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MISCELLANEOUS.

Current Topics.

THE schools of military instruction form the subject of the extracts published this week from the annual report of the militia department. Taking first the cavalry school at Quebec it will be seen that that institution is in a flourishing condition, notwithstanding the reverse experienced by the fire which destroyed the barracks last summer. The result of General Middleton's constant admonitions respecting rifle practice is seen in the statement that "increased attention has been given to musketry instruction," but the subsequent statement that while the troop is armed with Winchester carbines there is no ammunition in store, makes one apt to doubt the practical value of the instruction. It would seem to be indisputable that either a supply should be immediately procured; or, as Col. Turnbull recommends, the Winchesters should give place to Martini-Henrys.

BY the way, why should the officer commanding a Canadian corps consider it necessary to supplement his statement that \$11 had been received from a certain source, with the words, "or, to be more exact, £2 5s." Our currency is reckoned in dollars and cents, not pounds, shillings and pence.

AN increase in the field artillery establishment at Kingston is asked for by the inspector of artillery in his annual report, which will be found in brief in this issue. It is shown that the field battery officers and men attending for instruction outnumber almost ten to one those of the garrison branch, and as there is no prospect of a reverse in the proportion, the recommendation would appear to be based on common sense, and worthy of prompt fulfilment. The increased expenditure involved would not be serious, and it will not be disputed by any economist that it is preferable to pay a fair price for a greatly improved service, than, in order to save a few dollars, to deprive the artillery schools of the opportunity of by so simple a change very largely augmenting the value of the instruction they impart.

ONE would think that the officer commanding C battery would be content for a reasonable time after the recent addition of a hundred men to his former command—one sergeant, we have been told in parliament. But he continues to report that the established strength of the battery is too low, giving his reasons as detailed elsewhere. There is one recommendation in his report which should receive immediate attention—that is, concerning the officers' pay. The men of the battery have

been granted an additional allowance in consequence of the greater cost of living on the Pacific coast, but the officers have had no increase on their rather poor pay received in the East. Surely this was an oversight.

NOTHING will do so much towards the improvement of the permanent corps, as to imbue the men with the idea that the officers and authorities generally take a real interest in promoting their welfare and comfort. It is pleasant to note such facts as those narrated by Lieut.-Col. Taylor in his report on the Mounted Infantry School at Winnipeg concerning the gardens laid out adjoining the barracks, and apportioned off to such of the men as were inclined to look after them. This had the effect, said the report, of creating an interest in the barracks as a home, and furnishing a pleasant occupation for spare time.

LIEUT.-COL. OTTER'S remarks on the necessity of instruction in equitation at the Infantry Schools, will without doubt greatly strengthen the hands of those who are working to secure for Toronto the proposed new cavalry school. This officer has not by any means been the sole witness of the spectacle of mounted officers of infantry being compelled on parade to pay exclusive attention to their untamed steeds, while the men did the best they could for themselves; and if arrangements could be made for instruction in equitation at one or all of the infantry schools, it would be a cause for general congratulation.

THE *Revue Militaire de l'Etranger* publishes some interesting notes on Russian experiments carried on at Stanislau in the transport of field artillery through thick snow on sledges. Strong sledges in use in the vicinity for the conveyance of wood were employed for the purpose, and the application appears to have been very simple. A stout log of timber destined to support the axletree, is placed in the longitudinal axis of the sledge and stoutly secured. The gun-carriage is run trail first over the sledge, the width of which being less than the track of the wheels of the gun renders this possible. The under-surface of the axletree being made to rest on the log above mentioned, the wheels are removed and placed over the trail. Provision is made of the security from injury of the elevating gear. The axletree arms and trail are now secured by lashings, as also the wheels. The whole rides with sufficient stability, and the axletree seats, if any, may be occupied by two gunners. The limber is similarly disposed on a second sledge, except that no log is here necessary to support the axletrees. The pole (or shafts) may be lashed between the "sabots" of the sledge. Three gunners may be seated on the limber boxes. There remains ample space, after placing and lashing the wheels in rear of the ammunition boxes, either for the conveyance of more men of the gun detachment, or of extra forage. Chains may be placed underneath the "sabots" of the sledge when the use of a drag is necessary in hilly country or on slippery roads. The gun carriage and limber can be loaded simultaneously on sleighs, and after a few trials less than nine minutes will suffice for completion of the

operation. To unload and mount the guns for firing five minutes will suffice, the limbers if not required for rapid movement, may remain on the sledges. An ammunition waggon may be similarly disposed of. On ordinary ground two or three horses can draw a sledge thus loaded. Of course, the ordinary team could thus draw a gun and its limber. For the transport of forage waggons or provision carts the use of smaller sledges linked in pairs is recommended.

Queries and Replies.

"LIEUTENANT SMITH" OR "MR. SMITH."

Q. Is it correct at any time to address a letter to a lieutenant as, "Lieut. A. E. Smith?" A lieutenant has received notice from one of the schools that he is allowed to join, and the notice and envelope are both addressed as above. Is it not a mistake?

A. Such an address is quite proper. While he would be verbally addressed as "Mr." Smith, this practice is not supposed to extend to written communications.

DESIGNATION OF ARTILLERY OFFICERS.

Q. Has an artillery officer in the active militia of Canada, not on the permanent corps, the right to use the words, "Canadian Artillery" after his name on a visiting card? I claim he has, as the officers of "A," "B" and "C" batteries have the distinctive qualification, "Regimental Canadian Artillery." X. POUNDER.

A. We think not; these words would be understood to mean the regiment of that name. If the particular corps to which the officer belonged were specified then "Canadian Artillery" might properly follow, if more explicit definition were thought necessary.

A MATTER OF SOCIAL PRECEDENCE.

Q. It is rumoured that there will be shortly a large number of C. M. G.'s. created—officers who had served during the North-West Rebellion. I therefore, would like, through your columns, to ask a question—and that question is, what is the social precedence of the following, wives included:—a county judge, a consul, a lieutenant-colonel commanding a district, a surgeon-general, a major but a C. M. G., a barrister, a major, a younger son of a baronet, the eldest son of a K. C. M. G., a lieutenant, son of a K. C. M. G., a lieutenant, a captain, and a vice-consul? As Ottawa is a place at which I am told social precedence is carefully looked after, perhaps some of your readers can tell me. CIVILIAN.

The German Government has decided to make a radical change in the transport of the ammunition in war time. Each company is to receive a light ammunition waggon and so heavy battalion waggons are to be abolished.

Five years ago a European could have set out from Suakim and have journeyed across the desert to Berber, or in any other direction, without meeting the smallest trouble from the Arab tribes; to-day, neither European nor Egyptian could venture out on half a day's journey without an army at his back. Such is the result of British rule in Egypt.

The defence of Constantinople is engaging the attention of the military advisers of the Sultan. Workmen have been for some time past occupied in rising fortifications at Tschataldscha, and delving lines of entrenchments between Bara-Burum on the Black Sea, and the borders of Silistria. German officers are also studying a plan which will necessitate the demolition of much of the existing system of defence, and the erection of three large armoured forts is involved in this change.

According to a Munich letter the German grand headquarters staff has quite abandoned the intention of substituting the Mauser by the reduced calibre rifle. The Amberg small arms factory, which for twelve months past has been turning out the large bore weapon, but where the manufacture, by order, had been stopped since August, has now commenced working full time, as 35,000 Mausers will have to be delivered by the middle of February.

The preamble of the new German Military Service Bill says: "The German Army is composed of men whose liability to serve in the active army extends over 12 years, whereas in the Russian Army the period is 15 and in the French Army 20 years. Besides this, it has to be considered that the geographical position of Germany exposes her to attacks from powerful armies on two fronts simultaneously. In face of this threatening danger, Germany lacks a firm foundation for her existence and development.

Many desertions continue to take place from the French army in Tonkin. All the deserters who are recaptured are shot without compunction. Lately 18 soldiers of the Foreign Legion ran away from Southay with a lot of arms and accoutrements. They were caught in the mountain defiles after a chase which lasted a considerable time, and the 18 were condemned to be shot at once. It is said that when the men were drawn up in single file in front of their graves, the adjutant who was in charge of the firing party cried out with an oath, on seeing some of the doomed men fall out of their alignment, "Can't you fellows keep your dressing better than that? Eyes right! Dress!" No sooner was the command given than the prisoners with parade-like punctuality straightened themselves up and obeyed as if they were on the drill ground or at a review. Then the fatal command was given, and the 18 went down before the terrible volley. The adjutant's words—if they were ever uttered, and it is probable that they were—show that an iron discipline still prevails in the French Foreign Legion.—*London Telegraph*.

In the Spanish Chamber of Deputies, Feb. 6, Senor Romero censured the government for permitting military interference at Rio Tinto and for the resulting bloodshed. Upon hearing that Senor Romero had virtually accused the military officers of murder Gen. Cassola, the Minister of War, hastened to the Chamber and addressing Senor Ramero, said: "You have insulted the Spanish Army and are shielding yourself under Parliamentary impunity." Senor Romero replied: "I adhere to what I have said both inside and outside of Parliament." Gen. Cassola responded: "You shall give me reparation for the insult."

THE MILITARY SCHOOLS.

INTERESTING REPORTS ON THEM AND THE PERMANENT CORPS.

MANY IMPORTANT RECOMMENDATIONS.

LIEUT.-COL. J. F. TURNBULL, the commandant of the Royal School of Cavalry, Quebec, reports that the attendance at that institution during the past year has been much reduced by reason of the interruption caused by the fire at the barracks. There were 13 officers, 20 n.c.o. and 35 privates—or a total of 68—attached for instruction. Of these 5 officers and 15 n.c.o. and men joined for equitation only.

The changes in the personnel of the corps were: Recruits enlisted, 16; re-enlisted, 8; discharged—on completion of service, 5; by purchase, 2; as unserviceable, 2; deserted, 1. This return the commandant considers eminently satisfactory. The fact that only one man deserted and only two others purchased their discharge, he attributes to the *esprit de corps* which exists, and the care taken in refusing all who cannot give reference as to character and sobriety. "The total amount of fines for drunkenness," says the report, "is only \$11, or, to be more exact, £2 5s. sterling, for the whole twelve months, received from but two men, one of whom (who contributed the greater part of this) has now become a teetotaler."

An important part of a cavalry soldier's knowledge being some familiarity with veterinary science, arrangements are being made for a course of lectures to be delivered shortly on this subject, at the Veterinary College of Laval University.

Increased attention has been given to musketry instruction, with satisfactory results. The Winchester carbine in possession of the corps it is recommended should be replaced by the Martini-Henry for reasons already given by me in previous annual reports, and particularly as there is no Winchester ammunition in store and the new carbine buckets received are made for the Martini-Henry carbine.

The R. & O. directing that "gymnastic exercises will be encouraged in all the schools," the Commandant has recently obtained from England and enlisted a valuable non-commissioned officer in Sergt.-Major Elliott (late gymnastic and fencing instructor to the 9th Lancers), and now that the corps are to have permanent barracks he hopes before long to be able to establish a gymnasium, in accordance with the regulations.

Particulars of the demand for toll from men on service, referred to in General Middleton's report, are given as follows: "The Quebec Turnpike Trust Commissioners having demanded the payment for tolls upon their roads I caused a test case to be tried before the Courts of Justice and duly forwarded the full text of the judge's decision, which was to the effect that the Army Act, 1881, has never been put into force in Canada by the Dominion Parliament and that the Consolidated Militia Act, while it places the Canadian Militia under the Army Act for all the penalties it contains, gives none of its exemptions or privileges to the force, and, therefore, all Canadian troops, whether "on duty or on the line of march" must pay toll. This decision affects the status and interests of the permanent corps in so many other ways that serious difficulties are certain to arise unless the Dominion act be amended, so that the permanent corps, at least, be placed on an equal footing with the British army."

Col. Turnbull strongly urges that the cavalry school should be put on the same footing, as regards the establishment, as the other military schools of the country, and that Lieut. Heward should be gazetted captain commanding the troop.

The Regiment of Canadian Artillery.

IN presenting the annual report of Regiment of Canadian Artillery, the Commandant, Lieut.-Col. Irwin, says: "As shown by the Commandant R.S.A., Kingston, the number of officers, n.c.o. and men of field batteries attending that school for instruction is out of all proportion to those of garrison batteries. Similarly, on reference to certificates granted at the Quebec school this year, it has been ascertained that forty-one were for garrison and only twelve for field artillery. It would therefore appear to be very desirable were the field artillery establishment at Kingston increased to the extent recommended by Lt.-Col. Cotton so as to enable practical instruction to be given in all the details of the management of a field battery."

Statistics given show that the present state of the batteries in

December last was 23 officers and 393 men, being 2 officers and 14 men less than the authorized establishment. Twenty-eight officers and 85 n.c.o. and men had joined for instruction during the year.

The most important event in the life of the regiment was the organization of C battery, in British Columbia, which received a draft of 2 officers and 51 n.c.o. and men from A, and 1 officer and 44 n.c.o. B. battery.

The report on A battery, Kingston, made by Lt.-Col. Cotton, shows that during the past two years there have been eight attached officers and men from the garrison artillery, and recommends that improved facilities be given for instruction in the field branch.

The report recommends that for the future enlistments for the battery should be probationary for three months with a reduced kit. At the end of that time men to be allowed to go, or remain for three years. This would be a means of checking desertion and preventing the loss of a large and costly kit. It would also permit undesirable men being got rid of. Col. Cotton urges the fitting up of a proper recreation room for the n.c.o. and men on the modern plan of soldiers' libraries.

The armament at the Citadel at Quebec calls for remark from Lt.-Col. Montizambert in his report on B battery. He says: "There has been no change except that effected by the fire of the 6th July, when carriages and stores of various kinds, mostly obsolete, were destroyed, and three 7-inch and one 40-pr. R. B. L. guns were rendered useless. There are in the Citadel only a few rifled guns; none of which could pierce an iron-clad at 50 yards range."

Col. Montizambert suggests that as promotion is so slow the senior subalterns should be given the rank and pay of captains.

Lieut.-Col. Holmes, D. A. G., commanding C battery, British Columbia, regrets that the Martini-Henry rifle was not issued instead of the antiquated Snider-Enfield. "The former weapon," he says, "being for many reasons, especially here on the Pacific, much to be preferred."

Col. Holmes is not satisfied on the recent considerable augmentation in his command:—

"The established strength of the battery is rather low considering the importance of the position it has to aid in defending, and the fact that the local force of the active militia is, although good in quality, numerically weak, owing to the smallness of the population.

"If it is not thought advisable to increase the strength of the regiment a redistribution of the batteries, making each equal in strength would, perhaps, meet the necessities of the case.

"The strength of C battery, should, in my opinion, be increased by one lieutenant and thirty n.c.o. and men.

On the subject of officer's pay he thus opportunely comments: "The case of the officers deserves consideration. The increased cost of living in this province over that in the eastern stations is at least 33 1/3 per cent., and this is felt in greater force by the officers who have to provide nearly everything for themselves than by the men. It is in my opinion only simple justice to them to give them the same proportionate increase in their pay, viz., 25 per cent."

The Mounted Infantry Corps.

LIEUT.-COL. J. B. TAYLOR, commanding the Mounted Infantry Corps at Winnipeg, reports the school in good working order and of full strength (except officers), the present being 5 officers, 100 non-commissioned officers and men, and 50 officers. But he finds the duties come very heavy on the men, as they have not only to perform all duties and clean their arms and accoutrements, the same as infantry (being infantry soldiers), but also to clean their saddlery and equipments and attend to and groom their horses, which though a labor of love to most of them (for they take a great pride in their horses), not only gives a great deal of extra work, but also wears out their uniform much quicker, no stable fatigue suits having yet been issued.

According to the suggestion of the General part of the spare ground about the barracks was partitioned off and laid out in small gardens for the men. It proved very successful; so many of them took up gardens and attended carefully to them that at the end of the season they had a show and prizes were given for best garden and vegetables, thus producing an interest in the barracks as a home and a pleasant occupation for spare time.

Forty-three officers, non-commissioned officers and men attended free instruction during the year.

The Royal Schools of Infantry.

THIRTY-ONE officers and 63 n.c.o. and men attended for instruction at the Royal School of Infantry at Fredericton during the year under review.

Lieut.-Col. Maunsell, the officer commanding there, reports that the Temperance Club of A Co., formed in 1885, and in which Major

Gordon takes special interest, has taken an advanced step during the past year in the formation of a temperance lodge in the corps, with increased members and renewed efforts for good. He continues: "I cannot speak too highly of the advantage of these efforts; crime and misconduct have, as a result, been reduced to a minimum, and the canteen, at all times conducted with regularity, strictly in accordance with Queen's Regulations, is now considered as a branch of the coffee room, where harmless beverages can be obtained, more than as ordinary canteen for the supply of ale and porter. There is also a recreation room in connection with the canteen."

The want of a permanent quartermaster in each company is again alluded to, and Sergt.-Major McKenzie recommended for the appointment to the post in A Company. Lt.-Col. Maunsell endorses the recommendation of the commandant of B company, as to the appointment of an adjutant in addition to the authorized strength of the corps at each station.

The harmony of life with B company of the I.S.C., at St. Johns, Q., during the past year was marred only by one event, the desertion of six musicians, enticed over the border to form a band.

Eighty-one officers, n. c. o. and privates attended for instruction.

In his report Lt.-Col. D'Orsonnens says: "The regimental system of each school should be thoroughly established by the appointment of a second captain and the division of the corps into two companies. I was unable the other day to order a regimental court martial, having no captain to preside, my only captain being on the sick list at the time.

"I am in need of more staff sergeants, and I pray that an hospital sergeant, and orderly room sergeant and a signalling instructor be added to the present establishment, giving those who have performed those duties for merely nothing a fresh encouragement and a status they deserve, as well as the uniform of their ranks.

"My past experience with the militia has proved to me the necessity of good buglers in every camp of training for the militia. Some means should be taken to have in the band establishment a n.c.o. specially intrusted with the care and duties of training young buglers and special certificates should be granted to young men who have proved themselves steady and able to sound all the calls required, in the field as well as in garrison.

"The bugle-major I also recommend to act as warrant officer, and that bandmen be classified into two or three classes with different rates of pay, as an incentive to young musicians and the means of keeping in the corps well trained men.

"Efforts of all kinds are made to build a home for the soldier in barracks, and a permanent committee presided by Sergt.-Major Joseph Phillips, and composed of the staff-sergeants and others are continually at work seeking for them amusements which will benefit them physically and keep them out of harm.

"Under that committee the library has attained a standard not usually found in barrack libraries. More than 1000 volumes, consisting of selected works on history, biographies, travels, science arts and literature are now at the disposal of the corps.

"To aid and correct, as much as I can within the limits of my power, the want of education in some of the n.c.o. and privates attached to the school, I have established a temporary evening class, where men, during a short course, can go and perfect their writing, learn a little of arithmetic and book-keeping, etc. This course is only voluntary but has rendered some service. I can only hope that some day this institution will be officially recognized, as it would be real philanthropy to use the time a soldier has to serve the state to improve his education and render him to society fitted for other works.

At the Royal Infantry School at Toronto there were in attendance for instruction during the year 61 officers and 85 n.c.o. and men. Of these 45 officers, and only 38 n.c.o. and men succeeded in qualifying for certificates. On this subject Lt.-Col. Otter says: "In a former report I complained of the want of care in the selection, by commanding officers, of those sent for instruction as non-commissioned officers, and I have a second time to refer to the same subject; a glance at the summary above given shows that not half the non-commissioned officers and men sent obtain certificates, and even with many of those successful, the required number of marks was only just obtained and no more."

The report continues: "The necessity for adding equitation to the course of instruction at the schools of infantry appears more prominent each year. In my capacity of Deputy Adjutant-General I find the majority of mounted infantry officers poor horsemen, and in consequence more attention is bestowed by them on parade to their horses and their men.

Coulson N. Mitchell, the able representative in the 90th Winnipeg Rifles of the great shooting family of his name, has been promoted from the rank of Colour-Sergeant to that of Sergt.-Instructor of Musketry in his regiment. The Ninetieth teams may be expected to be more formidable than ever if the new Sergt.-Instructor manages to impart a share of his skill to a few of the rising shots.

Modern Tactics.

[By Capt. H. R. Gall.—From Illustrated Naval and Military Magazine.]

(Continued from Page 263.)

“WHEN on a calculation of the time required for the occupation of the main position it was considered that further resistance on the part of the outposts was unnecessary, the ‘cease-fire’ sounded, the front was rapidly cleared, and, gaining the lines of the retreat marked out for them, the companies re-formed in rear of the position and returned to the barracks. All the dispositions made, the posting of the sentries, the positions of the piquets, the mode of conducting the retirements from the successive lines of defence, the action of the reserves, etc., were afterwards criticised and commented on by the c. o., and errors pointed out.

“This regimental instruction took place at Belghaum, in 1876. It was based on General Sir. E. Hamley’s treatise on outposts, much of which found its way subsequently into our present addition of the Field Exercise. It was, I think, practical. It enabled a battalion to practise outposts as a whole, and the marked enemy brought into bold relief many errors which would otherwise have remained unnoticed. For instance, I remember on more than one occasion seeing the marked enemy advancing with no force to oppose it; a portion of the outpost line still clinging to the defence of some strong point, such as a ghaum or village in its rear. Here were the lessons to be taught of the *difficulty of withdrawing men from strong positions* and the value and uses of a *reserve*; and I may remark, incidentally, that it would be the endeavour of an intelligent officer to manœuvre his flags so as to bring out these lessons.

“As a matter of detail, I would remark that the division of the defence into sections, and entrusting the defence of each section to one commander, was preferable to our authorized method of supporting one company by another in its rear. Our Field Exercise lays it down that piquets and supports should belong to the same *regiment*. I would go farther and say they must belong to the same *company*.”

“N.B.—We were decidedly in advance, at the time, of the ‘Regulations,’ but our practice was greatly approved of by the officer commanding the district, and I place at a high value the clause in our regulations, that, ‘the commander of the outposts will dispose of the force under his command in such manner as *he may consider best for covering the main body in the rear.*’

“Yours, very truly,

“T. J. R. MALLOCK, Lieut.-Col.,

“Late ‘Royal Fusiliers.’”

This valuable letter, full of practical instruction, will commend itself to all students of modern tactics.

CHAPTER V.—DEFENCE OF A POSITION.

Political and strategical considerations fix the localities in which armies, or portions of armies, are concentrated for the purpose of opposing an invasion. These localities fixed, tactical requirements regulate the actual positions occupied to frustrate or repel attacks. A defensive attitude is usually taken up by the weaker side, but not necessarily. If the Swiss were at war, apart from their probable numerical inferiority, a strictly defensive *role* would undoubtedly be the wisest policy.

Again, take Afghanistan; the Afghans well know the value of a passive resistance. In 1877, after Osman Pasha’s surprising flank march to Plevna, had Mehemet Ali’s advice been acted upon, the feeble defensive plan of action pursued by the Turks would have been changed into a vigorously offensive one, under circumstances very favourable for Turkey, and illustrated the old adage, that the soul of defence lies in “counter attack.”

If, in place of wasting the flower of his troops in isolated attacks on the Shipka Pass, Suleiman had fallen upon the right flank of the Czarevitch’s army, retreating before Mehemet Ali, the Russians, outnumbered and outflanked, must have fallen back until reinforced by the troops round Plevna; in which event Osman Pasha could have issued out with his army flushed by victory, and the Russians would have been forced to fall back to protect their bridge over the Danube, and, if pressed, would have been obliged to fight a battle with their backs to the river, hemmed in on all sides, and attacked in front and on both flanks. The utter worthlessness of Mehemet Ali’s army would not have been revealed until it was too late, and his reputation as a tactician would have been established. There is more to be learnt by a study of the mistakes committed on both sides in 1877 than has been generally recognized.

The campaign of 1870 marked the revival of the art of war, which since the peace of 1815 had almost ceased to be practised; but it was so one-sided that the Prussian tactics, successful as they were, must be put to a severest test before well-established principles of defence are renounced.

It is idle to conjecture, but interesting to speculate how the French might have turned the tables at Spicheren, or at Worth. To imagine the first Napoleon marching his army up and down between Metz and Chalon, after two such opportunities, is hardly possible. Yet from the date of these battles the war, as far as the French were concerned, was virtually over. Their subsequent blunders brought about Sedan, and culminated in the surrender of Metz.

The object of this digression has been to endeavour to point out that a too general adoption of German tactics, as successfully practised in 1870, may lead to their being misapplied under less abnormal conditions, and with a totally different organization.

Principles of Defence.

A commander, after having made the best reconnaissances that the time and means at his disposal admit of, before finally selecting a defensive position from which to await attack, should satisfy himself that he has sufficient troops to defend all the vital points of the position he contemplates occupying.

“Vital points” are positions which command main avenues of approach, and which, if captured, would seriously influence the issue of a battle; enabling, for instance, the assailants to hold a large portion of the defenders engaged on one flank of the main position, while the other was being vigorously attacked—or prevent them from issuing out to deliver a counter-attack; or positions which, if captured, would threaten the defender’s line of retreat; or which, if captured and held, would afford good rallying-points from which to deliver a future assault. Such points can only be determined by a tactician on the spot.

In every configuration of country comprising two or more of the principal requirements of a good position there are certain to be one or more “vital points.”

A vital point in a position may be compared to a swordsman’s right hand, if maimed in which he can only continue the combat on unequal terms with his left.

The “key” of a position is that portion of it which either predominates the whole, or commands its most vulnerable parts. So long as it is held a battle is not lost; and the assailants are liable to be finally repulsed, and even ejected from those positions they have captured. The art of tactics in defence is to decide with confidence what constitutes the key of a position, and what vital points must be held in conjunction with it.

These points can only be fixed on the spot, and in selecting them none of the principles of defence ought ever to be violated through ignorance, or if circumstances necessitate, as they often must, the violation of a principle, the possible contingencies must be carefully considered.

The main features of a good position are:—

- (1.) Its extent, which must be in proportion to the force available for defending it.
- (2.) A general command of surrounding country.
- (3.) Depth to admit of ample cover being provided for all troops not actually engaged, and for their being freely manœuvred.
- (4.) Sufficient lateral communications.
- (5.) Water supply.
- (6.) Ample means of retreat.
- (7.) Possibilities of issuing from it to deliver counter attacks.
- (8.) Flank protection.

It will rarely happen that all these advantages will be found ready to hand; but some of them must be secured, and others must be artificially provided.

Rules to be Observed in Occupying a Position.

(1.) Post the artillery on the most commanding ground suitable for its effective action. Concentrate batteries as much as possible, for the sake of unity of command, on points which command approaches, and which will compel the enemy to remain out of reach or deploy at a distance, and thus develop his real intentions.

(2.) Post the front line of infantry (entrenched) along the highest available contours, advancing it to include the outer edge of woods, villages, &c., within rifle-range of any vital point. When posting infantry (who will have to bear the brunt of the battle) be careful to economize them by not occupying places unassailable by the enemy’s infantry (deep re-entrants, for instance). Allow one yard per man for actual firing line, and provide supports and local reserves; the former should not seek for natural cover more than 150 yards behind the firing line, and the latter should not, as a general rule, be more than 300 yards behind the supports.

(3.) Post the second line with a view to its four specific objects, viz.:—

1. To reinforce vital points when they are in danger of being captured.
2. To meet flank attacks.
3. To make counter attacks.
4. To protect a general retreat.

(4.) If, in addition to a second line, there are enough troops to have a general reserve, post it at first in some central position well out of artillery range, and move it during the action to the most threatened flank or other weak part of the position.

(5.) If the ground on flanks is open and suitable for cavalry to manœuvre on, utilize cavalry arm boldly to discover any contemplated turning movements of the enemy, and prevent his cavalry from working round the flanks and discovering preparations to meet flank attacks, dispositions of second line, positions of reserves, means of retreat, etc.

(6.) If flanks are open to being turned, endeavour to checkmate turning movements by making lines of entrenchments in echelon on the flanks, to be occupied by portion of second line or reserve, if enemy attempts any wide turning movement.

(7.) Baggage, trains, general hospitals, extra ammunition, field parks, etc., at least a day’s march in rear. With three days’ cooked rations all ready to be served out to troops on arrival at first halting ground, in the event of retreat.

(8.) Every army, or portion of a force within striking distance of an enemy, protects itself with outposts, cavalry or infantry, or the three arms combined, according to circumstances, in front of and overlapping the flanks of the position it intends to occupy, in order to give it rest and security, and compel the enemy to develop his real attack in time to allow of the general position being occupied, and the threatened points being reinforced.

(To be continued.)

GOSSIP OF THE MILITIA.

How winter target practice is carried on by the Victoria Rifles.

More hard facts from Linch-pin about our defensive force.—The Commons petitioned for a larger appropriation—Pipe-clay expounds the law—The 57th Battalion entertainment at Peterborough—Doings of the corps at the Capital.

IN the House of Commons since the opening last Tuesday, the only occurrence of interest to the militia has been the presentation of a memorial by Mr. Sutherland, M.P., from the Oxford county council, asking for increased appropriations for the force, and pointing out that the present grant has to be supplemented by the officers and in many cases by the municipalities, in order to provide for the comfort and efficiency of the volunteers.

A deputation of members from Hamilton and district waited on the Minister of Militia a few days ago to press the claims of Hamilton as a site for the proposed new cavalry school. The Minister informed them that wherever the new troop was stationed a squad from it would be maintained at Kingston for instruction of the R. M. C. cadets.

Among the new members introduced this session are two military men, Major-General Laurie, of Shelburne, N.S., and Major Prior of Victoria, B.C.

The Library of Parliament has been decided upon as the final resting place of the colours of the old Hundredth Regiment, sent from India to Canada last summer.

The 72nd Highlanders, now stationed in England, are to remove to Bermuda, and will likely come to Halifax at the end of their stay there. The 72nd, now known as the 1st Bn. Seaforth Highlanders, were stationed in this garrison in 1854, having relieved the 97th in the previous year. A large photograph of the Sergeants of the 72nd, owned by Sergt. Gregory, I.S.G., is now on exhibition in Cropley's book store. Some of the sergeants in the picture had previously belonged to the 22nd, the last imperial regiment stationed here.—*Fredericton Capital.*

Toronto.

NOT so long ago a D.A.G. reported very unfavorably against a cavalry corps. When a D.A.G. does this you may be sure that things are pretty bad, but when the General recommends the removal of some of the officers and reduction of the corps you would be safe in betting that the corps is "very, very bad."

Although that happened some few years ago no change has taken place, and to-day the corps stands thus: C. O., qualified; no major; captains, 2 qualified, 1 provisional, 1 vacancy; lieutenants, 1 qualified, 1 provisional, 2 vacancies; 2nd lieutenants, 3 unqualified, 1 vacancy; adjutant, qualified.

Some of the unqualified officers were appointed in 1870. The law is that one year's time is allowed in which to qualify, or else removal. (?) In some districts I know that D.A.G.'s. are doing everything in their power to make officers go up for qualification, but are the authorities backing the D.A.G.'s. up in this respect?

In another cavalry corps the equipment "is of very old pattern;" in another "the carbine buckets should be changed, as they are of an obsolete pattern and injure the foresight of the gun." Queer word that last one—what was it, a 3pr. S.B.O., or an 8 in. M.L.R.?

Another corps, so we are told, has "saddlery which has been a great many years in use, is old and necessitates urgent renewal."

Another troop—strength, 3 officers 42 troopers—mustered at inspection 2 officers, 25 men; they were fairly up in troop drill, most of the troop "going through the sword exercise very fairly." Where were the rest, the other officer and 17 men? Had they disappeared because "the saddlery and horse furniture were very deficient" or because "the crossbelts were a great cause of complaint, being old and rotten, besides being a cast-off artillery outfit?"

The cavalry was the last *existing* branch of the militia I intended to notice, but there are departments, branches, or rather buds, which, the frost having nipped, are virtually dead.

The transport service, to judge from reports, has existed more in name than in substance, being in fact a scratch corps gotten up on the spur of the moment. Here is an extract of how it was managed: " * * * was a lawyer from * * * and had no previous experience of such work or executive training, and of course no knowledge of details, but was untiring in his efforts to get the work done * * * but the whole service was utterly inadequate for its duties." Do you think that history would repeat itself in this branch again?

One paragraph says the militia shall consist of * * * naval and marine corps." Like a good many other things in the militia, these corps are on paper of a very flimsy character. The Duke of Wellington one day, while I was smoking a pipe with him, said, "Linch-pin, old buck, the supremacy of the lakes must be maintained at all hazards." I objected to His Grace calling me "an old buck," for if I was old then, what am I now? But to this day the Duke's words are true. Treaties prohibit us from having gunboats on the lakes, but treaties do not deny us the right to have men trained and in readiness to man gunboats should occasion demand it.

I think I have pretty conclusively shewn from official reports that the militia is not by any means fit to take the field. Of men willing and ready to come forward to fight for Canada there would be no end, but are the authorities ready; are they at present time doing their duty; have they modern rifles, and a sufficient supply on hand, serviceable guns, etc.; efficient equipment for all branches; have they everything which go to make an army ready to take the field? If you have read "Linch-pin" so far you must acknowledge that they have not.

Times have changed and we have not changed with them. What was true in 1838—50 years ago—is pretty true to-day, only there was a little more truthfulness then as compared with now. In 1838 the Militia Act commenced as follows: "Whereas the several laws now in force for embodying, organizing and training the militia are, in many instances, *defective and inefficient.*" Don't you think that that extract is still true?

In 1866, Col. Peacock, of H. M. 16th Regiment, lay at Chippawa with Imperial troops and Canadian militia. We know that food being scarce he had ordered that all troops joining him should bring cooked provisions with them; this they were unable to do "as they were unprovided with haversacks in which to carry" anything. Perhaps that is also true to this day.

Very nearly twenty years after the above we are told that in the outbreak of the late rebellion "everything military appeared to be in a state of chaos"; "the usual refitting of arms, equipment and clothing proceeded with"; such and such a corps "arrived and went into quarters, requiring considerable outfit"; "the appointments of this corps required many repairs, tradesmen worked night and day to compete." Do you honestly think that the general state of the equipment of the militia has improved since 1838, since 1866, or since 1885?

I think I must have convinced you that the cavalry is not what it ought to be, officers, men and equipment wanting; artillery has not modern guns, the horses have too heavy a load behind them, no means of carrying the detachments without adding to this load, no means of carrying ammunition beyond that in limber and axletree boxes, their harness at any moment liable to give out; engineers in the most deplorable state for want of even the commonest tools; the infantry with unserviceable rifles partially equipped, whole districts without water bottles, haversacks, knapsacks; their so-called musketry practice "a fraud, delusion and snare," so far as utility is concerned; reports of officers responsible for the efficiency of their districts not attended to, but on the contrary carefully pigeon-holed. Such is the militia after twenty-two years of its existence.

In answer to my question "what officers in the Canadian militia are by regulations entitled to be noticed," "Milish" has kindly condescended to try and help me in my pursuit of my knowledge, and in his effort has found in a portion of a paragraph of the Queen's Regulations, which he quotes, that " * * parties on the march will pay the prescribed compliments to general officers in uniform." Now "Milish" I have something tangible to hang something on. Why did you go to the Queen's Regulations? Is your corps governed by them and nothing else? Have you never, for instance, heard of "Otter's Guide"—a book recommended by the Major-General in General Orders to the notice of officers—a book used as a text-book in the Royal schools of infantry—a book which says that "a party marching under the command of an officer should pay compliments as follows: The Royalty and General officers, the Officer commanding the District in which the party is serving, the Field Officers of its own Regiment." Are regimental field officers general officers, "Milish?" They are not brigade-majors, about whom the question originally arose; but if "Milish" will read his *Militia Regulations more* and his *Queen's Regulations less* he will probably find that officers other than general officers are to be saluted. Having shown you that *you are wrong*, "Milish," so far as the answer to my question is concerned, perhaps you will frame that dear little motto "Be sure you are right, then go ahead," and hang it over your little cot. Now, old man, who pays?

Ottawa.

THE two guards of honour turned out by the G. G. F. G. last week were exceptionally fine, and would have done credit to any regiment. That on Thursday afternoon at the opening was in charge of Major Todd; on Saturday evening the guard for the "Drawing Room" was in command of Captain Aumond.

The annual drill of the Guards will commence to-morrow. The companies have been divided into four squads each, and the men will this season fall in always by these squads, when each non-commissioned officer in charge will have to account for all absentees. It is thought that with the responsibility of securing attendance and attention to drill thus divided up the standing of the regiment will be much improved.

Now it is the Dragoon Guards who are reported in the papers to be in trouble with the Militia Department. The hitch this time was of exceedingly brief duration, if indeed the mistake which occurred can be called a hitch at all. An escort of 1 officer and 20 troopers had been ordered for the afternoon of the opening. As it might prove the last opportunity they would have for attendance on Lord Lansdowne, 31 out of the total strength of 35 responded to the call for volunteers. Pay was only issued for the 21 ordered, though the usual practice has been to pay all who turn out. As soon as the matter was explained to the Militia Department the extra pay was ordered to issue as usual. It may be interesting to state that the men of the Dragoons who don't own horses have to pay more for the hire of the animals than the amount they receive from the Department.

Montreal.

THE Montreal Brigade of Garrison Artillery are to the front in aid of the Vics armoury, the scheme being a dramatic entertainment at the Academy of Music on the 13th and 14th March. The array of talent, amateur and professional, is a guarantee of the class of entertainment to be put on the boards, and the selection of the military play "Our Regiment," a happy one, to judge from the high eulogiums upon it in the press. The task our friends of the old brigade have undertaken is one only second to that of building an armoury as some of the hardest workers at it have no doubt found out already. There is such a rush for tickets that the financial success is also assured, whole rows of seats being taken at a time by the officers and members of sister corps.

In the armoury itself the chief items of interest are as follows: Lt.-Col. Henshaw has returned from a six weeks' holiday in Colorado and, needless to say, heartily welcomed back by every member of the regiment.

A long talked of billiard competition between teams of Nos. 2 and 6 companies has been brought off and won by No. 6 in a canter.

A team match five men aside with the Prince of Wales Rifles was shot on Saturday. Rifles, optional; ranges 200, 500 and 600 yards, 7 shots each range. The Victoria's team were the winners, 344 points against 303 for the Princes'. The latter were disappointed in their team, but two of those originally selected having been able to accept places and they were, in consequence, not able to make as good a showing as was looked for.

The fourth silver spoon match was shot concurrently with the above and Mr. Cooke was the winner with 44 points, 5 shots each at 200 and 500 counting.

With so many drill sheds scattered over the country affording convenient covered winter ranges, and the profitable practice to be had out of the Morris tube, there is no reason why every c. o. having a place to put up a target should not bring out the young talent in his corps by having a range established. The cost is very small, the pleasure very great and the encouragement to a young shot to, at all events, learn the first rudiments of shooting of sufficient value to offset the cost and the trouble of starting a range of this sort. In our own range, after the necessary arrangements of rifles, targets and shooting stands and mats had been provided by the shooting committee, Staff-Sergt. Birks set about perfecting the conveniences and arranged a system of semaphore signaling by coloured glass discs worked by handles at the right of the marker and a clock face fixed on the top of the iron mantel and

worked by a button right in front of him, by which rapid and accurate signalling is carried on, a couple of seconds serving to show both the value and position of each shot made on the target. An electric ball danger signal, between the mantel and the firing point, is now in hand by the same sergeant.

The corporation jubilee trophy won for the first time at the P. Q. R. A. matches last summer by the 6th Fusiliers has not yet been received from the manufacturers. The delay has been caused by the difficulty in securing the models for the figures of representatives of each of the city corps which are to be a feature of the trophy's ornamentation. For models, each corps had to furnish the portrait of one of its members in review order, and it was only a few weeks ago that all of the portraits were in.

BUSBY.

Peterborough.

THE much talked of and long expected military concert, under the patronage of Col. J. Z. Rogers and officers of the 57th Battalion, took place at the Opera House on Tuesday evening, 21st February. It was a decided success, and a better pleased audience never left the building.

When the opening hour arrived the scene presented was a brilliant one. The rich dresses of the ladies, the scarlet tunics of the infantry, the blue and gold of the cavalry, the blue and silver of the artillery mingled with the more sombre attire of the civilians, the decorations, the smiling faces and the bright lights all went to form a picture that will be long remembered.

Shortly after 8 o'clock Major and Adjutant Bell stepped before the footlights and announced that in response to the orders of his superior officer, he desired to say a few words to the audience. He said that complaints were made on the score that the public did not see enough of the battalion, but in future he felt confident that that complaint would not lie. Until about two years ago the 57th had been a rural battalion, but through the efforts of the officers and some of their friends, they are now known as a city corps. When a rural battalion, they were made up of isolated companies, taken from here and there, and the only opportunity they had of parading together was when they met at a brigade camp, once every two years. Now the companies are all from town and the men drill every year and drill at home, too. Under these circumstances he felt warranted in stating that the public would see more of the boys in red. In order to keep up the standing of the battalion money is necessary, and to provide that money something had to be done. The government makes an annual grant and the officers contribute, but the amount thus raised is not sufficient and the public were asked to aid, and to secure that aid was the object of the present concert, which it was proposed to make an annual affair. He thanked the audience for attendance and the good feeling that prompted that attendance and he hoped that all would be so well satisfied with the evening's entertainment that they would return again next year.

When the curtain rose quiet prevailed, but when a square of redcoats, with fixed bayonets, the applause was almost deafening. Those in the front ranks were on their knees, the colours in the centre, the men looked determined and ready to face anything, and the curtain descended amid red fire and tremendous applause.

The people of Peterborough have always been proud of their band, and after their performance last night the musicians have elevated themselves several notches higher in the public estimation. "The Relief of Ekowe," a descriptive fantasia, was the piece chosen. It starts with the assembly, called on the bugle, followed by the march, muster, preparation, advance, charge and pursuit, winding up with the shouts of victory and God Save the Queen. The band mustered twenty-one players, and by dint of steady practice, under the able tuition of Bandmaster Miller, they have thoroughly mastered the difficult music and their playing was a revelation, even to the critics.

The glee club, composed of Sergt-Major Rundle, Bandmaster Miller, bandsmen Hamilton and Mein, Corporal Matthews and Privates Martin, Dawson, Jones, Henderson and Mulligan, rendered the "Red Cross Knight" in an acceptable manner, the blending of the voices being admirable.

A squad chosen from different companies, followed in the manual and firing exercise, without the word of command. It was well done, particularly the firing, which could not be improved upon. Those who took part were Sergts. Mason, Wand, T. Diston, Robinson, and G. Diston, Corporals Matthews and Elcome, Privates Jinks, Kidd, R. Hounsell, H. Hounsell and Payne.

Two solos "The Anchor's Weighed," by Sergeant-Major Rundle, and "Thy Sentinel Am I," by bandsman Hamilton, followed. Then came a fencing bout between Capt. Brennan and Lieut. Mason, with foils and masks, a spirited affair in which every person in the audience appeared deeply interested. Capt. Brennan was victor by a few points.

Sergt.-Major Johnston, Sergts. Goldie, Johnston, Morgan and Ptes. Pearson and Howden concluded the first part of the programme with an exhibition of the cavalry sword exercise.

After a short intermission the second part of the programme was opened with the tableau "A Camp Scene." On one side of the stage was pitched a tent, at the door of which Lieut. Hill was receiving a despatch from an orderly, whose hand was at the salute. Ranged about in picturesque attitudes were a squad of men. Some were sleeping quietly, some were singing, some chatting, some tailoring, some cleaning their rifles, some blacking boots, some washing dishes, some cleaning knives and others looking on. The whole thing was realistic as an every day scene at any military camp.

The fantasia "Red, White and Blue," by the band, introduced a large number of military and naval airs.

"Chough and Crowe" and the old, but ever welcome "Smiling Morn," were given by the glee club in first class style.

The bayonet exercise, by the squad that performed the manual, was the best feature of the evening. It could not be improved upon and Sergt.-Major Rundle has reason to be proud of the manner in which his pupils acquitted themselves. Sergts. Mason and Robinson, Corp. Matthews and Elcome and Ptes. Kidd and Martin also performed the infantry sword exercise in a creditable manner.

Bandmaster Miller sang "Let me Like a Soldier Fall" and sang it well. Private Mulligan in the "Death of Nelson" carried the house by storm and for his able effort he received the heartiest greeting of the evening.

The performance concluded with a fantasia "Pastorella" and the National Anthem by the band.—*Peterborough Review*.

London.

I HEAR that the commanding officer of a certain corps has reduced the quarter-master-sergeant for a slight offence. Surely that commissioned officer must have known that his action was illegal, and the Q.-M.-S. must have been a green hand to allow himself to be so disposed of.

N.C. officers holding the following ranks are promoted, not appointed, and may not be reduced to a lower grade, except by sentence of a court-martial, or with their own consent, approved by the commanding officer and the general officer commanding; or on the committal of an offence requiring reduction, the case must be referred to

headquarters. The commander-in-chief may order the reduction of any n. c. officer, to a lower grade. Sergt.-major, qr.-mr.-sergeant, color-sergeant, battery or troop qr.-mr.-sergeant, sergeant, corporal, bombardier, 2nd-corporal.

The following are appointments, and the holders may be reverted to their permanent grades, by a commanding officer, on the committal of any military offence or incapacity:—Paymaster sergeant, orderly room clerk, hospital sergeant, lance-sergeant, lance-corporal, acting-bombardier.

A paymaster-sergeant appointed from corporal, may be reverted to his permanent grade viz., corporal; an orderly room clerk or hospital sergeant, appointed from private, may be reverted to private, their permanent grades; the permanent grade of a lance-sergeant is corporal; that of a lance-corporal, private; the ranks of color-sergeant, battery sergeant-major and battery qr.-mr.-sergeant, are equal, the senior of either arm commanding the others.

The R. & O., 1887, give little or no information, as to the standing of n.c. officers, and as a consequence the staff-sergeant nuisance is increasing. I was once present at a rifle meeting, when no less than nine persons from one corps, calling themselves staff-sergeants, were present. The expression staff-sergeant is very vague; gives no information, and is often assumed by n.c. officers who are not entitled to do so.

PIPECLAY.

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.]

COMPLIMENTS ON THE MARCH.

To the Editor of the Canadian Militia Gazette:

SIR,—“Milish” is evidently very ignorant of “Canadian Regulations” when he says that “General Officers in uniform” are the only persons entitled to be saluted by troops on the march. If he could read Otter's Guide—a text book at the Infantry Schools—he would see that Royalty, General Officers, the Officer commanding the District in which the party is serving and the field officers of the corps are to be paid compliments to.

FIELD OFFICER.

THE PROPOSED NEW CAVALRY SCHOOL.

To the Editor of the Canadian Militia Gazette:

SIR,—I seen in the daily papers that there is an agitation in favour of establishing a second Cavalry School to be stationed at Toronto, evidently made under a misapprehension as to the proper use of that arm. In the schools of cavalry lectures should be delivered on the employment of cavalry with field artillery, and these lectures ought to be repeated to their own corps by officers attached for a cavalry course, but they who first would lecture must first learn, not merely out of books but practically. The employment of cavalry with field artillery is not going to be learned alongside of an infantry school, no matter how efficient that school may be, neither will it teach field artillery officers the formation and movements of cavalry, the tactical employment of the three arms in combination, or of all arms combined, in advance, rear guards, outposts, etc. It has been urged that the cavalry school would enable infantry officers to learn riding. Granted that it would, and very desirably so, but this would benefit but one infantry school, and on this ground we would require cavalry schools at Fredericton, St. John and London, but that is about the only thing in favour of its establishment in Toronto. It is all very well to say “teach infantry officers to ride,” but when horses have been bucketted all over the shop by inexperienced hands in riding school these same horses would require to be retrained to be of any use as cavalry. Were a cavalry school (no demi school with 30 officers, 40 n.c.o. and men, and 27 horses) established at Kingston, a place at which all arms of the service would then be represented, it would be more beneficial to the militia. To Kingston must go all long course officers; to the Limestone City must go all present and future staff-officers desirous of qualifying, if any pretence is made to enforce the regulations. The future generals? of Canada would be a nice lot if they never had handled, never seen, except possibly as spectators, cavalry, artillery and infantry manoeuvred either for the benefit of the gallery or as for fight. All that is asked of an Imperial infantry officer up for promotion from captain to major (barring drill of course) is to ride; it is only the staff who are expected to ride well. Staff officers on leaving the staff college in England are attached to cavalry regiments or field artillery. Staff and artillery officers are required to manoeuvre cavalry, and may be attached for practical instruction, but the infantryman is not asked to touch cavalry or artillery. Are, then, our embryo staff officers to learn nothing of these requirements? By all means give us more cavalry schools, but don't break them up into small detachments, which are of no earthly use to themselves, the arm they represent, to the militia or to the public.

What should be done is to make the artillery at Quebec garrison, and at Kingston field, by transferring the demi field battery at the former place to Kingston, thus making a complete four gun battery.

At Kingston there is the Royal Military College (the staff college of Canada) where the gentlemen cadets are instructed practically in infantry, artillery and engineering; but only theoretically in cavalry. Now if the cavalry school were there, in addition to instructing the cadets in equitation, all arms, cavalry, artillery, artillery school, infantry, gentlemen cadets R. M. C., engineers, the small detachment attached to the R. M. C. would at all times be available for field days, and practical instruction to the cadets and all officers in garrison.

Another reason, and a strong one with the Militia Department, for the removal from Quebec is the expense of maintenance at that place in comparison with other stations for instance: Forage at Quebec, 26½c; at Kingston, 21½c; meat at Quebec, 7c per lb.; at Kingston, 5½c per lb.

FORESIGHT.

THE MILITIA APPROPRIATIONS—SOUND ADVICE.

To the Editor of the Canadian Militia Gazette:

SIR,—I notice some remarks in your issue of the 16th February anent grants to rifle associations in which the inference is drawn that the artillery branch of the militia service is unfairly treated in this respect. To this, I think, exception may be taken, as it will be seen by reference to the Militia List, that the artillery constitute less than one-tenth of the force.

Now, if we take from the amount given in aid of rifle associations, the money required to defray the expenses of the Wimbledon team, it will be found that the grant to artillery associations, irrespective of any special grants, would be a fair proportion. But it must also be taken into consideration that the grants to rifle associations, except such as go to regimental clubs, can be participated in by all branches of the service; and I fancy that where the artillery are in sufficient numbers to organize a rifle club they would receive a share of this appropriation. But the grant to artillery

associations is exclusively for that branch of the service, and is therefore a special bonus to it. It might be said that the cavalry should receive a grant as an encouragement for the use of the sword, or engineers in the use of engineering tools, and so on. This, however, is not thought of, but such officers and men of these corps as have the time and ability to handle the rifle are found at the annual rifle matches, and if any one will take the trouble to analyze the winnings of the different branches, I think it will be found that all get a fair share. In fact in nine reports from 1873 to 1885, leaving out '79, '80 and '81.—the artillery had an average of three men on the Wimbledon team, showing that the rifle is not neglected by that arm.

There is a little too much grumbling and growling about unfairness by the several branches of the service from the permanent corps down, and it will be well to drop it. What is wanted is to strengthen the hands of the government in such a way as to ultimately secure larger grants for militia purposes, so that all branches of the service may be better equipped and encouraged.

If the artillery require a better arm, so do the infantry. The cavalry want better fixings; the engineers better tools. But suppose the government decided to give all these, what a howl there would be! It is necessary to educate the people of the Dominion up to the necessity of an appropriation for these things, and to say that they must be had, and then we may be sure the government will soon find a way to get them.

The MILITIA GAZETTE is an excellent paper to discuss these matters in, but its circulation being in a measure confined to militia officers is not sufficiently large to effect the masses. Therefore it is through the ordinary press that this work must chiefly be done. Stir up members of parliament, and their supporters to the necessities of the case and the battle is won.

We must, however, remember that there has been a very heavy strain put upon the Dominion purse in the past twenty years, one that has been seriously felt, but the money has been well expended, and in a way that will yield large returns in the next decade of twenty years. It is reasonable, therefore, to expect that means will be begun to properly protect what has been so well done. The recent action taken in appointing a committee at the headquarters to consider the question of defences may be considered as the beginning, and the work of this committee should be helped on in every way possible—without cavil or jealous feeling.

Let us do the best we can and put up with the facilities at present at our disposal, with the assurance that as circumstances will admit we shall get what is wanted.

RURAL.

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A HOME LUXURY FOR CAMPING OUT.



COFFEE of the FINEST FLAVOR can be made in a MOMENT, ANYWHERE, in ANY QUANTITY. As good with condensed milk as fresh, or as "Café Noir."

FULL DIRECTIONS WITH EACH BOTTLE

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MONEY ORDERS may be obtained at any Money Order Office in Canada, payable in the Dominion; also in the United States, the United Kingdom, France, Germany, Italy, Belgium, Switzerland, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, the Netherlands, India, the Australian Colonies, and other countries and British Colonies generally.

On Money Orders payable within Canada the commission is as follows:

If not exceeding \$4	2c.
Over \$4, not exceeding \$10	5c.
" 10, " " 20	10c.
" 20, " " 40	20c.
" 40, " " 60	30c.
" 60, " " 80	40c.
" 80, " " 100	50c.

On Money Orders payable abroad the commission is:

If not exceeding \$10	10c.
Over \$10, not exceeding \$20	20c.
" 20, " " 30	30c.
" 30, " " 40	40c.
" 40, " " 50	50c.

For further information see OFFICIAL POSTAL GUIDE.

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

North-West Mounted Police.

RECRUITS

ARE NOW BEING ENGAGED AT OTTAWA

APPLICANTS must be between the ages of Twenty-two and Forty, active, able-bodied men of thoroughly sound constitution, and must produce certificates of exemplary character and sobriety.

They must understand the care and management of horses, and be able to ride well.

The term of engagement is five years.

The rates of pay are as follows:—

Staff-Sergeants	\$1.00 to \$1.50 per day.
Other Non-Com. Officers	85c. to 1.00 "

	Service pay.	Good conduct pay.	Total.
1st year's service,	50c.	—	50c. per day.
2nd "	50	5c.	55 "
3rd "	50	10	60 "
4th "	50	15	65 "
5th "	50	20	70 "

Extra pay is allowed to a limited number of blacksmiths, carpenters and other artisans.

Members of the force are supplied with free rations, a free kit on joining and periodical issues during the term of service.

Ottawa, March 23rd, 1887.

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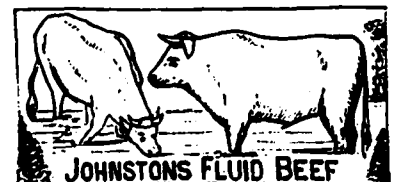
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ANALYSIS BY

Dr. J. Baker Edwards, Professor of Chemistry and Inland Revenue Food Analyst, Montreal:

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