

# THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE

A WEEKLY JOURNAL DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF THE ACTIVE FORCE OF THE DOMINION.

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## CORRESPONDENCE.

The MILITIA GAZETTE aims at being the recognized medium of instruction and information for Canadian militiamen and rifle shots. Communications on the subjects to which its pages are devoted are respectfully invited. Anonymous communications will not be regarded. No name will be published, except with the writer's consent. The editors will not be responsible for the views of correspondents.

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## COMMENT AND CRITICISM.

A recent speech by Viscount Wolseley at the battalion banquet of the Artists' Rifle Volunteers, in which he sounds a note of warning respecting the necessity for making preparations during fine weather for the dangers that sooner or later are sure to come, furnishes the text for articles in the English newspapers especially devoted to the interests of the army. The *United Service Gazette*, in endorsing his remarks, calls attention to the fact that ten years ago the Duke of Cambridge spoke in the same strain: "We cannot go on altogether as we are. To say that the pay of our soldiers is to go on as it was sixty or seventy years ago is simply ridiculous. Common sense tells you so, and it does not require my observations to bring you to that conclusion. Unless you pay a man fairly you will not get him. We should be prepared, for it is economy that we should not find ourselves in the wrong boat. It is always wisest to be on the safe side rather than running great risks and bringing about great losses." The article then proceeds to show where the blame lies for the present undesirable state of affairs. "Here we have two of our highest military authorities, at an interval of ten years, preaching from the same text—the insufficiency of our forces. The question naturally arises, why do they speak in vain? The fact resolves itself into this: the civilian element wholly overrides the

naval and military, and to the greed of office are sacrificed our national interests. The Chancellor of the Exchequer frames his budget, not for the benefit of the country, but for the safety of his own party, in order to keep them in office. Cassandra may deliver her prophecies, but they pass unheeded, like the idle wind. 'The country will last my time,' is the motto for each minister who wilfully neglects our defences and imperils the stability of the Empire. 'Unless the ranks are properly augmented, our military machinery will stop altogether.' These are Viscount Wolseley's words; but the nation will be guided by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, who will fix the number of men required for the next twelve months—while he will fail to get even this quota."

This is strong language, but every militiaman in Canada will recognize its truthfulness. In this country we suffer in precisely the same way, and from the same causes. Every general who has commanded the force has again and again called attention in vigorous terms to its wants. We do not doubt that the gentlemen who have in the past presided over the Department of Militia would most gladly have carried out these suggestions. It is well understood that Sir Adolphe Caron would do so now if he were able. But, like men whose houses have never been burnt down, our rulers do not seem to see the necessity for a full line of insurance, or for having on hand the best appliances to extinguish a conflagration. Could anything be more true than the words of the Duke of Cambridge, "unless you pay a man fairly you will not get him." And yet we expect to get men for fifty cents a day, when in the labor market they can command at least twice that sum. The consequence, of course, is that we do not and cannot get the men we want, and have to take young lads or the undesirable floating population of our large cities. We refer, of course, to the annual camps. So long as corps drill at night at their own headquarters they are able to attract a fine, intelligent body of men, but when trouble arises these men cannot leave their homes without making great sacrifices. If they are bachelors without any one depending upon them for support the case is not so bad, but if they are married or the support of parents or relatives the small pay is totally inadequate to making any proper provision for their maintenance. If no trouble arises and men in steady employment are sent into camp even the poorest of them have to sacrifice at least double the amount they receive as pay. Sooner or later our government must recognize the fact that they are competing in the labor market for the men they require, and they should not expect to get men at half rates than they would expect them to accept any other government employment at the same proportion of pay.

We see that the proposed team match between the three Maritime Provinces is in a fair way of becoming an accomplished fact. The Nova Scotia Rifle Association having now endorsed the scheme, which was inaugurated by New Brunswick, and which has since been favorably received by the Island. The conditions given strike us as being almost all that are required, the adoption of Martinis being a particularly strong point, and indicating a progressive spirit. It might have been

well to continue in the same spirit by abolishing both fouling and sighting shots, as will be done at the D. R. A. meeting this year, and we think it would be better to adopt D. R. A. targets and scoring of the previous year than to use those of Wimbledon for the current year, which would not be so familiar, especially in view of possible essential changes. There seems to be some discrepancy between rules 7 and 10 as to coaching, which might be reconciled by allowing the captain and adjutant of each team only to spot or coach; and finally, it seems a question whether badges are desirable. We have a great many badges floating about already, and like medals, any increase in their number would tend to cheapen them in general estimation.

The British Columbia Rifle Association are talking seriously of sending a team to the next Dominion meeting, and we sincerely trust they will be able to carry out their laudable intention. With the Canadian Pacific Railway completed it will be a much less serious undertaking than formerly, and we believe the Company would consider it in their own interests to give them very low fares, if they could not even extend free passes to them, as has always been done to the Maritime Province teams in travelling over government railways. Let the officers of our Pacific Province Association set the accomplishment of this trip before themselves as their chief aim for the current year, and we will guarantee their representatives the warmest possible welcome; a welcome and a reception that will for ever bind together the riflemen from the extremities of the Dominion in a bond of such good fellowship as only accompanies rifle shooting. In working out this scheme the B. C. Association, we are convinced, may count upon the warmest support of Sir Adolphe Caron, Sir Frederick Middleton, the Militia Department, the Dominion Association, and the individual riflemen of this part of Canada.

Rapidly now the familiar names of the leaders in the American civil war are being added to the roll of the great majority. On the 9th Major-General Winfield Scott Hancock died at Governor's Island after a short illness. He was born in Montgomery County, Penn., on the 14th February, 1824, and when twenty years of age graduated at West Point. He served on the Western frontier, in Mexico, in Florida against the Seminoles, and in Kansas during the disturbances in 1857. At the outbreak of the civil war he was in California, but went to Washington and applied for active service. On 23rd September, 1861, he was made Brigadier-General of Volunteers, in March, 1862, he accompanied General McClellan's army to the Peninsula, and in November, 1862, was promoted to be Major-General of Volunteers. His division suffered severely at Fredericksburg. Until the close of the war his history was identified with that of the Army of the Potomac. For his gallant services at Gettysburg, where he was severely wounded, he was thanked by Congress. On the 12th August, 1864, he was appointed Brigadier-General of the regular army, and on 26th July, 1865, was made Major-General. In 1872 he was assigned to the command of the Division of the Atlantic, which he still held at the time of his death. In 1868 and 1872 General Hancock was a prominent candidate for the presidency in the Democratic Convention, and in 1880 he was nominated, but was defeated by General Garfield.

The Ontario Artillery Association has just issued its constitution and proceedings of meetings held during 1885-6 in neat pamphlet form. A summary of proceedings we have given from time to time as meetings have taken place. We now reproduce the constitution, partly for the information of artillerymen in the province, partly as an incentive to the other provinces to go and do likewise. There certainly should be a similar association in each province of our Dominion.

We insert with pleasure a letter explaining more fully the position of the donors of the 40th Battalion colors, but we would wish to point out that our remarks of last week could be scarcely construed to mean that we thought the ladies *desirous* of resuming possession of the colors. We have little further to say on the subject, except that the resolutions passed at the officers' meeting appear somewhat too harshly worded to tend to an amicable issue, though, on the other hand, we consider the colors of a regiment should not be subject to outside control. If the Queen's Regulations are violated, the proper tribunal to decide the matter is the D.A.C. of the district, or, through him, the Militia Department. Again we hope that by a mutual spirit of concession an amicable conclusion may be reached.

Last week's general orders are short, but contain a number of important announcements. There are in all six promotions, six new appointments, and ten retirements, leaving a nett loss of four officers. Glancing down the roll we find a new major of the 8th Cavalry in the person of Major Otty, who had held the appointment of adjutant of the regiment for the last seventeen years; that Captain Forbes has been retired from the quartermastership of the Montreal Garrison Artillery as a lesson in discipline, as foreshadowed by the daily press, and that Lieut. Sherwood's retirement from the G. G. F. G. has been amended. We understand that when he wished to leave the corps to assume command of a company in the 43rd his colonel would not recommend his transfer in the usual way, and so compelled him to resign to accomplish his object. We are, therefore, glad to see that in the end the commander of the Guards thought better of his decision, so that the more graceful change, by means of a transfer, was accomplished. In the 6th Fusiliers Lieut.-Col. Gardner, who had held command only a little over four years, retires in favor of Major Massey, who in turn will be replaced by Capt. Gray. Dr. Casgrain, of Windsor, who acted as surgeon-major of one of the field hospitals last year, joins the force as surgeon of the new Essex battalion. The example of a major leaving one regiment to command another is becoming epidemic, Col. Tyrwhitt having deserted Simcoe for Peel. It looks as though he would have no easy task in taking hold of a battalion which in the militia list shows a wonderful number of vacancies and provincial appointments.

Our readers will regret to learn that Lieutenant-Colonel Baxter, commanding the 24th Battalion, died on the 4th instant at his home in Chatham, Ont. Next week we hope to give some account of his services.

A large quantity of interesting matter, including details of the Military College ex-Cadets' meeting, the presentation of the Egyptian medal to Surgeon Major Neilson, and regimental notes and notices of meetings have been crowded out of this issue and will appear, somewhat tardily, next week.

#### CONSTITUTION OF THE ONTARIO ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION.

1. That this Association be called "The Ontario Artillery Association."
2. That its objects be the encouragement and dissemination of artillery knowledge throughout the Province of Ontario.
3. That the annual subscription for individual members be \$2. which shall become due on the 10th January in each year, and payment of this subscription shall give the right of voting at any meeting of the Association other than a council meeting.
4. The donor of \$20 in cash and upwards, at any one time, or of a prize of not less value than \$40, may be elected a life member.

5. Any battery having its headquarters within the Province of Ontario, the Gentlemen Cadets, R. M. C. Canada, and any battery of the Regiment of Canadian Artillery stationed within this Province, subscribing not less than \$6 per garrison and \$10 per field, per annum, may become affiliated with this Association, and shall be entitled to a number of memberships in the proportion of one for each \$2 subscribed.

6. That His Excellency the Governor-General, for the time being, be respectfully requested to become Patron.

7. That His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario, the Minister of Militia, and the Premier of the Province, be requested to become Vice-Patrons; and at any general meeting of the Association other names may be added to the list of Vice-Patrons.

8. A general meeting of the Association shall be held annually on the second Thursday in the month of January of each year, at such place in Toronto as may be appointed by the Executive Committee. No alternation of the constitution of the Association shall be made excepting at such meeting; twenty-one days' notice of any motion involving such alteration shall be given in writing, by the member intending to propose it at the general meeting, to the Secretary, who shall forward it immediately to every member of the Association.

9. The affairs of the Association shall be managed by a Council consisting of *ex-officio* members and such others as may be elected at a general meeting. The Major-General commanding the militia, the Adjutant-General, the Inspector and Assistant Inspectors of Artillery, officers commanding artillery brigades, officers commanding affiliated Batteries, the Commandant and Staff (being officers), Royal Military College, Canada; President of the Dominion Artillery Association, shall, if members of the Association, be *ex-officio* members of Council. The Secretary and Treasurer shall likewise be members of the Council.

10. The office-bearers shall be a President and four Vice-Presidents (one from each military district in the Province), a Secretary and a Treasurer, to be elected annually at the general meeting; and a President and four Vice-Presidents of Council, to be elected annually at the first meeting of Council next after the annual general meeting. The Council shall have power to fill up vacancies occurring subsequently. There shall also be an executive committee composed of the Inspector of Artillery and Assistant Inspector for Ontario, with three other officers elected by the Council from the members, who shall be intrusted with making all necessary arrangements under the rules of the Dominion Artillery Association for carrying out the annual competitions, the amount of money to be devoted to prizes, etc., three to form a quorum. The members of the Executive Committee to be eligible to any office, and to report to the Council.

11. The Ontario Artillery Association shall pay the annual fees of such Ontario batteries as may desire to become affiliated with the Dominion Association.

12. That all prizes given by the Ontario Artillery Association shall be awarded on the scores made at the annual dominion competitions, with the exception of prizes given to drivers; such prizes are to be decided by the commanding officer of each battery.

13. That the headquarters of this Association shall be at Toronto.

14. At all general meetings of the Association the chair shall be taken by the President, in his absence by the senior Vice-President present, and in the absence of all the Vice-Presidents by the President of Council, and so on.

15. At all meetings of Council five shall form a quorum, all questions shall be decided by the vote of the majority, and the Chairman shall have a casting vote when the numbers are equal.

16. Ordinary meetings of Council shall be held previous to, and immediately after the annual general meeting.

17. The minutes of all meetings of Council shall be entered in a book kept for that purpose by the Secretary, and open to the inspection of any member of Council.

18. Extraordinary meetings of Council shall be summoned by the Secretary when required by the President of Council, at such places as the President may direct, either at his own discretion, or upon the request, in writing, of six members of Council of at least three different corps, duly entitled to vote at such meeting, one of whom shall be a Vice-President, notification being sent to each member of the Council at least fourteen days previous to such meeting; and the requisition for the meeting and the notices to the members must state the object, or objects, of such meetings; members of Council shall be permitted to send a written vote to the Secretary upon subjects to be discussed at such meetings.

19. All subscriptions, other than through affiliation to the Association, shall become due on or before the 10th January, for the current Association year, and the Treasurer shall be required to deposit all sums of money paid over to him on behalf of the Association, in a savings bank.

20. An auditor shall be appointed annually to examine the Treasurer's accounts previous to the annual meeting.

21. The payment of money for current expenses must be authorized by the President of Council, or in his absence by one of the Vice-Presidents, other payments to be made only on authority of Council.

22. The Council shall have the power of establishing such competitions as they may deem advisable. All details to be referred to the Executive Committee.

23. An annual report from the Secretary and the Treasurer shall be submitted to the Council before publication. The Council shall also make a report of the proceedings of the year to the general Association meeting.

24. All competitions to be closed by the 31st December of each year, and all returns thereof, with list of men entitled to prizes, must be sent to the Secretary by the 15th January, ensuing the year for which the claim is made.

25. That members of Council, not being life members, must pay the annual subscription to remain as such.

26. That any commanding officer of a corps being a member of Council, unable to attend any meeting of the same, may nominate in writing an officer of his own command to attend in his stead, and upon such officer delivering to the Secretary such nomination, he shall be entitled to speak and vote at such meeting of Council, but any motion made, or seconded by him, shall be by him in the name of the member of Council for whom he acts.

### MANITOBA NOTES.

FROM THE "MANITOBAN'S" MILITARY COLUMN.

The invitations for the social to be given by "F" Company, 90th Battalion, on the 17th, in the Oddfellows' Hall, are being issued, and the affair promises to be a grand success. The promoters are doing all in their power to make it so, and are sparing neither pains nor money. A similar company entertainment and social reunion is being talked of by the members of "C" Company.

Under the judicious and able management of Col. Taylor and Major Buchan, the Winnipeg School of Mounted Infantry has made wonderful progress since its organization. The corps now numbers 103 officers and men, of whom six are commissioned officers, 93 non-commissioned officers and privates, and four attached. Of the latter, three sergeants, Timewell and Dunsford of the 90th Battalion, and Private Griffin of the 92nd are going through the short course, and Trumpeter Shepherd of the Winnipeg Troop of Cavalry, is taking the long course. The equipment of the corps is complete with the exception of the riding breeches. Each man has two uniforms, infantry and riding. They are armed with the short Snider-Enfield rifle and sword-bayonet. The school has sixteen horses, and in addition to a regular stable staff of four, the men take turn about in the stables for a week or ten days at a time, so that all will be given a knowledge of handling horses. The infantry drill for two hours each morning and an hour and a half in the afternoon, whilst the stable detachment ride twice a day. From four o'clock in the afternoon until ten the men are free to do as they please, the roll being called at ten p.m., whilst the sergeants are free for two hours longer. Amusements are provided in the recreation room, where there is a library and all kinds of games, and a concert is given by the men once a week. A band of fourteen has been formed under Bugle-Major Henderson and has made great progress, notwithstanding the fact that they have been using private instruments up to the present. This will, however, soon be rectified, as the government has promised substantial aid for purchasing a set of instruments. On Sundays the main body of the men parade under the commanding officer to All Saints' Church, five or six members of the corps being members of the surpliced choir. Prominent among the latter is Sergt.-Major Bilman, who possesses an excellent voice. The quarters at Fort Osborne have been made very comfortable, the huts being all plastered on the inside. As for the corps, *en masse*, they are a smart, soldiery body of men, not too high and not too little, but "just the size for infantry." They have all been carefully selected, good habits and morals being as necessary as a sound constitution and perfect physique. Both officers and men are ready and willing to receive marching orders in the spring, and feel delighted with the prospect of making a tour of the North-west.

Quite a number of the non-commissioned officers of the 90th battalion have joined the class of instruction which has been organized, and it is expected in a day or two that a sufficient number will have joined from the regiment to make a squad.

The *Manitoba Gazette* this week publishes the application for incorporation of "The Winnipeg Rifle Range Company (Limited)," the names of the applicants being Edward L. Drewry, John Baird, Alex.

McIntyre, T. J. E. Scones and S. S. Kennon. The amount of capital stock is placed at \$5,000, in 500 shares of \$10 each.

Very few thought when they saw young Jack Lethbridge, of the 90th, carried down from Fish Creek to Saskatoon that he would ever see Winnipeg again, and there is scarcely any doubt that but for the skilful and unwearied nursing he received from Nurse Miller, Lethbridge would have resigned his mess number. To see him as he stepped off the train on his return to the city the other day, no one would suppose he had had such a narrow squeak.

Sergt.-Major Watson has at last been able to take possession of his quarters at the drill shed, and judging by appearances will be very comfortable. The rooms he formerly occupied are being fitted up for the 90th club, and will be supplied with all kinds of conveniences, including pool and billiard tables, all kinds of games, periodicals and other reading matter, and last, but not least, refreshments. Some of the members will be very busy next week fixing the rooms up, and there is every probability of the club occupying its quarters within a fortnight from date.

The most exciting topic in military circles just now is General Middleton's projected visit to the North-west in the spring, with a flying column, to pay his devoirs to the Indians on their reserves. Much curiosity exists as to what corps the column will be composed of and all sorts of conjectures are rife. The general impression is that it will consist of a force of about 2,000 men which will include a Quebec infantry regiment, a Winnipeg battalion of rifles, Major Boulton's Mounted Infantry, the Winnipeg School of Mounted Infantry, and the "B" Battery.

The authorities of St. John's College made a move in the right direction when they engaged Sergt.-Major Watson as drill instructor for the boys of the college, and it is to be hoped they will go a little further and affiliate with the 90th battalion, forming a seventh company of their own. The matter was talked about sometime ago, but fell through owing to some misunderstanding; but there is no doubt that if the scheme was taken energetically in hand once more, the difficulties could all be arranged. In the meantime the various squads of the college are making great progress under the able direction of the Sergt.-Major.

A number of certificates of competency are being issued to non-commissioned officers of the 90th Battalion.

A well-founded rumor is going the rounds that Lieut.-Col. McKeand, of the 90th Battalion, has signified his intention of resigning the command of the corps at an early date.

Apropos of the new uniforms it has been learned, through an unofficial source, that the contractors who are supplying them have completed two-thirds of the contract, and it cannot be very long before they will be on their way.

A class for non-commissioned officers and another for recruits will be formed in connection with the 90th Battalion on February 1st. Trinity schoolhouse has been selected as the meeting place, and those joining who pass as efficient will be able to take part in the annual spring drill.

Bandmaster Johnston, of the 90th, is working very hard to organize and perfect his band, and his labors have been far from fruitless. Great progress has been made, and quite a number of the members of the old band have rejoined. All who came in contact with him unite in praising his energy and perseverance, and concede that he possesses musical talent of a high order.

Lieut.-Col. MacKeand is possessed of a sample of the ribbon to be used with the war medals to be issued to volunteers. It is about an inch and a quarter wide, the centre being of a blue-slate color and a band of scarlet running down each side. The arrangement of the colors is very effective. The ribbon is not supplied by the government but is purchased by each corps to whom the medals are issued.

The adjourned annual meeting of the officers of the 90th Battalion was held last night, and amongst other business transacted was the ordering of new forage caps and leggings to wear with the uniforms on their arrival. Some of the officers favored the adoption of a forage cap after the pattern of those worn by the Q.O.R., but the majority preferred to stand by the old Glengarries.

The return of Major Jarvis, the commander of the Winnipeg Field Battery, from his hazardous and arduous trip to Hudson's Bay was noticed at length in the columns of *The Manitoban* this week. None will welcome the Major back more heartily than the volunteers, both rank and file, who had the honor of serving with him during the recent troubles, and were in a position to judge of the valuable nature of the services he performed. His last record only confirms the previous expression of his abilities. The battery has a right to be proud of its commander.

"F" Company, 90th Battalion, held its annual meeting on Thursday

night in the rooms of St. Andrew's Society, Capt. Clarke presiding. About 30 members were present and amongst other business transacted was the hearing of the reports of the shooting, recruiting, finance and general committees and the election of officers for the ensuing year. A very interesting event in connection with the meeting was the presentation of a group picture of the company to the St. Andrew's Society. Mr. Strang received the gift with many expressions of good will, and said that "F" company, if not a child of St. Andrew's Society, was at least, its ward.

Late military papers note the arrival at Hong Kong, from the Cape of Good Hope, of the 58th (2nd Battalion Northamptonshire Regiment), Col. Foster commanding. The active adjutant of the regiment is Lieut. E. Osborne Smith, who, within six months of the time he joined his corps from the Royal Military College at Kingston, was appointed assistant, and subsequently acting adjutant of the regiment during the absence on twelve month's leave, for a staff course, of Captain and Adjutant Fawcett. It speaks very highly for the training received at the Canadian Military College, that it can turn out officers qualified to earn their spurs, with such brief service, as that of the young soldier alluded to. Lieut. Smith is the only son of Lieut.-Colonel Osborne Smith, C.M.G., of Winnipeg.

#### THE PRESENT FIELD FORCE OF "A" BATTERY,

The regiment of Canadian Artillery, on service in the North-west, consists of—

1 Field Officer (commanding).

3 Subalterns.

1 Surgeon (who includes in his duties those of veterinary).

83 non-commissioned Officers and Gunners.

1 Trumpeter.

21 Horses, two 9-pr. R. M. L. guns, and one Gatling.

We are now quartered in the gubernatorial residence lately occupied by the Rev. G. Clarke as the Indian Industrial School for the Saskatchewan District. As may readily be imagined, from the above figures, we are rather crowded, but that has its advantages in a cold climate, and it's cold enough here sometimes to cool the ardor of the most bloodthirsty *scalp-hunter!* The average temperature, taken six times in the twenty-four hours, since the 1st January, has been 26.25 degrees below zero. That's not a bad country to do "sentry go" in, is it? We used to think, when we were on No. 2 post over "A" magazine, on the old "Hog's back" in the Citadel, Quebec, that it was about cold enough; but let me tell my brothers-in-arms at present doing that pleasant little bit of exercise, that it isn't a patch on what "old Boreas" can get up for us up here. The lowest our thermometer has yet registered (and it's a *corrected one*, sent from the Toronto Observatory) has been 53° below zero, but that, thank goodness, *was without any wind*; you can stand it then, but it's when the temperature is hovering between 15° and 40° below zero, with a stiff wind blowing—which it has a playful way of doing quite repeatedly—that you've got to sit up and look out for frozen members of *Government property!* ("That's what we are," as they say in the N. W.!) However, the government has very generously, and I must add *wisely*, supplied us with heavy buffalo coats to do "sentry go" and fatigues in; we certainly couldn't face the music (of the north wind) without them. We have also had served out to us long woollen stockings that come above the knee, and duffles to wear inside our moccasins, so we're not so badly *fixed*. I must say we find the time hang rather heavily on our hands (for it's too cold to do any drill), it principally being taken up with bucking wood and drawing water;—stay, I had almost forgotten—once a week, when the mail comes in, every one rushes to get his MILITIA GAZETTE to read *Noodle's Notions!* AFTER that, we take up *Punch*. Our principal amusement is watching the drivers get ready and take their horses down to the Battle river to water, distant about one mile to watering place. Of course, to protect themselves properly against frost bites, they have to wrap up very carefully. The great thing is to look and see what driver is the most protected from the wind and frost, or in other words who has got the greatest number of pairs of socks on, mufflers, duffles and everything else that tends to keep out the wind. Then, having selected our man, we back him to come home with *fewer frost bites* than another driver, selected by somebody else. It's great sport, and sometimes quite exciting, for you generally have to wait ten or fifteen minutes after they get back, *till they thaw out*, before you can find your man, for as they enter the enclosure they all look alike—viz., a bag of something, on top of a horse, with arms, legs and strings flying, and a perfectly white face and head—not, mind you, from being frozen, but from the breath freezing on the trunks, beards and mufflers. The horses being warmed up by their gentle canter to the river and back, are feeling very good



about this time, and are not at all willing to form up into line and file to their stables, but prefer a little *gambol* of their own! Especially is this the case among a few of the bronchos we bought lately from some of the ranches to the south of us. They very soon learn the words of command, and when they hear "prepare to dismount" they know that they have to go back again to their stables, so, as if they said to themselves, "we are bound to have some fun any way," the word is no sooner given than you will see three or four animated Christmas trees or quasi Santa Clauses suspended in mid-air for a second, and then a sudden fall in (Christmas) stocks; but the broncho is not there—he *does not remain* to again receive the burden of his friendly Xmas tree, but, having done what he had been making up his mind to do the whole way from the river, he is contented, and trots off by himself quietly to his stables. This is great fun for us, but the drivers don't seem to care for it much!

The people here in Battleford are very kind and hospitable. We are constantly receiving presents from the tradespeople. No later than this morning one firm sent up one carcass of mutton to the officers' mess, another to the sergeants' mess, and three to the men's messes. Now carcasses of mutton in this country cost money. The men are at present very busy getting up a variety entertainment, which they intend giving in Clouston's hall shortly. I hope this letter is not too long, but when one begins to write about this country and its people, it's a *big subject* to write upon! I shall probably send you a line or two now and again, in the hopes that it may, in a slight degree, tend toward prolonging poor *Misty's* life, for I'm certain if he's left much longer to the tender mercies of that noodle's "notions," he'll be a drivelling idiot.

Fort Otter, Battleford, 22nd Jan'y, 1886.

#### COMMON SENSE ON PARADE, OR DRILL WITHOUT STAYS.

BY LIEUT.-COLONEL THE RIGHT HON. J. H. A. MACDONALD, M. P.

(Commandant the Queen's Edinburgh R. V. Brigade.)

And if such was the officer's business, what was that of the men? It was their duty to keep attention on the stretch, to maintain the position of touch to the directing flank. The intelligence had to be concentrated on this and not allowed to wander to any other consideration however important. All individuality was a fault; perfection was to be found in automatic obedience to a mechanical law. Correct movement with touch was impossible if the mind was exercised at all on any other matter. It was mechanical adherence to touch that constituted perfection, and any thought diverting from this was destructive of success. "Marching with touch requires the attention of the soldier to be kept on the stretch for this matter. He must not intelligently think of other things. Thus in the 'Rules and Regulations' issued after the Napoleonic wars, advance in line was ordered to be always done with shouldered arms. French authors also insisted on it."—(Captain Suasso, 1826.)

"Steadiness, solidity, and compactness, the true and only strength of the Infantry."—(Captain Suasso, 1826.)

And to this day, although no such marching will or can be done in sight of the enemy, our "Field Exercise" still says:

"Soldiers must be carefully instructed in 'The Touch,' as it is the principal guide when marching," . . . and "During the march care must be taken that neither the head nor the eyes are ever turned towards either flank."

Further, the whole system of manœuvring in past times was incompatible with the modern requirements noticed above. Every body of troops, however large, had a "Front" affixed to it, and could not, according to regulation, come to the fighting front, unless all its component parts were so kept in numerical order to one another, that when brought up in the real front of battle, they should stand in that numerical order. Accordingly, we read of the "famous counter-march" of Schwerin, caused by his marching off from Brandweis without being able to tell whether his future field of battle would be on his right or left. Thus an army was—"Made like an automaton by its rigid formations and orders of battle, which, movable only by word of command, is intended to unwind its activities like a piece of clock-work."—(Von Clausewitz.)

Such absurdities could not survive the Napoleonic wars, in which so strong a development of mobility was made in the case of the infantry arm. In previous wars, infantry were only looked upon, as the same author says, as "not altogether without mobility." But when mobility became a necessity, such performances as the counter-march of armies died a natural death. But the fixed order of battalions in brigade survived much longer, and was only abolished within the memory of men now living. The fixed order of companies in the battalion survived still longer and was only abandoned in the time of the

present generation, when right in front, and left in front were buried. But the arbitrary front still survives in battalion and company. That is to say, it survives on parade, leading to much time being expended in training the soldier to what is absolutely unnecessary, and to the retention of many complications in drill which would have no *raison d'être*, if the arbitrary front were driven from the battalion and company parade, as it has long ago been driven from the division and brigade, to the satisfaction of everybody.

Such being the state of our present infantry drill system, it confirms in every respect Viscount Wolseley's description of the way in which the natural order of procedure is reversed by those who dictate the forms of evolution for the foot soldier. The conditions of infantry combat are absolutely changed since long-range weapons have become common, but instead of bringing every mode of action to the test of its fitness for meeting the changed conditions, the process has, to judge by appearances, been always the opposite of this. Compilers seem rather to have studied how to make the conditions bend to old modes, than how to adjust modes to meet conditions. The spirit of the combat is not suffered to permeate the book; the book is allowed to crib, cabin and confine the spirit of the combat.

Those evolutions which formerly had a direct relation to fighting, but now have none, are still retained in all their elaboration, and thus "drill is overdone and carried to an absurdity." (*Field Marshal the Archduke John of Austria.*) While the necessity of the case has driven the work of the fight into a form of action which in earlier times was used only in preparation for the true combat, all the forms and modes of action which then were used in the combat proper are still retained, just as if no change had taken place. Much that formerly was practical drill is now nothing but parade drill, which doubtless has its uses, and is a very good servant but a very bad master. The spirit of the directly useful for the actual combat has finally left all this part of the system, and is to be found only in the other part of it, which used to be known by the name of light infantry drill, and which was only an initiatory covering of the troops intended for the actual combat. The statement that "skirmishers are troops who, not being intended for close combat, are employed to cover those who are so intended" (*Hanley*), is no longer correct, if by "skirmishers" is meant troops moving to the front with an interval. All troops advancing to the point from which the charge must be delivered, now move of necessity in an order with intervals.—*Colburn's Magazine.*

To be Continued.

#### CORRESPONDENCE.

##### THE FORTIETH'S COLORS.

To the Editor of the Canadian Militia Gazette:

DEAR SIR,—In your issue of the 19th inst., under "Comment and Criticism," you are under a misapprehension in regard to the circumstances connected with the terms on which the regimental colors are held by the 40th. You state that the ladies are desirous to reclaim the colors, whereas the reverse is the case. Some of the officers, at their annual meeting (in not very courteous terms—all that was said not being in the resolutions), carried a resolution that unless the conditions were abandoned by the ladies who gave the colors they should be returned to Col. Smith, who is not now in the force, having retired some time ago. The ladies, feeling that their costly gift was not appreciated, though the conditions imposed are according to the Queen's regulations, namely, that they shall be kept at Cobourg, regimental headquarters, only to leave it with the regiment, resolved to take them back and place them in St. Peter's church at Cobourg, the county town of which the 40th is the county regiment, according to old established custom in such cases. However, they do hope the officers who object to the "Queen's Regulations" will see the error they have committed and retain the colors which have so long been a source of pride to most of the officers and men.

A LADY DONOR.

COBOURG, Feb. 13th, 1886.

#### THE TARGET.

##### ANNUAL MEETING OF THE BRITISH COLUMBIA PROVINCIAL R. A.

This was held in Victoria on the 25th January, when there was a large attendance and much interest was shown in the success of the association. The secretary read the annual report, as well as a statement of the receipts and expenditures, which showed a satisfactory balance on hand. The following council was elected to manage affairs for 1886:—Mr. Justice Gray, Major Wolfenden, Mr. Bodwell, Capt. Fletcher, Jones, Prior, Green, Peele, Asst.-Surg. Trew, Capt. Bole, Capt. Dorman, Lieut. Woollacott, Major McDonell, Mr. C. E. Pooley and Mr. F. Sargison. Messrs. E. C. Baker, M.P., and J. A. R. Homer, M.P., were unanimously elected representatives from the association to the Council of the D.C.R.A. for the year. It was resolved that the thirtieth annual prize meeting should be held this year at New Westminster. It was also agreed that if satisfactory arrangements could be made as to transport expenses, etc., a team to represent the province would be sent to Ottawa in September next to compete at the matches to be held there, with a view of securing a representative from the province in the team to Wimbledon in 1887.

At a subsequent meeting of the newly elected council the following office bearers were elected:—President, Mr. Justice Gray; vice-presidents, Major Wolfenden and A. E. V. Bodwell; secretary and treasurer, Capt. Fletcher; auditor, Lieut. Snowden.

## ANNUAL MEETING OF THE NOVA SCOTIA PROVINCIAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION.

This was held on the 9th at Halifax. Lieut.-Col. Bremner, 66th, was appointed president; Lieut.-Col. Mackintosh, 63rd, 1st vice-president; Lieut.-Col. Mowbray, H.G.A., 2nd vice-president; Lieut.-Col. Mackinlay, treasurer; Captain Weston, 66th, secretary. The following were appointed to form the council for the ensuing year:—Major-General Laurie, Lieut.-Col. Worsley, D.A.G.; C. H. Tupper, M.P.; Hon. C. E. Church, Lieut.-Col. Murray, superintendent of stores; Captain Harris, H.G.A.; Capt. Curren, H.G.A.; Capt. Bishop, 63rd; Capt. Barnhill, 78th; Capt. Crane, 63rd; Capt. Garrison, H.G.A.; Sergt.-Maj. Murray, H.G.A.; Sergt. Gibson, 66th; Capt. Church, 93rd; Paymaster Finck, 75th; Lieut. Cornwall, 69th, and Lieut. Dickie, 78th. Captains Harris and Barnhill and Lieut.-Cols. Murray and Mackinlay were appointed range committee. Captains Bishop, Barnhill, Curren, H.G.A., Harris, together with the secretary and treasurer, were appointed programme committee. It was resolved to affiliate with the N.R.A. and D.R.A. Lieut.-Col. Murray, Capt. Weston and Garrison were elected members of the Council of the D.R.A. The following conditions were read from the New Brunswick Rifle Association in reference to the proposed inter-provincial maritime match.

(1.) The match to be an annual one between teams of eight representatives from each of the three maritime provinces. Teams to be composed solely of *bona fide* members of the active militia. (2.) Ranges, 200, 500 and 600 yards, 7 shots at each range, and one sighting shot at the option of the competitor. (3.) Rifle, Martini-Henry (of government make or bore.) (4.) Position at the different ranges to be respectively similar to that required with the Queen's first stage, part I. (5.) Targets and scoring, those of Wimbledon for the year. (6.) Match to be shot in uniform, full or undress. (7.) Coaching, shading or spotting not to be permitted. (8.) The competition to be shot early in the month of July in each year, on a day to be agreed upon by the three associations. (9.) Place, a centrally situated range; and as far as possible a neutral one. This association would suggest the range recently opened at Moncton. (10.) Each team to be under the control of a captain appointed by his association and the competition to be under the joint control of the three captains. The captain may or may not be a member of his team. There may also be to each team an adjutant to assist in coaching during the competition. (11.) Teams to provide their own ammunition. (12.) Blow off shots to be allowed. (13.) Each of the associations to contribute an annual entrance fee of—dollars, out of which the necessary range expenses may be defrayed, and arm badges provided for the members of the winning eight. (14.) A handsome challenge prize to be obtained through the joint efforts of the three associations. (15.) In the event of a prize being obtained, it shall be held for the year by the president of the winning association.

The Halifax *Herald* says the three associations will likely apply to parliament for a trophy to be shot for annually. The president, treasurer, secretary and Captains Garrison and Bishop, were appointed a committee to arrange details to procure the proportion of this association towards the proposed trophy, to select the team and carry out the match.

## REGIMENTAL NOTES.

(We wish to publish information respecting all the doings of all corps. Will the officers interested, particularly at a distance, assist us by having news relating to their corps promptly forwarded?)

N. B. BRIGADE GARRISON ARTILLERY.—The annual meeting of officers was held on the 8th, when all the officers but two were on hand.

The regimental committee's report showed an expenditure for the year of \$727.50, of which \$420 were for busbies for the whole corps.

It was decided to buy a complete set of first-class instruments for the band, and an order will be sent to a London firm immediately for instruments of the grade technically called "excelsior."

A vote of thanks was passed to Dr. Barker, M.P., for a liberal donation to the band.

Paymaster George F. Smith offered a handsome prize for a shifting ordnance competition in the corps during the next annual drill, and was formally thanked for his liberality.

The following officers were elected regimental committee:—Surgeon J. W. Daniel, Paymaster Geo. F. Smith, Capt. George B. Seely.

Adjutant C. F. Langan, Lieut. S. D. Crawford and Lieut. Geo. W. Jones were elected the band committee.

Capt. Seely was congratulated on coming out ahead at the recent School of Gunnery examination at Quebec.

62ND FUSILIERS.—At a meeting of the non-commissioned officers Sergeants Henderson, Coleman, Connolly and Jones were appointed a committee to co-operate with the committee of officers in the fitting up of the new regimental club room on Charlotte street, which will be opened some time next month.

65TH BATTALION.—The men who were mounted in action while on active services in the North-west at Frenchman's Butte, received their cheques on Thursday the 11th inst. The names and amounts are as follows:—Private Joseph Marcotte, \$1,100; Private Lemay, \$478; and Private Gauthier, \$169.

TORONTO.—The local papers give the following list of monies just paid as compensation for wounds, &c., during the late campaign, but the list is manifestly incomplete and is, apparently, in some cases, incorrect.

Some have received their cheque with content, whilst others complain bitterly of the inadequacy of the amounts. For instance, Pte. Wilson, R.G., \$226. This man had a large gaping wound from a round ball which passed right round his body and through his lungs, and his doctor says he will never be fit to work efficiently at his trade of blacksmith. On the other hand, some say that this is 14 months' pay, and that if he is not cured by that time and still shows a permanent injury he will go again before the board and receive a pension for life.

G.G.B.G.—Corp. E. S. Thompson, \$91.80; Trooper J. J. Hamilton, \$76.50.

Q.O.R.—Col.-Sergt. Cooper, \$389.90; Pte. Bailey, \$349.50; Pte. Fraser, \$30.50; Pte. Watts, \$76.50; Pte. Graham, \$63; Pte. Warren, \$7.

R.G.—Pte. Milson, \$226; Pte. Cantwell, \$243.50; Capt. Mason, \$1,278.74; Corp. Foley, \$127.20; Pte. Marshall, \$46; Pte. Quigley, \$61; Pte. Stead, \$61; Pte. Whiting, \$259; Pte. Bradford, \$76; Pte. Bobery, \$46; Pte. Woodruff, \$61; Lieut.

Morrow, \$290.72; Pte. Billingham, \$243.50; Lieut. Michie, \$393.94; Sergt. Nelson, \$45.75; Pte. Tyler, \$106; Pte. Woodward, \$92.

Y. & S. Prov. Batt.—Pte. Whyte, \$61; Pte. Pritchard, \$106.50; Pte. Swaiz, \$228.50; Pte. Stewart, \$334.50; Pte. Peacock, \$30.50; Capt. Langton, \$334.50; Sergt.-Maj. Dougall, \$122; Pte. Marsden, 61; Pte. Lafferty, \$62.

C Co., I.S.C.—Pte. T. Dunn, \$182.50.

The Grenadiers held their annual meeting on Friday and elected committees and discussed ways and means for the ensuing year. It was decided to hold a theatrical entertainment in April for the band fund.

The officers voted a handsome donation to the Williams memorial fund, we hear, with unanimous expressions of esteem and respect. They also appointed a committee to arrange for a monument over the graves of Privates Moor and Hughes, and a memorial brass in the cathedral to Lieut. Fitch.

After the meeting they sat down to a substantial supper in their messrooms. It was decided to hold regular monthly dinners in the mess-rooms during the winter.

These rooms are nothing more than a perfect little club, and have doubtless done much to promote that perfect good feeling and unanimity for which the officers of this regiment are noted.—COM.

## AMUSEMENTS.

(If the active organizers of regimental games, company clubs, and similar winter occupations for the militia will forward us accounts of their doings we will gladly publish them. This, we hope, will have the good result of encouraging the organization of similar clubs where there are none at present.)

MONTREAL.—The annual steeplechase of the Prince of Wales' Rifles' Snowshoe Club was held on Friday night, the 12th inst., over the Mountain track to the new club-house. The regiment turned out strong to witness the event, and a large number towed the mark for the start. It also being the ladies' night with the club, a most enjoyable evening was spent. The following are the names of the winners, with the time of the first five:—1st, W. Robinson, 22m.; 2nd, D. Dance, 22m. 30s.; 3rd, Goyette, 23m.; 4th, Sergt.-Major Porteous, 24m.; 5th, Ward, 24m. 35s.; 6th, Davison; 7th, Anderson; 8th, Sergt. Lefebvre, who won a handsome leather medal.

TORONTO.—The sergeants of the Grenadiers gave, last week, a soirée in their mess-room. It was largely attended, and the numerous guests spent a most enjoyable evening. The music, both instrumental and local, was good, and the visitors left only hoping that they will "do it again."

STRATHROY, ONT.—The concert in Albert hall last evening by the 7th band of London, under the auspices of No. 7 company, of the 26th Battalion, was fairly successful, quite a large audience being present. The programme was an excellent one, and the playing of the 7th came in for the highest admiration.—*Despatch 11th.*

St. JOHN, N.B.—The Home Guard, in connection with the band of the 62nd Fusiliers, intend giving a concert in the Mechanics' Institute on Thursday evening, 18th inst. The programme will consist mainly of music by the band, and living pictures by members of the Guards. In addition they will be assisted by some of our best vocalists and elocutionists. The pictures themselves alone will be worth seeing. The guards, who have had a good deal of uphill work in organizing should be well patronized in this their first effort, the object of which is to swell their regimental fund and assist them in uniforming in the spring.—*St. John Sun.*

BARRIE, ONT.—The 35th Battalion band proposes to give a concert here on the 19th instant for the purpose of raising funds to purchase new instruments. The *Northern Advance* bespeaks a good house, saying the band deserves well for the music it gratuitously furnishes during the summer season, and for the readiness with which any good cause in the town is aided. The programme will be a good one.

SARNIA.—The band of the 27th battalion, under Dr. Hartmann, gave another of their popular concerts last week, of which an extending and critical notice appears in the *Observer*.

## GLEANINGS.

GUELPH, ONT.—There died here on the 8th, Sergeant Clay, a veteran of the Royal Canadian Rifles, from which he was discharged on a pension in 1856 after 25½ years regular service. He afterwards acted as drill instructor here and in Galt. He was well and favourably known, and was buried with military honors, both Artillery and Rifles having turned out to escort his remains to the grave.

Captain Saranow was yesterday found guilty by the Supreme Court of Germany of having furnished plans and information of the German fortifications and armaments to the French military authorities and sentenced to 12 years penal servitude.

HALIFAX, N. S.—The funeral of the late Staff-Sergeant Ferry, R. I. R., from the military hospital yesterday afternoon was with military and Masonic honors and was quite an imposing pageant.

One of the heroes of the Franco-German war has just died, Gen. Bonnemains, who commanded the Cuirassiers in the famous cavalry charge at Reichshofen. The feat of arms by which he stayed the advance of the Germans, while his men fell in scores around him under the murderous fire, until Marshal MacMahon had got clear away from Woerth and Froeschwiller, is commemorated on many a canvas and in song; and to this day the appearance of a cuirassier regiment at a review is always greeted with frantic plaudits. Gen. Bonnemains was 71 years of age.

Major Charles Widenham Nash, late Royal Canadian Rifles, died on the 23rd ult. at Dublin, in his ninety-fourth year. He was present at the battle of Lundy's Lane and storming of Fort Erie, North America, 14th August, 1884, where he was severely wounded. He was one of those who volunteered with the forlorn party.—*Broad Arrow.*

JANETVILLE.—An old veteran, Mr. John Bradshaw, who emigrated to this country in 1861, after retiring from the 89th regiment on a pension, and who lived with his brother-in-law, Mr. Robert Cherris, late color-sergeant of No. 7 company, 46th battalion, died on the 3rd inst. at the ripe old age of 79 years. The Janetville company turned out, under Major McDermid, and buried him with military honors.

The Military Court which investigated the history of the disaster to the French army at Langroun, during the Tonquin war, has acquitted Col. Bingen, who had charge of the French troops, from all blame of the disaster.

A rifle volunteer drill-hall, built at a cost of £6,000, and which provides standing accommodation for over 10,000 persons, was opened at Portsmouth, England, on Monday, 18th January, by General Sir George Willis.

MILITIA GENERAL ORDERS OF 12TH FEBRUARY, 1886.

**NO. 1—WOUNDED OR INVALIDED MILITIAMEN.**

Deputy adjutants-general are requested to communicate with Wounded or Invalided Militiamen, North-west Service, in their respective districts, with a view to such receiving the benefit of the allowances payable to officers and men, provided for by paragraphs 995-998 of General Orders (14) 9th July, 1885, pending the issue of pensions requiring the sanction of Parliament.

**NO. 2—ACTIVE MILITIA.**

**8th Reg. Cavalry**—To be major, Capt. and Brevet Major William Otty, C.C., from the adjutancy, vice Armstrong, transferred to and promoted in the N. B. Brig. Gar. Art.

**Montreal Brig. Car. Art.**—Quarter-master Capt. George Forbes is hereby placed on the retired list.

**No. 1 Batt. Levis Car. Art.**—To be capt., Lieut. Jos. A. S. Martineau, G.S., vice Charles Léon Hamel, deceased.

**1st Batt. Governor-General's Foot Guards.**—Adverting to No. 4 of General Orders (2), 8th January, 1886, in which the resignation of Lieut. Arthur Percy Sherwood is accepted, add, "and he is at the same time transferred to and promoted in No. 1 Co., 43rd Batt."

**1st Batt.**—To be capt., from 27th Nov., 1885, Lieut. Claude de Bellefeuille Leprohon, M.S., vice Sincennes, retired. To be capt., from 23rd Dec., 1885, Lieut. George Faulkner Cooke, S.I., vice Edward Kirk Greene, who retires retaining rank.

**3rd Batt.**—To be 2nd lieut., Andrew Bell, M.S. (formerly 2nd lieut. No. 2 Co., 54th Batt.), vice William Garie Goodhough, who resigns.

**6th Batt.**—Lieut.-Col. Robert Gardner retires retaining rank.

**14th Batt.**—Capt. Chas. Davidson Kerr retires retaining rank.

**21st Batt.**—To be surgeon, Henry Raymond Casgrain, M.D., vice Richard Carney, who resigns.

**35th Batt., No. 6 Co.**—The headquarters of this company are hereby changed from "Ivy" to "Huntsville."

**36th Batt.**—To be lieut.-col., Major and Brevet Lieut.-Col. Richard Tyrwhitt, M.S., from 35th Batt., vice Scott, retired.

**No. 1 Co.**—Lieut. Thomas Graham Ballentyne resigns.

**43rd Batt., No. 1 Co.**—To be capt., from 8th Jan., 1886, Lieut. Arthur Percy Sherwood, M.S., from 1st Batt. G.G.F.G., vice William Andrew Dickson Lees, who resigns.

**66th Batt.**—Lieut. John Stanley Esson resigns. To be 2nd lieuts., prov., Thomas Edmond Davison, vice Cartwright, transferred to 47th Batt.; Sergt. Andrew King, vice Stevens; Lance Corporal Henry Frederick William Fenwick.

**87th Batt., No. 5 Co.**—Lieut. Edmond Watters retires retaining rank.

**93rd Batt.**—Paymaster George Ephraim Church having the relative rank of capt. to have the honorary rank of major from 21st June, 1885.

CONFIRMATION OF RANK.

2nd Lieut. Levi Borden Donkin, S.I., No. 2 Co., 93rd Batt., from 11th December, 1885.

2nd Lieut. Edward Guy Stayner, S.I., 66th Batt., from 31st January, 1886.

**NO. 3—CERTIFICATES GRANTED.**

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do T. G. W. Bedford, 40th Regt. Cavalry.

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2nd Lieut. E. L. Wedderburn, 8th Regt. Cavalry.  
do L. B. Donkin, 93rd Battalion.

*First-Class Short Course—Grade B.*

Sergeant J. Hill,	66th Battalion.
Lance Corporal J. G. Neadham,	66th do
do L. J. Power,	66th do
Colour Sergeant H. J. Fletcher,	67th do
Lance Sergeant A. McLaughall,	82nd do

*Second-Class Short Course—Grade B.*

Private E. Bayers,	66th Battalion.
do L. H. Troup,	66th do

*First-Class—Special Course.*

2nd Lieutenant E. G. Stayner, 66th Battalion.

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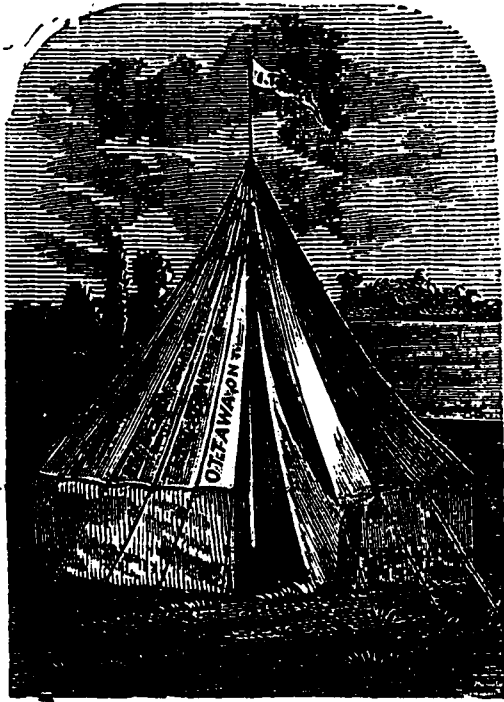
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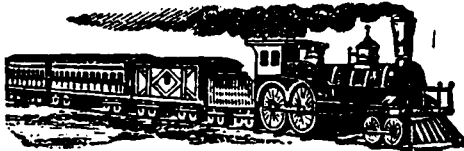
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