

# THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE

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## Current Topics.

FEW will be disposed to cavil at the choice made by the Minister of Militia, in appointing Lieut. Archibald Cameron Macdonell to a lieutenancy in the Mounted Infantry Corps, at Winnipeg. This gentleman is a graduate of the Royal Military College, Kingston, having completed his course there in 1886, taking second place in the graduating class, and thereby becoming entitled to a commission in the Imperial Royal Artillery, which however he thought fit to decline. Since graduating, Mr. Macdonell has been practising civil engineering, making Montreal his headquarters. He is, however, a native of Windsor, Ont.

THE reorganization of the British War Office, so as to give the military authorities complete control, is now an accomplished fact. Under the new system the administration of the army is classified under two perfectly distinct heads—the bureaucratic or civil administration, and the active or military administration. The war office provides the money, and the Quartermaster General, acting for the Commander-in-Chief, is solely responsible that every requisite that money can purchase is duly forthcoming and is duly applied. The director of contracts is restricted to advising the war office as to the framing and general tenor of contracts; but he will not be suffered to interfere in their actual acceptance, and still less in their actual execution. The director of supplies disappears altogether, and in the reorganization of the Ordnance Department, the old appointments of assistant superintendent of the Royal Gunpowder, Small Arms, and Carriage Factories, and Royal Laboratory, etc., are abolished.

THE Quartermaster General besides other functions has control of sanitary questions relating to the Army. The Adjutant General exercises general control over the duties of the Military Department, and, in the Commander-in-Chief's absence, is empowered to act in his name. There are a Military Secretary, an Inspector General of Fortifications, a Director of Artillery, a Director of the Intelligence Division, a Director General of the Army Medical Department, a Director General of Military Education, a Chaplain General and a Principal Veterinary Surgeon. Their titles indicate their functions. In the Civil Department there is an Accountant General, a Director of Contracts, a Director of Clothing, a Director General of Ordnance Factories. All appeals by officers and others against decisions given in the Financial Division will be referred, where necessary, to the Military Department for remarks. Where the Military and Civil Departments differ in opinion on such questions, the latter will submit the papers for the decision of the Secretary of State. The Military Department will have power to authorize, without previous reference to the Financial Division, all expenditure covered by regulation

and provided for in the sub-heads of the estimates. Other expenditures will have to be referred to the Financial Division before submission to the Secretary of State.

HAVING written to the next two on the list for Wimbledon to fill the vacancies caused by the refusals of two of the first twenty, the secretary of the Dominion Rifle Association has since last week received an acceptance from Pte. J. H. Morris of the 45th Battalion, Bowmanville; and a refusal from Capt. J. T. Hartt, of the St. John Rifle Co. Nineteen places have thus been taken. The remaining one has now been offered to the twenty-third man, Gunner A. Wilson, of the Halifax Garrison Artillery.

IN a rescript addressed to Gen. von Schellendorf, the Minister of War, under date of March 26, Emperor Frederick says: "Like His Majesty my father, I shall devote my immediate and unremitting attention to my army. The infantry drill regulations introduced by the late Emperor and King, and subjected to repeated changes to suit the times, have up to the present proved satisfactory, but they now require alteration in order to meet the demands upon the soldiers arising from the progress made in the art of manufacturing firearms, and to provide time for a more thorough individual drilling, and a more uniform and strict training of the men under fire. With this view I desire especially to draw attention to the expediency of doing away with the system of formation in treble ranks. It is not used in war, and can be dispensed with in time of peace. I desire also to see the alterations thus required so arranged that men on leave, when ordered to rejoin their colours, may, without special training, adapt themselves to the new regulations."

LIEUT. W. R. HAMILTON, 5th U. S. Art., a thorough tactician, is quoted as saying with reference to this: "There is nothing very surprising in it. This order has been contemplated by the German War Department for a long time. It is well known that the present Emperor suggested it many years ago, but the late Emperor was so much in favour of the system by which he won the Franco-Prussian war that he would never consent to any change. What it means is that instead of having three lines they will form a single, which will be thrown out in different sub-divisions or groups as now, except that instead of three lines in one formation and two in another they will all be the same. The old system was to throw out a number of such columns and from these the line of skirmishers. The great drawback was that all the movements on the march and in the field, until they were right in the line of battle, was in ranks of threes, and in the event of its being broken it could not readily be replaced. By the formation adopted you can send out one company right or left and still maintain the unit of manoeuvre throughout the movement. Of course the improvement in firearms necessitate a change of tactics. This has long been seen by our own army officers. One system proposed is exactly like that in operation as far back as 1800. The best suggestion that I have heard of is that of Major Hawkins, of West Point. It covers the three arms of the system admirably, I am told, but I cannot explain just what it is."

AS will be seen by a perusal of the report of the annual meeting, appearing on another page, the Ottawa Rifle Club have come to the conclusion that it is not wise to continue practice with the Snider at the six hundred yards range, and this year more attention is to be given to shooting at 300 and 400 yards. It is said to be quite likely that the Dominion Rifle Association will this year largely if not altogether abolish the use of the Snider at 600 yards, and give more encouragement to practice with the Martini at that and longer ranges. This will necessitate very radical changes in the shooting programme.

THE Chinese Government, as the *Messenger Official* informs us, at the suggestion of Li-Hung-Tschan, the Governor of the province of Tschili, decided to found an institution for the purpose of producing able and well instructed native officers. With this object the first course of instruction for Chinese military pupils was opened at Tientsin in 1885. At the same time was begun the erection of a special building for the accommodation of the Chinese cadet corps, the intention being that both the building itself and the organization of the establishment should serve as a model for all the military schools which it was proposed to establish, viz., one in each of the eighteen provinces of the Chinese Empire. The school at Tientsin lies on the bank of the Peiho, and though it does not show any departure from the conventional architecture of the country it answers its purpose very well. Besides a large number of reception dining, and sleeping apartments, the building contains spacious lecture halls, two libraries, an armoury, photographic and lithographic studios, chemical and physical laboratories, and a room for drawing. Near the building is a spacious drill ground where the cadets are exercised in target practice. Detachments of infantry and artillery are attached to the school in order to train the cadets in field and garrison duty. The commandant of the school is a Chinese, Dastai Yang-Tsund-Pan, and the second in command is Major Pauli, an ex-major of the German artillery. The professors are all foreigners, mainly ex-officers of the German Army, and have organized the school on the German model.

THEORETICALLY only youths of the upper classes, between the ages of 14 and 15, are admitted to the school. Practically this rule is not observed, as the present object is to obtain as many useful officers as possible in the shortest time, and therefore men of 40 or even 50 years of age are admitted. The cadets remain under instruction in the lower classes for four years, during which they are taught Chinese calligraphy, foreign languages, geography, history, and natural sciences. At the end of this preparatory course they are attached for one year to the troops which are connected with the school, free choice being granted as to the arm of the service. They then serve for another year with the active army, after which they return to the school for a special course. After passing a final examination the cadet receives his commission as an officer and is permanently attached to the standing army.

AN error having, it is claimed, crept into Dr. Bergin's report on the medical service of the North-West campaign, which credited the rescue of the Rev. Father Moulin at Batoche, to gentlemen who it is said were at the time busy in the zareba, 800 yards distant, Mr. W. B. Scarth, M.P., has made a motion in the Commons for papers which it is supposed will give the credit to those who are entitled to it. The motion is "for a copy of all correspondence, reports and recommendations having reference to the claim of George H. Young, of Winnipeg, that he and Stretcher-men Bailey and King of the 90th Battalion, rescued the wounded priest, Rev. Father Moulin, at Batoche, on the 11th May, 1885; and that the said rescue was not effected by Dr. Gravely, of Cornwall, as stated in the report of the Surgeon-General of Militia as presented to Parliament in May, 1886."

THE event to which the motion refers is said to have occurred in the following manner: The Mission House was situated between our skirmish line on Monday the 11th day of May, and the rebel pits. Rev. Father Moulin having shown himself at one of his windows was struck in the hip by a slug fired by an Indian from the ravine in front of his house. Rev. Father Vagreville, on seeing his brother priest seriously wounded, called for help, by waving a white flag from an upper window. In response to this call or signal, Captain Young tied a handkerchief to a cleaning rod, and attempted to walk across the open from the skirmish line to the house, but the fire was hot and close and he had to return. Father Vagreville then moved his signal flag from the upper front to a lower window, when Captain Young and Mr. Henty, correspondent of the London (England) *Standard* went across the open to the house, and were told that Father Moulin the cure was wounded and bleeding badly. Captain Young and Mr. Henty then returned to the skirmish line, when Captain Worsnop, of the 90th, sent a bugler back to the "support" for a stretcher party, which, composed of 90th men, came out at once. The men, on being asked who would go with Captain Young across the open (over 350 feet) to the house, at once all asked to be allowed to go, Bailey and King were chosen, and with Mr. Henty and Captain Young they crossed the open, under fire, halted a minute or so at the door while the inner barricade of boxes, etc., was being removed, and then went in and having placed Father Moulin on the stretcher, started back across the open to the skirmish line where were the rest of the stretcher-men, who at once carried the wounded priest back to the field hospital, where he was cared for by the medical staff and his life saved.

ANOTHER motion for papers was subsequently made by Mr. Ross, M.P., with the object of showing that the rescue of Gunner N. Charpentier, of A Battery, wounded at Batoche, was made by Captain Young and Lieut. Freer, and not by Lieut. Freer and Gunner Coyan of A Battery as stated in the official report.

### The Gallant Grey.

In a corner of the stable there's a lone and empty stall,  
There's a snaffle and a breastplate hanging idly on the wall;  
There's a hoof upon the chimney that was foremost in the van,  
And gazing on it mute and sad, a sorrow-stricken man,  
His heart is aching with a void that never shall be filled,  
For the fav'rite that he loved so well; the fav'rite that he killed;  
Through the bounds of fair Kilkenny, though he search it hill and plain,  
Ned Smithwick cannot hope to find so good a horse again!  
Bank, wall or ditch, no matter which, he landed safe and clear,  
And "change or kick" would do the trick and jump it never fear!  
The fence could not be strong enough, nor long enough the day,  
Nor hounds could race too smart a pace for "Sam the gallant grey."

### 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.]

#### RIFLE SHOOTING IN THE PERMANENT CORPS.

To the Editor of the *Canadian Militia Gazette*:

SIR,—I remember some time ago you remarked editorially on the fact that notwithstanding the importance which was attached to rifle shooting as part of the modern soldier's education, and the large sums of money offered in prize competitions, the men of our permanent corps were noticeable only by their absence from the Dominion and Provincial gatherings. I have been sorry that no satisfactory explanation has since been given in your paper or elsewhere, that I have seen, and would like to have attention again called to the matter by the publication of the letter enclosed, which appeared in the *Mail* of a recent date.

SMOOTHBORE.

The following is the text of the letter referred to above:

"I was present a few weeks ago at a discussion brought about by a letter that appeared in the *Mail* comparing the shooting powers of our permanent corps and the American regulars, based upon the fact that a company of United States soldiers defeated a picked team from a whole Canadian city. The argument led to the production of the score sheets of one of our regular corps, made at a previous year's practice. The result proved that things are far worse than one would imagine. We noticed that for that year eighty-five men in all fired twenty rounds only, making 1,700 shots; out of this we found the astounding number of 1,024 missed. The ranges were 200, 400 and 500 yards, the easiest used. Thirty-eight of the men made less than 20 points out of the possible 100. One can hardly believe this, but I assure you I saw the figures quite plainly before my eyes. It seems peculiar that no notice is taken of this state of affairs. If this same corps had wavered in its "march past" or neglected its bayonet exercise a severe reprimand would have been necessary, but as it was only the rifle shooting defective it was of no consequence."

## Modern Tactics.

(By Capt. H. R. Gall—From Illustrated Naval and Military Magazine.)  
(Continued from Page 325.)

THE effect on the health of the men is thus described by Lieutenant Greene in another paragraph:—

“Gourko lost about 2,000 men *hors de combat*, from freezing, during the storm of December 18th-23rd, before his movement began. During the movement Dandeville's column lost about 1,000 more. At Shipka the 24th Division lost over 6,000 men (80 per cent. of its strength) during the same storm, and was, for the moment completely disorganized and useless. After the march fairly began there were several hundreds more or less who gave way under the cold or were frozen, but the number was not very great—not so much greater than the sunstroke and diarrhoea cases in the terrible heat of summer, as to be particularly noticeable.

“In this march (as in most campaigns) bad food and the lack of change of clothing laid the seeds of typhus and typhoid fevers, which broke out at San Stefano in the following month of May, with such malignity that at one time 50,000 men—45 per cent. of the whole force stationed thereabout—were in the hospitals.”

### *The Order of March on Each Road*

depends on whether the enemy is near or distant. If near, troops must march prepared for action; in which case every column will have its advance-guard, and a good rough rule for the order of march of the main body is—

- (1.) One-third of the infantry leading.
- (2.) Artillery.
- (3.) Remainder of infantry.
- (4.) Cavalry.

One-third of infantry leading, in order to protect the guns from ambuscade in the event of the advanced-guard missing their way in a mountainous country in the dark, or in any country during a snowstorm. Next the guns, because, under ordinary circumstances, either in attack or defence, they are the first to come into action. The remainder of the infantry and the cavalry last, as they are useless on a road, and can be quickly transferred to any part of the field they are wanted.

If the enemy be distant, the convenience of the troops need only be consulted. If possible a separate road should be told off to each arm; the shortest to the infantry, the hardest to the artillery, and the softest to the cavalry; each column preceded by its own advanced-guard, and so timed that all arrive about the same time at the new halting-ground.

If only one road is available, the cavalry and artillery should march first, as their work commences when they reach camp, and the infantry should follow at a convenient distance.

### *Rules as to Halts.*

The first halt should take place about half an hour after starting, and should be for a quarter of an hour, to enable the men to re-arrange their belts, valises, etc., often put on hastily after striking the camp and packing the baggage. If the march is under 14 miles, halt for half an hour half way; if over 14 miles, halt for half an hour every two hours. This is the German rule. Never halt in villages or short defiles, and, when halted, invariably throw out videttes and sentries, and if the halt is of any duration, and the men break off and are allowed to take off their accoutrements, outposts should be posted if there is even a remote possibility of surprise.

Avoid old camping-grounds if possible. If the men are very tired and have to be up at daybreak, provide cover for the perishable baggage, and let the troops bivouack.

### *Use of Several Parallel Roads.*

Marching on parallel roads opens out a wider area of country, and consequently facilitates supplies, reduces the length of the columns, and is conducive to increased speed with lessened fatigue, enables the heads of columns to be more easily reached, facilitates deployments.

Free communication must, however, exist between the different columns marching on parallel roads, or they are liable to become isolated and to be beaten in detail.

### *Night-Marches,*

as a rule, should be avoided; they render men unfit to fight the next day, and are liable to panic, and many unavoidable delays and annoyances. They are admissible in hot climates, or as preliminary to a daybreak attack upon an enemy who will probably not wait to be attacked if he gets warning.

*Precautions.*—Reconnoitre and mark the cross-roads, and paths if possible, procure reliable guides, keep the men unloaded and in the ranks at all costs, with strong advanced guards. No detached parties. Halts to be named for certain hours not places.

In all calculations of time required, allow an ample margin for unforeseen delays.

### *Flnk Marches.*

A flank march is one in which a flank is exposed to the enemy. It is, therefore, very dangerous when within striking distance, say half a day's march.

*Precautions.*—Reconnoitre the country in front and on the exposed flank. Keep natural obstacles, rivers, defiles, etc., between the nearest column and the enemy, and a flank-guard, composed of infantry, in the formation of outposts moving to a flank about two miles from the most exposed column between it and the enemy.

### *Order of March.*

Columns in echelon, advancing from the flank farthest from the enemy, with artillery at the head and tail of each column, advanced and rear-guards, composed

entirely of infantry. As secrecy is essential, the cavalry, baggage, trains, etc., should be kept on the flank farthest from the enemy, on a separate road if possible.

## CHAPTER IX.—RIVERS.

Are very formidable obstacles; nevertheless, it is generally recognized that a river line of defence is not a desirable one.

A long line of defence, such as a mountain range or a river, cannot be defended by posting isolated bodies of troops at different places along it. Such a position necessitates dissemination, while the act of opposing the enemy wherever he attempts to cross obliges concentration. Unless, therefore, the line to be defended is limited in extent in proportion to the numbers available for defending it, a river line is an extremely vulnerable barrier.

Even the Danube, of which the main stream from Widdin to Silistria, a distance of 250 miles, averages about 1,000 yards in width, with its numerous fortresses, and command of the southern or Bulgarian over the northern bank throughout the entire distance, failed to stop the Russian invasion in 1877.

The Turkish resistance was not energetic; still opinions are divided as to whether a more prolonged passive resistance would have materially aided them in repelling the invasion.

Some of the great rivers of the world—for instance the Indus or the Jumna—for six months in every year are impassable, except by means of boats. The magnificent bridges across these mighty rivers, rank amongst the greatest engineering triumphs of the age. They take years to build, and are quite beyond the scope of all operations of war.

To attempt to convey an army over a raging torrent from three to four miles broad, in open boats, or even river steamers, would be an operation, apart from its difficulty, that would be bound to attract so much attention as to enable the most apathetic defenders to oppose the crossing in force, wherever it was attempted. During the melting of the snows the Indian rivers may be said to be impassable barriers to an army hampered with the requirements of modern war. As the time of year would be very unsuitable for campaigning, these rivers need only be contemplated in a military sense (so far as invaders are concerned) when confined to their natural beds, and not when over-flowing their banks for miles on either side.

They constitute our chief natural safeguard against any successful invasion of India from the north and north-west.

The rivers we have principally to consider are those of Europe, and of these the Danube, notably one of the most formidable, has never yet stopped an invasion.

There are two methods of opposing an invader's crossing. First, by offering an active; secondly, a passive resistance.

The former is when the defenders hold one or more bridges, and occupy various positions along their own bank, with the power of concentrating at intermediate points.

This method, in addition to opposing the invaders more or less vigorously along the line, gives to the defenders the power of issuing over the river on the assailants' side, and delivering counter attacks. It entails even more dissemination than passive resistance, as troops pushed over on the enemy's side, if they act with boldness are liable to be beaten in detail, and to be forced to surrender or retreat over their own bridge, possibly in contact with the invaders, who may thus gain their object without the trouble of constructing a bridge for themselves.

Its success will chiefly depend on the handling and posting of the different detachments, and their power of speedy concentration, which must, again, depend on the extent of front to be guarded.

The passive defence of a river is when the defenders keep their own side, with the exception of scouts pushed over, and watch the easy crossing-places generally, while they still retain enough troops between these points to be marched wherever the enemy attempts to land a covering party. Both methods are more or less unsatisfactory, and, except where the river is broad and limited in lateral extent, rarely succeed in their object.

The enemy is certain to conceal his real intentions, and whenever he attempts to cross will do so at several points simultaneously, with concentrated forces. Once the enemy has gained a footing for his infantry forming his covering party, the passage is more than half lost; the defenders will probably be engaged at two or more other places simultaneously, and will naturally be alive to their extreme vulnerability, should the assailants succeed in effecting even one out of three or more attempted crossings and break into their isolated detachments, and attack them in detail.

There is another way in which a river line can be utilized by the defenders, often with the greatest probability of success, and the same applies to a chain of mountains. It is to watch the various points of passage throughout with scouts, and keep the main army of the defence at some central point in rear of the river between the assailants and their objective.

If the scouts report that the enemy are about to cross at a certain point within reach, *i.e.* if his real intentions are made clear, the defenders from their central position may be able to bear down upon him and strike a sudden and decisive blow, before all his troops have crossed the river, or the mountains. This is in effect to take advantage of the vulnerability of the assailants, and strike a blow at an opportune moment; failing this, the position selected by the defenders should be naturally a strong one, and, with time and means available, artificially improved, and so chosen that the enemy, supposing him to have surprised the passage, will not dare to pass it, and expose his flank and communications.

(To be continued.)

## GOSSIP OF THE MILITIA.

### A Brigade Major exchanges the Volunteer's Sword for the Policeman's Baton.

Activity in Toronto crack corps—The new commanding officer of the Montreal Garrison Artillery—The Rebel Dumont lionized in Montreal—Anniversary celebrations by the Halifax Provisional Battalion officers—The St. John Fusiliers at home—Ottawa Rifle Club programme for 1888—Miscellaneous Matters.

THE grand military and calisthenic concert given in the town hall on Tuesday evening of last week by Lieutenant W. J. Holden, Adjutant 32nd Batt., and his juvenile soldiers, drew a crowded house, and was a complete success in every particular. Everybody present was delighted with the programme, which consisted of numerous military and fancy movements by boys and girls all in brilliant and beautiful uniform and costumes. The girls (No. 1 Company) wore uniforms of red, white and blue, and carried spears and battleaxes. They performed their military exercises exceedingly well. The boys (No. 2 Company) had red coats, striped pants and skull caps, looking very soldier like, armed with their rifles and the officers with their swords. Their drills and exercises were well executed. Mr. Holden was also nobly attired in his regimentals, and presented an excellent figure, erect and perfect in his movements. At the close the audience refused to leave the hall without giving expression to their appreciation of Mr. Holden's successful efforts in producing such a creditable programme. Dr. Scott took his place on the stage and moved that a hearty vote of thanks be tendered to the Lieutenant. It was seconded by Mr. A. Lindsay who proposed three cheers for Mr. Holden and three more for the Queen.—*Southampton Beacon*.

#### Toronto.

THE Queen's Own Rifles assembled at the drillshed on Thursday evening last, mustering 459 strong. Lieut.-Col. Allen was in command, and Major Hamilton, Capt. Macdonald, Adjutant, and nearly all the officers were present. The regiment marched to Clarence Square, accompanied by their band, where they performed general battalion drill; quarter column; and march past in column, quarter column and double time. The men went through these evolutions with their usual steadiness and precision, evoking the praise of the onlookers. On returning to the drillshed, Colonel Allen stated that he had nothing to add to what he had said on the previous parade night; everything was satisfactory. The following orders were issued: Half a dozen names have been put on the roll to complete the strength of the regiment, and a corresponding number struck off. Sergeant Small has been given a three years' good service badge. Private Burns, drill instructor, has been granted a drill instructor's badge. Captain Sankey, it was announced, would deliver a lecture in the sergeants' mess-room on Monday evening, the 16th, at 8 o'clock, subject "Musketry," at which all the members of the regiment and their friends were invited to be present.—*Mail*.

#### THE ROYAL GRENADIERS.

The Royal Grenadiers held their weekly parade on the 12th inst., under Major Dawson. There was a large turn out, fully 300 of all ranks being present. Accompanied by the brass and fife and drum bands, the regiment went for a march-out, the first of the season. They went as far as Brock on Adelaide street, then turned down to Clarence square, where a few battalion movements were practised. The brass band was under the new bandmaster, Mr. Waldron. Although he has been in charge for only a short time, he has made a very great improvement. The music was new and the time unusually fast, but nevertheless according to regulation. It carried the men along at the rate of about 120 paces to the minute.

Lieut.-Colonel Grassett is about to transfer the arms and accoutrements of the regiment to his successor, Major Dawson.

"D" Company held its annual meeting Monday evening, 9th inst. Nearly every man was present. The various committees were appointed, and other business transacted. Afterwards Lieut. John Morrow, the acting captain, entertained them at supper.

The joke of the evening was on Lieutenant Gooderham. He secured a big fine-looking recruit and requested him to stand aside for a few minutes until he was ready to take him up to be sworn. When Mr. Gooderham wanted his man he could not find him. Happening into the orderly room he found that he had just been sworn in as a member of Captain Davidson's company. It appears that Captain Davidson, who is always on the look out for fine men, saw the recruit and without questioning him rushed him off to the orderly room and had him sworn.

The following instructions will be observed in future in the formation of all parades:

- I. The "dress" will sound fifteen minutes before the hour named for parade.
- II. The markers having been placed by the sergeant-major, the "fall in" will sound, when the men will form up by companies on their markers, moving with "shouldered" arms; as they fall in they shall "order" arms.
- III. The "roll" will then be called by the orderly sergeant and the orders read.
- IV. The "officers call" will then sound, when the officers will join their respective companies, the orderly sergeant calling the men to "attention."
- V. The companies will then be inspected and proved and the parade will proceed in the usual way.

Captain Harston has been granted leave of absence for 6 months, from April 3rd inst.

Second Lieut. Burch is transferred from "G" to "H" Company.

Lieut. O'Brien, 35th Battalion (who is now attached to the regiment), is posted to "A" Company until further orders.

The commanding officer has made the following appointments: To be orderly room clerk, Sergeant Fred. M. Kitchner, "A" Company, from September 10, 1867.

To be sergeant in the band, Bandsman Thomas Tressam.

The annual meeting of the sergeants' mess of the Royal Grenadiers was held in the mess room at the drill shed on Tuesday, the 10th inst. The president, Staff-Sergt.

A. Curran occupied the chair, Colour-Sergt. Cusack in the vice-chair. In the absence of the secretary, Pioneer Sergeant Harding filled the office. There was a good attendance of the sergeants. The several committees reported. The following sergeants were nominated for the different offices: President, Pioneer Sergeant Chas. W. Harding, there being no opposition, Sergeant Harding was declared elected president of the sergeants' mess for the year 1888-89. There were several members proposed for the other offices, viz., vice-president, secretary, treasurer, and the room committee. The election takes place on Tuesday, April 24th; that being the anniversary of the battle of Fish Creek, it was resolved to celebrate the event by holding a social after the regular business of the evening had been disposed of. The anniversary of the battle of Batoche will also be duly honoured by holding a supper. It is proposed to decorate the graves of those members of the regiment who fell in the late rebellion, Saturday the 12th of May.—*Empire*.

#### ARMY AND NAVY VETERANS.

The monthly meeting of the Army and Navy Veterans took place on Tuesday evening at Temperance hall. After the usual routine business was over considerable discussion arose on the "Army and Navy Home." Mr. Butler took exception to the word pensioner. Mr. Gibb heartily endorsed Mr. Butler's remarks, stating that a great many veterans who were not pensioners had seen more active service than some pensioners. In fact, he knew a number of pensioners who never saw an angry shot fired. It was moved by Mr. Cooke, late Royal Artillery, and seconded by Mr. Gibb, late 78th Highlanders, that "Veteran" be substituted for "Pensioner," which was carried. A committee was then appointed to confer with the six aldermen of the City Council as to a home for "Veterans." The latter will be represented by the president secretary and Messrs. Cooke, Gibb, Wilton and Macfarlane.

#### A GERMAN GENERAL'S LETTER ON ARTILLERY.

Recently I had the pleasure of meeting a large number of Ontario artillery officers. Naturally the conversation was chiefly on their own branch, one officer present being very full of a new book called "Letters on Artillery, by Prince Krantz Hohenlohe, Ingelfingen." Major-General Prince Krantz was, during the war of 1866, commander of the Guard Artillery Brigade—needless to say of the German Guard Corps. During the war of 1870, he was commander of artillery of the Guard Corps, having 15 batteries or 90 guns under him. In addition he served, I believe, during the war of 1864. He is therefore what we might call a very high artillery authority.

In his first letter he describes the use made of field artillery in the war of 1866, and explains the reason why the artillery, which in 1870 did such excellent service, failed altogether four years before, although its materiel was with few exceptions the same, and under the command of the very same men. Some of the reasons which he gives for the failure in 1866 are that "our artillery did not shoot so well as we had reason to anticipate, judging by the results obtained on the practice ranges; the renewal of expended ammunition was carried out on no regular plan, so that many batteries, owing to the want of ammunition, were not in a condition to injure the enemy, and batteries also constantly went out of action, either on account of the infantry's fire, or in order to refit, when they would have done better to have remained in their position."

He tells us of the opposition against the introduction of rifled guns. It was considered too scientific by the men, who had gained their experience of war in the years 1813-15. One biased general went so far, that as he lay on his death-bed he begged that at his funeral the salute over his grave might be fired with smoothbore and not with rifled guns!

One letter is devoted to target practice. Prior to the introduction of rifled guns, the artillery very seldom indeed ever saw such practice as is customary in war, namely, at a moving target at an unknown range, and when they did see it, they were merely convinced that the target could not be hit. Such practice did not tend to give confidence of success against an attacking enemy. Now all that is changed. The targets represent troops, skirmisher targets are used sometimes standing (man-targets), and sometimes lying down (head-targets). A moving target is always in use and practised at. The targets are moved daily, the ranges are daily varied, and a battery is often stopped in its practice and ordered to fire at another target. The youngest subaltern has thus plenty of opportunity of showing whether he can judge distance and whether he can pick up the range correctly.

Referring to drill he says that they did not go far enough in their simplification of drill movements, and they might have laid more stress upon the correct training of a battery. From his experiences in war the only movements of use in the field, are the advance in column of route, deployments and the advance in line. He cites two instances, one of Konigratz, the other of Sedan, as being the only two occasions in all his battles and actions, at which he had seen brigade movements attempted.

In his letter on the renewal of ammunition during war, he says, that it is an established principle that the ammunition in the waggons should first be used, and that in the limbers kept as a last reserve. He also gives a description of the arrangements for the renewal of ammunition by the ammunition columns, and for the replenishment of the latter from the depots of field ammunition. During the war of 1870, the guard artillery expended about 25,000 shell and one case shot, the latter having been broken in transport. A story has arisen probably from the above case shot that no case was fired during that war. The 1st H. A. Battery, 11th F. A. Regiment, received the French at Elshassansen with case and other batteries did likewise on other occasions; but the guard corps, so General Prince Krantz says, did not fire one case shot.

One extract more. One thing which was continually practised by their artillery was "gun axletree-arm disabled": a stout spar is lashed under the axletree, and great was the importance attached to the neatness of the various kinds of lashings! The Canadian drill book says, I believe, that such a gun can be retained in action, so did the German book. The Germans fired a shell from a gun thus fitted, the latter broke down from the recoil—the officers thus learnt something that they did not know before. He also refers to the system of lashing the gun under the timber. In the four campaigns he says that he never saw any use made of a spar lashed to the axle tree, or of the process of lashing the gun to the limber. He also asserted that no artillery officer ever saw either during these wars, although as he says later on opportunities for doing so did occur.

I would most strongly impress upon artillery officers, who take an interest in their work that they should get these letters and study them. They have been translated into English by Major Walford, R.A. The Prince has also written letters on Cavalry and Infantry.

LINCH-PIN.

#### Montreal.

LIEUT.-COL. THOS. T. TURNBULL, the new commanding officer of the Montreal Garrison Artillery, had his first parade in that capacity on Friday evening last. Col. Turnbull was born in Leith, Scotland, and was educated in Edinburgh. He began his military career as a member of the 1st Midlothian Volunteer Rifles. He arrived in Canada on a pleasure tour during the excitement of the Trent

or Mason and Slindell affair, and assisted with others in the organization of the now crack corps, 7th of London, Ont., and acted on the staff of the D. A. G. during the Fenian troubles of 1866. On taking up his residence permanently in Montreal he joined the M. G. A. in April, 1878, as junior lieutenant, receiving his captaincy the same year. Having qualified for field officer appointment at the Citadel in Quebec he was successful in securing his majority in 1884, and on the 6th of the present month was gazetted as lieutenant-colonel.

At the parade Friday night a general order was read by the adjutant from Lieut.-Col. Oswald bidding farewell to the brigade as follows: "I assure you it is with great regret that I leave after having been so many years connected with you. I have become attached to the old brigade, and be assured I shall never forget the friends I am leaving. I am, however, glad to know that I shall be succeeded in the command by an officer who has served with me for some years, and who will take quite as great an interest in the welfare of the brigade as I have done. In bidding you farewell I trust you will ever remember the high character the brigade has sustained wherever it has served."

A regimental order was also read from the new commander expressing regret at the serious loss the brigade had sustained by the retirement of Col. Oswald and hoping that the same esprit de corps for which the regiment had always been noted, would continue to exist.

#### THE SIXTY-FIFTH.

The Sixty-Fifth took possession of their new quarters in the drill hall Thursday evening last. The corps, it is said, will be thoroughly reorganized without delay. A bugle and drum band will be added.

#### THE REBEL DUMONT.

Gabriel Dumont, Riel's lieutenant during the North-West campaign, arrived in the city from New York yesterday and put up at Riendeau's hotel. His arrival set the Nationalists in a flutter, and it is currently stated that he was prevailed upon to visit Montreal for the purpose of taking part in the contests in Hochelaga, Maskinonge and Laval. When Mr. Champagne, the Nationalist candidate in the first mentioned constituency, was seen he said: "You may rest assured that I will make use of Dumont in Hochelaga."

Dumont is powerfully built, and it can be seen at a glance that in his veins runs the blood of the red man. His hair is long and unkempt, and he is attired in coarse gray cloth, greatly resembling *drap du pays*. He not only speaks very poor French but at times when an expression fails him he makes use of an incomprehensible patois.

Dumont says that he is not afraid to remain in Canada as he has an amnesty from the Government in his pocket. He will deliver lectures in this city, Quebec, Three Rivers and Sorel and will seek signatures for a petition praying the Government to extend an indemnity to those half-breeds who took up arms under Riel. The petition will be read in the House by Hon. Mr. Laurier. Dumont contends that Riel died a victim to his devotion to his people. The condition of the Metis had not been bettered by the rebellion, but he had no doubt that it would have good results later on. Dumont says that he will visit France during the summer. He has lots of friends over there whom he knew in New York, and who are anxious to extend to him their hospitality. He will then return to his farm in the North-West. —*Star*.

#### COL. HUGHES CHIEF OF POLICE.

The long struggle for the position of chief of police of this city has been terminated by the appointment of Lieut.-Col. Hughes, Brigade Major. Col. Hughes was born at Three Rivers in 1847, and is the son of the late Henry B. Hughes, in his lifetime a lawyer and clerk of the peace of that city. His grandfather was a captain in the British army and assisted in defending Lacollé against the Americans in 1812. He is descended from an old Irish Protestant family. He was married in 1874 to a daughter of the late Dr. Leduc of this city. He obtained his military certificate at the age of seventeen from the Military School at Quebec under Col. Gordon of the Seventeenth "Leicestershire" Regiment of Foot, then in garrison at the Ancient Capital. He saw service during the Fenian raid of 1866 on the frontier, and in 1868 joined the Papal Zouaves. Returning to Canada in 1870 he commenced the study of law and was admitted to practice in 1880. In the same year he was appointed to the senior majority of the 65th on its re-organization by Col. Ouimet. In 1882 he was appointed Deputy Clerk of the Crown and a License Commissioner, and in 1883 resigned these offices to accept the position of Brigade Major of the district. During the North-West rebellion he went to the front and commanded his regiment as senior major at the only action in which a French regiment participated, Frenchmen's Butte, on the 28th May, 1885.

#### THE VICTORIA RIFLES.

On account of the execrable condition of the streets no outside drills or marching have been attempted by any corps here. The Vic's armoury is, however, situated just right to allow its members to get in their half battalion drills with clean boots in spite of mud and aldermen.

The annual meeting of the sergeants' mess was held on Friday last, the treasurer's and mess committees reports showing great progress made in both finances and mess property and comforts. With an outlay for the past 10 months, since the quarters in the new armoury were taken up, of nearly \$600, the treasurer was able to report all debts paid and a cash balance on hand.

The 2nd match in series "B" was shot on Saturday last, ending with Private G. Cook the winner, with 47 points. A team match with the Prince of Wales Rifles is fixed for Friday night.

#### Halifax.

THE officers of the Halifax Provisional Battalion celebrated the third anniversary of the departure of the battalion for active service in the North-West, by a dinner at the Queen hotel, on Wednesday evening, 11th inst. About twenty sat down to the table. No guests were allowed with the exception of Col. Murray, paymaster, who is always looked upon as part of the corps. The band of the 66th P. L. F. furnished the music. Col. Bremner presided, with Col. Macdonald, 66th, and Major Walsh, 63rd, as vice-chairmen. After the Queen had been duly honoured the usual military custom was dispensed with and toasts, songs and speeches were declared in order. Telegrams were read from several absent comrades regretting their inability to be with the rest on the occasion. The alleged Poundmaker's veritable pipe of peace, the property of one of the officers, was brought forth, lighted up and passed around in the most approved fashion. Major Weston alluded fittingly to some of the absent comrades who had answered the great roll-call and their memory was honoured. Some experiences of the different detachments of the battalion quartered at Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan Landing and Medicine Hat were related and some new facts brought to light for the first time. The medical branch of the campaign was humorously defended by Surgeon Tobin and T. R. Almon. The room was handsomely decorated with

#### BUSBY.

bunting, rifles, etc., and through the kindness of the commanding officers of the respective regiments and his worship the mayor, the colours of the 63rd, 66th, and H.P. B. were displayed, and handsome silver cups, kindly loaned by some of the officers, adorned the table. The large oil painting, by A. E. Well, of this city, of the officers of the corps, was exposed for the first time and much commented on. As the observance of the 10th of April has now become an institution among the officers of the H.P.B., it was decided to appoint a committee to look after the celebration next year, and the following were selected: Col. Bremner, Capt. Garrison, Major Weston, Lieut. James, and Mr. Kane.

The Second Scottish company, 63rd Rifles, celebrated the third anniversary of its departure for the North-West rebellion by a dinner at Teas' dining hall on the same evening. This year's celebration was very quietly conducted, none but active and retired members of the company being present. The evening was very enjoyably spent in song, speech and story.

#### St. John, N.B.

AN At Home given by the officers of the 62nd Fusiliers on Thursday evening last, afforded a delightful entertainment to themselves and their large number of friends, civil and military, who attended. Among the military guests present were Col. Maunsell, D.A.G.; Capt. Campbell, and Lieut. Wedderburn and Lieut. Sears, 8th Princess Louise Cavalry; Lieut.-Col. Armstrong and the officers of the Garrison Artillery; Capt. Hartt and officers of the Rifles.

The decorations of the room were of the most tasteful and elaborate kind that have been seen in the city for some years. One of the most striking objects was a handsome shield of red, white and blue velvet, on which were mounted 110 officers' buttons of the different numerical regiments of the British army before the change to the territorial system. The shield was surmounted by a lion and crown. This collection was made by Mr. W. H. Love and is probably the only collection of such buttons in the world. He has been over five years in collecting the same and has written over 500 letters to all parts of the world where any regiment was stationed. On either side of the shield were groups of silken colours; those of the Fusiliers being mingled with the colours of the old light infantry. Another unique feature was a collection of old rifles, guns, pistols and blunderbusses, lent by Mr. W. J. Blaine, and which were much admired by the curious. Of course the usual trimmings of the club room (a handsome decoration in themselves) remained in position, and the electric light was softened by numerous gas jets and lamps, and the polished steel and burnished brass of the different weapons and accoutrements made the scene one of dazzling beauty and one which will not soon be forgotten by the guests. The decoration committee consisted of Major Tucker, Lieut. Churchill, Lieut. Cleveland, Major Devlin, Captain Thompson and Lieut. Godard, who deserve the greatest credit for the result of their labours. The reception committee was composed of Lieut.-Colonel Blaine, Major Tucker, Major McLean, Surgeon Walker and the wives of the officers of the regiment who were all indefatigable in looking after the enjoyment of their guests. The floor committee were Major Sturdee, Major Hartt, Captain Magee, Captain Godard and Captain Edwards. The programmes were of the handsomest kind, a plain double card on which was a gold grenade tipped with crimson. On the ball of the grenade the well-known crest of the Fusiliers was stamped in scarlet. As a souvenir of the dance as well as for its beauty the ball card will be prized.

Excellent and inspiring music was furnished by the 62nd band, and dancing once begun "all went merry as a marriage bell." The programme included 16 dances, beginning with a waltz, and including 2 lancers, 1 quadrille, 2 galops, 2 polkas, 1 Highland schottische and 8 waltzes.

#### Ottawa.

THE annual general meeting of the Ottawa Rifle Club was held on Tuesday evening at Capt. Waldo's office, 86 Wellington street. There was a large attendance of the members. Major Perley, the president, occupied the chair. He made a short address, congratulating the members on the success which had attended the club during the past season, the interest in the weekly spoon competitions having been well sustained, and the club financially being in an improved condition at the close of the season, although the membership had slightly declined.

The following officers were elected for the ensuing year: President, Major H. F. Perley, Headquarter Staff; 1st vice-president, F. C. Lightfoot; 2nd vice-president, Capt. Waldo, R.L.; committee of management, Capt. J. Wright, 43rd Batt.; Lieut. G. R. White, G.G.F.G., and Mr. James Grant; secretary-treasurer, E. D. Sutherland; auditors, J. P. Nutting and J. H. Fairweather.

The season's programme was then discussed and decided upon. The few changes from last year's are principally in the interest of the junior shots, one extra teaspoon being offered to that class provided there be seven entries for it, in the competitions for which there is no special junior spoon allotted. A series of junior season aggregates has also been arranged.

As the executive considered it had been found impossible to secure satisfactory results at the 600 yards range with the Snider ammunition now in use, that distance will be eliminated from this season's Snider competitions, except on two occasions, and 300 and 400 yards introduced.

The first shoot of the season will be held on the 5th May.

The chief event in an entertainment given by the 43rd Battalion last Thursday in aid of the band fund, was the tug of war, open to all comers, and in which the 43rd were once more victorious. The prize was a handsome silver cup offered by No. 1 Company. Capt. Percy Sherwood was master of ceremonies, and Mr. Clarence Martin starter and referee. The pulls were all interesting and close, but in every case the team which won the drop won the pull—and in fact in no case did the rope vary more than an inch or so from where it first settled, except once when one team missed the cleats. In the trial heats last night, No. 6 Co. of the Rifles defeated Ottawa College; the Field Battery defeated the Foot Guards; No. 1 team Rifles defeated the O. A. A., and the Dragoons defeated the Oshkosh Toboggan Club. In each case the victory was by an inch or so. In the second round No. 6 Co. defeated the Field Battery, and No. 1 team defeated the Dragoons. The Dragoons were a powerful lot but two men missed the cleats on the drop. Then the final heat came off, and after a grand struggle was won by No. 1—Messrs. Wright, Wills, Taylor and Brown. The net proceeds of the entertainment were close on \$250.

The German military papers appear in mourning for the late Emperor. "The army," exclaims the semi-official *Militar Wochenblatt*, "has lost its commander, its leader, its pattern, its best friend! Hearts are full of sadness, eyes are filled with tears. May God hear the wish of the great Kaiser for his people and his country!" "The army," says the *Deutsche Heeres Zeitung*, "mourns not only its great organizer, but also the greatest commander of whom the history of our country holds record. . . The army will remain *rocher-de-bronze* of the House of Hohenzollern, the refuge and safety of the State, an educational school for the people; that is the oath which every soldier's heart makes to-day on the bier of the dead Kaiser."

## Mess Room Stories.

[Broad-Arrow.]

It is a guest night at the old 'Smashers,' the 'Masher's' are dining with them, and the 'Crashers,' who are in the same garrison have sent some of their most festive members to do honour to the occasion. The 'Queen's health' has been drunk, and the tongues are generally loosened. It should be observed that the 'Mashers' and 'Smashers' have served together in India, whilst the 'Smashers' and 'Crashers' have been together at the Cape. It is usually said that men who have been at the Cape are inclined to draw the long bow with regard to their exploits, whilst the exaggerations of those who have served both in India and at the Cape pass all bounds. Consequently what between the wine and the good fellowship and a natural desire to promote the conviviality of the meeting, the stories got a little 'tail.'

The conversation, like that of Othello, naturally turns on "stirring incidents by flood and field." Campaigning is mentioned, and the colonel observes on modern luxuries—jams, tinned meats, turtle soup, and so forth. "Ha," says he, "you young fellows are spoilt nowadays; when I was a subaltern in the Mutiny my bearer brought me an omelette he had made for the breakfast, devilish glad to get it, gave him a rupee at once, didn't ask where he got the eggs, ate it, though it tasted odd, asked about eggs, scoundrel confessed they were vultures' eggs. Held on to it however, but have never eaten another omelette since."

A "Smasher" takes up the ball, and relates how he was shooting in China, with a favourite pointer, and lost his way, and how he had to spend the night in a jungle, and how he would have starved if a happy thought had not occurred to him. He cut off his dog's tail, cooked and ate it, and gave the bones to the owner, and so saved both their lives. The conversation shifts to reptiles, and the unpleasantness of cobras is descanted on.

A "Crasher" relates how he was lying in his bungalow, half asleep on his charpoy, with a hokah beside him at which he took an occasional pull, and how putting his hand to the ground, he took up the tube of the hokah and put it to his mouth without opening his eyes. "By jove," says he, "found it wouldn't draw a bit, suddenly felt it wriggle, opened my eyes, found I had got the tail of a cobra in my mouth, and the remainder of him on the ground, d——d angry, with his blood up." This story creates considerable impression, especially among the youngsters who have never been to India. Hereupon another, not to be outdone, relates how he was chased at Natal by an imambo for two miles; how the animal like our periods of prosperity described by Mr. Gladstone, advanced with leaps and bounds, and that he barely escaped with his life.

There is a general agreement that the Cape stations nowadays are beastly places, sport all done for, but the older officers who have known it years ago talk of the days when shooting was first-class and one relates how he went shooting with John Dunn in the Zulu country. He tells a story how he had wounded a buffalo, and was spooring it through scattered bush, when all of a sudden it emerged with a bellow from behind a bush where it had been lying in wait for him, and before he had time to turn and fire caught him full in the stern and tossed him clean on top of a 'Cameel Dorn,' whose thorns are six inches long and as strong and as sharp as packing needles. The Capers here get good innings, and one relates how he stalked 'pauw,' On one occasion he had stalked two pauws, and was very near them, behind a piece of 'speck-boem,' they suddenly rose and flew close over his head. He covered the leading bird but did not fire as it was so close, and he goes on to relate how it suddenly fell down dead at his feet with funk, and how he promptly shot the other. Pauws, introduce ostriches, and another Caper relates how his regiment kept a cock ostrich which used to march in front of the band, and how this interesting bird swallowed everything that it could lay its bill to—'didn't he put his head into the canteen window one day and swallow all the bagettele balls, and he was never a penny the worst—must have digested them, because they were never seen again.' There is a silence for a while after this, and all take a drink so as to get the bagattele balls down like the ostrich.

The conversation shifts to fishing, and the Indian heroes; who have been rather extinguished by the Cape men, now get a turn. They have been discussing the respective merits of the Shannon and the Tweed, and the size of the salmon in these rivers. "Well," says an ardent disciple of the gentle art, "salmon fishing is all very well, but its nothing to mah-seer fishing. I had some excellent fishing at a place on the Jhelum, and we never caught anything under 60 lbs. We tried 'em at first with our biggest salmon flies, and they wouldn't look at them. But one day we saw them rising at the swallows under a bridge as they picked the gnats of the water. So what did we do but shoot some of the swallows and put them on our largest salmon hooks, and used them as flies—threw 'em easily with a twenty-foot rod—grand sport we had, the fish rose to 'em splendidly."

There is a general agreement that there is no place like India now for the British officer for sport and general fun. It has its objections, of course—hot weather, early parades, insects, smells, etc. "What rum 'uns the adjutants are," says a young fellow. "There was one walking about our parade ground, and I had in my hands a largish sized kitten which I had picked up near the cook-house, and as the adjutant came near me I chucked the kitten towards it, when, would you believe it, the adjutant gravely took a step forward and swallowed the kitten whole? Wouldn't have believed it unless I had seen it." The company, like the Duke of Wellington, reserved the same right to themselves.

This lets in another man's most veracious story, which is how they kill sharks in the West Indies. They heat a stone red-hot, and then wrap it up in an old blanket and throw it into the sea when sharks are about. Of course a shark swallows it at once, and at first he likes it, but after a while the stone burns through the blanket and begins on the shark's inside. Isn't there a commotion then! At last the stone burns its way clean through the sharks inside, and he comes to the surface dead. "Often seen it done," he adds. The company then begins to abuse Mr. Gladstone, who is credited with having given up all the good stations formerly occupied by the British Army—Canada, Corfu, &c.

Ah, what a quarter Canada was! Moose calling. Salmon as thick as minnows in the rivers! But the mosquitoes and flies! A man who has been quartered in Canada takes the opportunity of relating how he was shooting in the Backwoods, and that coming one morning early to a settler's clearing he saw a tall stout man coming down the wide garden path towards him; how the man got leisurely over the stile, and he did not find out until he got close to him that the apparent man was a "grizzly," with a punkin under each arm and one in his mouth. With such stories our friends enliven the evening, and there is a sort of tacit agreement of "You swallow my story and I'll swallow yours." Such are mess-room stories, travellers' tales in fact, for if we take all the officers of a mixed company sitting around a mess-table we shall find hardly a place on the globe that some one present has not been to. This practical experience of the world is in itself a liberal education, and an advantage such as no other army in the world possess.

## Gleanings.

General Lord Wolseley, of the British Army, received recently an invitation from all five of the Australian Provincial Governments and those of Tasmania and New Zealand to visit them during the coming summer as a public guest and inspect and advise them in the matter of the projected system of defence.

M. De Freycinet, Minister of War in the new French Cabinet, will allow the War Department to retain an exclusively military character, and will refer to a special secretaryship all civil and Parliamentary questions. He has sent a circular to all the army corps commanders asking them to maintain an absolute respect for discipline among all ranks.

The hostility shown by the Italians for everything French increases every day in ridiculous proportions. The Italians go around saying that in the next war France "will be beaten out of her boots." The Italian press has been let loose, and the soldies are much excited against the French, without there being the least cause to explain this access of Galliphobia.

A committee, consisting of Gen. Von Rosenberg, Col. Count Von Wedel and Lieut.-Col. Von Langenbeck, has recommended the disuse of the cuirass in the German Cavalry. Experiments made, says the *Deutsche Heeres-Zeitung*, with the Lebel rifle have shown that it has no value as a defence, while the wearer's wound would be aggravated by broken pieces of the plate driven into the flesh.

One effect of the late Emperor's death, says a London correspondent, is that fully 30,000 of the Germans resident in England who evaded the conscription and the call to arms on the breaking out of the Franco-Prussian war will be now free to visit the Fatherland without incurring the risk of being tried by Court-martial as deserters, as their offence is only coeval with the late Emperor's reign.

Dr. Herrenstein, a well-known authority in Russia, in a lecture at St. Petersburg regarding the physical condition of the Russian conscript, said that of the two million conscripts medically examined between 1873 and 1884, 34 per cent. were rejected. This percentage is less than that of other States, owing to the Russian rulers being less exacting. An application of the regulations of the Austria-Hungarian service would increase it nearly one-half. In regard to minimum height, the Russian and the French conscript is about equal, namely 5 feet, while in most other European countries the minimum stature ranges from 5 ft. 1. in. to 5 ft. in3. Another point in favour of the physique and general health of the Russian soldier is, that the numbers eligible for conscription each year in Russia are 800,000—whereas in Germany they are but 415,000, in Austria-Hungary and France about 300,000, and in Italy only 200,000.

The Quick Ordnance Company appear to have had a short preliminary trial of their gun, March 23, principally, as it appears, to test a new batch of their cake powder just supplied by Messrs. Curtis and Harvey, and to try the carriage recently completed by Messrs. Easton and Anderson on their "storage recoil" principle. A velocity of 2,300 feet, I. V., was obtained, and subsequently 1,700 feet, I. V., with a smaller powder charge enclosed in the usual serge bag, which had been soaked for nearly an hour, and was put into the gun in this state. The breech was closed in one movement and also as easily opened by one man in a single movement, and the obturation by means of Fleet Engineer Quick's rig was perfect. The trial was only a short private one for the company's satisfaction, but we understand that a full experiment in firing will take place at Erith shortly, when fine weather instead of the drizzling rain experienced last week, is hoped for.—*Broad Arrow*.



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For further information see OFFICIAL POSTAL GUIDE.

Post Office Department, Ottawa,  
21st May, 1886.

## DOMINION ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION.

### Special Meeting of the Council.

A SPECIAL MEETING of the Council will be held in the office of the Inspector of Artillery, Ottawa, on the 26th inst., at 10 a.m., for the purpose of considering the following questions:—

1. Whether it is advisable to send a detachment of Artillery to the Competition at Shoeburyness this year, provided the Government grant to the Association be sufficient for the purpose.
2. Or whether it is advisable in preference, or failing the required funds, to have a Garrison Artillery Competition at Quebec.

Written votes as to these questions will be received from members of Council who are unable to attend the meeting.

Members are reminded that subscriptions for the current year will be due on the 1st prox.

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FOR SALE cheap a full Infantry Lieutenant's Uniform consisting of Tunic, Cloth Patrol, Blue Serge Mees Jacket and Vest, Enamel Sword Belt, Sword, and White Knot, Trowsers and Field Service Forage Cap. All in good order. Also a new set of Gold Dress, Sash, Sword Belt, Trowser Stripes and Sword Knot.

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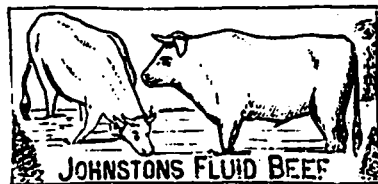
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These Rifles are shot personally by W. J. J., and by means of an improved method of testing the accuracy of shooting. Every Rifle can be depended upon, for shooting perfectly straight at all ranges.

As a proof of the shooting qualities of these Rifles, attention is drawn to the following prizes, among numberless others, won with these Rifles during the 1887 season:

**Wimbledon.** Her Majesty the Queen's Prize of £250 and the Gold Medal of the National Rifle Association, was won by Lieut. Warren, who used a Webley Barrel Rifle through all the stages.

The highest score at the North London Rifle Club meeting was made with one of these Rifles.

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April 26th, 1887	31	32	34—" 97	Oct. 19th, 1887	34	32	30—" 96

Sergt. Bates, 1st Warwick, at Newcastle All Comers' Meeting, scored 100 with our Rifle.

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