

THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE

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Topics of the Week.

Is it not rather odd that while the council of the Dominion Rifle Association in their annual report express the hope that next year there may be representation from the Imperial forces at Halifax, not one word is said about the absence year by year of representation from the Canadian permanent corps?

We congratulate Captain Cooper of the 12th, upon the completion of his new military and sporting magazine rifle, at perfecting which he has for a good while been working. From the description given, as printed elsewhere, it appears to be a very serviceable weapon, quite up to modern ideas, and we hope that a practical test may realize the expectations formed of its utility.

General Laurie struck the right note when at the business meeting of the Dominion Rifle Association he told the members, or such of them as are militiamen, that if they wanted to secure money for expenditure on the force they should see to it that their representatives in parliament backed up the few military members who seem disposed to press the needs of the militia upon the attention of the House. This is something we have time and again urged in these columns, as the only effective way of advancing the claims of the militia to a larger share of the public expenditure. Apropos of General Middleton's suggestion that less money should be spent on the Dominion Rifle Association in order that there might be more for the rank and file of the force, it is just a question whether, were the rifle associations crippled in their work, the discouragement might not result in such a loss of activity amongst the shooting men—the backbone of the force—that there would be scarce any rank and file kept together.

The Fenelon Falls New Year's scores have made quite a stir in shooting circles, as will be realized by a glance at our correspondence columns this week. It is to be hoped that out of all the challenges given, there may yet be some matches fired. In connection with Mr. Donnelly's letter, we would suggest that the stake named be in some other form than money—money, if desired, to cover the shooting expenses, but not, to ever so small an extent, swell the purses of the winners. Money prizes for regular competitions are quite in order, shooting being too costly to be generally indulged in without this offset to the expense involved, but we think that for friendly competitions to decide individual or team supremacy the stake should be different. The amounts mentioned by Mr. Donnelly would really only about cover the expense involved, and it would be better to put it that way. The regimental challenge is a first rate idea, and might well be taken up in this or a modified form.

Common Sense Musketry Training.

Gen. Schofield has signalized his coming into command of the U.S. Army by a revision of the regulations for rifle practice. The new regulation appears elsewhere in this issue. The rifle practice of the regulars was getting into a perfunctory stage, where the filling of reports with figures was of more importance in the minds of many officers than the creation of self-confident individual marksmen from the boys in blue. The aim has been to make the course of practice such that the soldier should know as much as possible of the science of rifle shooting and pretty much all of the art connected with accurate hitting. Then turned loose on his own resources, with an enemy in front and an unknown distance to fire over, he would first of all know his arm and in the next place would know how to use it.

Instead of an annual round of practice, the new system gives something akin to a three years' course in marksmanship, so that a man makes a gradual increase in result through greater exertion and exercise of skill until he has become as proficient as any reasonable system could demand. Another point in the new rules is that each arm of the service will use its service arm, and cavalry men will shoot with carbines, as they would be required to do in actual warfare, and not with the rifle as now, for the mere purpose, seemingly, of giving them the practice of some sort and keeping up the department or division.

Revolver shooting, too, will come in for a share of consideration which has hitherto been denied. In all the new regulations care has been taken not to cut off the spur of competition. Rivalry will go on as before for places on the several teams, and even more so, for now there will be carbine as well as rifle teams.

The Northwest Mounted Police.

Accustomed to this appellation of our unique organization for the maintenance of law and order in the yet undeveloped territories of Northwestern Canada, one is not apt to realize the fact that to all intents and purposes this splendid body is an essentially military organization, and in appearance, drill and general efficiency, and the mental and physical standard of its members, probably second to no body of cavalry in the world.

The annual report just laid before Parliament by Sir John Macdonald, under whose immediate control the force comes, is a volume of upwards of two hundred pages replete with valuable and interesting information concerning the vast country under the charge of the Police, and concerning the doings of that body itself.

Commissioner Herchmer with just pride refers to his command as "the finest body of men in the country." He says:

"The recruits we have obtained this year are generally all that the most fastidious commanding officer could desire. I am deluged with applications from all parts, even the old country and the United States, for admission to our ranks. A very large proportion are farmers' sons, and I still prefer this class to all others."

"The discipline of the force is, on the whole, of a very high order, and while several of the non-commissioned officers have behaved badly, and have been promptly punished, generally I have received their hearty support. Drunkenness has, in almost every instance, been the cause of trouble. I think the nature of the duties the police are called upon to perform is not generally known, even by otherwise well informed men, who take a prominent interest in Canadian affairs, and the occasional lapse from duty of an unfortunate is immediately commented upon on all sides. The country occupied by the police is now, including part of Manitoba, 700 miles long by over 350 miles wide, and until lately we also occupied the Kootenay country, in British Columbia. Over the whole of this enormous country the force is scattered, being divided into ten divisions, and each division having many outposts, at which the men do duty in twos and threes. Some of these outposts are 150 miles, and many are over 100 miles from the nearest officer, and with, generally, no railway communication. Up to date the men have had no future to look forward to, and have really only the discipline instilled into them and their own high character to keep them straight; they are under enormous temptation to misbehave and shield whiskey offenders, and are constantly in danger of getting into trouble by exceeding their duties. There are less punishments inflicted in the police than in any other force I know of, and remarkably few cases of over zeal. Discipline is impartially maintained, and although very strict indeed, but few cases, beyond slight indiscretions, have arisen during the year.

"The force is well drilled, but from the numerous different avocations in which the men are employed, although individually drilled men they naturally require some days together before they are in a condition to do justice to themselves on parade. As the general public are unaware of our multifarious duties, and, as when we make mistakes as police proper, they make no allowance for our other qualifications, I may be allowed to name a few of the different things we do for ourselves, outside ordinary police duties and patrols. We are trained soldiers, both mounted and dismounted, and squads in nearly every division thoroughly understand gun drill; we do our own carpenter work, painting, alterations of clothing, blacksmithing, most of our freighting and teaming, plough when required, put out prairie fires, act as customs and quarantine officers, do most of our own waggon repairing and tinsmithing, mend all and make a great deal of saddlery and harness, act as gaolers and keepers of the insane sometimes for weeks, and there is not a division in the force that can not go into any country and put up a complete barracks, either of logs or frame. "D" Division, under Superintendent Steele, erected first-class barracks at Kootenay, B. C., last year, the division being comfortably housed before winter set in.

"In physique we are second to no force in existence; our men are well set up, young, active, good looking, stout and tall, with good constitutions, our average height being over 5 feet 9 inches, and chest measurement over 37¼ inches, and we have very few men who cannot ride day in and day out their fifty miles. Every recruit passes a surgeon below and our senior surgeon here, and useless and unsound men are immediately got rid of. Our physique is improving all the time; only first class men can stand a five year term in the police.

In target practice great strides have been made this year, and considering that many of our carbines are old, and the fact that Winchester of any pattern, at their best, are not good range rifles, I consider the scores made to be very good. Our Winchester are undersighted and in my opinion, and in that of my officers, have seen their day. I would strongly recommend for favourable consideration, that extra pay be allowed to the best shot in each division and to the best shot in the force. I would also strongly recommend that the price of ammunition be placed at the lowest cost, so that every facility may be given the men to purchase it for practice.

A drill book for the force is now being printed on our own press at Regina, and a copy will soon be submitted to you for approval. The drill is of the simplest kind, and conflicts in no way with the Mounted Infantry Regulation, but contains much information respecting details and movements absolutely required in the force, which are not laid down in the Mounted Infantry Manual.

THE ARTILLERY BRANCH.

Concerning the artillery branch, the Inspecting Superintendent, Major John Cotton, says:—

Our armament consist of 9-pounder and 7-pounder mountain guns. I last year pointed out that the 9-pounder M. L. R. guns; though a suitable arm for ordinary field batteries are certainly not what we require. In the first place, any division to which 9-pounder guns were attached would require to be largely augmented in horses. One of these guns in travelling any distance requires six horses and harness. We are without ammunition waggons, which on active service would have to be supplied. For this purpose I have no doubt we could improvise some of our heavy waggons. For each waggon a four-horse team would be necessary. The 9-pounder guns weigh 8 cwt. (English standard.)

"They could not be moved as rapidly as required were an attempt made to have them act in unison with a purely cavalry force. The Royal Artillery gun of the same calibre is lighter than those we have. Even the Royal Horse Artillery gun is heavier than we require. We would never need so formidable an arm in Indian warfare. With a much lighter gun our artillery branch would attain all the efficiency and power desirable. I would recommend that a Nordenfeldt Machine Gun, with galloping carriage, be attached to each division. Of course, what I have said of the 9-pounder M. L. R. guns applies to the difficulties arising in their transport. I have no doubt that in some cases they might be found useful about our posts.

"Now, with regard to the 7-pounder mountain guns, it must be conceded that, as mountain guns we will never require to use them. In all we have six 7-pounder guns; two of them are of the latest pattern (steel) and are furnished with wrought iron carriage and limbers of the field-gun pattern, with side-arms complete. These two guns are thus thoroughly serviceable. The remaining four 7-pounder guns (bronze) are of much older pattern, and came to this country originally on the Red River expedition."

The Dominion Rifle Association.

The twenty-first annual meeting of the Dominion Rifle Association was held yesterday morning, 20th inst., in the Railway Committee Rooms of the House of Commons, Ottawa. The president Lieut.-Col. Geo. A. Kirkpatrick, M.P., occupied the chair. There was a good attendance. His Excellency the Governor-General, patron of the association, honored the meeting with his presence. Amongst the others were Lt.-Gen. Middleton, Lt.-Gen. Laurie, Col. Walker Powell, Col. C. Panet, Senator Carvell, Senator Macdonald, Messers Daily, Watson, McNeill, and Casey, M.P.'s, Lieut.-Col. Tyrwhitt, M.P., Prior M.P., Ouimet M.P., O'Brien, M.P., John Macpherson (treasurer), Bacon (secretary), Smith, Irwin, Ross, White, J. P. Macpherson, Gravelly, Macdonald, (Ottawa), Macdonald, (Halifax) Curren, Tilton, Bond, Anderson, Brosseau, Scoble, Cotton, Massey, Caverhill, Turnbull and Henshaw, Majors Walsh, Ward, M.P., Sutherland, M.P., Perley, Blaiklock, Delamere, Bond, Captains McMicking, Sims, Hood, Sherwood, Gray, Toller Macnachten and Waldo.

The first business was the presentation of the annual report, which showed the year to have been a very successful one. The following are excerpts:—

The Canada Club of London again presented to the Wimbledon team a handsome silver cup for the member thereof making the highest aggregate score at the Wimbledon meeting, for which the thanks of the Association are due. Lt.-Col. Frank Bond, commanding the Prince of Wales' Rifles, was appointed to the command of the Wimbledon team, and his report shows that Col. Humphrey, commanding the Cambridge University Rifles, had arranged everything for their comfort in camp at Cambridge, where they had a week's practice before proceeding to Wimbledon. He speaks highly of the kindness and courtesy shown to the team at Cambridge by Col. Humphrey and others, which made the week's sojourn there very pleasant and the association owe a debt of gratitude for the hospitality shown.

The council have pleasure in reporting a very successful prize meeting at the Rideau Range. The attendance was not quite up to the previous year, but was only nine competitors less, namely, 354, as compared with 363 in 1887. The timing of the extra series and Martini matches worked very well and gave general satisfaction. Every province was again represented, and several new corps competed, showing that the interest in the association is extending. Although the matches are so arranged as to be open to H. M. regular forces, both army and navy, those forces are never represented at the annual matches at Ottawa, which is to be regretted, as the associating of the regulars with the militia forces would undoubtedly have a good effect. It is hoped that another annual gathering will see a representation from the garrison and squadron at Halifax.

The balance sheet shows the total receipts from all sources for the year to have been \$18,123.57 which with the balance of \$2,440.34 from last year makes a total on the credit side of \$20,563.91. The expenditure amounted to \$18,120.83, leaving a balance of \$2,443.08 in favour of the association. The net receipts from entry fees including post entries and fines, exclusive of the charge for ammunition, amounted to \$3,746.86 as against \$3,576.01 in 1887, an increase of \$170.85. The expenditure connected with the Wimbledon Team this year amounted to \$5,782.00 as against \$5,811.96 in 1887, a decrease of \$29.96.

THE WIMBLEDON TEAM.

In his report on the Wimbledon Team, the commandant, Lt.-Col. Frank Bond, says:

We are indebted to Dr. Rae for having made the members of the team honorary members of the Royal Colonial Institute. The London Scottish with their usual hospitality made the Canadian team members of their mess, as did also the Westminster Rifles. Nothing could exceed the kindness and attention shown the Canadian team by the officers of the National Rifle Association, and the name Canadian is a password to the best of everything on Wimbledon common. I take particular pleasure in acknowledging the services of my Adjutant, Captain Wright, 43rd Batt. He devoted his whole time and great energy towards securing the comfort and welfare of the members of the team, and a great deal of the success of the team is due to his careful management. The conduct of the members was highly satisfactory; there has not been even the smallest misunderstanding, but on the contrary a desire on all sides to comply with every order and to make the name of Canadian stand higher than ever with all those with whom they came into contact.

ADDRESS FROM THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

A vote of thanks to the Governor-General for his generous gift of \$500 to the association having been tendered, His Excellency spoke in reply.

Lord Stanley made a thoroughly practical address. He thought he was about the oldest holder of a Hythe certificate in the room, and was thus in a position to take more than a passing interest in the affairs of a rifle association. While the report showed the affairs of the Dominion Rifle Association to be in a flourishing condition, he thought they should not be content to remain stationary, but year by year branch out in new directions. It was obvious that not every man could come to Ottawa to attend the central meeting, and it was essential that an effort should be made to popularise the provincial, battalion and company matches. At these minor meetings the shooting should be serious, a matter of business, not pleasure. This was not the first occasion, he was happy to say on which he had met the Canadian riflemen, having had the pleasure of meeting the Canadian team at Wimbledon, when it was commanded by Col. Gzowski, whose absence to-day he regretted. At Wimbledon the Canadians were known not only as good shots but as good soldiers, as a former Captain Adjutant, Capt. Colville (A.D.C.), who was in the room, could testify. He noticed a hope expressed in the report that next year the regular forces at Halifax would be represented at the meeting, and he trusted this hope would be realized.

He noticed with regret that there had been no contributions from manufacturers last year, which he hoped was not an indication that those persons have become luke warm in support of the association. Shooting was part of the essential training of a soldier, and it contributed to bring about that feeling of security which is the very foundation of manufacturing success. He had to congratulate the association on having this year attained its majority, and also for the fact that its efforts to secure an improvement in the ammunition had been so successful.

THANKING SIR ADOLPHE CARON.

A vote of thanks to Sir Adolphe Caron, Minister of Militia, for his kindness to the Association, was moved by Senator Carvell, seconded by Major Bond. The latter took occasion to express his appreciation of the improvement which had been effected in the ammunition—an improvement which had averted a demand for a new arm. He felt that in the matter of rifles we were two stages behind, but was sure that the Minister of Militia would procure the very best arm if the Government of the country would back him up with funds.

The vote of thanks was acknowledged by Col. Panet, Deputy Minister, who apologized for the Minister's unavoidable absence.

COL. KIRKPATRICK RE-ELECTED.

Lord Stanley then proposed that Lieut.-Col. Geo. A. Kirkpatrick, M.P., be the president for the ensuing year. His Excellency complimented the president on the assiduity he had shown in that office, and said he was widely known as an enthusiastic rifleman not only in Canada but in England as well. His Excellency then put the motion to the meeting, and it was unanimously carried.

Col. Kirkpatrick in acknowledging the honour paid him, said the success of the association was in a great measure due to the unselfish efforts of the staff and the executive committee. He was convinced that without encouraging riflemen it was impossible to have a good volunteer force.

THE USEFULNESS OF THE D. R. A.

A vote of thanks to General Middleton, for his annual gift to the association, was moved by Col. Kirkpatrick.

General Middleton in reply, said he felt it his duty to state here, as he had stated before in his annual reports, and as he had contended with respect to Wimbledon, that any absolute good accomplished by these rifle associations was more by a side wind than directly. "I see all the money going to you," he said, "and I can't get money to pay my men. You ought to take more pains to get at the rank and file, or the money

should be divided with me." General Middleton proceeded to state that in his opinion officers and combatants should not be allowed to share in the prize money, which should go to the men who would have to use the rifle in case of war.

Lieut.-Col. Curran, of Halifax, agreed with the remarks made by General Middleton. Lieut.-Col. O'Brien, of the 35th, did likewise. He pointed out that of the sixty on the Wimbledon list only eleven are privates, and a great many are non-combatants. In his regiment only combatants were eligible for prizes.

Lieut.-Col. Kirkpatrick said these staff-sergeants—the non-combatants mentioned—and the officers had worked their way up from privates. They were the men who encouraged others to come forward and join the force, and to take an interest in rifle shooting. If they were excluded from the competition it would soon be found that interest in the force would die out.

Lieut.-Col. Scoble, of Winnipeg, said he was one of those interested in the organization of the association, and was in a position to state that it was not intended to be a military body, but rather a link between the organized militia and the public.

Major Blaiklock, of the 5th Royal Scots, said the men of the 35th Battalion seemed to share in their Colonel's aversion to take part in the D. R. A. competitions. A glance at the record showed that in 1885 there were no competitors from that battalion; in 1886, one; in 1887, none; and in 1888, none.

Lieut.-Col. Tilton, G. G. F. G., said this matter was one which had engaged the attention of the council of the association time and again. They had never considered it advisable to bar any members of the force, but they had constantly increased the nursery prizes, in order to induce new men to attend. As to General Middleton's request, that the money should be divided, the prize list was largely contributed by the competitors themselves.

THE MILITARY GENERAL BOOTH.

General Middleton said he did not wish to decry the work of the Dominion Rifle Association, but there was a work to be done in the rank and file, especially in the rural corps, which the association could not do. To draw a parallel, it was well known that General Booth's army could reach a class that the well-fed Protestant clergy could not. He asked to be considered the General Booth of the Militia, while the gentlemen he addressed were the well fed Protestant clergy.

General Laurie said it was true more money was wanted, but it was to be got in the House, not from this meeting. "You who are not in the House," he said, "should impress it upon your representatives to back us up when we rise to speak on matters respecting the militia." He added that it was too much the custom for the rest of the House to go out when, as they said, the military men were having an innings.

Capt. Hood, of the 5th Royal Scots, said the great interest taken in shooting in that battalion was solely due to the fact that they had a number of shooting officers. In his company he had fifteen or twenty men who were good shots up to five hundred yards.

Lieut.-Col. Macdonald, of Halifax, said he was against the pot-hunting element in the militia, but he thought the pruning knife should be applied in the regimental and provincial associations.

Captain Sherwood said in the 43rd Battalion the officers took no money at the regimental matches, though a great many of them were shooting men, but they contributed very largely to the funds, and brought out a great many new men every year.

Lieut.-Col. White said his experience, in his twenty-one years' connection with the force, had been that where the officers take an interest in the men, and are ready to teach them how to shoot, the men are ready to learn, but not otherwise. This closed the discussion on the subject.

On motion of Major Perley, seconded by Lieut.-Col. Anderson, the constitution was amended so as to provide for the recognition of certain associations in the Northwest Territories as provincial associations; and for granting a bronze as well as the usual silver medal to other than provincial associations who pay an affiliation fee of \$15, in place of \$12 as at present.

The association meeting then terminated, and the council met, re-electing the treasurer, secretary and other officials, and transacting some routine business.

Another heroine has been added to share in the recollection of the past glories of France, with the valorous Maid of Orleans. A statue has just been uncovered in the votive church of the Sacre Cœur, on the eminence of Montmartre, which dominates Paris to the north, but within the fortifications, that did not, by-the-by, exist in 1814, when the Prussians, besieging the capital, planted their batteries on the same hill. The monument inaugurated the other day, is in honour of St. Genevieve, the female patron saint of Paris.

Regimental News.

The 21st Essex Fusiliers.

The fourth annual meeting of the 21st Essex Fusiliers was held at the Crawford House, Windsor, on the 7th February, 1889, at 2.30 p. m. Present, Lt.-Col. Wilkinson, in the chair; Major Guillot, Surgeon Casgrain, Captain Meloche, Paymaster; Captain Reeves, Quartermaster; Captain Fox, Adjutant; Captain Cheyne, Captain Ley, Captain Botsford, Captain Jones, Captain Dewsen, and Lieuts. Bartlett, Alderton, and Ponting; and Sergt.-Major John Leighton.

Lieut. Bartlett was appointed secretary, after which Col. Wilkinson addressed the meeting, offering congratulations on the attendance and on the *esprit de corps* shown by, and the general success of the regiment.

Captain Jones, chairman of the Regimental Committee, submitted his report, which was received and adopted. Capt. Reeves, chairman Band Committee, submitted his report, which was adopted. The band is in a flourishing condition under the able leadership of Mr. George P. Vansickle.

The several committees were then appointed: Regimental—Capt. Jones, Capt. Botsford and Capt. Ley. Band—Captains Reeves, Dewsen, Fox, and Surgeon Casgrain. Mess—Capt. Ley, Botsford, and Lieut. Russell.

The annual appointments of the 21st Fusiliers Rifle Association were then made as follows: President, Lieut.-Col. Wilkinson; Vice-President, Sergt.-Major John Leighton; Secretary, Lieut. Bartlett; Treasurer, Capt. Ley; Range Officer, Capt. Fox; Executive Committees—Capt. Botsford, Major Guillot, and Mr. A. J. Green. It was resolved that the annual prize meeting should be held at Essex Centre. An excellent range is completed there from 100 to 1,000 yards. 15 Martini-Henry rifles were obtained from headquarters last season, and it is expected the regiment will in future take an active part in rifle shooting.

At the close of the meeting the officers of the regiment entertained at lunch the Mayor, Mr. Twomey, Ex-mayor Major Beattie, Fred Villiers, war correspondent of the *London Graphic*, and many other influential citizens and friends. The fine band of the regiment was stationed in the corridor and furnished excellent music. After lunch the usual toasts were indulged in, Col. Wilkinson presiding. A most hearty welcome was accorded Mr. Villiers, who was well pleased with the reception.

The officers then, in full dress, in a body attended the lecture of Mr. Villiers in the Methodist Church, which was a thrilling and delightful affair.

HOTSPUR.

The following interesting account of the banquet and lecture is taken from the *Detroit Free Press*:

"Last evening the officers of the Twenty-first Essex Fusiliers closed their annual meeting with a lunch at the Crawford House, and by a happy coincidence they were able to have as their especial guest the *Graphic's* special artist and correspondent, Frederic Villiers. The excellent condition of the Twenty-first and the enthusiastic loyalty of both officers and men was well demonstrated by the satisfactory reports from the several companies, and the sympathetic interest and hearty encouragement of the people of Essex County was well represented by civilians who were present at the lunch. There were present, Lieut.-Col. Wilkinson, Major Guillot, Capt. Jones, Dewson, Cheyne, Ley, Reeves, Meloche, Botsford and Fox, Surgeon Casgrain and Lieuts. Bartlett, Alderton and Ponting, and Sergt.-Major Leighton. The guests of the evening were Frederic Villiers, Dr. Carney, Robert Barr, Alex Bartlett, Major Beattie, Mayor Twomey, Rev. J. M. Hodson, C. S. Hathaway, Captain Templeton, A. Whittaker, Thomas Dow, and the editors of the *Windsor Clarion* and *Record*. The toasts, "The Queen," "Our Guests" and "Our Friends" were responded to respectively by Col. Wilkinson, Major Guillot and Alex Bartlett. Lieut. Bartlett proposed the sentiment, "The Ladies," and Sergt. Casgrain responded. Brief speeches were made by Messrs. Villiers, Whittaker, Templeton, Barr and others, and the Twenty-first Regiment band, stationed in the corridor, presented a pleasing musical programme. Altogether the affair was a success, a good portion of the credit therefor belonging to Landlord McFarland and his assistants.

Frederic Villiers must have been well convinced that his fame is well established and that his achievements are much admired by Her Majesty's subjects in Windsor, when he faced his audience last evening to deliver his lecture, "War on a White Sheet." Every seat was occupied, a section of the auditorium being devoted to the officers of the Twenty-first Essex Fusiliers, making a bright spot in the picture with the red coats and bullion decorations of the soldiers. The presence of the red coats seemed to inspire the lecturer, for when the lecture hall was darkened and the evening's entertainment began, he described his picture and related the many incidents in thrilling fashion as though he was living the scenes over again. The audience caught the infection and with each mention of the names of Wolseley, Stuart and their fol-

lowers enthusiastic applause was given. The lecture was a delightful affair and quite profitable to the promoters of the enterprise."

The Dufferin Rifles.

A meeting of the officers of the Dufferin Rifles was held at the officers' rooms Monday evening 11th inst, there being a large attendance of the officers with Lieut. Col. Jones in the chair. Several matters of interest to the regiment were discussed and action taken thereon.

Considerable discussion took place over the fact that there was no provision made in the Dominion Parliament estimates for a grant for the Brantford Drill Hall, and Col. Jones and Surgeon Harris were appointed a deputation to wait on the Government in reference to the matter. The amount no doubt will appear in the supplementary estimates, but considering the liberal grant from the city it was expected that the amount would have been placed in the first estimates.

A letter was read from Mrs. Gough, thanking the officers for their contribution of \$25.

A series of monthly informal concerts and entertainments is being inaugurated by the officers, the first to take place in their rooms Monday evening, 18th inst.

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.]

THE CHALLENGE CONSIDERED.

EDITOR MILITIA GAZETTE,—The challenges of Captain Thompson and Mr. Willis are duly noted and these gentlemen will hear from our village during the coming season, probably in the leafy month of June, as by then we will have sandpapered the rust out of our rifles. We never shoot through the winter here but you ought to hear the boys talk. The "record" at Fenelon Falls on New Year's day is nothing to some of the scores that are made when they get "talking through their hats," and judging from that, I think a few of them will come out in pretty good form this season.

I humbly appologize for my stupidity in asking the question in my previous communication "if the match was shot before or after the banquet?" as the narrative states that after the banquet the *whole* party *marched* down to the station and joined in singing "Auld Lang Syne," and "The Girl I left behind me." So that when we consider that they were all able to *walk* down, we infer none had to be driven, and that they were able to tell the difference between "Auld Lang Syne" and "The Girl I left behind me." They were in good enough trim to make an average of seven over inners whether before or after the gathering round the festive board, and there was really no necessity for my putting such a question.

"A DOUBTING THOMAS."

Toronto, 15th Feb., 1889.

A COMPREHENSIVE CHALLENGE.

EDITOR MILITIA GAZETTE,—Noticing a *defi* thrown out by Fenelon Falls and Lindsay, and intended especially for the benefit of riflemen of Toronto, I beg most respectfully to exclaim in the vulgarism of the day: 'Aw there, my size!' And I mean it—it's just what I have been waiting for after a winter's restraint. I have no idea who "Doubting Thomas" is. However, be that as it may, the F. F. and L. men seem determined to have a crack at Toronto. So on behalf of her marksmen, I take up the gauntlet and will make the following matches:

No. 1.—I will match five Toronto men to shoot against a similar number of the Lindsay team, on the following conditions: Snider or Martini rifles, 7 shots each at 200, 500, and 600 yards, or on their own terms, viz., 200 and 500 yards; positions kneeling at 200 yards, prone at 500 or 600 yards. We will shoot one match on their ranges, and a return one on the Toronto ranges—the team finishing with the greatest number of points in both matches to be decided the winners. This match to be for \$50 a side.

No. 2.—I will also match ten Toronto men against the same number from either Lindsay or Fenelon Falls, same conditions as No. 1, except in rifles, which shall be Martini only. This match to be for \$100 or \$200 a side.

No. 3.—I will also take up the challenge thrown out by the *Warder*, viz., offering to back Messrs. McDougall and Brandon to shoot against any other two men in Ontario who are members of one business firm. I have two men here who will exactly fill the bill, conditions same as No. 1. Amount \$50 or \$100 a side.

No. 4.—I will also match myself to shoot against any man either in Fenelon Falls or Lindsay, at 200 yards standing, elbow clear of the body, 10 shots, Snider or Martini rifles, pull not less than 6 lbs, on any range. This match to be for \$25 a side.

No. 5.—I will also back a Toronto regiment to shoot against any

other regiment in the Dominion of Canada, under the following conditions: Both sides shall turn out as many men as possible, when the top 50 scores will decide. Ranges 200, 400 and 500 yards, 5 shots each range. This match to be for the championship of Canada, represented by a trophy valued from \$100 to \$300. Men composing teams must be efficient members of their corps for at least 12 months prior to match, which must be shot on neutral grounds.

Any or four of the above matches can be arranged for and shot in one day; men and money ready in a week's notice. I would suggest that matches take place about June 1st, 1889.

I shall be pleased to hear from our Lindsay and Fenelon Falls marksmen, so as to decide the question of supremacy. I might also state that we here in Toronto will be pleased to give the visitors a banquet, *win or lose*.

I would suggest that in the event of any matches coming off the Editor of the MILITIA GAZETTE be appointed referee and stakeholder.

All communications addressed to the undersigned will be cheerfully answered.

G. M. DONNELLY,
77 Colborne St., Toronto.

P. S.—Since starting above, I found out quite accidentally who "Doubting Thomas" is, and must say, with pleasure, he will be one of a team, if not teams; he is a good one.

Toronto 19th February, 1889.

THE MILK IN THE COCOANUT.

EDITOR MILITIA GAZETTE,—As there seems to have been a good deal of remark caused by the scores made in Fenelon Falls on New Year's day, I rise to explain. The shooting was done at 200 yards, ten shots each, with two sighting shots, prone position.

FORESIGHT.

Toronto, Feb. 15th, 1889.

THE VALISE EQUIPMENT.

EDITOR MILITIA GAZETTE,—In the Militia Report for 1888 I see a recommendation from a staff officer to change our present valise equipment for "a simple bag slung in miner fashion by brown leather shoulder straps, etc." I have had some experience with knapsacks, valises, bags and belts, both on service and on pleasure, and it appears to me that the present valise is a convenient sack which will hold all that a soldier needs to carry placed in a compact form so that when opened he can find anything he may want almost without disturbing the remainder; whereas with the bag you must empty it to find what you want. It is also, in my humble opinion, a better looking bag than a potato sack and in the long run equally as economical. As to belts, I think that a buff belt is preferable to a brown leather one for the following reasons:

When washed clean it looks equally as well as a new brown leather one and when pipeclayed infinitely better, and will not soil the wearer's clothes.

It is soft and pliable and will not cut or chafe the wearer.

If thoroughly wetted, when dry can be again softened without any preparation, by simply rubbing in the hands.

When soiled can be easily cleaned and is more durable than brown leather.

On the other hand, the brown leather is more easily soiled or stained, and when soiled more difficult to clean; some stains it is impossible to remove. It is more liable to chafe the wearer if hard; if soft it will stretch. After wetting and drying it becomes hard and will crack, unless some sort of grease is used on it. If grease is used the wearer's clothes are soiled.

I know of one corps on service in the North West in 1885 whose officers procured India rubber "kit bags" and brown leather belts, while the men wore the valise equipment. On their return the brown belts were almost useless and the "kit bags" more dilapidated than the valise which did not cost half as much. Not a single valise or buff belt was condemned that had not had more than three years' previous service.

BUFF.

REGIMENTAL BUGBEARS.

EDITOR MILITIA GAZETTE,—Knowing your paper is always open to letters on subjects of interest to its readers, I beg for space enough to insert this under the above heading.

In every regiment there are "chronic growlers," better known to the initiated as "bums"; also a number of men known as shooting men, or as I overheard remarked the other day "Pothunters." This name was applied to a well known shot in a Toronto regiment by a member of the same in my hearing. I took a note of the names of both parties simply to compare their pedigree as to usefulness in the art of war. I found my way to the armoury on drill night. I saw Pothunter on parade and he

looked neat and soldierly; found he attended parade regularly—had a good character for sobriety and honesty. "Regimental bum" was there also, but to-night he was not as trim as usual—button off tunic, which was spotted with beer, leggings not exactly black, but a good cigar in his mouth; attended drill indifferently, not a reliable shot, but somehow had managed to hang to the regiment for years. The remark was so uncalled for and so inappropriate that I could not help thinking that the sooner the regiment is purged of this class of men the better. Men who go about corner saloons and lounging places circulating nasty reports and applying offensive names to comrades in arms who are at least superior to themselves, are a disgrace to any organization and should be weeded out. "No," he would not be a Pothunter—he considered mean—could make a borrowed half dollar go further in beer than most men can who pay their fees. The cause of these remarks is usually found in the inability to shoot well enough to be a Pothunter—cry down what you cannot do yourself is the motto. This kind of underhand work is what dampens the ardour of young shots who would perhaps spend time and money to become proficient. But as soon as they win one or two first prizes and become fairly good, then the "company poor shot" and the "regimental bum" call them Pothunters and such like. Now everyone knows that all shots in a regiment have the same opportunities to win prizes, and if the man who gives most time and attention to shooting wins most prizes he should have all the more honour. One good steady shot in a field of action is worth a dozen well drilled "bums." Would it not be better to stop all such talk and pursue a more generous course—make it an honour to be a good shot, be proud of the skill shown by any of your own regiment and in so elevating them elevate the standard of public opinion. Swear by your own comrades—do not debase them.

INQUISITOR.

U. S. Army Rifle Practice.

The first general orders, issued by Gen. Schofield at the opening of this year, has reference to the new scheme of rifle practice, which he will, on the suggestion of Col. Blunt, introduce for use in the regular army. The first order reads:

I. The first edition of the work on rifle and carbine firing, prepared by Captain Stanhope E. Blunt, Ordnance Department, inspector of small-arms practice at the headquarters of the army, having been approved by the Secretary of War for the use of the army, and the militia of the different States, under the title of "Firing Regulations for Small Arms," it will be distributed to the army, and the methods therein prescribed will hereafter be the authorized guide in all matters pertaining to the subject which it covers.

II. For the target year of 1889 the officers and enlisted men (except those "present not firing"), who in the past year were classified below the grade of marksmen, or in that class with a total of less than 340 for those firing with the rifle, or less than 310 for those firing with the carbine, will follow the course prescribed for the second season's practice; those classified as marksmen with these totals, or as sharpshooters, will follow the course prescribed for subsequent seasons; other enlisted men will follow the recruit course, and other officers the second season's course.

III. The officers at the headquarters of the army, the divisions, and departments charged with the supervision, under their commanding generals, of the course of instruction in rifle, carbine and revolver firing, will be known hereafter as inspectors of small-arms practice.

Order No. 2 amends certain sections of the regulations which will now read:

481. The Army will be annually allowed for the instruction of the soldier in target practice, small arm ammunition as follows:

a. For each officer or enlisted man firing with the rifle, to the value of \$4.

b. For each officer or enlisted man firing with the carbine, to the value of \$3.50.

c. For each enlisted man of the cavalry arm and for each officer and sergeant of any arm, for revolver practice, to the value of \$1.

d. For the further instruction of the soldier (more especially the recruit) and for firing at drills, funerals, etc., such an amount of rifle and carbine blank cartridges as the company commander deems requisite, not exceeding 2,000 rounds for each company of infantry or battery of artillery and 4,000 rounds for each troop of cavalry will also be allowed.

e. In addition each troop of cavalry will be allowed 5,000 rounds of blank revolver ammunition.

f. In addition to the above allowances each regimental staff and band, each battery of artillery and company of infantry will be allowed for gallery practice 6,000 round balls, 15,000 cartridge primers, 15 lbs. powder, 15 lbs. lubricant, and each troop of cavalry 8,000 round balls and 20,000 cartridge primers, 20 lbs. powder and 20 lbs. lubricant. But when the rifle or carbine bullets fired in range practice can be recovered

they will be recast for gallery practice and the round balls will not be supplied.

482. The value of small-arm ammunition and of the component parts thereof are determined by the Chief of Ordnance and will be published from time to time in general orders for the government of the Army.

485. In selecting competitors for the authorized annual rifle or carbine contests, no additional ammunition will be allowed. After the competitors (officers and men) are assembled at the place of competition the firing will be limited to that prescribed by paragraph 884 of the "Firing Regulations for Small Arms," and the expenditures of ammunition as there directed, will be governed accordingly.

487. Practice will be conducted in accordance with the "Firing Regulations for Small Arms." The period selected for practice on the range will be annually announced by department commanders; they will also publish from time to time the results of the firing and the names of the qualified sharpshooters, but for the sake of uniformity all orders containing instructions to govern either the preliminary methods or practice with the rifle, carbine or revolver, will be issued only from the Headquarters of the Army.

488. Reports as to the amount of instruction imparted and degree of proficiency attained will be rendered only as required by the "Firing Regulations for Small Arms," or by such further orders as may be issued from the Headquarters of the Army. The necessary books and blanks for this purpose will be supplied by the Ordnance Department.

The Physique of a Soldier.

In the comments we have already had on this important question the physique of the soldier was considered from a "progenative" and a "food supply" point of view. The actual training of the soldier, in order to fully develop his physique will now occupy our attention. Before considering our own system of physical training it will be well, for the better understanding of the subject, to see what the great Continental Powers have already done in this matter. On this subject we have ample materials furnished by Col. Onslow's lecture delivered at the Royal United Service Institution.

Commencing with Germany, he very practicably observes that in that country physical education is not only a military but a national question. Originated in 1806, by F. Jahn, who attributed the crushing defeat of the Prussians by the French at Sena to physical defects on the part of the former, and at once made it his business to prepare the German youth for the defence of his country by improving the bodily powers. He laid the foundation of "The German Gymnastic Institution," which has now developed into 4,764 societies, numbering 400,000 associates. In 1842 gymnastics were declared to be necessary in all educational establishments, and schools were formed to train masters of gymnastics, one being the Central School in Berlin. A section of this school is set apart for the instruction of officers commanding regiments. Under-officers are also trained there, and every regiment has now to send one officer yearly, so that in every battalion there are a number of officers capable of conducting the physical training of their men. Great weight is attached to practical or "applied gymnastics" in the German Army, and the men are continually exercised in them throughout their whole service. No one can deny the fact that physical superiority—the result to a great extent of their excellent physical training—was one, if not the chief cause, that enabled the Germans in 1870-71 to alter the verdict given at Jena in 1866.

Russia made her first attempt in the art of gymnastic training in 1785, and some few years afterwards the Emperor Nicholas ordered gymnastic exercises to be practised in the Army, and in 1836, at the great manoeuvres near Borodino, gymnastic experiments were tried in the presence of the Emperor, with which he was so pleased that he decorated the Director of Gymnasia with the order of Stanislaus. This system, however, does not seem to have flourished much after the Crimean war, when, on the disastrous termination of that campaign, it was established in every military school and corps, being increased and improved upon steadily ever since. All recruits are under instruction in peace for four months, and in time of war for two months. The system is progressive, and commences with the simplest exercises, advancing by degrees to applied gymnastics, such as the overcoming of obstacles, escalading walls, &c., to which they attach very great importance. Here, again, is another instance of defeat suggesting the necessity of physical training.

In FRANCE, Col. Onslow tells us, gymnastics were first introduced by a Spanish Col. Amoros at the beginning of this century, and he founded a school in Paris in 1827, which, however, did not enlist any public interest. In 1847 an attempt was made to establish a system in the Army, but no good results were arrived at owing to imperfect organization. By the exertions of Eugene Pay, founder and director of the "Grand Gymnase de Paris," in 1879 the Government were induced

to issue a decree making gymnastics compulsory in all schools, but the war of 1870 upset everything, and no good came of it. At the termination of the war, however, France awoke to the necessity of taking measures to cultivate a strong race of men, and to toughen and improve their muscular fibres, and throughout the country gymnastic societies were founded, now numbering 650, as compared with ten in existence prior to the Franco-German war. In the spring of 1878 conferences were held in Paris under the presidency of Mons. Victor Hugo, on the "Education and Instruction of Youths," the result of which was that the Government were induced to make gymnastics compulsory in all schools. The results are considered to be most satisfactory, and immense strides have been made in the physical training of the French. Here, again, observes Col. Onslow, we see conviction on this all-important question brought home to the mind of a nation by a great military disaster.

In Austria the highest importance is attached to the physical education of both soldiers and civilians, it being compulsory in all schools; but as late as 1848 the educational spirit dominant in the country was absolutely hostile to it, and it was not until the year following their humiliating defeat by the Prussians that a proposal made by Dr. Steiger to establish a compulsory system of physical training in all educational institutions was entertained by the Government, and put in force the following year, since when it has rapidly and steadily grown to large dimensions, another result from military disaster.

With respect to Italy, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, and Switzerland, systems of gymnastics, all or more less similar, obtain, and physical culture is looked upon as necessary as, and also as being an aid to, a man's mental education.

As our limited space will not permit us to continue this subject further at present—a necessity which will have the advantage of giving our readers who are interested in this subject time to reflect upon and mentally digest the above data—we shall conclude in our next issue with Colonel Onslow's thoughts and suggestions on our own system of physical training.—*A. & H. G. Gazette.*

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Department of Railways and Canals,
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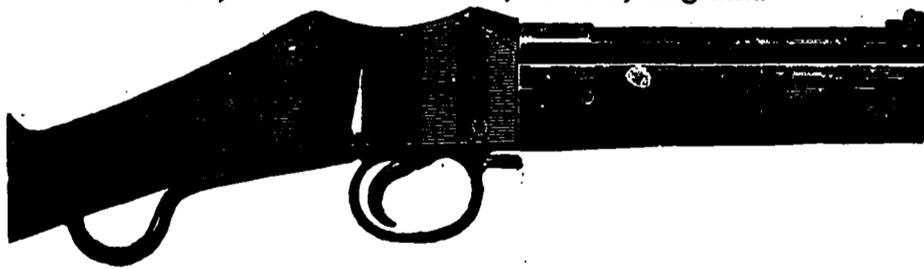
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