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# MILITARY GAZETTE

SUCCESSOR TO THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE

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## NEWS OF THE SERVICE.

Our readers are respectfully requested to contribute promptly to this department all items of Military News affecting their own corps, districts or friends, coming under their notice. Unless we are assisted in this way we cannot make this department as complete as we would desire. Remember that all the doings of every corps are of general interest throughout the entire militia force. You can mail a large package of manuscript, in an unsealed envelope, for one cent. At any rate, forward copies of your local papers with all references to your corps and your comrades. Address,

EDITOR CANADIAN MILITARY GAZETTE,  
P.O. Box 2179, Montreal, Que.

## AT HEADQUARTERS.

**O**TTAWA, April 4.—Spring drills have commenced. The Guards began on the 23rd., and have three recruit classes at work four nights a week.

The Field Battery commenced on the 25th., and the 43rd began on the 31st. The latter regiment will be commanded by Major Sherwood, owing to Col. Wright's absence in British Columbia.

Long service medals have been decided as not applicable to the Canadian Militia, owing to the technical reading of the Militia Act, under which our force is constituted, the late G.O.C. contending we were not volunteers, but militia, to whom the medals do not apply in England. This matter, however, only requires to be taken up with some little enthusiasm, and if the Canadian Militia do not come within the Royal Warrant, why should not special medals be issued for long service in Canada?

We hear to-day that the Auditor-General has withdrawn his opposition to Capt. Sutherland's resignation. This was done through Col. Wright's good services. We trust, therefore, that such an excellent officer as Capt. Sutherland will retain his commission and serve his country for years to come.

General and Mrs. Gascoigne intend spending Easter at Niagara, and early in May the G.O.C. intends inspecting the permanent schools at Kingston, Montreal and Toronto. On the Queen's Birthday he will be at Montreal, and we may add that when at that city last week he was exceedingly pleased with the work going on at the temporary military

school under Capt. McDougal, of St. Johns, and two sergeant instructors.

An Ottawa paper last week made reference to the matter of the new companies for the 43rd. Col. Wright and Major Sherwood regret that such remarks had been published, and they are quite sure that the Guards are in no way desirous of blocking this proposal. However, the matter has been settled by the Minister of Militia, and the 43rd will get their two new companies. This will make them a six company battalion, with a total strength of 278 officers and men.

Major Donaldson, secretary of the Dominion Artillery Association, has issued a circular calling an extraordinary meeting of council at Montreal on Wednesday, April 8th, for the purpose of sending a team to the artillery meeting at Shoeburyness. The expenses will amount to about \$3,700. Of this amount the association will contribute \$2,000, and it is proposed that each unit sending a representative should contribute \$75 towards the general expenses. The Dominion Artillery Association have visited England and competed with British volunteers at Shoeburyness in the years 1881, 1883 and 1886, and were commanded by Lieut.-Cols. W. R. Oswald, Macdonald and Armstrong, respectively. Owing to the difficulty of procuring funds the association were unable to continue sending teams. The magnificent team of 1886, commanded by Col. Armstrong, will never be forgotten, and their record is sufficient to make every Canadian proud of such soldiers. We cannot do better than extract the few words relating to their prowess from The Volunteer Gazette of that date, which are as follows:

"The meeting has been marked by two incidents of special interest—the presence of Col. Armstrong's splendid Canadian team and the attendance of Lord Wolseley at the prize distribution. The appearance of the Canadians ought to put our men on their mettle. We are quite aware that the former are picked men, and are picked, moreover, in a way which it would never be possible for us to pick a team to go to Canada or any other colony. But even allowing for this we must say that we have seldom seen such a body of soldiers as the Canadian Artillerymen who have just left Shoeburyness. Nobody, we think, who saw those clean-limbed giants perform the 'shift' for the Governor-General's cup will ever forget the sight. Their march

past later in the day in full panoply was equally good in a different way. They will return home laden with the spoils of their recent campaign. They have recovered the Montreal cup, they have taken away the Londonderry cup from the best team we could bring against them, and they have refused even to let their own Governor-General's cup for excellence in repository work remain with us. Moreover, they have won a first prize for shell firing and a certificate for the ordinary repository competition, so that there will be rejoicing, fully justified, in Canada."

After reading this it is necessary that this association should send another team this year to Shoeburyness, and we are quite sure that whatever they do will be for the glory and credit of this Dominion.

We have reasons to believe that it has been definitely decided that Col. Aylmer will be appointed Adjutant-General in the place of Col. Powell. He is generally considered here the right man in the right place.

General Montgomery Moore leaves for England in April, and will not return before the beginning of July.

There is some talk of Capt. Bate, of the Guards, going to England to take the promotion examinations with the regulars. A number of other officers are to be sent over this year to take this course.

Major Sherwood, of the 43rd, won the final rink match, beating Mr. Haycock's team, and was only beaten by Mr. Waldo after one of the best games seen this winter on the Rideau rinks for the final singles.

Major Roy is looked upon favorably as the successor of Col. Aylmer as D. A. G., Military District No. 4, when the latter succeeds Col. Powell as Adjutant-General. He will be sent to England to take a course to qualify for the command.

The post of A. A. G. was only a temporary one made in 1893 on account of Col. Powell's age, and will not be filled when a new A. G. is appointed.

The G.F.G. mustered Monday night and totalled, not counting recruits, 156, a larger muster than on any previous occasion. Col. Hodgins was in command. He put the regiment through battalion movements and manual and firing exercises. At the finish Col. Hodgins said a few words, expressing his delight at seeing so many there, and hoped

that the good feeling that has always existed would continue. He also told them that he expected them to do a lot of hard work, and warned them against any breach of discipline. After the regiment had been dismissed a number of recruits were sworn in.

The P.L. Dragoon Guards and G.G.B.G. will go to Perth May 24. The Dragoons ride the fifty miles and return by train.

At present there are fourteen different styles of overcoat used by N.C.O. and men in the Canadian Service. General Gascoigne has been looking into the matter, and has decided that only four styles are necessary—two for mounted and two for dismounted corps. This means that new tenders will be called for, and, necessarily, another delay.

It is expected that when the estimates are brought down, provision will be made for the purchase of 40,000 Lee-Enfield rifles. For garrison defence the Imperial authorities will, it is expected, supply 28 rifle guns, charging Canada the bare costs of manufacturing. These guns will be allotted as follows: St. John's and Three Rivers, Que., 2 each; Quebec, 3; Toronto, 8; Montreal, 8; Hamilton, 5. These guns will be of heavy calibre, and will be worked by batteries of militia. Instructors from the British Royal Artillery will be sent out to drill the men, who will be recruited from the various city field batteries. The field artillery will be supplied with new breech-loading guns of the same type as those used by the British artillery.

This is Mr. Dickey's official announcement regarding the new rifle: A choice has been made by the Government, after obtaining the opinion of experts on both sides of the Atlantic. After mature consideration the Government, having heard all the opinions given, came to the conclusion that they would order the Lee-Enfield magazine rifle, which is practically the same as the Lee-Metford, at present in the hands of the Imperial troops, but with the Enfield barrel, which, with the improved groove, greatly prolongs the life of the rifle. This is the newest pattern known, and is the one to be given to the Imperial troops.

Mr. Davin has been advocating in Parliament the claims of Maple Creek, Moose Jaw and other scouts, who prevented sympathizers from crossing the boundary line to join in the 1885 Rebellion. The Minister of Militia will give those entitled to it land scrip.

The commandant and adjutant of the Bisley team will be appointed immediately on Mr. Desjardins' return from Winnipeg. As yet, nothing whatever has been done. Accommodation has not been engaged on the steamer; in fact, the "twenty" have not been asked whether they can go. Nothing has yet been heard of the application for a grant to erect huts at Bisley, to which Sir Charles promised to attend at once.

### GOOD GROUND TO COMPLAIN.

QUEBEC, April 4.—The local corps are at present putting in their annual training, and the drill hall presents a lively scene each evening. The 8th Rifles were the first to commence, and are well under way. The commanding officer, Lieut.-Col. Geo. Rolt White, inspected the battalion Friday evening. Regimental orders clearly point out that each member must put in the required number of drills, failing which the full drill pay will be reduced in proportion to the time lost. On evening parades, they mount a guard at 7.30 for inspection by the adjutant. The staff and N.C.O.'s parade at 7.50, and the battalion falls in at 8 sharp.

The Queen's Own Canadian Hussars are at their dismounted training. Mr. A. F. Ashmead has taken a commission in "B" troop. It is expected that another two days' ride will be taken this year. The benefit derived from last year's outing was such as to render every member who took part in the same anxious to form part of the party which it is contemplated will go out this year. An outing of this kind is more beneficial than the instruction which is imparted in the drill hall, and necessarily proves more interesting to all concerned. Capt. Turner will doubtless find his efforts of the past year fully appreciated, and every member of his troop who can possibly get away will be present.

Vet.-Surgeon P. H. Cummins, of the above corps, was buried with military honors on March 17. The deceased was connected also with the Royal Canadian Artillery. The firing party and band were furnished by the R.C.A. The Q.O.C.H. furnished a large detachment to represent their corps. Among others present were: Lieut.-Col. C. E. Montizambert, Capt. O. C. Pelletier, of the R. C. A.; Major T. S. Hethrington, Capt. Clint, Surgeon Elliott and R. E. W. Turner, of the Q.O.C.H.; Lieut.-Col. Roy, 9th Battalion; Capt. T. H. Argue, 8th Battalion, and Mr. O'Farrell, of the 87th Battalion, and others. The usual salute was fired at Perreault's Hill.

The officers who have been attending the class of instruction which was established here some three months ago are dissatisfied with the decision to give but second class certificates, and in view of the fact that they were otherwise informed when the class was first established, have grounds upon which to complain. It is unfortunate that it was not made known in the beginning that they would not be eligible for a first-class certificate. The Department in establishing schools at local stations should clearly promulgate their orders and not allow the first one organized to about complete its work and then change the conditions under which the officers were attending the same.

The 9th Battalion, under the command of

Lieut.-Col. Roy, have just commenced their training. Capt. Pennee, who was appointed chief of police for this city, has been permitted to resign his commission.

PATROL.

### THE TROUBLE AT HALIFAX.

HALIFAX, April 2.—On the 3rd ult., when returning from the funeral of the late Gunner Morgan, No. 3 company 1st C.A., two sergeants, one bombardier and two gunners fell out of the ranks at different points of the route, unknown to and without permission of the officers in charge of the party. On return to the drill shed their absence was discovered, and they were reported by the officer in charge, and on the 9th ult. were brought before the officer commanding the corps to answer to the charge. They admitted the charge and pleaded as an excuse the length of the march, and the parade being a volunteer one they thought they were at liberty to fall out when close to their homes, thus saving themselves a further walk to the drill shed and back. The C. O. expressed his regrets that men of his corps should for one moment forget their duties as soldiers, but discipline must be maintained. To avoid further trouble the two sergeants asked, and were granted, permission to apply through their C.O. to Headquarters for permission to revert to the rank and pay of gunners. The bombardier forfeited his stripe, and the two gunners were awarded minor punishments. They all feel their position keenly, and it is to be hoped that this will be a warning to the militia force of this city.

On the 12th ult. the officers and N.C.O.'s No. 4 company C.A. held a meeting to arrange matters for the coming drill season. At the termination of the meeting they repaired to the Pictou House, where Mayor Stewart regaled them to an oyster supper, cigars, etc. After a very pleasant evening the company broke up with a firm determination to eclipse in 1896 even the very successful inspection of 1895.

No. 1 company C. A. (Major Garrison's) held their annual meeting on the following evening, when some very practical work was done towards having a successful drill season.

The 63rd and 66th have commenced recruit drill, which is, as usual, attended by the youngsters seeking military glory.

The 1st C.A. commenced on the 16th ult. by putting the N.C.O.'s of the corps through a course of squad drill, rifle exercise and company drill. This will give the N.C.O.'s confidence in themselves later on when they find themselves in charge of a squad on parade. The adjutant, assisted by the sergeant-major, are the instructors. The artillery are also to be seen at 40-pr. R.B.L. and gyn drill. The gun and gyn were kindly loaned them by the Royal Artillery.

The O.C. 66th P.L.F. has imported 700 o

the new regulation forage caps, as worn by the imperial infantry, for the use of his corps. They are of the latest pattern, and look serviceable and natty. What about the Government replacing the present unsightly red-banded article worn by our infantry by getting a supply of the new pattern. They are model forage caps for this country, as one moment of time converts them into either a night-cap for camp use, or a winter cap for severe weather. The price is about the same as the red-banded article.

Your suggestions for overcoming the difficulties in connection with the "Growing Grey in the Service" trouble are good ones, and in my opinion must sooner or later be adopted. Why cannot the powers that be reward a commanding officer's past services by giving him a step in rank on retirement, and either adopt your plan and make him a brigadier or honorary colonel of his corps? It is the least that should be done for those officers who have by their exertions, influence (without the latter he's not in it), time and money maintained their corps for a number of years. I am sure the staff officers would not object to see an efficient lieutenant-colonel promoted above him in our Militia List; and, by the way, why not make the A.A. General and Inspectors of Artillery, as well as the D. Q. M. G. and all the D. A. G.'s, full colonels. There's the whole difficulty removed by one stroke of the Minister's pen, backed up, of course, with what I am sure would be the willing sanction of Parliament. I suppose it is unnecessary to inform my readers that I am not a commanding officer, nor am I an officer at all—just one in the ranks who is anxious to see the Canadian militia raised to the highest standard of efficiency.

Capt. J. C. Thorp, Royal Artillery, has been appointed a second-class inspector of warlike stores at Halifax, N.S., and will be held in readiness to embark so as to reach Halifax about the 1st May next.

Lieut.-Col. A. W. Collard, who has been selected to succeed Lieut.-Col. T. P. Shannon, as Deputy Assistant Adjutant-General at Halifax, formerly commanded the Army Service Corps at Woolwich.

Six 6-inch quick-firing guns are now en route from Halifax to Victoria to be mounted on one of the forts at Esquimalt, which is nearly completed.

General Sir John Ross, G.C.B., formerly commander of Her Majesty's forces here, will be placed on the retired list on the 18th of the present month, for age disqualification.

GRAVELCRUSHER.

#### A WORD OF PRAISE FOR THE GAZETTE.

ST. JOHN, April 2—The appearance of THE CANADIAN MILITARY GAZETTE in its new dress and under new management has been favorably commented on by

the militia of the city, but what delights us the more is the firm and independent stand taken by that paper in the interests of the force, without respect to politics or any other matter, which, in the past, has been allowed to overshadow the wants and claims of the militia. Go on in the good work; show up the weak points; lay bare old sores; expose the needs of Canada's citizen soldiers; send a marked copy of the paper to the General and every member of the Government.

Perhaps we have some cause of complaint in this ancient city of St. John, the winter port of Canada—for this winter anyway. We have no drill here in the winter months. Why? Because the drill shed, besides being miles away from the residences of most militiamen, has no means of being heated and no gas, because the pipes are frozen nearly every winter. Why, even in the summer there is no light in the upper rooms, because an expenditure of about \$20 is necessary for repairs, which amount the Department at Ottawa has been considering about two years. This is encouraging the militia.

We would like to hear something very soon about that missing four days' drill pay withheld last year. Drill will soon be started, but if the Government paid the men for only eight days last year, what guarantee have we that they will grant twelve days, or any pay, this year? The amount was promised last season by members of the Government on a supplementary or special vote, and such promises, conveyed by commanding officers to their men, give the latter much cause for grumbling if not fulfilled.

Annual meetings as follows have been held during the past week. First, the 62nd St. John Fusiliers, when the following committees were elected:

Band—Lieuts. Dunning and McMichael and 2nd Lieut. W. C. Rankine.

Bugle Band—Major Sturdee and Lieuts. Kaye and Sharpe.

Finance and Regimental—Major Magee, Assistant Surgeon MacLaren and Lieut. Miles.

Mess and Rooms—Major Magee, Capt. Churchill, Lieuts. Sharpe and Miles.

Major Edwards, who has been president of the Band Committee for a number of years, declined re-election, whereupon a vote of thanks for his long and efficient services was tendered him, and conveyed by Lieut.-Col. Tucker. All committee reports were satisfactory, and, as usual, the officers' drill pay voted to the regimental fund. After some discussion on the affairs of the corps the meeting terminated.

A few days later the annual meeting of the officers of the 3rd New Brunswick Regiment Canadian Artillery was held at the

residence of Major Jones, Lieut.-Col. Armstrong presiding, nearly all the officers being present. The accounts of the Regimental and Band Committees were submitted, showing a balance on hand for both services.

The following officers were elected to the two committees:

Regimental Committee—Surgeon Daniel, Major Jones and Capt. Baxter.

Band Committee—Capt. Crawford, Capt. Temple and Lieut. Foster.

Capt. Baxter laid on the table a history of the corps, on which he had expended much time during the past five years. This history, both for its literary excellence and for its mechanical completeness, elicited expressions of the greatest satisfaction from all present, and the following resolution was adopted by a unanimous vote:

Resolved, that the warmest thanks of the officers of the corps be tendered to Capt. J. B. M. Baxter for the compilation of the Historical Records of the New Brunswick Canadian Artillery, his efforts having resulted in the production of a work of value to the corps itself as well as of local historic importance.

It was unanimously decided that the book should not be sold, but distributed only according to the wishes of the corps.

It was also decided that although the book was copyrighted by the corps, its author should have all the rights of the copyright holder.

A regimental die was ordered and device for ribbon. A number of books were ordered to be added to the regimental library.

The officers as usual voted their drill pay to regimental purposes.

Your Hamilton correspondent makes a strong point regarding accoutrements: What is the use of arming our men with new rifles while they have no means of carrying ammunition? Give us new equipment by all means, but let the belts be brown leather. These are more easily kept clean, and save all the trouble and money over pipe clay. What a boon brown gloves are to officers, and how odd they looked at first, but now we are all used to them, and so we would soon be to brown accoutrements.

I notice that Montreal and Kingston have branch infantry schools, and one of these from the School at Fredericton would do much good in St. John, not only for new officers, but for old ones who wish to brush up, and would give non. coms. a chance also to take a course. It is hoped this can be arranged next winter.

What about the Long Service medal? Why can't we get it? The remarks of your Montreal correspondent on this head are to the point. Wake up the powers that be, Mr. GAZETTE. THOMAS ATKINS.

### MILITARY SCHOOL BEGINS WORK.

KINGSTON, April 4. — The special course of military instruction has been commenced. The class meets in the 14th Batt. Armory, in the Artillery Park Barracks. It was expected that an officer, and two non-coms. from the Toronto company of the R. R. C. I., would be sent to act as instructors, but, the attendance at the course having proved much smaller than was anticipated, one non-commissioned officer only—Sergt. Campbell—has been attached. Most of the officers of the 14th Batt. are attending the course, which was intended for officers only. Permission has been obtained, however, for non-coms. and men of the local corps to attend. Only the officers attending will be permitted to write for certificates of qualification. Lieut.-Col. Cotton, D. A. G., is commandant of the school, and is a very popular officer. His lectures to the class are models in accuracy, scope, conciseness, and clearness of detail, and they cannot fail to prove of great value to those for whose instruction they are delivered. Lieut. E. Sears, of the 4th Hus-sars, is the only member of the class who is not a member of the 14th Batt. It is very improbable that any of the officers of the 47th Batt. will be able to attend the course.

Dr. C. L. Curtis, of this city, has been gazetted surgeon to the 47th Batt. Lieut.-Col. Hunter and the officers and men of the 47th justly congratulate themselves on their good fortune in getting Dr. Curtis. He has had a valuable experience, having served throughout the war of 1861-4 in the United States, as surgeon to a Northern regiment. He is a genial, whole-souled gentleman, one of Kingston's most successful medical practitioners, and his popularity is attested by his election for several years past as an alderman. He is the favorite candidate for the mayoralty of the city for 1897.

Dr. D. Cunningham has been appointed surgeon to the Kingston Field Battery, vice Saunders deceased. Dr. Cunningham comes of a military family, and will, beyond a doubt, be a valuable acquisition to the battery.

Sergt.-Major Morgan, R. M. C., retires from the 14th Batt. this year, and the vacancy will be filled by the promotion of Sergt. John Cannon, of No. 3 company, upon his obtaining the requisite qualification.

The duties of instructor, which formerly were performed by Sergt.-Major Morgan, are this year to be performed by J. Davis, a new-comer in the regiment. He has had considerable experience, it is said, in the United States army, and was some years ago a member of the 14th.

Considerable dissatisfaction exists on the parts of non-coms who have been discharged from the 14th in the re-organization of the corps. The complaint is made that ser-

geants holding certificates of qualification from the schools of instruction have been discharged and their places filled with men who do not possess the necessary qualification. "They have no power to discharge me without first trying me by court-martial, and I have not given any cause for such action. How, then, my discharge can be given me I cannot understand," remarked an ex-color-sergeant, in speaking of the affair. "Yet, I am discharged without a trial, no charge of crime being laid against me and no reason being given for dealing out such treatment to me. And my place is taken by a non-qualified man, who has not had one quarter of my term of service."

No preparations are being made here for the usual celebration of the Queen's Birthday, by the military, and no invitation has yet been given to any outside corps to visit the city on that day.

Ald. Drennan, major of the Kingston Field Battery, gave notice at the City Council meeting, on Monday night last, that in the event of the annual camp of instruction being located here this year, he will move to have one of the fire department's engines used to pump water to supply the camp. Agreeable to Major Drennan's request a deputation from the Council, that will shortly visit Ottawa on other business, will interview the Minister of Militia to locate the annual camp for this military district at Kingston this season.

The rumor that a movement was being made to convert the 14th Batt., P. W. O. R., into a battalion of garrison artillery, proved groundless. Some years ago such a proposal was made, and the Militia Department was called upon to assist. The demands of those responsible for the origin of the scheme were too heavy for the Department to grant, however, and as there was no disposition on the part of the advocates of the proposed change to assume the expense themselves, the scheme fell through.

The promise has been given that, provided the City Council will place one of the engines of the fire department on Barriefield Common, to provide an adequate supply of water, the brigade camp will be located here this season.

Lieut.-Col. Cotton, D.A.G., M.D. No. 3, Capt. Ogilvie, "A" Battery, and Staff-Sergt. Long, "A" Battery, have been ordered to England for six months for instructional purposes. Capt. Ogilvie and Staff-Sergt. Long sail on the 18th inst.

VEDETTE.

### DOINGS IN THE QUEEN CITY.

TORONTO, April 3—The spring drill is about to commence, and while it is a little early to prophesy, certain signs point to a successful season. Of course, the treatment of the militia as a whole, as displayed last season, is bound to have a dampening effect on one's enthusiasm, but

even with this handicap the officers of the various regiments feel that matters have reached their worst, and that for the future better treatment and better appreciation of the militia are among the good things that are in store.

The drill season for 1896 was this year opened by the Grenadiers, who paraded 425 strong for commanding officer's inspection on Thursday evening, the 26th March.

It is unusual for the Grens. to start the season, the general rule being either the Q.O.R. or Highlanders. The latter commenced on the 27th March, but the former did not start until Wednesday evening, 1st April.

Capt. Stimson gave a dinner at Scholes' to the non-coms. and men of his company on Wednesday evening, 25th ult. It went off very successfully.

A unique and interesting concert, gotten up by the Grenadiers, is promised for the 9th April. It embraces a band concert, musical ride by ladies and gentlemen on wheels, bicycle drill by the Grenadiers' Cyclist Corps, which will make its first appearance on this occasion, tent pegging, etc., on bicycles.

The first of a series of sweepstake matches was given by the Queen's Own Revolver Association on Friday, 20th March. Obtaining permission, they have fitted up one of the shooting galleries in the Armory and have a first-class 25-yard range. The matches proved most successful and the entries exceeded the anticipations of the committee. The first prize was won by Lieut. J. B. Miller, Q. O. R.; 2nd by Lieut. A. D. Crooks, Q. O. R., and the third by Sergt. G. Bailey, Q. O. R. At the request of several of the competitors these matches will be held oftener in the near future, and quite a number have signified their intention to join. The object of the association is the cultivation and encouragement of revolver shooting, especially among officers and non-coms. It is surprising, from actual tests, to see how very few officers one can find around the different regiments who can make anything like a score at 25 yards distance, and it has often been suggested that they should be required to put in a return similar to that required from the non-coms. and men, using the revolver instead of the rifle.

Arrangements are fully completed, it is said, for supplying the white tunics to the 48th Highlanders; in fact, they are now in the Custom House. They expect to wear them the first time the regiment parades in kilts this spring.

Sergt.-Instr. Hollinger was the recipient of a piece of plate, given by the members of the Non Com. Class of the Highlanders who have been profiting by his instruction for some months past.

The committee of the City Council has decided to recommend the closing of C

Goode street, which lies immediately south of the Armory. This is meeting with slight opposition, but, as it is of such a trivial nature, no fear is entertained as to the outcome. One great argument adduced was the closing up of what could be made into a breathing spot for so many citizens, but, as the deputation pointed out that owing to the ground being gravelled not much use could be made of it for a park, this objection dropped. It seems absurd to think that, with a street specially opened on the north of the Armory and the broad Queen-street avenue running from College to Queen, any talk of breathing spots should enter into the discussion. Attempts are now being made to get the Benchers of the Law Society to open the grounds of Osgoode Hall during the day-time, and, if successful, ample recompense will be done to those debarred from breathing the air around the southern part of the Armory.

A military tournament to be held in the Armory early in June is the event second in importance only to the Horse Show. Entry blanks and advance programmes will be issued very shortly.

If proficiency on bowling alleys makes a good soldier, one could understand the apathy of the Government in not completing the Morris tube galleries. Nothing has yet been done, and, despite the facilities afforded by their new quarters, the volunteers are just as deficient in what is admitted to be a great help and guide to rifle shooting as they were when they were domiciled in the old barn on West Market street.

#### QUEEN'S OWN TROUBLE.

Judging from the number of startling reports one hears, or has heard, these last few months, a spirit of unrest seems to pervade the atmosphere of several of our military centres.

Halifax, Montreal, St. John's, London and Toronto have all contributed towards the very interesting articles in the different newspapers, although it seems that even in this the Queen's Own receive the lion's share of the interest manifested or of the press notices. It has been rumored for some time past that the apparently existing spirit of harmony in the Q.O.R. was built on a shaky foundation, and the surprise is that the developments of the past few days did not become public property any time during the past eighteen months.

That they have been withheld so long is entirely owing to the loyalty of the majority of the officers of the regiment, who have willingly increased their obligations in their attempt to better the administration and keep the internal history of the regiment from becoming public property.

Despite all their efforts, and owing to circumstances wholly beyond their power to control, matters relating to the affairs of the

regiment leaked out and became, through the daily papers, public property.

The increasing friction between Lieut.-Col. Hamilton and his officers culminated in the latter writing to Headquarters, and, as it has been said, asking for an investigation into regimental affairs and stating that several of his chief officers were conspiring to have him removed. Be this as it may, on the 20th ult. a letter was received by Col. Hamilton, from the Militia Department, containing a request for his resignation.

The latest information obtainable at time of writing is that Col. Hamilton has refused to accede to the request for his resignation and states that he will throw the onus of his dismissal on the Department. He states as his reason for this action that he has asked for an investigation, and thinks, in justice to himself, that such an investigation should be granted.

Several articles have appeared in the daily papers, all of which strive to make the point that the whole matter is caused by those who desire promotion and who are dissatisfied at the commanding officer holding his position so long. The great similarity between several of these accounts furnishes strong suspicion that they have been loaded by one and the same party in an abortive attempt to either mould public opinion or at least try to assure the powers that be that such is the real and true reason for the existence of the present state of affairs. Some think that the matter may be reopened and a formal investigation held, and it is freely stated that, should such prove to be the case, the range of such investigation should embrace all matters within the regiment.

It is to be regretted that the affairs of this gallant corps could not be straightened out with considerably less gratuitous advertising, as the consensus of opinion is directly favorable to the regiment. Of course, so much publicity is deplorable, but those who know best the spirit of those comprising the Q.O.R. are firm in their belief that the old corps will in no wise suffer from the operation it is now undergoing.

#### THE SENTRY.

#### WIND UP OF SOCIAL EVENINGS.

MONTREAL, April 4— That the hard work of the drill season has commenced may be seen from the fact that the many enjoyable socials of the different corps have come to an end. Events of this kind, whether once a fortnight or once a month, tend in a great measure towards the keeping of a corps together

with a solidity that cannot be surpassed. When the drill season closes, unless there is something of this kind, the men return in to the spring drill with a tardiness that is in a great measure done away with by these events. They have a great cementing force, and not only do they pass a joyous evening, but they also bring the men together where they meet and make better acquaintance. They are also the means of keeping the corps compact, for unless something of this kind is entered into, the men soon lose all heart in the work. There is nothing like a social evening to brace them up for the drill seasons. It would be well if several of the other corps, who at the end of the drill season go to sleep like the bear, and when spring comes, waken up with a dim knowledge of the events that have taken place in the military circle during their "sleep," would remember this and act on it. Let the officers take a hand in such matters and keep their men always alive to the changes and military news of the day by having a social now and again through the winter.

The Field Battery had their last social for the season the other night. They have been holding them fortnightly during the winter, and they have been marked with success all through. One had only to look at the free and easy manner of the men to show that they were all acquainted and at home with one another. A word of thanks is due to Sergt. Porteous, Sergt. Pettigrew, Gunrs. Wilkinson and Paton, who discharged the duties of caterers to the utmost satisfaction of the corps. About 30 couples tripped the light fantastic on the closing night; Capt. Costigan and Hooper and several other officers enjoyed themselves with the "boys."

Considerable improvements have taken place within the last few months in the armory of the Field Battery. Everything is nicely arranged, and the laying out of the accoutrement smacks of regularism. Armory-Sergt. Higgins, who has served in the army at home, has that knack of keeping



TRUE WESTERN COURTESY.

Broncho Pete (to fair passenger from the east)— I say, Ma'am, do you think it would quiet it if I was to shoot an Injun or two for it?

things "smiling," so that it is a pleasure to have a look around the quarters. This bears out the fact that none but regulars should be appointed to look after the armories. The difference is very easily observed, and, in cases where they are kept by a civilian, no matter how good a man he is, they lack that "something" which is so apparent where a regular has the looking after.

If any members of the old engineer corps happened to enter their late quarters they would be apt to look and wonder if they had struck the old place. The transformation has taken place through the quarters being now occupied by "A" troop, of D.C.R.C. Hussars. Everything here is bright and shining, and although the accoutrements bear the appearance of having been in use in the dim past, yet one cannot help admiring the polish on those relics of ancient days supplied by so "kind a Government." The troop, however, are looking forward with great eagerness to the new accoutrements that "are now under way." The new commander, Lieut. Whitley, is a most enthusiastic officer, and he should make this troop second to none in Canada.

A matter that is commencing to make "Tommy Atkins" tongue swing is the want of a gymnasium. Various ideas are talked over anent this subject, but the most popular one seems to be that so ably put forward by Major Lydon: to have the gallery at the end of the drill hall levelled off so that the proper appliances for such an institution could be fixed. To do this would inconvenience no one. Certainly it would be the means of doing away with the sight-seers' accommodation, but it is claimed that there is plenty of room for them on the side galleries. It is to be hoped that the powers that be will take the matter up, for it is really a desirable movement and should be encouraged on all sides. A course of gymnasium training is a great benefit to those who follow a sedentary life, as without some such course they cannot be expected to bear up under any great strain should they be called upon to do so. The volunteers in the Old Country are far ahead of Canadians in this respect, and they gained their point by not a little "kicking" until their wants were granted. Why then, should not the various corps commence to kick too, and see that their request be granted? The only corps who appear to have taken this matter into their own hands are the Hussars. Although the space at their command is limited, yet good work is being done in this line in their armory.

The Royal Scots' first parade drew quite a number of sight-seers to the armory. This was no doubt due to the fact that the papers had been supplying the reading public with items of the resignation of various officers. No difference was observable. They mustered strong for a first night, and that rather a dirty one, so far as the weather was con-

cerned. Of the 252 which comprised the establishment 165 paraded. They made a good show and appear as if they were going to buckle down for a good season's work. This will be found to be in some measure due to the healthy rivalry that exists for the capturing of the liberal prizes offered to the companies and sections by the officers. Col. Strathy gives a cup for the most efficient company in the battalion, and Majors Ibbotson and Blaiklock put forward a challenge cup for the right and left half respectively. A prize of \$20 to the first best section and \$10 to the second best section in the regiment will be given. This will be a great stimulus to the men, and should be the means of drawing record parades.

The Royal Military College Club's first local dinner, held in the offices of Victoria Rifles Armory, was a decided success.

The Montreal Amalgamated Rifle Association held their meeting in the 6th Fusiliers' Armory last week. Col. Burland occupied the chair. There was a good attendance of members present. The report as presented showed that the past year had been one of the most successful in the annals of the association. The attendance at the ranges had greatly increased, and it was shown that the cost per man during the past five years had decreased almost one half. The insufficient number of targets and the smallness of the ranges came under discussion, and Lieut.-Cols. Starke, Burland, and Hood were appointed to look into the question of better range accommodation. The subject of the young shots also received attention, and their interests will be better looked after than in the past. The financial report was considered satisfactory and passed. Lieut.-Col. Burland was unanimously appointed president; Major Ibbotson was also unanimously appointed vice-president, and Mr. Arthur Ware, sec.-treasurer. The following is a draft of the programme for the coming shooting season.

	Executive officer.
April 26—Ranges open .....	Lieut.-Col. Burland
May 2—Royal Scots, class firing .....	Lieut.-Col. Strathy
May 9—Victoria Rifles, class firing .....	Lieut.-Col. Starke
May 16—1st League Match .....	Lieut.-Col. Massey
May 23—6th Fusiliers, class firing .....	Lieut.-Col. Burland
May 30—2nd League Match .....	Maj. Ibbotson
June 6—6th Fusiliers, annual matches .....	Lieut.-Col. Burland
June 13—3rd League Match .....	Maj. Blaiklock
June 20—Royal Scots, annual matches .....	Maj. Lydon
June 27—4th League Match .....	Lieut.-Col. Massey
July 4—Open .....	Lieut.-Col. Hood
July 11—P. W. R., class firing .....	Lieut.-Col. Butler
July 18—Victoria Rifles, annual matches .....	Major Busted
July 25—2nd Regt. C. A., annual matches .....	Lieut. Cole
Aug. 1—P. W. R., annual matches .....	Capt. Porteous
Aug. 8—Open .....	Capt. Pope
Aug. 15—Grand Trunk, annual matches .....	Capt. Mitchell
Aug. 22—Open .....	Capt. d'Orsonnens
Aug. 29—Open .....	Capt. Wynne
Sept. 5—Open .....	Capt. Henderson
Sept. 12—65th, annual matches .....	Lieut.-Col. Prevost
Sept. 19—Montreal Rifle Association, annual matches .....	Major Ibbotson

The commanding officers held a meeting last week, at which the dates for annual

inspection were decided as follows: Victoria Rifles, 30th May; 6th Fusiliers, 13th June; Prince of Wales', 20th June; 5th Royal Scots, 27th June.

The Victoria Rifles Association held their annual meeting in the Armory the other night. The vice-president, Capt. Meakins, presided. A small balance on the right side was shown in the financial report. The report of the successes of the members was highly satisfactory. The two teams entered in the Rifle League had the honor of bringing to Montreal the first League Cup ever won by a Montreal battalion. Pte. Binmore, at the Cote St. Luc ranges, holds the record for that range by a score of 99 out of 105. The Association and the Sims Cups, the Corporation of Montreal Jubilee Trophy and \$250 were won by their team. The Walker Cup and \$325 was won between 20 members who attended the D. R. A. at Ottawa. Special interest was manifested in the winning of the Gzowski Cup by the young shots of the association for the first time, and also in Capt. Pope standing 17th in the Bisley team for 1896. The elected officers for the year are: Hon. president, Lieut.-Col. Starke; hon. patrons, Lieut.-Cols. McDougall, Crawford, Whitehead, Davidson and Henshaw; president, Major Busted; vice-president, Capt. Meakins; hon. sec.-treas., Pte. Wm. Mills; assistant sec.-treas., Sergt. McLennan. Committee—Capt. Pope, No. 1 Co.; Sergt.-Major Gorman, No. 2 Co.; Sergt. Binmore, No. 3 Co.; Capt. Rodden, No. 4 Co.; Sergt. Bailey, No. 5 Co., and Sergt. McGill, No. 6 Co. Team captains—Capt. Pope, 1st team; Pte. Mills, 2nd team. Delegates to the M.A.R.A.—Lieut.-Col. Starke, Major Busted, Capt. Pope, Sergt. Binmore, Pte. Mills, Pte. Matthews. Delegates to D. R.A. and P.Q.R.A., Lieut.-Col. Starke and Capt. Pope. Executive officer, Lieut.-Col. Starke. Auditor, Pte. Binmore.

#### WITH THE ARMY.

LONDON, ENG., March 18.—Another donation has been added to the National Rifle Association prize-list for Colonial and Indian volunteers at the Bisley meetings. The Court of Common Council has placed at their disposal the sum of 100 guineas for prizes to be called "Corporation of the City of London Prizes."

Previous to her departure for the continent Her Majesty presented the Silver Challenge Trophy to a deputation of the 1st Battalion Munster Fusiliers at Windsor Castle. The trophy was won from the Lincolnshire Regiment with a score of 96.5 points out of a possible of 105.

The War Authorities have come to the conclusion that the present boots as supplied to the infantry were unsatisfactory, and are testing several patterns now before them.

The question whether a medical officer, who happened to be senior in rank, had the

power to report, or place under arrest for misconduct, any breach of discipline, was discussed in the House of Commons. From a clause in the Army Act it appears that an officer, no matter in what branch of the Service, is bound to exercise his authority.

The officers in the army are not a little disturbed over the fact that at present the authorities have under consideration minor alterations in the uniform of the army. No decision has yet been come to. The officers claim that they should, to a certain extent, be taken into the confidence of the authorities, or that a preliminary notice of change of uniform be given, so that regiments may not be put to the useless expense of securing articles that may shortly become abolished. It would appear as if the officers were to be recognized in this matter, for the Under Secretary of State gave his assurance that they would be taken into the confidence of the War Office so as to prevent loss to individuals. This tact on the part of the War Minister shows good judgment in his dealings with the army. The command of regiments is often denied officers for this same qualification, and it is, therefore, gratifying to note that those in high authority set a good example.

The proposed amendment to the Military Lands Act of 1892 will be looked upon with favor by the volunteer corps. It is proposed to give power to the Council of any county or burgh to borrow money from the Public Works, said borrowers to erect or enlarge any building for the use of volunteer corps.

The consideration of the Militia Bill will be watched with interest. It is proposed to call upon the Privy Council to state the number of militiamen to be drawn from the various counties in the United Kingdom. General officers commanding the military districts will be required to inform the Lord Lieutenants whether there is any deficiency in the establishment. Should the required number not come forward voluntarily, the Lord Lieutenant will have to acquaint the Privy Council before 1st September in each year, when he will be ordered to raise the requisite number by ballot. No person will be balloted for who is a peer of the realm, member of Parliament, member of any university, clergyman, or who is engaged in a regular calling, profession or employment. The Act is designed to operate against loafers and "tramps," and should it pass into law it will be interesting to watch how it will work with this class of the community.

A clause has been inserted in the Queen's Regulations and Orders for the Army that "officers above the rank of major who may be elected members of the House of Commons will be placed on half pay."

An increase of 771 men to the army is gained by the proposed changes of establishment. To each of the three infantry battalions serving in Nova Scotia, Ber-

muda and the West Indies, the proposed changes provide for the addition of 120 men, so that they may be brought up to the establishment of other home regiments serving in the colonies. An addition is also made to the Royal Malta Artillery.

The manufacture of the magazine rifle is proceeding very satisfactorily. By the end of the year it is expected that the trade companies will have delivered 205,000 of these rifles for the army. The ordnance factories up to the end of March, 1895, had supplied 307,000. The whole of the regular forces at home and abroad having now been supplied with the magazine rifles, and the necessary reserve being provided for, it has been decided to arm the volunteers with the magazine rifle. The Martini-Henry rifles which have already been provided with the .303 barrel will be used for reserve purposes.

Many of the old ranges are rendered unsafe on account of the increased range of the .303 rifle. For the acquisition of extended ranges it is proposed to provide a fund by the means of a loan to be asked for the furtherance of Imperial defence.

That a good feeling exists between the regular and volunteer officers is shown by the fact that a mixed committee from regular and volunteer officers are now considering the question of the transport of volunteers and mobilization during war.

The bicycle corps in the various volunteer regiments are taking a forward place. Col. E. Eyre-Williams, who acted as umpire in the night march of the Liverpool volunteers, in his report says: "With respect to the delivery of messages by cyclists, that as to parade states, the duty was performed with celerity and accuracy, and secondly, for the assembly of the commanding officers, that the messages were delivered and the instructions conveyed through them were correctly carried into effect.

July 14 has been appointed as the opening day of the Bisley meeting by the National Rifle Association.

#### CHALLENGE FROM HONG KONG.

NEW WESTMINSTER, B.C., April 2.—At the annual meeting of the New Westminster Rifle Association, a challenge from the Hong Kong Battery, for a rifle match, received through Major Townley, was laid before the meeting and accepted. Details are not yet completed, but it is expected that the event will take place about the third week in this month. Office bearers appointed for the year are: President, his Honor Judge Bole, vice-presidents, the officers of No. 4 company 5th R.C.A.; sec-treasurer, H. A. Wilson; Executive Committee, R. Wilson, G. Turnbull, S. A. Fletcher, J. Chamberlin, and J. W. Buir.

#### THEIR USEFULNESS GONE.

IT IS gratifying to notice how the newspapers all over the country are taking their key from THE MILITARY GAZETTE, and insisting on the necessary reforms in the administration of military affairs. The Quebec Telegraph had an editorial a few days ago that will be read with pleasure by members of the force. We cannot agree entirely with its views, though we reproduce. It is unfair to the present Minister and to some of the officials of the Department. Hon. Mr. Desjardins has been but a short time at the head of the Department. No fault can be found with any of his actions so far. His previous career as a politician and successful business man are all we can judge from, and if he administers the affairs of his Department as he has carried on his own business he will have the support of THE GAZETTE. There are some excellent officials now in the Department, but the majority of them are not only useless, but stand in the way of progress. Many changes must be made before the militia can be put on a proper footing. The Telegraph says:

Our cartridge factory, like everything else connected with the entire machinery of our military defence, is suffering from the dry rot which pervades the whole Militia Department at Ottawa. That Department, from the Minister downwards, is composed of a lot of antiquated old fogies, who may have been good men enough in their day, but who have served their time, and who should be relegated as soon as possible in the public interest to private life. These venerable fossils, who have little or no practical knowledge of the requirements of modern warfare, are as obstinate as mules, and have become so wedded to their old, obsolete, one-horse, red tape, easy-going ways that they are not only a nuisance, generally speaking, but a positive obstruction to the proper march of the business of the Department. They are, out of touch altogether with the progress and spirit of the age. They belong to the days of leather stocks and flint muskets and, when they are not engaged in drawing their fat salaries and scheming to keep better and younger men out of office or intriguing for promotion and positions for their relations and pets, they are devoting their powerful attention to economizing and cheeseparing at the expense of the efficiency of the Service, but never at their own, and generally to seeking to impede every one else, who desires to see our military service move ahead and not remain eternally stuck in the mud. But the best of the expensive joke upon the country is that the intense ignorance of these past numbers is palmed off upon it as experience, which it cannot dream of doing without and which it cannot pay too dearly for. They are, moreover, so conservative of their old ways and prejudices and so consequential and full of the sense of their own importance that the idea of reform or despatch in any respect is utterly abhorrent to them and no man dare to come between the wind and their dignity. In fact, they have established a regular system of official terrorism, which prevents their subordinating from exposing the frightful defects and shortcomings of their administration. We had a glimpse of this truth not long

(Continued on page 15)

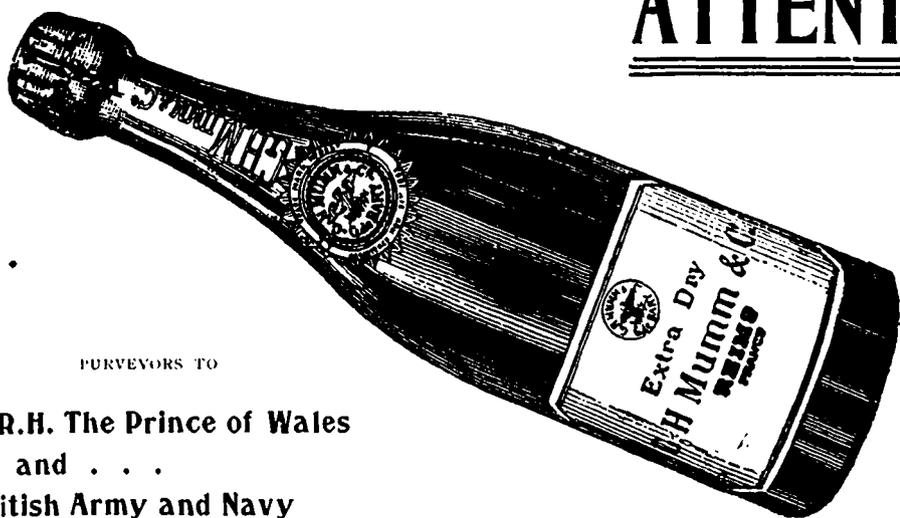
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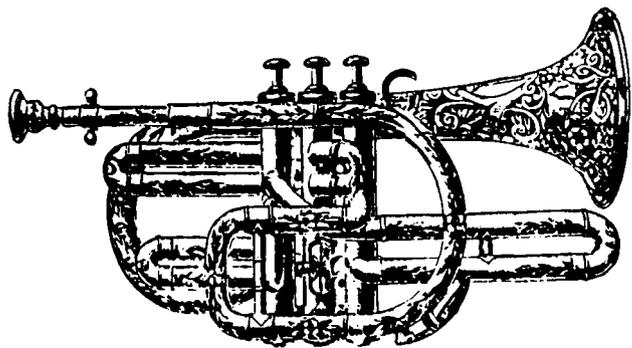
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MONTREAL-TORONTO, APRIL 1, 1896.

**SHOULD BE SPANKED.**

D'ARCY MACMAHON is the name of a youth with a political "pull"—in fact, he comes of a family that has very successfully worked the Government for appointments. His father, Hon. Justice MacMahon, was a lawyer in Toronto and his friends induced the Government to appoint him over the heads of men of greater ability and with better claims. This led Sir Frank Smith to withdraw from the Government at the time.

D'Arcy was a lieutenant in the 10th Grenadiers and without a profession. A situation had to be found for him. Sir Mackenzie Bowell, then Minister of Militia, appointed him to the R.R.C. He received notice of his appointment before it was gazetted and at once began to swagger as a lieutenant in the "reglars" and refused to carry out some regimental orders. The officer commanding the Grenadiers was too good a soldier to be trifled with and the matter was brought to the attention of General Herbert. The latter ordered him to be placed under arrest and he enjoyed his own company in a room at Stanley Barracks for some days before the G.O.C. ordered him to make a most abject apology and read him the most severe reprimand ever given an officer in the militia.

After some years of service he was allowed to retire retaining rank. He had little to do and soon got himself into trouble. He wrote an article reflecting

most seriously on Lieut.-Col. Wilson, R.C.A., Quebec, and sent it to Major Manley for publication in The Toronto Telegram. The latter acted most honorably in the matter and immediately apologized and gave Col. Wilson the name of their informant. Col. Wilson also had other very strong evidence, including the public typewriter in the Chateau Frontenac, Quebec, to whom MacMahon had given his scurrulous production to be re-written. He entered an action for \$20,000 for damages to his reputation. Finding himself cornered, he admitted that his statements were totally false, and apologized.

The Militia General Orders of two weeks ago struck his name off the list of the officers allowed to retain rank on retirement. This shows that the new General is not to be trifled with, and political influence did not prevent him doing his duty. If MacMahon's friends had been strong enough General Gascoigne might have had him as an A.D.C. But the General took the advice of his officers instead and gave the appointment to a young gentleman of more than average ability and an excellent record.

**THREE OR FIVE-YEAR TERMS.**

We hear of trouble in another corps. At the bottom of it all is again the question of how long an officer may retain the command of a regiment. The juniors think he may remain so long that their chances of securing the command are remote; the C.O.'s themselves, having taken so many years to arrive at the head of their regiment, feel that they should be permitted to enjoy the honors. For both there is a good deal of sympathy.

Attention was drawn to this matter in our last issue, and several communications have been received expressing hearty approval of the suggestion that a C.O. should not retain a command for more than three or five years; that he should then be given a brigade for another five, and if he possessed the necessary qualifications a division for a third five. One commanding officer writes that if such a scheme were carried out he would go to England at his own expense for a year or more to qualify for the command of a division. An R.M.C. graduate, who had worked his way up, would, of course, possess the necessary qualifications for divisional command, and it would not be necessary for him to go abroad.

**THE COLLEGE QUESTION.**

THE report of the Board of Visitors of the R. M. C. presented to Parliament is still unprinted. Just before last issue we traced it to Sir Charles Tupper. Since then it has been privately passed round among privileged members with an important page missing. This looks very suspicious.

Another report is in evidence, and is easily obtainable. It is called a minority report, and has been prepared by Mr. Sandford Fleming. He lets Major-General Cameron off very easily, and makes a number of suggestions that will not receive the support of practical military men. It is generally believed that Mr. Fleming's report was prepared at the request of the Government to counteract the strong representations made by the majority of the disgraceful condition of affairs in the institutions.

It has been several times remarked recently that there are no active friends of the force in the Liberal ranks outside of Mr. Mulock, and his other engagements prevent him following up questions as they should be. This college question has not been followed up in the House as it should have been. Let Liberal officers secure the nomination of men they know will fight for militia interests at all times.

Returning to the College, THE GAZETTE is informed on excellent authority that, owing to the laxity of discipline, drunkenness has been prevalent to an alarming extent during the last year or two. More liquor is drunk than ever before. This is given on the authority of a cadet now in attendance and by an ex-cadet. There can, therefore, be no doubt of it. We are not preaching temperance, but we do preach the necessity of compulsory moderation in the case of boys whose habits are just forming. Those in authority will have much to answer for if the future of the young men—brilliant young men they are too—is blighted because they are allowed to run riot now.

**POLITICALLY SELECTED CAMPS**

THE usual deputations are beginning to wait on the Government to ask that the militia camps be held near their town.

These municipal moguls make the location and conveniences of the camp a secondary consideration—if they are thought of at all. They do not therefore go to the officer commanding the district,

who is really the one who should decide what will suit his plans best. They work the Dominion politicians through the local heelers. These men do not talk of the splendid camping and manoeuvring ground the vacant lots next the town will make. They say that it is only right that some portion of the public money should be spent in their town. It will make friends for the party in the next election, besides "we have," as one of them once said to an M. P., "to keep Jamie——solid next election." The camp goes there and the commandant is instructed to award the Jamies the contract for supplies regardless of the price.

A member of THE GAZETTE staff was at one of these politically selected camps. The medical authorities opposed the location and the commandant said there was not enough ground for movements. But the local politicians had the pull. There was no adequate supply of water and holes were dug in the edge of the swamp. Nearly every man had diarrhoea, and after the camp there were three deaths from typhoid.

And still Sir Mackenzie Bowell says politics do not interfere in any way in military affairs.

Military men should be allowed full authority to select the ground for the camps and must not be interfered with by the politicians.

#### MUNICIPAL GRANTS TO THE MILITIA.

Some Ontario counties are doing grand work for the force. They give a grant of 25c. per day to each officer and man in their local corps who puts in his annual drill. We are not aware that any county in the other provinces does as much. Besides this, these same counties give annual grants of \$50 to \$200 for the purchase of prizes for the annual rifle matches. They have also been known to purchase a supply of helmets, or bushies, for the N.C.O. and men. It may be added that most of these same counties give a sum of money annually to the Provincial Rifle Association.

The County Council of Halton the other day voted 25c. per day to every man who goes from that county to drill with the 20th Lorne Rifles, one of the best shooting battalions in the county, but numerically weak.

We should all endeavor to interest the people in our district in the force, so that

they will always be ready to encourage it. We hope the officers in districts where the Council or citizens give grants will at once inform THE GAZETTE for publication for the information of, and to spur on, officers in other parts.

#### A BLIND GOVERNMENT.

AN agitation is going on at the present time in Ottawa for the establishment of a military school for officers. It is to be hoped that they will be successful in securing from that Government, from off whose body fall the requisitions of the militia force as the proverbial bullets from off the crocodile's back. As the constant drop of water wears away the rock, it is to be hoped that the Government will, before they find the rock going from underneath their feet, do something towards the furtherance of the militia force.

When the war cloud was looming over the Mother Country our "powers that be" expounded at no little length on the loyalty and divotion of the Canadians. How they would stand shoulder to shoulder to repel the one that would put a foot forward in attack. Did these exponents for a moment look behind to see whether those who would have to do the "shoulder to shoulder" were properly equipped for such an event? If they did their eyes must have been dimmed with all-night sittings and their memories a blank to the warnings that have been poured in on them from those who are in position to know "what is what" in the force. With accoutrements that are now obsolete and would be scorned by the dusky soldiers of the East, permanent regiments officered by "pulls," dissention in the ranks caused by these "pulls," equipment almost nil, and other "wants," would make a sorry sight, even although heaven's full share of loyalty was served out. It is a disgrace that such a state of matters should exist in free and loyal Canada. Before having uttered such high sounding phrases it would have met the wants of the people better if the Government had arisen and stood shoulder to shoulder in the matter of rectifying, and tried to put the force on a better footing.

As the militia force of Canada now stands it cannot be said that, in the event of trouble arising, the various regiments would be fully officered. The institution of such schools as are now in operation in Montreal are a great boon, for they not

only put life and mettle into the officers, but they also give them a preparation for the day of trouble. There is another point that also deserves the closest attention of the Government. In the event of the force being called out to the front new regiments would have to be formed from amongst loyal citizens. Such being the case, who would officer them? They could not go to the Mother Land for officers, as in all probability that same Mother Land would require all her own men. Why, then, does the Government not institute such a class that the rank and file may be brought up to such a state of proficiency that the best men would be drafted to the command of their own regiments or go to officer any new formed corps. Wealth and position do not always make the best commander, and there are many non-coms. and men in the militia of Canada to-day who would give a good account of themselves if opportunity offered.

Unless the Government come to the assistance of the militia, and that soon, they will find that they have neglected the one thing needful in bearing out their utterances on the devotion of Canada to the British Empire. They seem to be going on the old adage of making the force "make the bricks without the straw." Let the civilian, while he does not don the facings, take a stand on this question at the elections now near at hand and get from those who would sit at the Capital a pledge that they will do their utmost to bring about a better state of matters in the militia force, and let the force as one man adjust its "foresight" and prepare to meet the delinquents in this matter with a good all round fire.

#### THE ST. JOHN'S TROUBLE.

FOR some time back a spirit of unrest seems to have entered into the militia force of Canada. It is a deplorable state of matters that the men who have sworn allegiance to the country, and who, for the love of soldiering have gone to the trouble of taking a course at St. John's, should cause such trouble in the Service. Whether those in authority did the proper thing or not in sending the men to "shovel snow" is a question that must be put aside in the present instance: A soldier's duty is to obey, and if he thinks he has been unfairly treated there are ways and means by which he can get redress other than mutiny. The fact, too, that the men were

led by non-coms gives it a more serious aspect.

That the men really deserved punishment is a point all agree upon, but the major-general very properly took the surrounding circumstances into account and reduced the non-coms to the ranks, while to the privates a severe reprimand was given instead of giving them 84 days imprisonment, as recommended by the court martial. It is said that a new commandant is likely to be the outcome of this trouble.

The men convicted are: Corporal W. G. Daniels, of the 43rd Ottawa and Carleton Rifles; Corporal Duquette and Corporal L. E. J. Dubeau, of the 17th Battalion, Levis; Corporal W. Clark, of the 5th Royal Scots, Montreal; Private J. Touchette, 65th Mount Royal Rifles, Montreal; Private A. H. Simmonds, 54th Battalion, Richmond.

The court was composed of Lieut.-Col. Wilson, R.C.A.; Surgeon-Major Campbell, and Major Young, R.R.C.I.

#### SCARCITY OF CLOTHING.

It is said that even if the estimates were passed at once there is not enough clothing in store, or under order, to supply the corps who will go into camp this year.

One manufacturer has informed the Government that it will be utterly impossible for him to fill their orders for clothing in time for the June camps, and it would take all summer to make ready for September camps, if he could have them ready even then. There is just a possibility, therefore, of some regiments not being able to go into camp at all, or, if they do, it will be with a civilian coat and military trousers or a red coat and civilian trousers. Most corps are short on overcoats, and it is said there are very few in store or under order. Many regiments have not had a supply for years, and, when preparations for the camps begin, it will be impossible to get them. It is pleasant to look forward to the cool September nights under canvas without greatcoats. What can we expect, however, from a Government or a Parliament composed of so many ward politicians and office-seekers as we have now representing us at Ottawa? We must send business men and statesmen in their place. There are many good men in the rank and file of both parties, but they are kept in the background by the ward-healers.

Men are seeking election now not to serve their country but to get offices before their term expires. A Conservative member, who is thoroughly dissatisfied with the way things are run, says that he knows of 33 members of the present Parliament who are endeavoring to get appointments.

If the military men join the business men, as they have done on one or two occasions, we can force both parties to nominate good men.

#### DISAGREEMENTS IN THE ROYAL SCOTS.

MATTERS are not running smoothly in the 5th Royal Scots, Montreal. Troubles have been smouldering for some time. Recent occurrences brought them to a climax. To make things worse the newspapers have published some very unkind stories. The real cause of the trouble seems to be a difference of opinion as to how the internal affairs of a regiment should be conducted. Lieut.-Col. Strathy believes that a C.O. should deal with every question strictly in the way in which the R. & O. provide without reference to his officers. Many of the latter think that while these may apply when a regiment is actively employed and in receipt of full pay and clothing from the Government, they do not when officers not only contribute their pay but fees as well to enable them to successfully carry on the affairs of the regiment.

Recently Col. Strathy did not receive certain reports and returns as promptly as he wished. He wrote to several officers asking for them, and directly their attention to the paragraphs in the R. & O. which provided a penalty for non-compliance. Major Ibbotson, who felt that such a notice was intended as a direct reflection on himself, resigned. When this became known, several officers who sympathized with him sent in their resignation, together with the others who thought the letters they received reflected on their honor. The C. O. informed the latter that he had no intention of doing so, but he wished to carry out the regulations. He called a meeting of the officers at the ante-room last week for a friendly talk and to ask those who wished to resign not to do so. The gathering failed to mend matters. The efforts of some Scotch friends of the regiment were also unsuccessful.

There seems to be no immediate prospect of a settlement. The interests of the

regiment we fear will suffer, and at a time when prospects are unusually bright. There is some talk of an official enquiry. It would be much better for all if they would agree to the appointment of, say, three officers to consider the situation, and, no matter what their suggestions may be, to carry them out conscientiously. These officers should have a thorough knowledge of how affairs of a city regiment have been best conducted.

#### A CHANGE OF FRONT.

IN going over the old records of 1870 relating to Canadian defences, THE GAZETTE is struck by the different spirit then animating the Imperial Government to what we know animates it now. The withdrawal of British troops from Canada, for instance, was arranged without much regard to Canadian feeling. The official correspondence is civil, but not much more.

In April, 1869—three years after the first Fenian invasion and just a year before the second—we find Lord Granville, Colonial Secretary in Mr. Gladstone's Ministry, writing to the Governor-General, announcing the reduction of the forces here, and remarking:

"Her Majesty's Government trust that the annoyance arising from the organization of Fenianism in the United States is fast disappearing. This organization, founded on the hostile feelings entertained by numerous Irishmen in the United States against Great Britain, derived its substantial importance from the circumstance that large armies had been recently disbanded and were not yet thoroughly absorbed in the pursuits of peace. Such a state of things must always contain certain elements of danger to a neighboring country, and so far as the Canadians suffer from it, they suffer not so much from their connection with Great Britain, as from an unhappy,—I hope, a passing—accident of their geographical position."

This despatch was laid before the Canadian Parliament in June, 1869. We can just imagine the way it would impress Canadian public men who had, a few years before, made some sacrifices to unite the British dominions in North America into one compact state attached to the Empire. Its sense or sagacity is not very evident, in view of later events.

The correspondence, all through, is strictly business in tone. This is right enough in one way, but in a colony which had just suffered invasion, loss of life and immense destruction of property, entirely because it was a British country and allied to England, the feeling produced would be one of disappointment. The Imperial Government were careful to stipulate exactly what Canada was to do. Every detail was provided for as to arms, fortifications and general military organization.

The door was firmly shut against any future demands by Canada upon Imperial supplies. In February, 1870, Lord Granville wrote that the barracks and fortifications vacated by British troops would be handed over to Canada, but he added: "It must be remembered that if at any future period troops are sent to Canada at the request of the local Government, or in furtherance of colonial interests, the Dominion will be expected to provide them barracks or lodging to the satisfaction of Her Majesty's Government." Canada was satisfied to do this, but the demand might have been put differently.

The same is true of the loan of small arms. On withdrawing the troops the Imperial authorities handed over unconditionally to Canada nearly 50,000 rifles and carbines, but, wrote the cautious Secretary, "no further issues on loan will be made, except under circumstances of special emergency." These very circumstances had already arisen in the opinion of the Canadian Government. Canada was sure—though Mr. Gladstone's Ministry could not be got to see it—that further Fenian troubles were at hand. In November, 1869, Canada pointed out that a loan of 10,000 rifles, hitherto agreed upon, had not yet been actually issued and asked to have them sent on. But Lord Granville was too wide awake to be caught napping. "It may be questioned," he says, "how far the decision of the Imperial Government in 1868, authorizing the issue of 10,000 additional rifles, is to be considered as in force, your Government not having availed themselves of that decision until the regulations under which it had been made were withdrawn." Therefore, he announced that the Secretary for War, Mr. Cardwell, declined to issue them under the old regulations. This is at a time when another serious invasion, due entirely to the Imperial connection, was imminent!

But this was a time, as we know, when the colonies were all but told to go. The "Little England" party—now quite defunct—were paramount in Imperial administration. The feeling had set in years before. As early as 1864 the late Hon. George Brown, than whom the British Empire never had a more devoted admirer, wrote privately from England to Sir John Macdonald: "I am much concerned to observe—and I write it to you as a thing that must seriously be considered by all men taking a lead hereafter in Cana-

dian public matters—that there is a manifest desire in almost every quarter that ere long the British American colonies should shift for themselves, and in some quarters evident regret that we did not at once declare for independence. I am very sorry to observe this."

But nous avons change tout cela. The Imperial authorities are as ardently attached to the colonies now as they were apathetic before.

#### MUST SUPPLY THE EXTRA EQUIPMENT.

There are a number of regiments in Canada which drill many more men than they receive pay for. The regimental fund has to provide these men with uniforms and equipment, for the Government will allow nothing. This is unfair to the regiments who work hard to keep up their strength and efficiency. If not pay, certainly equipment should be allowed. This question came up the other day in England. Sir Stafford Northcote drew the attention of Lord Lansdowne, Secretary of State for War, to it, and he at once admitted the gross injustice. The result has been that the supplementary estimates contain a sum to pay for equipment for men drilled in excess of the number on the establishment lists. When our Government gets through settling the Manitoba question this is one which should demand their immediate attention. It may be remarked that they send men of standing to Parliament at home. In Canada we elect too many ward "heelers" and office seekers.

#### THE NEW PATTERN SWORD.

THE new pattern sword recently adopted by the Imperial army has been approved for adoption by the staff and by officers of infantry, rifles and Highland regiments, and general orders will shortly be issued to that effect. This sword differs from the one now in use in that it is intended for pointing or thrusting rather than cutting. It is lighter, and a more serviceable weapon in every way. The hilt is steel, half-basket, pierced with scroll design, and Royal Cypher and Crown chased. Black fish-skin grip, bound with three strands of silver wire, back checkered to pommel, with flat part near guard for the thumb, straight blade, grooved and spear-pointed. The measurements are:

Blade, full size—32½ inches long and 1 inch wide at the shoulder.

Hilt, total length—5¼ to 5⅞ inches.

Grip, total length—5 inches.

Weight—From 1 lb. 11 oz. to 1 lb. 12 oz., without scabbard.

Officers will not be compelled to provide themselves with the new pattern, but it is to be hoped that those who do not will have their present swords re-hilted for the sake of uniformity. A regiment does not look half so smart in different kinds of dress.

Mounted officers adopting the new pattern sword will wear steel scabbards and steel spurs of swan-neck pattern, except in the evening, at Court and at levees, when brass spurs will be worn.

#### WHO IS TO BE ADJUTANT GENERAL?

THE vacancy in the office of adjutant-general of militia continues unfilled. The question arises: Why? Hon. Mr. Dickey, when Minister of Militia, is understood to have recommended to the Cabinet the name of Lieut.-Col. Aylmer, deputy adjutant-general. Why is not Lieut.-Col. Aylmer appointed? If the principle of promotion means anything, Lieut.-Col. Aylmer is entitled to promotion. And the principle of promotion is the principle which of all the public service should most govern the militia part.

If so vital a principle is not followed in this case, what is the trouble? Is it political? Let us speak plainly. It is hinted, and more than hinted, in the lobbies of Parliament, that the reason why Lieut.-Col. Aylmer does not receive the promotion for which the circumstances call is that he belongs to a family which has been Liberal in politics, and because his brother is likely to be a Liberal candidate for Parliament in the Eastern Townships. No other reason for blocking Lieut.-Col. Aylmer's elevation to the office of adjutant-general is intimated. He is stated by those capable of judging to be an officer qualified to do justice to the important position vacant. Certainly there is no assertion in any quarter that any other candidate is a more competent man. This appearing to be the case, it is a wrong, and a serious wrong, if a political job is contemplated in connection with the office. There is no place where politics could be worse introduced than in the management of the militia, and it is to be hoped the Government will prove itself to be above that sort of thing. Lieut.-Col. Aylmer's position in the Department,

the absence of any doubt as to his competence, and the recommendation of the late Minister of Militia, should have settled the question long ago. General Gascoigne is alleged to favor Lieut.-Col. Aylmer's appointment to the office. The militia interest calls for the decision of such matters on other than political lines. It is bad enough to have party men who do service in Parliament or elections shoved into every Customs office and post-office billet that falls vacant, destroying the ambition and efficiency of all the lesser ranks of the public service, but surely the line should at least be drawn against politics being made the decisive factor in the management of the volunteer force of Canada.—Ottawa Journal.

#### POLITICIANS AND THE MILITIA

Any Canadian reading The Sydney Military Gazette, the organ of the Australian forces, cannot but be impressed with the fact that they are years ahead of us in military progress. They have reached the point for which we are striving, for politicians there are beginning to talk not with the object of gaining the sympathy of the members of the force. The Gazette takes Sir George Dibbs to task for a spread-eagle speech he made recently urging the most extravagant expenditures on the organization of a "National Guard." He must have been in America. The military men will have none of him, and they remind him he had no sympathy for them when he was Premier. His remarks did not take.

We in Canada will do well to remember who are our friends to-day when we most need them, and mark the Fosters, who would cut off the pay but spend double the amount to bribe a constituency with unnecessary public buildings or useless canals and railways. The time will come when they will find that military men are a force to be reckoned with in election contests. It will be a force which the people generally will sympathise and respect, for they have no personal ends to serve.

#### MR. FOSTER BLAMED.

Hon. Geo. E. Foster is generally blamed by the officers and men of the militia for the trouble over the four days' pay. Previous to that he was well thought of on account of his theoretical ability. Has it occurred to many of us how strong the feeling is among military men against him

in every part of the country? He is looked upon as an enemy of the militia—a man who can see no good in us. We hear many an unkind word said of him on the parade ground and at military gatherings by men who were hitherto strong Conservatives. This is a good sign. It shows that we are becoming more united and put militia before party. Mr. Foster will have to do much to regain the sympathy of hundreds of his former strong supporters.

#### B TROOP MANITOBA DRAGOONS.

The officers and men of "B" Troop Manitoba Dragoons have purchased in Portage la Prairie what is known as the old Baptist church, at a cost of over \$500, and have converted it into a drill hall and recreation room for the corps. It is probable that this troop will drill in camp at headquarters this year in the Island Park at the Portage, one of the most convenient camping grounds in the west. Four non-com. officers, one private and one trumpeter of "B" Troop took cavalry short courses at Winnipeg with the Royal Canadian Dragoons during the winter. The troops of this regiment still act as independent troops, the regimental organization not yet being completed.

#### GENERAL NOTES.

**T**HE French war authorities have seemingly taken a tip from the British authorities, as all generals commanding army corps are ordered to practise night marching.

The Victorian (Australia) military forces are to hold an Easter encampment.

Fuller accounts which have come to hand of the Italian defeat in Abyssinia show that this, in a great measure, was due to the want of mounted troops.

Col. F. H. J. Dibble, of the Woodstock Field Battery, met with an accident the other day which may cause total blindness. An explosion occurred while he was engaged in working over a composition in which was molten tin.

Lieut.-Col. Ponton, Belleville, closed the series of lectures that have been of so great interest to the 15th Battalion, last week, by a lecture on the origin and history of military terms. The lecture was full of information and was much appreciated.

It has often been asserted at home and abroad that the Scotch regiments were composed, to a great extent, of Irish and English men. They had better beware before they say such a thing to a Scotchman. The fallacy of the statement is proven by the fact that in the 1st Highland Light Infantry

there are 17 Scotchmen to every 18 soldiers, and in the 1st Argyle and Sutherland Highlanders 90 per cent. are Scotch.

"C" company, 7th Fusiliers, London, had a most enjoyable time at their annual dinner, which was held in the regimental club. Lieut. Watt, the commandant, presided, and was supported by Col. Lindsay, Major Beattie, Capt. Graham, Major Hayes, Surgeon Mitchell, and Capt. Graves. There was a full muster of the company present. Major Beattie, in replying to the toast of the Army and the Navy, said that the United States thought \$1,000,000 for the increase of their navy was sufficient to make England come down. Great Britain replied by voting \$120,000,000 for the strengthening of its navy.

Lieut.-Col. Worthington, Sherbrooke, P.Q., and his officers have been so far successful in their efforts to secure an instructor from the St. John's School to assist officers not qualified for other than provisional appointment. The classes were opened last week. Sergt.-Major Philips, with the help of Sergt.-Major McAllister, act as instructors. The school is under the control of Lieut.-Col. Worthington, and it is to be hoped that the attendance will be such as to justify the militia authorities sending an instructor. Sergt.-Major Philips, of the School of Infantry, St. John's, gave an interesting lecture on "Guards" in the Griffiths Hall on Wednesday evening.

#### SCOTCHMEN,—ATTENTION.

The audacity of the English soldier is proverbial. One of them passing the canteen of a Highland regiment during the progress of a "sing-song," went in. He was made welcome, and, making himself at home, volunteered to sing. His proposal was gladly accepted, and he stepped on the stage amid loud applause, vigorously renewed when after whispering to the pianist the latter struck up the familiar tune of "Scots wha hae wi' Wallace bled." With an indescribable Cockney accent he sang the following:

"Scots wha hae on haggis fed,  
Scots wha hae fra Flodden fled;  
Scots wha sold King Charlie's head  
For a base bawbee."

Then with a rush he was through the door, and not a moment too soon, for the infuriated Highlanders, up till then spell-bound with amazement, now rose, and with a yell of fury went in hot pursuit, which only terminated when the audacious Southron was safe within his barrack gates.

*Officers and men of the militia will help THE MILITARY GAZETTE very much if they and their friends in making purchases will give the preference to those firms which advertise with us. They can help us still further by recommending the paper to any firms who sell goods that are used by military men in every part of Canada, either as military men or in their private capacity.*

## MUSKETRY.

### CANADIAN MILITARY RIFLE LEAGUE.

**C**APT. ANDREWS has just issued the following circular: "Since the issue of the former circular, published in THE MILITARY GAZETTE, enquiries have come in from the mounted force, drawing attention to the fact that this branch of the Service is armed with the following different carbines, i.e., Lee-Metford, Winchester and Snider.

"It is therefore considered desirable to divide the third series as follows:

"First section, Lee-Metford and Winchester carbines.

"Second section, Snider carbines, and to offer prizes for each section.

"This circular is, therefore, sent to officers commanding regiments of cavalry, as also troop commanders, with the view of obtaining a large number of team entries from the mounted force and to ask the co-operation of these officers in obtaining this end.

"It is a recognized fact that the different troops of cavalry are not so located at their regimental headquarters as to enable a regimental team, of ten men, to shoot at any one point; permission will, therefore, be given teams competing in the 3rd (or cavalry series) to shoot fraction of teams at their troop headquarters, sending their scores (duly certified by the captain of their troop) to the officer commanding the regiment to which they belong, and he will enter the entire team, with their scores, on the official score sheet and mail same to the secretary of the League. And in order that he may wire him the total team scores on dates as directed in circular of 2nd inst., the 3rd (or cavalry series) matches will be shot on the 9th and 23rd May, and 6th and 20th June.

"Letters have been received from troop commanders (who shot in League matches of 1895) to the effect that these matches had considerably raised the percentage of the annual class firing of their different troops last year. This circular is, therefore, earnestly commended to the favorable consideration of that arm of the Service to which it is directed, and it is hoped that at least one team entry from your regiment (or troop) will be received for the season of 1896."

### A WORD TO THE GREEN SHOTS.

EDITOR MILITARY GAZETTE:

**D**EAR SIR,—I have been a regular attendant at the Cote St. Luc Ranges ever since their inauguration, and in fact for some years previously at Pointe St. Charles Ranges. I can recall year after year at the commencement of each season a wail from the young and green shots, complaining that they did not get enough encouragement from the old shots. Now,

Mr. Editor, will you allow me to give a few words of advice and experience to the coming "kickers"? In the first place, old shots do not go out to the ranges on fine Saturday afternoons to act as musketry instructors, but they go out for their own recreation, and it is certainly unfair to expect an old shot, who is participating in one of the numerous open matches at his own expense, to run around the range looking after a beginner. To overcome this difficulty there should be a paid musketry instructor on the ranges on every practice day.

A common excuse given by our young shots for not attending practice steadily is that an open match of some kind is generally going on, and all those who do not choose to enter such match are squadded away from those who could coach them. The best way out of this difficulty is for all these young shots to pluck up courage and enter the match, when they will be squadded with some of their companions, and learn more in one day than in half a dozen days otherwise. Of course, there is expense connected with this, but, as I said before, shooting is a recreation, and, as a rule, recreation costs something, and shooting can only be learned by experience, constant practice and steady perseverance.

I think the "expense" excuse is a very poor one, as we all know that there is no money to be made in shooting year in and year out. I have kept a detailed account of my shooting expenses year after year, and find that this amusement costs me from \$30 to \$50 per annum. Of course, this amount varies according to my luck in matches, but this is certainly not a very large amount to spend on a summer's pleasure.

I think if those young shots who are always looking for encouragement would buckle down to the real pleasure of rifle shooting, and make up their minds that it is going to cost them a little for their early experience, instead of depending on old shots, they would be surprised at the advancement they would make. When I commenced to shoot I soon noticed the great variety of opinions expressed as to wind and elevation, etc., and soon gave up asking questions, and learned to do my own guessing.

I hope this letter will catch the eye of a number of the coming green shots and set them thinking.

Thanking you for your valuable space, Mr. Editor, I am, yours respectfully,

RIFLEMAN.

Montreal, April 3, 1896.

### BETTER TRAINING IN MUSKETRY

"Fire is everything, the rest is of small account." If this dictum of Napoleon's was the sum of his vast experience, what are we to say of the far-reaching firearms of today? In the war between France and Germany in 1870-71 and Russia and Turkey in 1877-78, the infantry of the losing side was armed with the better rifle, showing that vic-

tory was due rather to the superior tactical use of the weapon and not to the weapon itself. A high authority, writing of the Franco-German war, says: "The German soldier, carefully instructed in musketry, had such an unshaken confidence in his weapon that he made use of it with coolness and method, and, therefore, with a sureness that the French were far from equalling. The German infantry had the superiority which it owed to the long and minute instruction that had been given it in peace time." The importance of this statement cannot be over-estimated.

Even if we arm the militia with the Lee-Enfield, admitted to be the best rifle known, the fact will ever remain that the superiority of the Lee-Enfield can only be manifested through the skill of those using it, and the requisite skill can only be attained through a careful course of musketry training. Therefore the requirements of the battlefield must ever be kept in view, and in order that our men may have confidence in their weapons they must be taught in peace time what they would have to do in war.

Much has been done by the various rifle associations to stimulate a love for rifle shooting. Target practice in the ordinary sense is all very well for teaching a recruit the use and power of his rifle, but it is no training for the field, and the sooner this is recognized by the responsible authorities the better it will be for the efficiency of the force. What our rifle associations have to aim at is to lessen the number of "pot-hunter" competitions, to encourage practical rifle shooting, and to develop in every way possible shooting under service conditions.

General Gascoigne is evidently alive to the importance of this question; it is therefore the bounden duty of every well-wisher of the force to help in every possible way the General's laudable efforts to establish and develop a sound practical system of musketry training best adapted to our means and requirements.

#### NOTES.

At the annual meeting of the New South Wales Rifle Association regret was expressed at the death of the Hon. Sir W. M. Manning, K.C.M.G., who had held the position of president for the long period of 35 years.

From the report of the New South Wales Rifle Association it appears that the disappearing target has been a failure. The chairman, at the meeting at which the report was presented, said he hoped that, although it was a failure at first, the association would not be discouraged, but still further persevere and make it a success. Soldiers as a rule, he said, were conservative, and they should try and combat this conservatism and adopt as their motto for rifle shooting, "Advance, Australia."

(Concluded from page 7)

since when The Chronicle printed its terrible exposure of the dismantled and worthless condition of Quebec's defences, and when it frankly intimated that this terrible state of affairs was well known to many of our military men, but that they were obliged to keep their mouths shut owing to the system of official intimidation practised at Ottawa from which they suffer. This is a pretty condition of things, surely, and it is certainly time to change it with a vengeance. As it is, we believe that, if war were to break out to-morrow between England and the United States, which is not at all beyond the range of possibility, we would be caught utterly unprepared, though upwards of thirty millions have been spent, squandered would be the better word, upon our militia within the last twenty years. We could not put one single battalion of men in the field properly clothed, properly equipped and, last but not least, properly armed, to cope with a modern enemy. This is a desperate state of affairs to contemplate, but it is doubly aggravated by the reflection that the same evidences of criminal neglect, incapacity and dry rot prevail in every arm and branch of the Service, and that, unless radical measures are taken before long and a clean sweep made of pompous incompetents who control the Department and their pets all over, we shall be exposed to have the large vote of money which the Government proposes to ask from Parliament to put our defences in an efficient state frittered away again to no good purpose. As already stated, our cartridge factory, like everything else, has suffered and is suffering from the unfitnes for their responsible positions of these jacks-in-office at Ottawa. They have no more idea of prompt action, of taking time by the forelock, than they have of the hieroglyphics of the ancient Egyptians or Chaldeans. You could no more get a hustle on them than you could upon so many snails, even if an armed foe were upon our soil, and their dilatoriness and red-tapesism, and not any fault in our cartridge factory itself or its staff, are directly responsible for the false reports and the wrong impression about it which have gone abroad to our injury and against which, in the name of truth and justice, we must emphatically protest. As an establishment, it is perfectly adequate to do all the work required of it. Its equipment is sufficient for the purpose, and all the orders that have been received have been promptly and satisfactorily filled. But the trouble lies in the fact that, owing to the accursed spirit of indifference, laziness or want of ordinary business tact which prevails in the Department at Ottawa, these orders are kept back or not sent in till the very last moment, till the very eve almost of the occasions when the ammunition is wanted. The result is as may be imagined. They are not miracle workers at the cartridge factory. It takes a certain amount of time to manufacture quantities of ammunition, and it is therefore not surprising that the filling of orders so received should be sometimes behind and give a color of foundation for the injurious reports that are being circulated with regard to it. But for these the real blame lies at Ottawa and not at Quebec, and the sooner this truth is proclaimed and known the better it will be for our military defences and the Dominion. Take, for instance, the new rifle with which our militia are to be armed, and which is said to be now fully decided upon. Now, if these militia heads at Ottawa had any gumption whatever, they would give the order at once to get the ammunition ready

for it, but the probability is that it will be six months after the weapon is in the hands of our volunteers that they will wake up to the necessity of providing it, and then if it is not manufactured like greased lightning and ready on the spot it will be in order to throw the entire blame on the cartridge factory. The fact, as already said, is that the Militia Department is a close corporation, a rotten borough, which must be broken up, an Augean stable, which must be thoroughly cleaned out, before any good can be expected from it. We are living in dangerous and critical times, and, like the Duke of Cambridge at the head of the British army, all the worthless old fossils connected with our military system should be retired without further delay and removed as nuisances out of the way. Their usefulness is gone.

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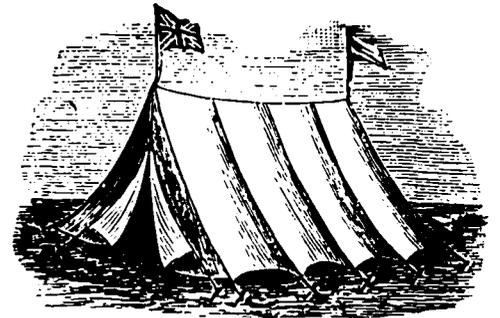
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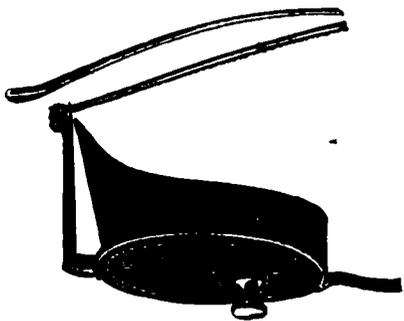
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