ranges 400 and 500 yards; 5 rounds at each range; short Snider rifles.

\$4 Lt. Vanloon, 4 Co	\$1 Pte. W. Hewitt, 1 Co 1 Pte. J. Griffith, 4 Co 1 Pte. Runchey, 1 Co 1 Sergt. G. Wickett, 7 Co.	32 31 31
1 1 te. 10bicoe, i co 30	I Corpl. Wardell, 6 Co	30

6TH MATCH—(Consolation.)—Open to competitors who had not won a prize in any of the other matches; range, 400 yards; 5 rounds; short Snider rifles.

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      1st $2, Lew Smith, civilian
      16

      2nd 1, Pte. G. Runchey, 1 Co.
      13

      3rd 50c, Capt. A. Davis, retired
      12
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The special prizes given to the competitors of No. 8 Co. were won by Lieut. McFadden, case of ale, roast of beef, and box of cigras; Pte. J. Mason, \$1 cash, lantern and pair of gloves.

Winner of the aggregate and once winner of the cup presented by Mr. John Griffith, of Hagersville, Capt. Griffith, No. 4 Co.

EXTRA MATCH—Stake purse, amongst the winners—400 yards, off hand, 5 rounds.

1st Lieut. Vanloon, No. 4	. 19
2nd Pte Griffith, No. 4	ıš
3rd Pte. Runchey, No 1	16
•	- •

Regimental News.

At the drill last Friday Col. Gibson told the 13th that the annual inspection would take place about the end of the month. Pte. Cross has been appointed temporary sergeant in E company.

The Sergeant-Major and non-commissioned officers of the Prince of Wales Rifles, Montreal, celebrated the birthday of His Royal, Highness the Prince of Wales, by a grand ball at the Queen's Hall on the 9th. There was a large and brilliant gathering. During the evening the following cablegram was sent to the Prince: "Prince of Wales Rifles celebrating Your Royal Highness' birthday, wish you very many happy returns."

At the annual meeting of C company 5th Royal Scots, held rccently in Montreal, the officers for the ensuing year were elected as follows: President, Col.-Sergt. J. Pitt; vice-president, Pte. Robinson; secretary and treasurer, Pte. T. O'Brien; committee, Corpl. Badinage and Pte. F. Corner. The treasurer's report was read, and showed the company to be in a very satisfactory condition. Captain and Adjutant Lydon, who has been long associated with the progress of the Royal Scots, received a pleasant mark of popularity. Captain Ibbotson, acting for the non-commissioned officers and men, presented him with an address and two large paintings by Du Neuville. This was a mark of their esteem for his services as drill instructor, the company having won in two competitions, the second for bayonet drill against a picked company of the Victoria Rifles. In replying, the adjutant said his duty had been a labour of love, and that he was willing to drill all the companies if the members would attend. He hoped, now that new and more effective exercise was to be introduced, that the whole regiment would take an opportunity of being perfected in it.

Toronto.

The Queen's Own paraded 509 strong, on Wednesday, evening 7th inst., Major Delamere in command, and proceeded to Moss Park Rink, where Company drill was performed. Some companies practised the manual and firing exercises and company formations, whilst others devoted the evening principally to extending and skirmishing drill.

The annual muster parade will be held on Wednesday evening 14th, after which final orders will be issued regarding the sham fight on Thanksgiving Day. It is generally understood that the Grenadiers are to be the defending force and the Queen's Own the attacking.

Corpl. H. F. Wyatt, of F Company, will act as 2nd Lieut. until further orders. "Harry" has always been popular as a private and corporal, and will continue so in his new position. F Company always turns out some handsome officers.

KUNE SOHN.

The 21st Essex Fusiliers.

On the occasion of the opening of the Great Southwestern Fair by the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, at Essex Centre, on the 10th Oct. last, the 21st Essex Fusiliers furnished a guard of honour under the command of Capt. Ley, of No. 2 Company. Lieuts. Johnston and Bartlett, of No. 3 and 5 Co's, acted as subalterns. The average height of the men was about six feet, and it is claimed with pride that no finer guard was ever turned out in Ontario. Col. Wilkinson, the officers of the guard, members of the Dominion Parliament and Local Legislature and many other gentlemen lunched with His Honour after the formal opening of the "Fair," which was a great success. Col. Wilkinson a few days after received the following letter:

GOVERNMENT HOUSE, TORONTO, Oct. 12th, 1888.

SIR,—His Honour the Lieutenant Governor desires me to express to you his thanks for your goodwill in supplying a guard of honour on the occasion of his visit to the exhibition at Essex Centre, and to express his pleasure at their smart and soldierlike appearance. And His Honour further begs you will convey his sentiments to the officers and men composing the guard.

(Signed) FRED C. LAW, Commander R. N.,
Official Secretary.

The 19th annual rifle match of No. 2 Company was held at Leamington in September last. An excellent prize list was furnished by the citizens. The meeting was well attended and some good scores were made, although the day was anything but favourable to good shooting. There was a strong wind from left to right, and it was raining a good deal of the time. The annual dinner of this company took place at the Scoolhouse in the evening. W. C. Coulson, mayor of the town, presided. Col. Wilkinson, many citizens and friends were present. After the usual toasts and speeches, Mr. Balfour, M.P.P., presented the successful competitors with their prizes. The whole affair was a success, and Capt. Ley, who is certainly a tireless worker, deserves great credit for the way everything was arranged and carried out.

The annual matches of No. 3 Company will take place at Essex Centre on Thanksgiving Day, and those of No. 1 and 5 Co's at Windsor at the same date. In each case excellent prize lists have been secured. The annual match of No. 4 Co. will take place at Amherstburg soon.

Dr. Brien, M.P. for South Essex, has presented a silver cup worth \$50 to be competed for by the several companies of the 21st Fusiliers, on the following conditions: Teams of 5 officers and men, three ranges. and not less than 5 shots at each range, Ontario regulations. The cup to be won three times consecutively before becoming the property of any. This competition may not be arranged until next season.

Private Dixon, of No. 3 Company, attended the matches of the Western Rifle Association of London in September last and took the first prize in the 200 yards match, and stood 4th and 6th in two other matches. The 21st Fusiliers intend to organize a thorough Rifle Association, and take a more prominent part in rifle shooting next season.

The splendid band of the regiment are giving a series of popular concerts in the drill shed at Windsor. The people of Essex are proud of the 21st Fusiliers.

HOTSPUR.

Presentation to Col. Oswald.

The Victoria Rifles Armoury was filled on Friday evening 11th inst., with a large and fashionable company, including many of the officers of the local corps, and a goodly number of the fairer sex, the occasion being the presentation to Lt.-Col. Oswald, the late popular commander of the Montreal Brigade of Garrison Artillery, by the officers, non-commissioned officers, and privates, of a portrait of himself, the work of Mr. Robert Harris, R. C. A. Lieut.-Col. Oswald having lately retired from the command of the regiment, this means was taken of showing the regard and affection entertained for him by the officers and men. Among those gathered on the stage, surrounding the guest of the evening and Mrs. Oswald, were observed: Lieut.-Col. Houghton, D.A.G., Lt.-Col. Mattice, B. M., Mrs. Mattice, Lt.-Col. and Mrs. Turnbull, Lt.-Col. Lyman, Lt.-Col. Baker, Lt. Col. Hughes, Mr. J. J. Curran, Q.C., M.P., Rev. James Barclay, chaplain, Mrs. Lewis, Mrs. Hubbard, the Misses Cole, Miss Roddick and a great number of others.

The brigade having marched from their quarters into the hall, were drawn up in square facing the stage, the officers standing forward. Major Cole read letters, regretting thair inability to attend, from Major-General Middleton, Lt.-Col. Irwin, Lt.-Col. Van Straubenzee, Lt.-Col. Mac-

donald, and others.

Lt.-Col. Turnbull expressed the regret with which the regiment had heard of Lt.-Col. Oswald's resignation. He, the speaker, felt the responsibility devolving upon him as the successor of such an officer as no light weight, but he knew that officers and men would stand shoulder to shoulder to keep up the efficiency of the corps.

Rev. James Barclay having been called upon to speak, stated that it afforded him great pleasure to have an opportunity of testifying his

respect for Col. Oswald as a man, and esteem for him as a soldier. He was sure that every man in the regiment recognized the untiring energy and generous devotion which characterized their late Colonel, in everything that tended to the efficiency of his regiment. The speaker then proceeded to eulogise the services of Col. Oswald in England, the North-West, and to the Artillery Association generally. Speaking for the regiment he felt sure he echoed their sentiments when he said they would ever remember the hearty kindness of their late Colonel and his esteemed wife in procuring full provision for the men. It gave him great pleasure to testify to this, and he was sure that the portrait that they were about to unveil would serve as a reminder of the appreciation and esteem in which the Colonel was held by the regiment. (Applause.)

Lieut.-Col. Houghton having followed with a few well chosen remarks, Mr. J. J. Curran, M.P., in an eloquent speech, said that the Colonel, by his example in the past, had done much for the noble cause of Canadian patriotism. He was speaking from his own knowledge when he said that the services of Lieut.-Colonel Oswald were fully appreciated at headquarters, and he had frequently heard the Hon. Minister of Militia express such. Of all the regiments that responded to the call of duty during the recent troubles, none reflected greater credit on the country, or showed greater zeal, alacrity and patriotism than the Montreal Garrison Artillery. This presentation to Col. Oswald was an incentive to other officers to follow in his footsteps, and his example was one

worthy of following.

Col. Baker followed with a few remarks, after which Mrs. Oswald, amid the cheers of the soldiers and others, drew aside a curtain revealing

the life-like portrait of her husband.

Col. Oswald, who was received with loud cheers, thanked the brigade for their kindness to him on this as on other occasions. He had heard it said that it was a thankless task to serve in the militia, but he had not found it so. The artist had made the best of a bad subject, and he noticed that the uniform looked very well. He hoped some day to see his little son wearing the same uniform that he wore now. It was twenty years since he had joined the brigade at the request of Lieut.-Col. Mattice, and he felt recompensed at having secured the friendship of officers and men. He closed by wishing prosperity and long life to all the members of the dear old brigade.

This concluded the proceedings and the brigade marched back to their drill shed to the invigorating strains of the band and were there dis-

missed.— Star

A Reunion of Inkerman Veterans.

I had hoped this week to have continued "The Schools of Military I istruction," but the space must be devoted to the celebration by the Army and Navy Veterans on the 5th inst. of the 34th anniversary of the battle of Inkerman.

The dinner was held at the Albion Hotel. I have no intention of going into all the toasts, for their name was legion, but rather of showing the names, services and medals of some of those present. After the toast of His Excellency the Governor General had been proposed, Alderman Drayton, formerly a captain in the 16th Foot, read a letter announcing the pleasure it gave His Excellency to become a member of the society.

The "Army, Navy and Militia" was very well received, Mr. Banks responding for the army, Mr. George Tyler for the navy, Major J. H. Mead for the active militia, and Alderman John Baxter, of "the 2nd

Royal West Toronto Invisibles," for the sedentary.

"The memory of our fallen comrades" was drunk in silence. "Our victorious comrades at Inkerman" was the toast of the evening, and was responded to by a number of those who took part in "the soldier's battle." John Smith, 72nd Highlanders; Thos. Tyler, Thos. Shaw and P. Burleigh, 30th Foot, who told of how he dodged Russian shells, and how Lord Raglan wouldn't let them fight; J. McMillan, 47th Foot; Chas. Ellingsworth, 93rd Highlanders, who gave a very interesting account of the battle; Alexander Kay, late 13th Light Infantry, although he had not served in the Crimea.

Of those I had the pleasure of meeting at this dinner, all had at one time been in the rank and file. I am prompted by a question asked, "Who are the rank and file?"—to quote from Capt. Butler, who says: "Who are the rank and file? They are the poor wild birds, whose country has cast them off, and who repay her by offering their lives for her glory; the men who take the shilling, who drink, who drill, who march to music, who fill the graveyards in Asia; the men who stand sentry at the gates of world famous fortresses, who are old when the elder brothers are still young, who are bronzed and burned by fierce suns, who sail over seas packed in great masses, who watch at night over lonely magazines, who shout 'who comes there?' through the darkness, who dig in trenches, who are blown to pieces in mines, who are torn by shot and shell, who have carried the flag of England

into every land, who have made her name famous through the nations, who are the nation's pride in her hour of peril and her plaything in her

hour of prosperity. These are the rank and file."

On the 5th we, who are civilians, had the honour of meeting men "who have carried the flag of England into every land," from 1839 to 1888, into China, Russia, New Zealand, India, Afghanistan, up to the nearest turning leading to the North Pole. Here is a small record of some of those present:

Colour-Sergt. Alex. Kay deserves first notice, being now over 80 He enlisted in the 13th Light Infantry on 20th January, 1825; served 24 years: throughout Afghanistan war from 1838 to 1842; present at the storming of Ghuznèe, 1838; siege of Toodendirah, storming of Julgher, engagement of Parwandirah, 1840; engagements in the passes between Cabool and Jellalabad, Khoord, Cabool, Tazzeen and Jugdullaugh, 1841; defence and general action of Jellalabad; engagements of Jugdullaugh and Tazzeen, and re-capture of Cabool, 1842. Has three medals, with clasps for Ghuznèe, 1838, Jellalahad, 1842, and Cabool, 1842.

From the artillery there were present: Gunner A Martin, who was at Sevastopol and has also G. C. and L. S. medal; Sergt.-Major R. W. Purvis, served in Crimea, was with the two 18 prs. at Inkerman, has Crimean medal, Inkerman and Sevastopol clasps, Turkish medal and G. C. and L. S. medal. Samuel Gregg, Indian Mutiny, "Central Indian"

The engineers were represented by Sergt. William Brown, who has Crimean medal with Sevastopol clasp, Turkish medal and G. C. and S. S. medal.

The cavalry, so far as I know, were unrepresented except by Col. Joyce, late 13th Hussars, who served in the Crimea. There are in Toronto, however, two or three men who rode through in the charge of the Light Brigade at Balaclava; they were unfortunately unable to be

The majority of course, came from the infantry: Joseph Harper, bugler, 2nd 60th Rifles, Indian Mutiny medal. William Ellingsworth, 71st Highlanders; Charles Ellingsworth, 93rd Highlanders; served in the Crimea, has medal with Inkerman and Sevastopol clasps, also in Indian Mutiny, has medal with clasps for "Relief and taking of Lucknow" and "Delhi," was in 21 different engagements in India. Was presented to Her Majesty with two others from same regiment, as men who had never missed a day through illness, wounds, etc. He had, however, been wounded. Alexander Watson, 71st Highlanders, has East Indian medal, clasp "Umbeyla."

James B. Brown, 72nd Duke of Albany's Own Highlanders, has Crimean (Sevastopol clasp and Turkish medals, was present at both assaults on the Redan (wounded), also capture of Kinburn. John Mc-Millan, 47th Foot, Crimean (Alma, Inkerman and Sevastopol clasps) and Turkish medals. James Schiel, 84th Foot, served 21 years, Indian Mutiny, clasps for "Lucknow" and "Relief of Lucknow" also has good conduct medal. Alfred Smith, 52nd Light Infantry, served in Indian

Mutiny, has "Delhi" clasp.

Alfred Burleigh, 30th Foot, also Military Train, served through the Crimean war; has three clasps, Alma, Inkerman and Sevastopol; Turkish medal; also served through Indian mutiny; has Lucknow clasp and good conduct medal. Thos. Tyler, 30th Foot, was also in the Crimea; has the two medals and three clasps. He is charged with being the father of the society. His son, George Tyler, was at the Crimea, being in the navy. Col.-Sergt. Shaw, 30th Foot, was also at Alma and Inkerman; was a prisoner in Russian camp; recommended for Victoria cross.

The blue jackets present were G. E. Ford, H.M.S. Highflyer: has Crimean and Turkish medals, Sevastopol clasp. R. W. Simmons, H.M.S. Hornet, took part in the war with China; has clasps "Fatshan 1857" and "Canton 1857," the largest boat action ever fought. Mr. Simmons is, I believe, the only person in Canada who has the honour

of wearing this medal and clasps.

Of course there were others present wearing medals, but I was unable to interview the owners. John Nunn, the president of the society, served in "the Peacemakers." He says that although he wears no medals, he has "what is equally as good, a true soldier's heart." Probably this was one of the reasons he was elected to the position which he occupies.

One of the relics of bygone days shown during the evening was a medal with claps for Toulouse, Orthes, Nive, Nivelle, Pyrenees, Vittoria, Salamanca, Corunna, Vimiera and Roleia, representing some of the engagements in which Richard Simmonds, sergeant 5th Foot, had taken part.

Toronto, 10th November, 1888.

A Spanish general of Barcelona, it is said has bequeathed a million francs to found a refuge for the orphan daughters of poor officers, a provision being that each must be beautiful in face and form, "because the more beautiful a woman is the more she is exposed to danger in this world."

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.]

A Canadian Staff Corps.

Editor Militia Gazeste.—I have read with much interest Messrs. Foresight and Linchpin's criticism on my rough ideas of a Canadian Staff Corps, and though I have little hope of seeing the military organization of this country improved, yet a discussion on its needs cannot do harm, and, as you say, may do some good.

If your correspondent Foresight will kindly refer to the criticized article, he will see that I did not say that junior subs in the Imperial service are not expected to handle a troop or company, as the case may be, but that they are not expected to handle and command in barracks or the field a regiment of cavalry, or of infantry, or a battery, in fact to

take the duty of a field officer.

At the inspection of the permanent corps by the officer commanding the militia, these young officers have to do this, or make believe to do so, with a skeleton; they have also to give thorough details for the same, and not only this but have to lecture officers qualifying for a first class, i. e. that of field officer; if the syllabus of instruction is looked up in the R. & O. this will be seen to be no mean task, and one which a cadet from Sandhurst, newly joined, would find impossible. So much for the juniors.

I suppose my critics never heard of a squad of cavalry, a sub-division of field artillery and a company of infantry doing duty together in one place. Linchpin laughs at the imagination and make believe of different movements of drill, but he who can drill a skeleton regiment, can do so much more easily when the actual members are there, any duffer could tell him that; but while imagination plays such a part, as it must do, in this by no means military country, why not add a few men, horses, and guns. Will they make it less real? Will not an insight into the details of these three arms be imparted?

Would these guis, cavalry and infantry be more useless for real work if stationed together? No! a thousand times no! but far better and of immense value, out of all numerical proportion, on a sudden emergency. Do my critics suppose I think that instruction is the sole aim of the permanent corps? If so, how account for A and B batteries R. C. A. and C Company I. S. C. in the Northwest. Their record is honourable enough!

Why call these corps Staff Corps? Are they not the staff or teachers, examples or whatever you like to call them, of the militia now?

What are the duties of the staff but to guide and teach?

Here is an extract on this very subject from the pages of the Army and Navy Gazette of Oct. 20th, criticizing the want of knowledge on the part of the staff:—

"Regimental officers and men are very ready to learn, provided the staff will take the trouble to teach them. Passing through a college and afterwards sitting in an office chair will not train a staff officer for war's duties. If he wishes to learn what the latter will be, he must throw himself into practical outdoor work during peace, by accompanying them in their field duties; practice is wanted, * * there should be a series of manœuvres * * starting with small beginnings and gradually leading up to larger fights; one or two companies should be pitted against each other, then two guns should be added to each side, then a troop of cavalry, until the forces are gradually increased."

Does not this bear out my ideas advocating the importance of a combination of the three arms? By all means add engineers, pontoon train complete, army service train, etc.; it is only a matter of expense, and I must confess that it was expense that I have been studying, but add them, and we shall be better prepared to protect the dominions of our Queen, should occasion arise, from our courteous neighbours to the

south. Do my critics think it an impossibility for an officer of infantry to visit cavalry and artillery stables on duty? That is exactly what I want done; let each arm have an insight into the other's work! But it is not the fusion of the three arms that I advocate, but that, if required, a cavalry officer could take a company, and an infantry officer a gun into action, or at least be able to properly direct such an operation. I am quite aware that the first cause of the being of our permanent corps is the protection of magazines and fortresses, etc, but do not my friends lose sight of the fact that they would thus be better protected.

Messrs. Linchpin and Foresight are really, I take it, agreed on the need of the military system of the country being improved, and the simple question is—would less instruction be obtained by the adoption of my plan or more? If it can be honestly proved, for the money, less;

I am willing as the Yankees say to "take a back seat."

In conclusion, I do not for one moment contend that my rough ideas are perfect, but the sketch was written with a full understanding that the country is averse to spending money on military matters, and I endeavoured to suggest a plan, under the impression, which I still retain, that we should by these means obtain the maximum of instruction with a minimum of expenditure.

I have not the pleasure of knowing my able critics, but if they only have as keen a wish for the military good of the country as I have, we shall be great friends.



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