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MISCELLANEOUS.

How Toronto Discourages her Volunteers.

The interests of volunteering in Toronto still suffer by the delay in proceeding with the long expected new drill hall. The public interests have found an unappreciated private champion who is contesting, on a triviality, the validity of the by-law providing money for the purchase of a site, and recently adopted by a popular vote. It is difficult to see what the contestant hopes to gain as an offset to the heavy expenses of conducting his almost hopeless suit, now on appeal from the judgment of Mr. Justice Armour, who disallowed that portion of the by-law providing for the purchase of certain street areas notice of the expropriation of which had not been given, but refused to disallow the by-law as a whole. As the city council have power to at any time expropriate the streets in question, pressure should be brought to bear to have this done, thus removing any further pretext for continuing the suit, pending the settlement of which operations cannot be commenced. It has been hinted in some quarters that if the volunteers would induce the Ontario Rifle Association to abandon the Garrison Common to the Exhibition Association, the difficulty about the drill site would speedily be terminated, but directors of the exhibition association indignantly deny that they are involved in the suit as this hint would imply.

An Unfair Letter Answered.

In a letter appearing in our correspondence columns this week the P. Q. R. A. Statistical Officer defends or apologises for the peculiarities of the Executive of the recent annual matches, and whose actions were the subject of criticism in this paper. The letter contains the assurance that "the Executive Officer is probably less biassed in his judgment than those interested"; this we never questioned, but biassed or unbiassed it was his business to act in accordance with the rules laid down for his instruction.

We would return to our correspondent, as having more need of it, his injunction "be sure you are right, then go ahead." Nothing has appeared in the MILITIA GAZETTE to warrant the following paragraph, extracted from his communication:

"You do not seem to be quite consistent in complaining that the letter of the law was carried out on late comers and light triggers. * * There is no excuse for a trigger 1 1/2 pounds under pull, especially on a team."

Now our only complaint about the imposition of penalties was as follows:

"The competitors also were well satisfied with the manner in which

the range officer, exercised their authority, except in the case of one, whose unyielding adherence to the strict letter of the law wrought undeserved hardship in at least one instance where a more sympathetic nature would have overlooked an altogether unwitting and trivial breach of the rules through which not only the offenders themselves but their innocent associates on a regimental team were made to suffer the extreme penalty."

Reference was here made to the ruling out of two members of the Eighth Royal Rifles for being a few minutes late in making their appearance at the firing point. No time was lost, as two others of the same corps voluntarily shot in the time of their absent comrades. The men whose proper turn it was to go on arrived before their substitutes had fired many shots, and requested to be allowed to shoot next. The range officer was aware that by ruling them out he destroyed their team's chances; yet he absolutely refused to consider their application. That was plainly the case to which we referred; and we do not see how any one with our correspondent's acquaintance with the acts would construe our remarks—written in the plural, about two offenders—into a complaint about the disallowance of the score of one man, a member of another team, whose trigger was found to be light.

We can, however, readily understand why an attempt should be made to thus distort our meaning. The competitor with the light trigger was an Ottawa man; and whatever force may now attach to our criticism would entirely disappear could it be shown to be merely a selfish complaint about the just punishment of a fellow townsman.

As this insinuation has been put into writing, it has doubtless obtained wide circulation verbally. We are therefore obliged to our correspondent for the opportunity he has given us to set the facts of the case clearly before such of our readers as may have been inclined to believe the distorted version. We hope, however, that the number of such is few. We have at least tried to deserve a better opinion. We have every confidence, not only that our motives will be unquestioned by the great majority of the competitors at the P. Q. R. A. matches, but that they entirely concur with us in every criticism we have made concerning the conduct of the recent prize meeting.

Infantry Tactics.

An important memorandum upon the formation of Infantry for attack purposes, consequent upon the greater range and power of modern artillery and musketry fire, has been issued by Sir Archibald Alison for the guidance of the troops at Aldershot. The general principle lays down that troops allotted for the attack will, when of sufficient strength, be divided into first, second, and third lines, and proceeds:—

"The first line, sub-divided into firing line, supports, and reserves, engages the enemy, and is intended eventually to establish itself within charging distance of his position.

"The duties of the firing line are to keep up a well-directed fire upon the enemy from the moment such fire becomes effective, to push forward as near his position as possible, and thence to deliver such a

heavy fire as will enable the second line to approach the point selected for attack and drive him from it.

"The supports and reserves keep the firing line at its most efficient strength by filling the gaps caused by the casualties, protect its flanks by the fire they can bring to bear upon any troops which threaten them, and encourage those engaged in front by the feeling that there is a body of comrades following to assist them. As the final stage is reached, the supports and reserves become absorbed in the extended line.

"During the advance all serious flank attacks must be met by the reserves, which will also find any troops required for the long range fire.

"The second line assaults the position when its way is prepared through the losses inflicted upon the enemy by the first line.

"The third line either confirms the success or covers the retreat of the first and second lines, and so prevents defeat from becoming disaster.

"In the final stage of the attack, as the firing line nears the enemy's position, and cannot advance further without unnecessary exposure, a convenient position should be selected whence a telling fire may be brought to bear upon the points of the enemy's position selected for attack. Should the reserve be still in rear, it should now join the front line, so as to bring its fire up to the maximum of effect.

"The second line, well kept in hand, should now be led up to the firing line, opposite the selected points of the hostile line, where, from the concentrated fire of the artillery and of the firing line, the defenders must have suffered most. On reaching the firing line the second line will double through it with cheers, carrying the position at the point of the bayonet, the drums beating and bugles playing. The firing line will follow close in rear.

"The third line, formed in the most convenient manner according to local circumstances, will work forward ready to support the attack, to meet the enemy's reserves if a serious counter attack is made when the assault is delivered, and subsequently to confirm the success of the attack by opening a heavy fire upon the enemy as he retreats, or by the mere occupation of the captured position."

The memorandum deals in detail with the formation for a battalion acting alone, battalions in brigades and divisions, and with the mode of reinforcing. In advancing upon a position three zones are described, the first from 3,000 up to 1,700 yards, subject to artillery fire and rifle fire at extreme ranges; the second at from 1,700 to 800 yards, swept by artillery fire and unaimed rifle fire at long ranges; and the third, in two phases—the first from 800 to 150 yards, swept by aimed rifle fire, at medium and short ranges; and the second phase from 150 yards up to the position in which independent firing will be used with fixed sights, the second line joining the first for the final charge, which must be carried out with vigour, the men cheering loudly, drums beating, and bugles sounding. The third line following rapidly will, when the position is carried, open fire by volleys on the enemy as he retires.

Lord Wolseley on Military Genius.

(Admiralty and Horse Guards Gazette.)

In the number of the *Fortnightly Review* for this month there is an article by Lord Wolseley on the various qualities which distinguish the born military commander, the General whose soldiers will follow him with absolute confidence, and who is worthy of their trust. It is an instructive contribution to the discussion of the question how far great men have made their age, and how far they are merely the outcome of their time, products of natural laws, and merely instruments whereby great forces are applied. There are a number of other subjects touched upon by Lord Wolseley in this article, but the main purpose, apparently, that he has in view is to impress the fact that a great genius at the head of an army can do nearly as much in our time as Napoleon or Cæsar did in theirs. "The history of the Franco-German war," he writes, "has led some readers to imagine that, as war is now conducted—namely by a whole armed nation pieced together to form one great fighting machine—there is no longer the same room for the action and influence of one great commander as was the case in all former times." What Wolseley's own view is will be seen from the following passage:

"The Emperor William was a thorough soldier in all his instincts, and was wise enough to know that, as a general, he was no Marlborough, no Napoleon. He possessed the talent to recognize the power and wisdom of the able servants with whom Providence had provided him, and he had the courage—rare with princes—to trust them fully. The precise mode in which that great trinity, the King, Bismarck and Moltke worked together is, and must long continue to be, a mystery to all outsiders, but it worked as one man, as one directing mind. It took the place and fulfilled the functions which in all other armies, and in all other times, has been the *role* of one great general."

Lord Wolseley asks whether the history of the last twenty years could be written intelligibly if the figures of Cavour and Bismarck were omitted from its pages. More pertinently he says:—Should we ever have had the crusades had Peter the Hermit never been born?" and he remarks:—

"If Wellington in early life had accepted the small post in the Irish Excise which his family pressed him to take, or after Talavera had he resigned his command in disgust with the interference of Ministers, as ignorant of war as he was of theology, Napoleon would, in all human probability, have died in peace and triumph at the Tuileries. After Sir John Moore's death, there was no English general save Wellington. In the same way, a hundred years before, Marlborough was our only commander who was fit to cope with Villars and the other marshals of France at that time. In Anne's reign, the Grand Alliance, which may be said to have saved European liberty, could have only been kept together by the tact and military genius of Marlborough. It was his great ability in the field that secured the independence of Holland, that saved Europe from the grasp of the great French king, as she was saved a century later from the tyranny of the great Corsican, by another illustrious British soldier."

The views expressed by the writer on Wellington's character are of great interest, but will be certain to excite controversy. Lord Wolseley believes him to have been deficient in the greatest quality of the commander—the "personal magnetism" possessed by Cæsar, Hannibal, Marlborough, Napoleon and General Lee. He speaks of his "just reasoning power," but says he was a "thorough aristocrat at heart," believing that the British soldier was only invincible "when restrained by the most rigorous discipline and led by English gentlemen." The marvellous magnetic power of the great, generous leader over his men was certainly undervalued by Wellington. He used to say that Waterloo was won in the playgrounds of Eton and Harrow, and no man has ever set a higher value upon good breeding and blue blood in officers than he did. "There was," says Lord Wolseley, "no genial sympathy between him and his soldiers; they respected him, and, during his later campaigns, they had the most unbounded confidence in his military genius, but beyond his own immediate military household, with whom he lived on terms of intimacy, no one loved him. It is for this reason that I think he will never be classed in the same rank of military greatness—of real military genius—with the five great leaders of men I have named above. Military genius may be possessed by many men who are in no sense of the word great commanders":—

"Military genius in its highest sense is a combination of many qualities and powers. A man may shine as an eminent military historian, and yet be wanting in some of the simple attributes without which no man can even be a good private soldier. In fact, he need not be a soldier at all. Mr. Kinglake and Thomas Carlyle have shown genius in describing actions in which they had no share. Sir William Napier, though a soldier, made his type of genius most felt as a military historian. Strategy, as a science, can be learnt from illustrations drawn in chalk on a blackboard; and an able man who has mastered its rules and laws, and who is thoroughly well versed in military history, may write valuable works on it, although he may be entirely destitute of that sound and clear judgment without which no general can be worth anything in the field. Jomini, the greatest of writers on tactics, never held any independent command in war."

The author discusses very briefly the relative influences exercised by the poet and the great leader of men on the events of the world. Naturally he declines to decide whether the British nation owes more to Byron than to Wellington, or whether Germany is more indebted to Heine than to Bismarck; but he affirms that, in dwelling on the gifts of the imagination, we are apt to forget the benefits we have received from men of action. Insisting on the need of great application if even a born military genius is to succeed and be converted into a victorious commander, Lord Wolseley points the moral by a reference to the American war:—

"In the war between the Northern and Southern states of America, both armies were composed of great masses of newly-raised levies. Heaven-born genius, unallied with military education and knowledge, had therefore the best chance of making itself felt, and of coming to the front. Yet what is the lesson the history of that war teaches us? All those whose names will be for ever remembered in connection with it by the English-speaking race throughout the world were educated soldiers. Lee and Grant, Stonewall Jackson, Sherman, McClellan, Sheridan, Longstreet, Johnston, Hill, and a host of others, whose names are and will long be household words in their own states, were all graduates of West Point, that most excellent of military colleges."

Besides education, and absolute coolness in danger, which was Marlborough's greatest characteristic, Lord Wolseley believes that the great commander should be able to "calculate chances," and this can only be done by a free exercise of the imagination. Wellington, for example, said that he had spent his life in trying to imagine what was

going on beyond a distant range of hills. Speaking of the probable future of military development, the distinguished author of the article says:—

“Small and large armies have each had their day. The present age is one of large masses of fairly trained soldiers, but it is by no means certain to me that the time may not yet come again when all nations will once more resort to small standing armies of the most highly trained and disciplined soldiers. We may find that the soldier, to be at his best, or to be even thoroughly efficient, will require such long, and above all things, such constant training, that an army consisting of a people in arms will be impossible. In fact, we may find out by-and-by that a comparatively small standing army of carefully selected men, the flower of the nation, highly skilled in all manly exercises, in all military arts, and kept in a constant state of perfect training, is a more effective weapon for fighting purposes than the slow-moving or more or less unwieldy armies of the present day.”

Lord Wolseley refers to the present position of England and to our military and naval condition in the following terms:—

“The torrent of anarchical Democracy lately let loose upon England is undermining, and must eventually destroy, that fabric of military and naval strength upon which our stability as a nation rests. With its destruction, hundreds of millions of money, now invested in British enterprises, will be removed to some country with an executive government strong enough to maintain order and secure the rights of property at home, and strong enough, in a military sense, to hold its own against all foreign aggression. Our recent naval manoeuvres will certainly cause all Europe to question our naval strength, even if it does not open the eyes of our own electorate to the very disagreeable truths long known to every one not seated on the ‘front benches.’”

The Naval and Military Resources of the Colonies.

(Concluded.)

BY ROBERT O'BYRNE, F.R.G.S.

(Admiralty and Horse Guards Gazette.)

The chief force, the Militia, consists of about 4,500 non-commissioned officers and men, composed of different arms, as given in the preceding list. Engagement is for a period not exceeding five years, but members may, with the sanction of the commandant, re-engage during the last year of their service for a further period of one, three, or five years. Any person so engaged may (with the approval of the Governor in Council, if an officer, or of the commandant if below the rank of an officer) resign from the militia, but not without paying a certain sum, according to the number of years served. A man to be engaged must be a British subject, and between the ages of eighteen and thirty-five; but men who have previously served in the British Regular or Auxiliary Services, or in any Colonial Militia or Volunteers, may be enrolled if under the age of forty-five.

The standard of height for each arm of the service is, with proportionate chest measurement, as follows:—Cavalry, 5ft. 6in. to 5ft. 11in.; Artillery—gunners, 5ft. 7in. and upwards; drivers, 5ft. 5in. to 5ft. 8in.; Infantry and Engineers, 5ft. 6in. and upwards.

Exceptions to the standard of height may be allowed by the commandant. There are besides some special regulations concerning the establishment of members of the Torpedo Corps, of boys, musicians, etc., which it is unnecessary to detail here; of course the usual medical examination is requisite. After being passed into the ranks, members of the force—officers and men—are entitled to payment for attendance at parades and drills, according to a fixed scale; recruit drills are also paid, but at a reduced rate. The parades are distinguished as: A whole day parade, not less than eight hours; a half, not less than three hours; and a night drill, not less than one hour and a half.

All combatant ranks on the roll (commanding officers of corps and brigade and regimental staff excepted), in order to be classed as effective, must attend in each year three whole days, fifteen half days, and twenty-four night drills; and must undergo the prescribed gunnery or musketry course. Any officer who does not qualify as an effective is not, except under special circumstances, allowed to retain his commission. In like manner, any non-commissioned officer who does not qualify is reduced to the ranks. Any member of the force absent without leave for a period of three months is liable to dismissal.

Officers are appointed by the Council of Defence recommending (on the nomination of the commandant) to the Governor in Council competent officers, who have previously served in the British regular or auxiliary forces, or in any colonial militia or volunteers, who may be considered suitable for employment. All such officers are posted on probation of six months, during which time they must pass such practical examination as may be directed, failing which their commissions are not confirmed. Every other candidate for a commission must pass through

the school of instruction, which institution is now under the able management of the assistant adjutant-general. On selection, the candidate is posted by the commandant on probation for six months, and has to pass certain technical and practical examinations.

In order to insure a flow of promotion among the officers, lieutenants must retire at forty years of age, captains at forty-five, majors at fifty, and lieutenant-colonels at fifty-five. But the Governor-General may, nevertheless, on the recommendation of the commandant, require any officer who would otherwise so retire, notwithstanding his age, to continue to perform his duty.

Naturally one of the chief considerations in establishing a force in Australia is how to preserve discipline in it. It is at once apparent that the code and general system which control British regular troops living together in barracks, and having while with the colours no other occupation than military, could not possibly be applied to the militia, which forms the bulk of the Victorian Army, nor even to the permanent force without some modification. What has been done in this. The groundwork of the British regular code has been taken and altered or modified as required. The following paragraph occurs in the Victorian Military Regulations:—

“The Queen's Regulations, and the customs of the Imperial military Service, when not inconsistent with ‘The Discipline Act, 1870,’ and Acts amending the same, and any regulations made thereunder, will be taken generally as a guide in all matters of discipline affecting the permanent force,” and in the main this applies also to the militia—the alterations lately made, and now in course of development in the English army, for giving non-commissioned officers and men much more freedom than formerly, are all in a direction to suit the Australian forces. The men comprising which are, as before remarked, very intelligent, for the greater part of their time free from any restraint of military discipline, and, be it remembered, not dependent upon the Service for a living. As regards ideas and habits of military discipline, the men of the Victorian militia are about on a par with our volunteers in England. Like them, they do not habitually live together in any military organization; like them they are intelligent, and amenable to reason; but unlike the English Volunteer, the Victorian militiaman is paid for each parade he attends. “Point d'argent, point de Suisse” is an idea he has borrowed from the old world. So that the authorities have more hold on the Australian militia than we have on our home volunteers, and hence most of the punishments take the form of fines. Here is a specimen:—

FINES WHICH MAY BE LEVIED BY COMMANDING OFFICERS.

	£	s.	d.
For appearing on parade improperly dressed, arms, etc., dirty, inattention..	0	2	6
Neglect to notify change of address within fourteen days of such change...	0	2	6
Leaving ranks without permission.....	0	7	6
Drunkenness on parade or duty, or in camp, or elsewhere in uniform.....	0	10	0
Minor cases of insubordination.....	0	10	0
Failing to become effective.....	1	0	0
Being absent from annual inspection.....	1	0	0

The amount of some of these fines gives an idea of the pecuniary circumstances of the Australian private soldier.

The uniform of the artillery and infantry, as we have said before, resembles the British. The infantry is armed with the Martini-Henry rifle.

There is also a militia reserve not liable to be called on for service except in case of national emergency, notified by proclamation in the *Government Gazette*. For the last two out of the five years for which recruits are sworn in they would be in the reserve; but they may be permitted by the commandant to serve the whole five years in the militia. Members desirous of leaving the militia may be allowed (in lieu of paying fine) to serve the remainder of their time in the militia reserve, provided they have not less than six months' effective service. There are also certain regulations under which a militia reserve man can return to the militia, or re-engage in the militia reserve, provided he is not over forty-five years of age. The men of this reserve receive no pay for any drills or rifle practice they may attend, except when called out by proclamation; but they have certain facilities for the purchase of rifles and ammunition, and are eligible for musketry prizes at the annual musketry course of their corps.

There is a regular Chaplains' department; also a regular Medical branch of the service under the orders of a Principal Medical Officer. The members receive certain pay for certain duties, but have other practical besides military. They are guided, as far as possible, by the regulations of the Medical department of our own army.

The gunnery and musketry practices are arranged and carried out as nearly as possible on the same lines as ours. All ranks, cavalry, infantry and artillery, appear to take great interest in these practices, and also in the theoretical instruction, of which they receive a fair share. One great advantage the Australians possess over the soldiers in Great Britain is the vast amount of open space available for ranges. At

Williamstown, a short distance from Melbourne, there is an immense tract of what we should call common (it is not unlike the marshes near Eastbourne and Pevensey, but drier), facing the sea, which forms a deep bay in this part. It is, I believe, the property of the Defence Department, and is completely covered with rifle ranges, so close together, and so very avidously shot over, that it was almost surprising that there was no accident. Besides the military forces, members of numerous rifle clubs—there is a movement, we believe, on foot for forming these clubs into volunteer corps—fire there. There is another range at Uesternwick, in another direction not far from Melbourne. With such facilities and advantages the Victorian soldier should shoot well; and so he does. The artillerymen usually shoot out to sea; they have no difficulty in training garrison and field gunners; but the field guns, of which there are three batteries, labour under the disadvantage of possessing no regular artillery horses. They have harness, and an arrangement is made with civilians for supplying the necessary horses when required.

Whether this would be found to work efficiently in case of need remains to be proved. Occasionally the guns, or some of them, are horsed and driven. It would, under these circumstances, one would think, be difficult to get good drivers; though, perhaps, less so in Australia than in other countries, as so many men there are accustomed to driving and riding in all forms. With regard to transport and commissariat services, there is the same absence of horses, and, moreover, of vehicles too; and hiring arrangements, as above, have been entered into with the contractors to supply the necessary horses and carriages complete whenever called upon. It is possible this would answer very well (being different to artillery). Melbourne is a large city and rich; there are plenty of horses, carts, and wagons, &c. Every year lately the troops have assembled for exercise for a certain number of days in camp at Easter, at some distance out of Melbourne, and the transport having been managed partly as above, and partly by rail, has been found to work well. Of course, the force to be supplied is not very large. According to a report that has just reached us of a recent mobilization the Victorian Government seized the opportunity of the sudden interruption of telegraphic communication with Europe on June 30 last to order the immediate mobilization of the forces available for the defence of Melbourne. Perhaps the spirit in which the mobilization was undertaken could not be more aptly typified than in the instructions given by Capt. Thomas, in command of the naval forces of Victoria, to his second in command. "I ordered" (so he reports to the Minister of Defence) "Lieut.-Com. the Hon. Hely Hutchinson to . . . proceed with all despatch to Queenscliff, with written instructions to board all foreign men-of-war entering the port, and to request their captains to anchor at the Heads, pending further instructions from the government. In the event of their not complying with this request, he was ordered to wire to me, and immediately to retire on Hobson's Bay."

The order to mobilise was given at as inconvenient a season as it is well possible to conceive, on a Saturday, late in the afternoon, when a number of the men had already received and availed themselves of leave of absence till Monday. In addition to this it came at a time when the armament of Nepean and Point Franklin was in the act of being changed, and the South Channel fort had not been handed over to military charge. A large amount of work in making up and storing ammunition for the new guns was therefore necessary, which would not under ordinary circumstances have been required. There was a difficulty, too, in finding the requisite number of stokers.

In the face of all these drawbacks the result attained may apparently be looked upon as very satisfactory. The land forces manned the forts at the Heads and got everything ready for action. They laid such mines as could be laid without obstructing navigation, and practised with electric searching lights and code signalling. The preparations were considered quite sufficient to prevent the colony being taken by surprise. Capt. Thomas also describes himself as "well satisfied with the general efficiency" of the ships, finding everything in thorough working order in the torpedo depot and boats. One of the gunboats left to carry out her orders on Saturday night at 11.30, five hours after the order to mobilise was given, having been manned and provisioned in the interval. "The men of the torpedo depot worked without cessation during the night, and were ready for action when I inspected them at six o'clock the following morning."

All this is satisfactory enough, if only we can be quite certain that an Imperial fleet, so strong that "it is difficult to conceive of any enemy" venturing to encounter it, would be duly forthcoming at the proper moment.

Some severe fighting is reported from the Soudan, which ended in the defeat of the Dervishes, a force of whom attacked Fort Khormoussa, and were repulsed by our British troops. A gunboat repulsed the Dervish fleet, and the British loss was considerable.

The Rifle.

Rideau Range presented a scene of unusual excitement on Saturday afternoon 15th inst., the occasion being a challenge match between No. 2 Company, G.G.F.G., and No. 6 Company, 43rd Rifles, combined with which the members of No. 6 Company held the last competition for the "Challenge Shield" presented to them last spring by the ladies of New Edinburgh. The fair sex of that ward turned out in force to witness the final competition, and were liberal in applause of Pte. Short, the lucky winner. In the first and second competitions Pte. Short led each time, and though on Saturday there were several scores ahead of him, his lead on the first two occasions proved too much to be overcome. His scores were as follows: First 78, second 78, third, 80, making a total of 236 points, and Pte. Short deserves credit for the manner in which he has come to the front in his first season.

In the company match, the teams consisted of fourteen men a side, the ranges being 200, 400 and 500 yards, 7 shots at each (the same as for the shield). Before the shooting commenced, the prevailing feeling was that young No. 6 was in for a bad beating, the time being still fresh in the memories of riflemen when No. 2 of the Guards beat the rest of their battalion in a match with ten men a side, and also the 43rd Bn. in a similar competition. However, when the firing was finished at 200 yards No. 6 was 14 points ahead. This greatly encouraged the Rifles, but at 400 yards their spirits were again sent down to zero by the fact that the Guards had gained 14 points, and the teams went back to the last range each with 715 points. Then came the tug-of-war, both sides winding up with splendid scores. Pte. Armstrong, of the Guards, making the magnificent total of 96 points, and Sergt. Wm. Short, of the same team, 89 points. Corpl. Dial, of the Rifles, came next with 87 points.

When the totals were added up, much to the surprise of everybody, No. 6 was found to be victorious with a majority of 29 points.

There can be no doubt but that the wonderful improvement in a company so lately organized as No. 6 is entirely due to the great impetus occasioned by their shooting for the handsome "challenge shield" given to them by the ladies. Saturday's score was as follows:

NO. 6 COMPANY, 43RD.		NO. 2 COMPANY, GUARDS.	
Corpl. Dial.....	87	Pte. Armstrong.....	96
Capt. Bell.....	86	Sergt. Short.....	89
Staff-Sergt. W. T. Mason.....	85	Pte. Wiltshire.....	81
Pte. McJanet.....	84	Sergt. Dawson.....	81
Pte. R. A. Brown.....	83	Sergt. Codd.....	80
Pte. J. T. Higginson.....	80	Lieut. Gray.....	80
Pte. S. Short.....	80	Pte. Brown.....	79
Pte. E. W. Gilbert.....	74	Sergt. Newby.....	77
Pte. A. Lough.....	72	Sergt. Mailleue.....	75
Pte. W. Tink.....	72	Sergt. Colman.....	67
Pte. J. M. Bell.....	67	Lieut. Watters.....	59
Sergt. W. Savage.....	65	Pte. Lamb.....	59
Corpl. W. Lambkin.....	60	Capt. Toller.....	56
Pte. W. D. Barnhardt.....	57	Pte. Stringer.....	44
Total.....	1052	Total.....	1023

It will be noticed that the average shooting of the winning team ranks as first class, the first ten men averaging over 80, and the whole team averaging over 75 points. The range totals were: 200 yards, Rifles, 364, Guards, 350; 400 yards, Rifles, 351, Guards, 365; 500 yards, Rifles, 337, Guards, 308.

THE OTTAWA RIFLE CLUB.

After a long holiday, since early August, the Ottawa Rifle Club resumed on Saturday afternoon last their series of spoon competitions. The day was a perfect one, the light being good and scarce a breath of wind stirring. High scores prevailed, as will be seen from the list appended. The ranges were 200, 400 and 500 yards, seven shots at each, and standing position at 200. The tie for the first spoon was shot off, Major Anderson winning with three bull's eyes:

Major W. P. Anderson..	30	32	30	92	J. E. Hutcheson.....	24	27	29	80
Capt. J. Wright.....	29	30	33	92	N. Morrison.....	29	26	25	80
A. Pink.....	27	31	32	90	T. McJanet.....	21	30	28	79
J. P. Nutting.....	29	30	31	90	S. M. Rogers.....	26	28	25	79
Capt. C. F. Cox.....	27	34	29	90	W. E. Cooke.....	18	31	27	76
E. D. Sutherland.....	28	34	27	89	Dr. Geo. Hutchison....	25	24	27	76
F. W. Smith.....	26	33	27	86	J. D. Holbrook.....	24	31	21	76
C. S. Scott.....	23	30	31	84	W. A. Jamieson.....	27	28	21	76
T. C. Boville.....	24	27	32	83	F. C. Lightfoot.....	18	29	27	74
J. H. Ellis.....	28	31	34	83	Major H. F. Perley....	24	25	25	74
H. H. Gray.....	29	30	24	83	R. Moodie.....	19	32	21	72
T. Carroll.....	22	31	29	82	E. Coste.....	22	25	23	70
J. D. Taylor.....	16	32	32	80					

The Orleans Garrison Artillery Competition.

The following are the official returns of the prize winners at the garrison artillery competition at the Island of Orleans, Quebec, commencing on the 10th inst., and under the direction of the Dominion Artillery Association:

64 PR. R.M.L. AND 40 PR. B.L.R. GUNS. Aggregate Scores.

	Points.	Prize.
1 No. 3 By. Halifax Bde	222	\$25 00
2 No. 1 " Levis G. A.	204	10 00

64 PR. R.M.L. GUN. Aggregate Scores.

1 No. 3 By. Halifax Bde.....	125	\$50 00
2 No. 1 " Levis G. A.	117	30 00
3 No. 2 " P.E.I. Bde.....	100	20 00

Individual Scores.

	M. S.	Points.	Prize.
1 Br. Weatherbie, No. 3 By. Halifax Bde.....	11.05	36	\$20 00
2 Corpl. Spence, " "	12.00	36	15 00
3 Sergt. Moore, No. 1 By. Levis G. A.	9.17	32	15 00
4 " Lacroix " "	15.20	32	10 00
5 " Dover, No. 2 By. P.E.I. Bde.....	11.51	30	10 00
6 " Carroll, " Halifax "	12.20	30	4 00
7 " Lamontagne, No. 2 By. Quebec Bde.....	12.25	30	4 00
8 " Connolly, No. 1 By. P.E.I. Bde.....	9.19	29	4 00
9 Gr. Brown, No. 1 By. N. B. Bde.....	10.47	29	4 00
10 Sergt. Vanhorne, Yarmouth By.....	11.27 1/2	29	4 00
11 Gr. Allison, No. 6 By. Montreal Bde.....	11.39	29	2 00
12 " Long, No. 2 By. P.E.I. Bde.....	9.55	28	2 00
13 Sergt. Woodman, Digby Battery.....	12.30	28	2 00
14 " Burnham, " "	12.47	28	2 00
15 Sergt.-Major Berube, No. 1 By. Levis.....	13.25	28	2 00

Officers.

Capt. Crawford, N.B. Bde.....	26	\$25 00
" Newman, Halifax "	8.50	25 15 00
Lieut. DeWolf, " "	9.05	25 10 00

40 PR. R. B. L. GUN. Aggregate Scores.

1. No. 3 By. Halifax Bde.....	97	\$40 00
2. No. 4 " N. B. "	92	25 00
3. No. 5 " Halifax "	91	15 00

Individual Scores.

1. Corpl. Theakston, No. 5 By. Halifax Bde.....	35	\$20 00	
2. Br. Weatherbie, No. 3 By. Halifax Bde.....	31	12 50	
3. Gr. MacNachtan, Cobourg By.....	31	12 50	
4. Gr. Armstrong, No. 4 By. N. B. Bde.....	30	10 00	
5. Sergt.-Major Berube, No. 1 By., Levis.....	26	5 00	
Dir.			
6. Sergt. Lacroix, No. 1 By., Levis.....	8	25	5 00
7. Sergt. Lamb, No. 1 By. N. B. Bde.....	7	25	4 00
8. Br. Facey, No. 4 By. Montreal Bde.....	8	24	4 00
C. S. Score.			
9. Corpl. McGowan, No. 4 By. N. B. Bde ..	7	20	2 00
10. Sergt. Burnham, Digby By.....	7	19	2 00
11. Sergt. West, No. 3 By. Halifax Bde	7	19	2 00
12. Corpl. Spence, No. 3 By. Halifax Bde....	6	24	2 00

SHIFTING ORDNANCE COMPETITION.

A Shift.

1. Halifax Bde.....	4' 11"	1-5	\$40 00
2. Montreal Bde.....	6' 08"		25 00

B Shift.

1. Halifax Bde.....	3' 47"		40 00
2. P. E. I. Bde.....	3' 58"	2-5	25 00

The British Columbia Militia.

(From a Special Correspondent.)

On the afternoon of Saturday the 15th Sept., the militia at Victoria, B. C., consisting of "C" Battery, R. C. A., three batteries of the B. C. B. G. A., and the Victoria Rifle Co., were inspected by Lt.-Col. Holmes, R. C. A., acting D. A. G.,

The permanent corps, as was to be expected, were smart and impressed one with the idea of their fitness for work. The local corps who paraded with their overcoats "en banderole" and haversacks over their left shoulders looked neat and clean and Lt.-Col. Prior had good reason to be proud of his command.

After the "march past"—which was a very creditable performance so far as the local militia was concerned—"C" Battery was marched off the parade and the B. C. B. G. A. was exercised by their Lt.-Col. Afterwards the D. A. G. required some of the other officers to exercise the brigade as a battalion in ordinary field evolutions. In these they acquitted themselves fairly well, although through the want of a decent sized drill shed, some of the movements were entirely new to them. The "turn out" was a good one and a great improvement on the performances of previous years. The Garrison Artillery—and in particular Batteries 2 and 3—are deserving of praise for their appearance and steadiness on parade.

The band of "C" Battery contributed much to the enjoyment of the operators but must have sadly interfered with the transmission and reception of orders during battalion drill.

One cannot but feel regret that some of the batteries are not stronger in point of numbers as well as in physique, and that the Rifle Company is not formed into a battery of artillery. It seems a mistake to keep up a solitary company of rifles in a town where garrison gunners are required as they are in Victoria for coast defence. In British Columbia and the maritime provinces having, as these provinces have, a large seaboard to protect, artillery should be *the arm* of the service. It is hoped that the general during his visit here will seriously look into this matter and see that some augmentation is made in the force.

The Lundy's Lane Historical Society.

A meeting of the Lundy's Lane Historical Society was held recently at Drummondville, when about twenty members were present. The proceedings were most interesting. Four classes of members of the society were adopted: Resident, corresponding, honorary and life members. A member reported that very shortly two drums used at the battle of Lundy's Lane would be placed in his possession for the benefit of the society. Other relics were also spoken of. Two members gave an interesting account of a visit to Lundy's Lane thirty-two years ago by a United States military fraternity, together with General Scott, of 1814 fame, bearing the name of "Bucktails," on account of wearing buckskin trousers. General Scott, on the occasion of his visit, was very cheerful, and spoke of his wound at Lundy's Lane battle, and that he lay for some time at a spot where Whybra's forge now stands on the rising hill. It was then recounted how the American forces withdrew towards Street's mills and Chippawa, so did General Drummond a short distance only, towards the north, very naturally, but held possession of the battle ground, and very early next morning removed the British and American cannons to Queenston. On the same visit, thirty-two years ago, there was a friendly interchange of historic accounts, and testing the light soil where two piles of rails had been placed for burning many remains which could not otherwise be disposed of.

The president reported that other historic societies had lately been organized in Canada. In the province of Quebec and other maritime provinces there is a growing interest in the study of Canadian history. If our schools and colleges in Ontario and Quebec do not encourage the study of history, societies must be formed that will do so. It is a singular fact that there is only one headstone in memory of any of the British officers who fell at Lundy's Lane battle, July 25th, 1814. It is in memory of Lieut. William Hemphill, of the Royals, who fell on the night of the battle. The headstones which mark other graves of officers indicate other engagements, as: Lieut.-Col. Gordon and Capt. Torrens, of the Royals, who were killed at Fort Erie. Robert Dossie Patteson, captain in the 7th Regiment of Infantry, Royal, 1st, Warwickshire, who also fell at Fort Erie, 17th September, 1814. Lieut.-Col. Hon. Cecil Bishopp, 1st Foot Guards, and inspecting field officer in Upper Canada, who died 16th July, 1813, in consequence of a wound received by a stray shot while returning in a small boat after the brilliant capture of Black Rock, Buffalo, 11th July. Besides these graves in Lundy's Lane cemetery, there are also those of Col. Delater and Major Leonard, who lived a few years afterwards, and were interred there. Capt. Patteson's monument is of massive Scotch granite, with a marble tablet; it is costly and durable. The other memorials require attention and repairs. The graves and headstones of Capt. James Secord (militia), and of his wife Laura Secord, the heroine of June 24th, 1813, are much neglected, and indicate the necessity of some worthy improvements. They died at Chippawa, but lie mid hundreds of others equally meritorious, but whose graves are unmarked and unknown in the same cemetery. The president announced that Rev. Mr. Fessenden, of Chippawa, had agreed to give a lecture in October on the "United Empire Loyalists," on behalf of this society, and E. Cruickshank, of Fort Erie, on the battle of Lundy's Lane, in November.

The corresponding secretary, Rev. Canon Houston, was requested to ask the Minister of Militia for a list of the officers and men engaged in the battle of Lundy's Lane, and also to correspond with the Horse Guards for a similar list of the regular troops. In Christ churchyard, Omence, the remains of Ensign Hancock, who carried the King's colours of one of the regiments at Lundy's Lane, are interred, and we regret to say the headstone is fallen, if not broken. It should be restored by the parish, in which he resided many years. An uncle of Mr. A. G. Robinson, C. E., Orillia, the late Major "Bill" Robinson, of the 8th King's Regiment, was struck in the mouth by two buckshot at this battle. He was presented with a valuable sword by the Canadian government at the close of the war, for his services in drilling the militia, and returned to the old country, where he died. It is to be regretted that no action has yet been taken upon the suggestion of Mr. J. M. Hunter, of Barrie, to form a historical society for the county of Simcoe. There is an interesting work for such a society about Penetanguishene or Orillia alone.—*Orillia Packet*.

Correspondence.

[This paper does not necessarily share the views expressed in correspondence published in its columns; the use of which is freely granted to writers on topics of interest to the militia.]

OUR CRITICISM OF THE P. Q. R. A. EXECUTIVE.

EDITOR MILITIA GAZETTE,—On my return to town recently, your issues of the 9th and 16th August were handed me for comment.

Allow me to express satisfaction that you are interested enough in rifle shooting to criticise such matters in an intelligent manner, and that you do not hesitate to lay blame on any shoulders that you consider deserve it. However, I would add the old saying, "be sure you're right then fire ahead."

In brief. 1st, I consider the poor scores in military matches generally, and in those of the P. Q. R. A. in particular, arise simply from *neglect of practice*. 2nd, I am sure the P. Q. R. A. officers and committee carried out the *spirit* of their rules, if not the *letter* of the law.

Now, in further explanation, I would say that the Executive Officer allowed he made some mistakes in copying his return; *two* mistakes in the *deductions* and also the mistake of inverting the order of the volleys.

He must have credit for making such a correction, when the doubt was explained to him. Many of us fancy that similar mistakes by various officers have occurred in similar matches on other occasions, and have not been corrected. Competitors can also have this satisfaction, that the target scores were absolutely correct, having been doubly checked. Why were the scores so low, only one-half of the best hitting the target?

Because, most of those teams had not practised that kind of firing beforehand, and, as a matter of drill, were rusty. Teams enter and take part in such matches in a haphazard manner, then come to grief and grumble. If teams won't practise at home, let the Executive Officer drill them with a snap cap volley or two before commencing.

Fault is found with the word of command as too *quick*. My experience is that too *slow* a command is a much worse fault.

As to deductions, that is a matter of opinion, and the Executive Officer is probably less biased in his judgment than those interested. He said he could not carry out the letter of the law and so carried out its spirit to the best of his ability. You will find on examination that deducting three points instead of one point makes very little difference.

However, a suggestion has been made to classify volleys as good, bad and indifferent. How would you value these?

The hour of the competitors' meeting was posted for 24 hours and nobody asked that it should be changed.

I understand you ask for a "sympathetic nature" in a range officer; is not that a new qualification?

You do not seem to be quite consistent in complaining that the letter of the law was carried out on late comers and light triggers. There is surely little excuse for such faults. Large competitions must be carried out on time, and there is no excuse for a trigger $1\frac{1}{2}$ pounds under pull, especially on a team. It is a rudimentary principle that a team captain sees that triggers are tested beforehand.

It is true, I have heard that the D. C. R. A. are not as particular in these matters as they used to be, but that is not a good excuse to plead in other matches.

In conclusion, let those interested assist in improvements in future, make practical suggestions and practise the manual and firing exercise beforehand; thereby they will materially help all who perform the duties of the Executive, as well as

THE STATISTICAL OFFICER.

A PLEA FOR SIGHTING SHOTS.

EDITOR MILITIA GAZETTE,—Will you kindly allow me space in your valuable paper for a few remarks in connection with the D. R. A. meeting which has just closed.

I read in yours dated Sept. 6th that the D.R.A. was a great success and great satisfaction was expressed by competitors at the treatment accorded them. Now, Mr. Editor, it is quite clear you did not hear all the competitors express themselves. I suppose you will term me a "kicker," but I believe the day will come when the kickers will be classed where they belong and be entitled to the reverence due them. I am only echoing the sentiments of many who thought it was as well to say nothing but stay at home next time.

In the first place we suppose that all prize meetings are held as incentives to good rifle shooting and to make the soldiers of our country good shots. Let us look and see who fill our ranks? Is it only the rich, they who have time and money, who can work themselves up to a state of proficiency? I think not. There would be slim battalions were this the case. Then let us think how many are deprived of this needful practice who have to work hard every day to earn a livelihood, and yet

are our soldiers, our riflemen, who take for a holiday the D.R.A. meeting.

Now for the treatment awaiting them. To many the range is new, the rifle is new, perhaps some may have been on the range many times before, but they are out of practice, as business demands their attention when at home. Still they think a few shots on the extra series just before entering the match will give them an inkling as to the elevation and windage. The competitor finds on arriving there that a large crowd is pushing around an officer who is "timing" the tickets; at last he gets the officer's attention. When do you fire? he is asked. "At 9.30" is the reply. "Oh, I can't time you before 11 o'clock." He is then timed, of course 11 o'clock, and goes away in disgust. This is my experience in the matter and many others to my knowledge as well. I carried an extra series ticket the first two days, and even then got no chance to fire it preceding a regular match at the same range, waiting so long one day in hopes of getting a chance to fire that I came very near being ruled off for being late at the next match.

What are the extra series for? How can poor men who have sufficient money only to pay their board bill enter them half a dozen times or so in hopes of getting some valuable hints as to wind, elevation, etc., or beat some big score in order to get the last dollar in it. I claim they are more discouraging than anything else. Some remark that sighting shots take up too much time. Well, that to hang around on extra series for an hour or two is shorter than a few minutes taken, after once a competitor has taken up his position to fire in a regular match, is more than I can see, and no time during a meeting will a shot be of more value to him than just before commencing his score. All marksmen know that. If the great crack shots don't like sighting shots let them proceed on their score without them. Let there be fair play, but it is not fair play where some competitors have the privilege of shooting just before a regular match opens and their turn to shoot, and others have not. Some claim that sighters give increased advantage to old shots over younger and out-of-practice ones.

Mr. Editor, a bull's eye is a bull's eye and counts 5 and no more, and is as good a 5 for anyone making it. One striking instance of what sighters would have done for one competitor at the D. R. A. was that the first shot in every match that he shot (and he shot in all) his score commenced with an outer, except in two, these were one a magpie the other an inner. Another plea is, there are no sighters at Wimbledon. That is a poor excuse. Wait until we know we are going there, then let us practise without sighters. We can't all go to Wimbledon.

Give us the old system if the new one does not do. If it takes up too much time give us a less number of matches with more prizes added. Let the average soldier win enough, if nothing more, to pay his board, or car fare. Hold out some encouragement for him. Let the big guns be content with three or four first prizes, and not eight or ten. Unless something like this is done, Mr. Editor, I think you will see in the near future less interest in rifle shooting and fewer competitors in Ottawa.

KICKER.

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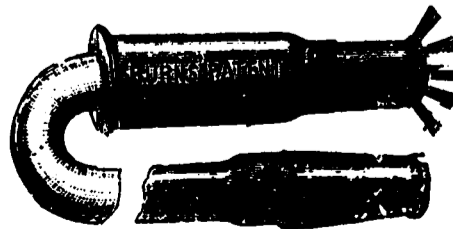
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Sault Ste. Marie Canal.

Notice to Contractors.

SEALED TENDERS addressed to the undersigned and endorsed "Tenders for the Sault Ste. Marie Canal," will be received at this office until the arrival of the eastern and western mails on **TUESDAY**, the 23rd day of October, next, for the formation and construction of a Canal on the Canadian side of the river, through the island of St. Mary.

The works will be let in two sections, one of which will embrace the formation of the canal through the island; the construction of locks, &c. The other, the deepening and widening of the channel-way at both ends of the canal; construction of piers, &c.

A map of the locality, together with plans and specifications of the works, can be seen at this office on and after **TUESDAY**, the 9th day of October, next, where printed forms of tender can also be obtained. A like class of information, relative to the works, can be seen at the office of the Local Officer in the Town of Sault Ste. Marie, Ont.

Intending contractors are requested to bear in mind that tenders will not be considered unless made strictly in accordance with the printed forms and be accompanied by a letter stating that the person or persons tendering have carefully examined the locality and the nature of the material found in the trial pits.

In the case of firms, there must be attached the actual signatures of the full name, the nature of the occupation and residence of each member of the same; and further, a *bank deposit receipt* for the sum of \$20,000 must accompany the tender for the canal and locks; and a *bank deposit receipt* for the sum of \$7,500 must accompany the tender for the deepening and widening of the channel-way at both ends, piers, &c.

The respective *deposit receipts*—cheques will not be accepted—must be endorsed over to the Minister of Railways and Canals, and will be forfeited if the party tendering declines entering into contract for the works, at the rates and on the terms stated in the offer submitted.

The deposit receipt thus sent in will be returned to the respective parties whose tenders are not accepted.

This department does not, however, bind itself to accept the lowest or any tenders.

By order,
A. P. BRADLEY,
Secretary.

Department of Railways and Canals,
Ottawa, 8th August, 1888.



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Specifications and drawings can be seen at the Department of Public Works, Ottawa, and at the office of the Town Clerk, Goderich, Ont., on and after Wednesday, 5th Sept., and tenders will not be considered unless made on the form supplied and signed with actual signatures of tenderers.

An accepted bank cheque, payable to the order of the Minister of Public Works, equal to five per cent. of amount of tender, must accompany each tender. This cheque will be forfeited if the party declines the contract, or fail to complete the work contracted for, and will be returned in case of non-acceptance of tender.

The Department does not bind itself to accept the lowest or any tender.

By order
A. GOBEIL,
Secretary.

Department of Public Works,
Ottawa, 31st August, 1888.



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" 60, " " 80.....	40c.
" 80, " " 100.....	50c.

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" 30, " " 40.....	40c.
" 40, " " 50.....	50c.

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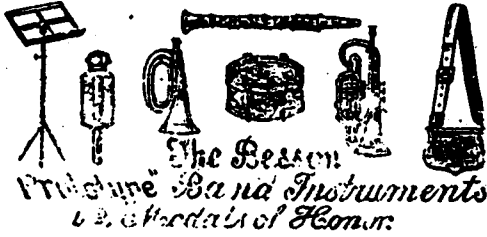
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