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THE CANADIAN

Military Gazette

Successor to the Canadian Militia Gazette.

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MONTREAL, APRIL 15, 1894.

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THE CANADIAN

MILITARY GAZETTE,

(Successor to the Canadian Militia Gazette.)

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All communications and remittances should be addressed to the editor, P. O. Box 1931, Montreal.

MONTREAL, APRIL 15, 1894.

Note and Comment.

Invitations to join the Cavalry Association of Canada were sent to every Cavalry officer in Canada, but it was very difficult to get the correct addresses, and from communications received it is evident that some notices were not received. The hon. secretary-treasurer informs us that every Cavalry officer in Canada is invited to become a member of the association, and that he can be enrolled at once by sending the secretary his name and address, accompanied by the annual subscription of one dollar.

It is rather amusing to read the correspondence in the Auditor-General's report, between the Auditor-General and the Deputy-Minister of

Militia. The Auditor-General writes the Deputy-Minister to enquire why Major-General Herbert's recommendation that district paymasters be abolished is not carried out. The Deputy, fortified by a memorandum from the Accountant of the Department, replies. The Auditor-General, very tersely points out the procedure in the case of a claim against the Militia Department. It is first sent to the D. A. G., who certifies to it and passes it on to the District Paymaster, who, after examination, marks it "Examined and found correct," and passes it on to the Department at Ottawa for authority to pay. The Deputy authorizes payment, but instead of a cheque issuing at Ottawa for the amount, a credit cheque is sent to the District Paymaster and he is authorized to pay the claim with his own cheque issued against the credit sent him from Ottawa. The party receiving the cheque signs a receipt and returns it to the District Paymaster, who passes it on to Ottawa. It is very difficult to see the use or necessity of the District Paymaster in this matter. The Deputy contends that it is necessary to have trained men as Staff Paymasters, as men not accustomed to such work would be liable to make serious mistakes. The Auditor General, in a very sarcastic letter, calls attention to the page after page of over-payments by District Paymasters, and asks the Deputy to obtain refunds. General Herbert thinks this work could be just as well done, if not better, by the D. A. G.'s and Deputy Ministers direct. It may be recalled that the principal pay-officers in the Northwest rebellion, as well as the Chief Staff Paymaster, were neither of them District Paymasters when appointed; yet there is no evidence of any overpayments.

In another letter General Herbert defends the payment of various amounts from \$250.00 to \$150.00 to officers of the Permanent Cavalry at Winnipeg on account of change of uniform. General Herbert says officers "specially qualified" had to be selected from the other permanent corps. It is noteworthy that some of these "specially qualified" officers are now at Kingston trying to obtain a *qualifying* certificate. Unqualified men are appointed, the government buys them uniforms and pays them two and a half times (\$2.50 a day) as much as other militia officers to enable them to qualify. This is the political way of officering the Permanent Corps.

Misfortunes never come singly. This has again proven to be the rule in connection with the well-known military outfitting firm of John Martin & Company. The heavy losses incurred by the firm in the fur trade have been followed by a serious fire, which has greatly interfered with the military outfitting business, but the firm expects to be doing work as promptly as usual for its patrons in the course of a few days now.

The Major-General's report on the state of the militia comes out so close to the issue of this edition as to prevent further comment than the remark that the force has a great deal to thank the General for for his frankness, even if a great many members and friends of the force think that some of the General's more personal remarks might have been eliminated from the published reports.

When is there going to be some official information about those long-promised and long-coming long service decorations?

The service members at Ottawa do not appear to be greatly exciting themselves about the much-needed militia reforms. Parliament some of these days may receive a rude awakening, and realize that there are other national issues besides tariffs and prohibition. We maintain that militia reform is a matter of most vital importance to Canada, and in support of our contention we have merely to point to the last dozen or so reports of general officers commanding. Do the independent members of Parliament ever read the militia blue books?

About Matters in Camp, Drill, Duty, Canteens, Etc.

To the Editor of the MILITARY GAZETTE.

Take an average country battalion of six companies into camp, and its strength ought to be from 200 to 210 men, or 35 men to a company. That is a fair turn out in these days, and if they all got their full nine days' drill, and the same for the other two years of their enlistment, the result would be fairly satisfactory, though their whole three years' drill would be one day short of what recruits for the British militia receive each and every year. But about a third of the battalion does not drill at all, and of the other two-thirds, half or more is never again in the ranks. The non-effectives are: First, that indispensable adjunct of militia glory, the band, which disposes of 20 men, add six buglers and 12 cooks, and one company is accounted for. Next, Sergt.-Major, Drum-Major, Quartermaster-Sergeant, Hoospital Sergeant, Orderly-Room Clerk and Paymaster's Clerk, puts six more out of the ranks; add 18 duty sergeants, 2 men for the butts, 4 or 5 sick or disabled, 4 or 5 camp orderlies in guard to keep loafers from stealing great coats and blankets (regimental guards being abolished under the new rules). Add a few men for stable duty and officers' mess, to equalize the sergeants being bunched, and you have B Company disposed of. Then C Company is at the rifle range, and out of your six companies you have three companies or rather squade, doing their drill in single ranks. Then the system and hours for drill (which are far too long) are killing the spirit of officers and men, and are directly in the teeth of the Queen's regulations. Six hours drill, three hours consecutive under a burning sun and in heavy winter uniform, knocks the tar and temper out of everybody. There is no drill, of any practical benefit, learned in camp, except facings and turnings and the manual of arms, and those could be as well or better done at home and at far less expense. Company drill is only a glimmer. Battalion drill is not touched. Colonels have nothing to say about the work or do with the drill of their battalions in camp. The small chance they get in two years of

making themselves acquainted with their companies, and handling them as a regiment, they are not allowed to take, his discretionary power is "nil" over the battalion he is supposed to command, yet if a riot occurred, or a raid made, he would be ordered at once to meet the one or suppress the other. The system is absurd; there is too much red tape; officers and men are willing to learn, and are ready and willing to do their duty, but they don't care to be treated as school boys, with the daily orders from the brigade office, for goose step, or catechism. In my humble opinion, sir, better results would follow more freedom of action. Officers know better than the brigadiers the capacities and knowledge of their companies, and too much to keep the man who is possibly the best shot or best drilled in his company, roasting for hours alongside the fellow who for the first time in his life has uniform on his back or a rifle in his hand. Now a word or so about canteens. The order, no doubt, will catch the cranks and the faddists, but the expected benefits will be another story. Under the existing arrangements, there was but very little drunkenness in camp. A man could get his glass of beer and bit of tobacco at his own canteen, but now, under pretence of getting tobacco, he will go into town and come back crazy with bad whiskey, raise a row with the police, guard room all night, orderly room in the morning, and the usual consequences following a breach of discipline are the results of an ill advised and unreasonable order. Yours, etc.,

April 7th, 1894.

SUBSCRIBER.

"My Gal."

I.

I ain't no famous 'ero
Enough to talk about,
But just a British soldier
Faked up for walkin' out.
And the uniform ain't gaudy
As they gives to Infantry,
But I'm proud of wot I am because
There's one wot's proud o' me.
I've 'er photergraph in Barricks, stuck up
underneath my shelf.
In a jacket trimmed with himitation fur;
And it makes a soldier feel a sorter prouder
of 'isself
To be loved by a gal like 'er!

II.

I know wot gals thinks takin',
And a serge ain't fit to see
Beside the yaller bra'din'
Of the 'Orse Artillery.
But Mary, she thinks diff'rent,
And I well-nigh sobs with pride
When she says "It ain't the coat I
loves,
But the 'eart wot beats inside."
I've 'er photergraph in Barricks, stuck up
underneath my shelf,
In a jacket trimmed with himitation fur;
And it makes a soldier feel a sorter prouder
of 'eself.
To be loved by a gal like 'er!

—Basil Hood in "Ours."

News of the Service.

NOTE.—Our readers are respectfully requested to contribute to this department all items of Military News affecting their own corps, districts or friends, coming under their notice. Without we are assisted in this way we cannot make this department as complete as we would desire. Remember that all the doings of every corps are of general interest throughout the entire militia force. You can mail a large package of manuscript, so long as not enclosed in an envelope, for one cent. At any rate, forward copies of your local papers with all references to your corps and your comrades. Address,
EDITOR, CANADIAN MILITARY GAZETTE
P.O. Box, 387, Montreal, Que.

Ottawa.

Lieut.-Col. Prior, of British Columbia, presided at the annual meeting of the Dominion Artillery Association, held on the afternoon of April 5th, in the Railway Committee-room of the House of Commons. His Excellency the Governor-General and the Minister of Militia were there, and among the officers in attendance were: Maj.-Gen. Herbert, Lieut.-Colonel Aylmer, Assistant Adjutant-General; Lieut.-Col. Macpherson, Lieut.-Col. Cole, Montreal; Major Mead, Toronto; Capt. Williams, London; Capt. Mackenzie. Gananoque; Lieut.-Col. Maclean, Port Hope; Lieut.-Col. Turnbull, Quebec; Lieut.-Col. Irwin, Inspector of Artillery. Lieut.-Col. Armstrong, president of the association, telegraphed his regrets from St. John.

The Dominion Artillery Association seem to have been overlooked in the matter of the Earl of Derby's prize in much the same way as the Dominion Rifle Association. But while the latter made all pains to keep the fact quiet, the annual report of the Artillery Association, as presented at today's meeting, puts it plainly thus: "The cups usually presented by His Excellency the Governor-General for general efficiency were presented this year by the association. Those donated by the Earl of Derby for 1892 have not yet been received by the winning batteries."

The secretary's report acknowledges the Hamilton Powder Company's special prize of \$100, and the acceptance by the Earl of Aberdeen of the office of patron of the association. The total receipts for the year amounted to \$3,478. The council recommended that the annual practice be held on the range at Orkans Island, instead of at Halifax.

Replying to a vote of thanks proposed by Lieut.-Col. Cole, His Excellency expressed pleasure at being present, and assured the association of his hearty sympathy with the objects of the association, and appreciation of its work.

His Excellency promised not only to contribute towards the prize list, but, further, to manifest his personal interest by attending the meetings of the association.

The Minister of Militia was also passed a vote of thanks, and in the course of his response took occasion to refute certain sensational stories which had been set afloat to the effect that a disagreement had sprung up between the major-general command-

ing and himself. The fact was, he said, that he and General Herbert were in perfect accord. They saw eye to eye, as it were, in military matters, and he would speak of the major-general as an officer whose heart was in his work, and whose work was well done.

Major-General Herbert, replying to a vote of thanks, spoke feelingly upon the subject broached by the Minister. He would admit that his heart was in his work, and that he devoted his best energies to its performance. Thus there was no room for difference of opinion between him and Mr. Patterson. He then referred to the organization of the British Columbia Battalion, and commended its progress under Lieut.-Col. Prior.

The election of officers resulted as follows: President, Lieut.-Col. Prior; vice-presidents, Lieut.-Col. Turnbull, Lieut.-Col. Cole and Major Lindsay. Lieut.-Col. Cole was subsequently elected president of the council. Votes of thanks were passed to Lieut.-Col. Macpherson, Lieut.-Col. Knight, auditors, and to the association's capable secretary, Capt. J. B. Donaldson.

Brantford.

At the drill shed on the evening of April 16th, the officers and sergeants of the 38th Dufferin Rifles turned out thirty-five strong to be instructed by Sergt.-Maj. Belau.

Instructor Belau, who recently arrived in the city to take charge of the instruction of the officers and privates of the Dufferin Rifles, has been appointed sergeant-major, while Sergt.-Major Barber has been placed on the supernumary. Captain H. F. Leonard is gazetted as acting adjutant.

Montreal.

The annual meeting of the Montreal Garrison Artillery Rifle Association was held April 6th, after the parade, but owing to the late hour the submission of the reports and the discussion were left over for a future meeting. Lieut.-Col. Cole presided, and announced that the artillery shooting this year would be done at the Isle d'Orleans. The election of officers for the ensuing year resulted as follows: President, Lieut.-Col. Cole, re-elected; vice-president, Maj. Ogilvy, re-elected; secretary-treasurer, Staff-Sergeant J. J. Bell, re-elected; assistant-secretary, Sergt. Finlayson; Executive Committee, Capt. Reid, Capt. Wynne, Lieut. Featherstone, Co. Sergt.-Maj. Rogers, Corporal Wilson and Sergt. Winter; executive officer, Capt. McEwan, re-elected; representative to D.R.A., Lieut.-Col. Cole; representative to P. Q. R. A., Major Ogilvy; delegates to M.A.R.A., Capt. McEwan, Capt. Wynne, Staff-Sergt. J. J. Bell, Gunner G. Cooke and J. H. Carpenter. The date of annual matches was set for either 28th July or 4th of August, and it was decided to adjourn the meeting until next Saturday evening.

The fourth annual meeting of the delegates to the Montreal Amalgamated Rifle Association was held on Saturday evening, April 7th, in the officers' mess of the Prince of Wales Rifle armory. The meeting was one of the largest that has been held, twenty out of twenty-seven delegates being present. All the affiliated associations were represented as follows: Montreal Garrison Artillery Rifle Association, Capt. Wynne, Capt. McEwan and Gunners Cooke and Carpenter; Prince of Wales Rifles Rifle Association, Lieut.-Col. Butler, Lieut.-Col. Hood and Sergt. J. Drysdale; Victoria Rifles Association, Sergt. Raymond Binmore; Royal Scots Rifle Association, Major E. G. Ibbotson, Sergt.-Major Nivin and Sergt.-Bugler Broadhurst; Sixth Fusiliers Rifle Association, Major Macaulay, Capt. Findlay, Lieut. Henderson, Col-Sergt. Howard, Pte. Jehn; Montreal Rifle Association, Lieut.-Col. Massey and Mr. Arthur Ware; Grand Trunk Rifle Association, Mr. J. Ward and Mr. J. Armstrong. The meeting was presided over by Lieut.-Col. Butler, the president, and it was a very harmonious gathering. On the question of whether it would be advisable for the P. Q. R. A. to hold their annual meeting in June or later, there was a slight majority in favor of June. The report of the hon. secretary-treasurer, Mr. Arthur Ware, showed that the last season had been the most prosperous one in the annals of the association; more men had gone to the ranges, and the results of the matches showed that far better shooting had been done. The revenue had been less, but the expenditures had been kept down to the lowest possible limit. The report was unanimously adopted, with thanks to the secretary-treasurer for his work during the past season. The election of officers then took place, and resulted in all being unanimously re-elected, namely, Lieut.-Col. T. P. Butler, Prince of Wales Rifles, president; Major E. B. Ibbotson, Royal Scots, vice-president; and Arthur Ware, Montreal, hon. secretary-treasurer. Among other business it was decided, in order to secure the best markers, and in recognition of the good work they had done last year, to pay the railroad fares to the ranges this year, a matter which the markers have been asking for two years past. Mr. Robt. W. Allan, the government caretaker of the ranges, reported that they were being put in condition for the coming season. It was decided to open them on Saturday, May 5, for practice, with Major Ibbotson as the executive officer for the day. After the P.Q.R. A. and other matters had been discussed, the meeting adjourned until Saturday, 28th inst., when the programme for the season will be drawn up, this being impossible at the last meeting, as the P. Q. R. A. and the Canadian Military Rifle League have not yet decided on the dates for their matches.

The officers of the Royal Scots have been presented with a photograph

of No. 1 company, Royal Scots, which was raised by Major Kenneth Campbell in 1875; but the photo was not taken until two years later. It shows that most of the old men were from the 78th Highlanders. The donor was Dr. W. G. Nichol.

The presentation of the Sir Donald A. Smith trophy to the Victoria Rifles, who won it last year, will take place either during the last week of the present month or early in May.

On the evening of April 5 there was a presentation of a gold medal to the boy who had brought in the most recruits to the Boys' Brigade during the months of January to March, 1894. The winner was Lance Corporal Damant, who brought in seven new members. The medal was presented by one of the officers, and pinned to the winner's breast by Miss Kirkham, the choir leader of St. Jude's church, who made a few well-chosen remarks, congratulating the boy on his success. The rector also made some encouraging remarks. The pianiste of the evening was Mrs. Elliott, whose untiring efforts in furnishing music every drill night is greatly appreciated by every officer and boy of the company.

The annual drill of the Victoria Rifles commenced on Monday evening, April 16, when the regiment, headed by both its bands, accompanied by the Maxim gun and its detachment, marched from the armory on Cathcart street to the Champ de Mars, where some battalion drill was done.

By the sad death of Lindsay Sims, ex-sergeant-major of the Victoria Rifles, a void is left in military circles, for he was universally liked, out of his old corps as well as in it. Mr. Sims had been for some time unwell and about two weeks before his death left the city to endeavor to recuperate. His career in the Victorias was one to be proud of, he having joined shortly after its formation, and was out both in '66 and '70 at the front. About eight years ago he left the corps and joined the Reserves, of which he was a member up to the time of his death. The funeral was private.

Thursday evening, April 12th, the non-coms of the Royal Scots had their fifth and last dance of the season, which was a successful one in every way, about a hundred couples taking part in the different numbers on the dance card. Among those present were noticed Lieut.-Col. and Mrs. Strathy, Lieut.-Col. and Mrs. Caverhill, Major Ibbotson, Major Foulis and Capt. Lydon, as well as nearly all the non-coms in the regiment.

At a meeting of commanding officers held at the brigade office Monday, April 9th, at noon, nights for drill

in the Drill Hall were arranged as follows: Monday, Victoria Rifles and 5th Royal Scots; Tuesday, Prince of Wales Regiment; Wednesday, 66th and Hussars; Thursday, 6th Fusiliers; Friday, Garrison Artillery and Field Battery. The 5th and 6th both wanted Thursday night and drew lots, the 6th winning. Colonel Strathy of the Scots was then offered an evening for his regiment alone, as they had been doubled up with the 6th last year, but as the other corps were anxious to retain their nights, Colonel Strathy and Colonel Starke arrived at an agreement to share Monday, and next year both of these regiments will be entitled to a night by themselves.

The acceptance by the Victoria Rifles of the invitation to visit Kingston on the Queen's Birthday puts a stop to the plans for Brigade field manoeuvres on that holiday, and it has been finally decided to call the affair off, but to set to work at once to try and carry out some such scheme on a large scale in 1895. The 6th Fusiliers have also decided to go somewhere for a trip on Dominion Day, leaving Montreal June 29th and arriving back home on the morning of July 2.

The annual inspections of the Montreal Infantry Regiments will this year in all probability take place on the following dates, which have been applied for: 3rd Victoria Rifles, Saturday, June 9th; 5th Royal Scots, June 16th; 65th Rifles, June 23rd; 6th Fusiliers, June 29th; 1st P. W. R., June 30th. The inspections this year will all be pretty much after the style of that of the Prince of Wales Regiment last year. The companies will be inspected separately in company drill, etc., on certain nights during the week of the battalion inspection. The latter will take place the Saturday afternoons stated above, and the roll-call will be then made. Now that ceremonial is ruthlessly tabooed, and battalion drill is curtailed, it is difficult to see how the battalions will be able to make their inspections interesting.

There will be quite a few changes among shooting men this year. Jack Drysdale and several of the cracks of the old Garrison Artillery team will shoot this year in the Prince of Wales Rifles uniform, and that regiment may fairly be expected to take up its place once more as one of the crack shooting battalions of the Dominion. Three of the regiment's new officers, Major Lawrie and Captains Hood and Finlayson, are a good team in themselves.

Hamilton.

Squads of the 13th Battalion in physical drill paraded on Monday, April 16th, at 8 o'clock, from E and F Companies, under Sergt. Richmond, and from G and H Companies under Col.-Sergt. Stewart. Squads in bayonet exercise paraded on Tuesday, April 17th, at 8 o'clock, from H and

C Companies under Sergt. Allan, and from B and D Companies under Col.-Sergt. Atkinson. This is in preparation for the entertainment on May 1 and 2.

The weekly drill of the 13th Battalion was well attended on the night of April 13th, there being 328 men on parade. Lieut.-Col. Moore was in command, and other members of the staff present were Major McLaren, Surgeon Griffin and Chaplain Forneret, and Capt. Tidswell was acting-adjutant. The regiment marched out on James street to Main, up to Bay, and down King and James streets to the armory, after which drill was practiced for some time.

The usual crowd of spectators were present. The attendance by companies was: A 51, B 32, C 18, D 46, E 32, F 33, G 34, H 34, and both bands were on parade.

The following orders were issued:

HEADQUARTERS 13TH BATT., A. M.,
HAMILTON, April 13, 1894.

No. 25—Private F. G. Smith and Bugler E. Poupard have received attendance certificates from the Royal School of Infantry.

No. 26—Officers commanding companies will return into regimental stores on or before Friday, April 20, all winter caps, receiving from the quartermaster a receipt for the number sent in.

No. 27—Orderly officer next week, Capt. Mewburn; next for dulp, Lieut. Herring.
(By order) J. J. STEWART,
Major and Capt.-Adjt.

Fergus.

The 30th Wellington Rifles.

The annual meeting of the officers of the 30th Wellington Rifles was held in the North American Hotel, Fergus, on Tuesday, March 27th. Lieut.-Col. W. W. White, Commandant, presided, and eighteen officers were present.

The annual reports were submitted. The report of the Band Committee shows the organization is rapidly approaching a high state of efficiency. The receipts were \$1,265.93, and expenditures \$1,304.61, and the number of new members 30. A number of new instruments were purchased during the year. Great credit is due the Managing Committee in Guelph for their unremitting labors, and to the citizens for their liberal support.

Sergt.-Major Wideman, who takes a great interest in and superintends the bugle band, reported it in a very satisfactory state. There are on the roll twenty-three regular members, comprising fourteen buglers and nine drummers. This organization is now self-sustaining. Through the efforts of Bugle-Major Ivey a very creditable minstrel and dramatic troupe has been formed. They intend at an early date to give a series of entertainments at the different company headquarters for the purpose of more fully equipping the band. A committee has been formed for working up a monster demonstration on the 2nd and 3rd days of July in the City of Guelph, to supplement the fund of the Regimental Band. The committee are desirous of presenting a grand "assault-at-arms" as a special attraction, and would be prepared to pay any reasonable sum for the same. The following committees were appointed:

Auditing—Capts. Johnson and Gray. Regimental—Majors Mutrie, Allan and Capt. Foster. Band—Lieut.-Col. White, president; Major Mutrie, Capts. Johnson, Coyne and Gray. Mess—Lieut.-Col. White, Capts. Johnson, Gray, Mason and Sgt. Johnson. The commanding officer, since assuming the command of that battalion about a year ago, has been very active in promoting the interests of the battalion. The band has been transferred to Guelph, with good results. The colonel has also removed to Guelph, and hopes in the near future to have three companies instead of only one located at Guelph. It was the unanimous opinion of all officers present that if annual drills were performed the force would be very materially improved, and that sixteen days should be the minimum; also that from the 16th to the 18th June is by far the most leisurely time in the whole year for the farming community, not excepting the winter months, as advocated by some, that being a period when the majority of farmers are more tied than any other. They can employ men to plough, but they always want to superintend personally the feeding of their fat cattle. Besides, the many days during the winter it would be utterly impossible to drill outside.

The 30th numbers ten companies, and invariably turns out full strength.

We hope to enter three or four teams in the league matches this year, but so far have not received any notice of the rules, regulations, etc.

Toronto.

The Queen's Own Rifles marched out for the first time this season last evening under Lieut. Col. Hamilton, 610 strong, with a recruit class of 84. An immense crowd of people accompanied the regiment to the new armory, and more or less difficulty was experienced all along the route of march, which was by way of King and York streets, until their destination was reached. The new armory is close to the district known as "The Ward," and many of the people of that section of the city turned out in large numbers to view the manoeuvres. The crush at the shed was tremendous. The crowd rushed into the building as soon as the regiment was inside, and the band, which had remained without, as usual, was unable to effect an entrance. The members suffered considerably at the hands of the crowd, which, up to this time, had been good humored enough. Word was sent inside of the state of affairs and a detachment of 16 men, under Sergt. Gray and Col.-Sergt. Higginbotham, of I company, was ordered to clear the way. In doing so they aroused the antagonism of several ruffians in the crowd, and bricks and other missiles were thrown. A brick struck Private Harry Mussin's head, glanced off and hit Private Wm. Mathers on the cheek. Mussin was knocked senseless for a few minutes, and was taken to the armory. The feeling of the crowd seemed to grow, and missiles flew everywhere. It looked so much like a riot that word was sent to No. 2 station, and a small squad of police were sent to reduce the mob to order. By the time they arrived, however, the men of I company had restored order. Privates Mussin and Mathers were not seriously hurt, and will not be much the worse for their first experience in actual warfare. Several members of the band lost their music and had

their instruments injured, but sustained no bodily injury. At the time of the disturbance there must have been 2,000 people present. When order was restored the regiment was put through company drill in the new shed, and afterwards marched back to the old drill shed on West Market street. The commanding officer was pleased to make the following promotions:

A company—To be sergeant, Corp. F. J. Tovell, vice Meadows promoted; to be corporals, Pte. G. E. Embrey, vice Smith, promoted; Pte. Arthur P. McCollum, vice Tovell, promoted.

C company—To be sergeant, Corp. T. C. Orr, vice Burns, promoted; to be corporals, Pte. W. Smyth, vice Smith, promoted; Pte. W. B. Coombs, vice Orr, promoted.

The recruits class last night numbered 84. The class will close for the admission of recruits on the 11th inst.—*Empire*, 5th April.

The officers of the 48th Highlanders at a recent meeting decided that they would accept Woodstock's offer to visit that city on the Queen's birthday. The decision was unanimous.

Says the *Telegram*: At the recent meeting of the Ontario Artillery Association held in this city, at which the chief officers of that association of that arm the service were present, it transpired that while the non-commissioned officers and men were all that could be desired in smartness of appearance, in handling their guns, and in field manoeuvres generally, they could not hit an object at fair artillery range. It was pointed out that this was due to the want of good ranges throughout the country. When the field batteries came together for annual drill at Niagara they are enabled to perfect themselves in the field, but they must practice their firing at a mark placed in the lake. They, in fact, become somewhat of a naval branch of the force. This, it is stated, is of small use when firing is required on the ground, as the idea of distance is entirely different on land and sea. The range at the Woodbine, where the firing took place from the height of land north of the road at a mark on the strip of land in the lake was considered a good one, but the peaceful rangers of East York could not be persuaded that there was no danger in the whizzing shell that passed over their heads as they came and went along the Woodbine road. The Port Hope range was considered unsatisfactory, while Aurora was mentioned as a like site. The marksmen of the east, who had the advantage of the splendid range at the Isle of Orleans, were easily able to beat those of the west, who were sadly in want of one. It may be all very well for our artillerymen to look smart, to be able to move a gun from one place to another in the most approved fashion, and, when so placed, to load it in the shortest possible space of time, but if they are unable to send a common shell through a barn door or burst a shrapnel over an ordinary size goose pasture, they are of little use, and the public money is being wasted.

At the Grenadiers' parade on Tuesday the regiment mustered 492 strong, "C" Company, with 22 file, the largest on parade. An immense crowd gathered at the drill-shed, where the regiment practised the new drill. After the return to the old drill-shed, Lieut.-Col. Mason addressed the men briefly on the necessity for punctual and regular attendance at drills, and steadiness and soldierlike behaviour while on parade. The non-commissioned officers who were successful in the recent examinations were presented with their certificates.

The following is the most important clause in the orders read: "On completion of each battalion drill the orderly bugler will sound orders, when the orderly sergeants of companies will move out and fall in on the reverse flank of the parade, receive the orders, return, and deliver them to the officers of their respective companies. The band, drums, and ambulance corps will each send a non-commissioned officer at the same time to receive their orders."

During the whole of the parade not a single bar of the National anthem was played by the band. The men have come to believe that this item is essential at a parade, and its omission last night caused much comment. The brass band played several new selections, including the best of Sousa's marches.

The recruit classes are filling up rapidly. The men enlisted are all up to the required standard. The signal corps has vacancies for three good men.

The men selected to take part in company competitions at the tournament to be held on the formal opening of the new sheds will commence practice next week.—*Mail*, 7th April.

A letter has been received by one of the local papers complaining of the instruction in drill given to the students at the provincial school of pedagogy. This is a serious matter, as these students will shortly be the instructors of the High schools throughout the province.

A recent communication to a morning journal on the slowness of promotion in the Queen's Own has been the subject of some comment. All will admit that if slow promotion in this efficient regiment is sure. It is very different when viewed from opposite ends of the ladder of fame. The Colonel who has been basking on the highest step for five years, thinks he could easily stand a few years more, while the "junior sub" at the lowest step thinks he is in a long time reaching the second. All this is done in our volunteer regiments for honor and fame, for the C. O. draws no more pay than the "sub"—it all goes to the regimental fund. There must be some meaning in the anxiety for promotion in the army where actual pay depends on the rank. There is as much truth as poetry in the saying:—

"The senior captain laughs
When the junior major's shot!"

As there is a strongly expressed wish from many intending competitors in this year's rifle league matches, that the Martini rifle should be used, the executive proposes to hold both a Snider and Martini series in the competition. The two series will be shot on the same day, and no man will be allowed to shoot in both a Snider and Martini team in the same match. A competitor may, however, change from one rifle to the other during the competition. The dates of the four matches composing the competition will be 26th May, 9th June, 7th July, 21st July. Two of the Snider series will be shot at 200, 400 and 500 yards; the other two, and all the Martini at Queen's ranges. Snider ammunition will be issued by the Militia Department free. Whether the same favor will be accorded with respect to the Martini has not yet been decided.—*SEPH.*, in the *Empire*.

The military tournament to be held in this city on May 17, 18 and 19 cannot but be of the greatest possible benefit to the regiments taking part. Already the different corps have their squads at work practicing the physical drill, bayonet, manual and firing exercises, the ambulance stret-

cher work and the march past, and by the time the tournament comes off these men will be thoroughly posted in those portions of the drill and will also have been disciplined in drill as well as it is possible for volunteers to be. The executive committee for the tournament is composed of the best officers from each corps, under the chairmanship of Lieut.-Col. Otter, and Mr. H. J. Hill, of the Industrial Exhibition, will have the management of it, so there is every guarantee that it will be a success.

The 48th Highlanders paraded April 6th, and there was a good muster. Lieut.-Col. Davidson has made these promotions and appointments: B company, to be corporals, Private A. Wright, vice Templeman, promoted, and W. E. Witt, vice Beattie; G. company, to be lance corporal, Private E. McHugh.

Says a well known local paper, Gen. Herbert has announced that 10,000 of the new rifles are on the way to Canada, and that in a few months the greater part of the force will be armed with them. This is very gratifying, and the volunteers may now be assured that if they should be called on for active service they will be armed with one of the best shooting weapons in the world to-day. To be sure it will not be a magazine rifle, but it is not likely that any more rapid fire will be wanted than what can be delivered by the Martini breech action. With a view to save the shooting men expense, the Minister of Militia has promised to have all private rifles converted at the Government expense. Before sending their private rifles away to be converted, however, it will be well for the shooting men to be quite sure that the Martini will not be used any more at the D.R.A. matches, which would be a serious handicap to members of the team to Balesy, where the shooting will be done with the Martini so long as the volunteers of Great Britain are armed with that weapon.

The regular weekly parade and drill of the Queen's Own Rifles was held last night, Lieut.-Col. Hamilton in command. The parade state was 674, including 59 recruits. In past years the first parades of the regiment at the opening of the season have not been so fully attended as in this year, and the large muster on last Wednesday and last night speaks well for the spirit in the corps. In the march to the new armoury two companies were left for drill exercises on Wellington street, as the building is not sufficiently large to admit of company drill with the full strength of the regiment present. The return to the old drill-shed was made about half-past ten o'clock, when the regimental orders were read. They included a command to the ambulance corps to meet for drill and instruction at the drill-shed on Monday, April 16th, at 8 p.m., and on each succeeding Monday, at the same hour and place, until further orders. The Queen's Own Rifles have decided unanimously to accept the invitation of Lieut.-Col. Lindsay, officers, and men of the 26th Battalion, and to go to St. Thomas on the Queen's Birthday. The headquarters of the 25th Battalion is at St. Thomas.—*Mail*, April 12 h.

H. R. H. Duke of Connaught was lately the guest of the Aldershot Army and Navy Lodge of Freemasons, and in reply to the toast of his health at a banquet which followed, said that now he had returned to Aldershot he should continue to shew the same interest in the craft that he had hitherto done in the past.

Quebec.

Two of the city corps are now under their annual drill. The Eighth Royal Rifles and the Ninth Voltigeurs, the local rifle battalions, are drilling each two nights a week, and the greatest rivalry exists between the two corps, representing respectively the English and French speaking elements in our population. The Eighth, which a year or two ago was degenerating somewhat, is now again rapidly pulling up under Colonel White, with the infusion of much new blood into its rank and file. It is a thousand pities though that the members of the corps do not muster in larger numbers at the drills. The brass and reed band, under the able leadership of Bandmaster Hutchison, an old-timer at the business, has been making huge strides lately, it having recently secured the services of several good instrumentalists from other similar organizations. The drum and bugle band too has been re-organized, and is now on a good footing. The battalion should pass a first-class inspection this year.

The men of the Ninth Battalion are drilling with the greatest enthusiasm, and though it was at one time taken for granted almost that the Ninth was decidedly inferior to its sister corps, owing to the commands, etc., being given in a strange language unknown to many in its ranks, and from other causes, yet there is now much speculation as to which will come out ahead when the points for the annual inspection are given. The bands, etc., of this corps are like those of the Eighth, in excellent condition. The weekly drills of both battalions are largely attended, as much by the admiring best girls, sisters, cousins and aunts of the gallant soldier boys, as by their more critical relatives of the sterner sex, who delight as a rule to pass favorable or adverse comments on this man's appearance or that company's drill, as the case may be, and all with the most serene self-confidence and complacency on the part of the critics, who probably know little and think less of what they are talking about. During the quarter of an hour's intermission the bands discourse sweet music and put the young men and their best girls in the galleries above in their most sentimental mood. The first part of the evening is usually taken up with company drill and the last with battalion movements. The courses of instruction given during the winter have resulted in considerable improvement among those of the noncommissioned officers and men who were wise enough to attend them.

The men of "B" Battery and of Nos. 1 and 2 companies of Royal Canadian Artillery paraded at the 11 o'clock service at the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity (Anglican) on Easter Sunday, and a better parade or a more soldierly lot of men it would be an extremely difficult matter to find anywhere. On the return march after service the band of the R. C. A., probably the best in the Dominion, played a medley of tunes of the beautiful Easter hymns found in "Hymns Ancient and Modern." Everyone along the time of march was struck by the artistic manner in which these were rendered under the magic baton of the talented bandmaster and composer, Mr. Jos. Vezina.

By the way while glancing over a file of the *Quebec Morning Chronicle* I noticed in the issue of Oct. 21st 1893, a paragraph to the effect that a couple of detachments of the Royal Canadian Artillery had been down at the Island of Orleans a few days previously for gun practice with the 40 pounder breech loading Armstrong gun. Out of fifty shots fired at the 6 x 6 foot target at a distance of 2,100 yards almost a mile and a quarter, no less than twelve

were direct hits, and this only at a practice from which to judge the best marksmen! The paper adds "Our gunners think that they have broken the record." If they didn't fracture it, they cannot, at least, have been very far from doing so.

The Eighth Battalion of Royal Rifles was to have had a street parade on Good Friday, but as a blinding snow-storm was raging that day it was found advisable to postpone the event until Easter Monday. The march out accordingly took place on that day, but many of the men being obliged to work, and the weather being somewhat inclement for summer uniforms and wedges, which the orders called for, the muster was a rather small one. Still the men under command of Col. White, looked well and marched steadily, altogether acquitting themselves very creditably.

On the first Sunday after Easter, April 1st, the Eighth paraded to Chalmers' Presbyterian Church, when there was an excellent turn out of the men. Lieut. C. I. G. Robt. White was in command and the battalion as it passed along the streets presented a remarkably fine appearance. The well balance band played the men to and from church. The streets were lined with the congregations of the different churches waiting to see the boys go by.

On Sunday, April 8th, the battalion paraded to St. Mathew's (Anglican) Church there being an excellent muster. The Pioneer Brass and Reed and Bugle Bands and the signal corps headed the regiment which presented a very creditable appearance. The service was a particularly bright and attractive one, and the Rev. Lennox W. Williams, rector, took advantage of the presence of so many men to preach a sermon on the moral effects and desirability of athletic sports. There was as usual, a large concourse of sight-seers on the streets.

A number of the rifle shots of the Eighth Royal Rifles have been down recently to the ranges at the Beauport Flats testing the shooting qualities of the Martini-Henry ammunition loaded with the rifle powder manufactured by the Smokeless Powder Company, of London, England. All express themselves as delighted with the accuracy of the powder as well as with the absence of smoke and the lessening of the recoil which is so trying a feature of the Martini-Henry rifle.

The Queen's Own Canadian Hussars are very much later than usual this year in beginning their annual drill. The first of the foot drills is not yet in sight and currency has recently been given to a rumor that the squadron will not drill at all this season. *On dit* that the whole trouble is caused by dissensions among the officers on the question of who is to fill the position of Colonel soon to be left vacant by the resignation of Lieut. Col. J. Bell Forsythe. Capt. and Adjutant Brown is said to have first claim to the position, but his appointment would, it is asserted give the greatest offence to some of the most prominent and active officers of the squadron. As a possible solution of the difficulty, it is suggested to offer the Colonelcy to Lieut. C. I. Turnbull, who it is said, is about to resign from the position of commandant of the Royal Canadian Dragoons, Toronto, in order to return and take his residence at his fine property on St. Louis Road, Quebec. No arrangement could possibly be more agreeable and more beneficial than that just mentioned, if the gallant Colonel really intends to give up his command. At all events, it is earnestly to be hoped that something will be done shortly to put an end to the alleged trouble if such actually exists elsewhere than in the fertile imaginations of inventors of cock and bull stories. Col. Turnbull was commandant of the Q. O. C. H. some years ago when he resigned to take command of the Cavalry School which was then formed.

"E" Company 7th Royal Rifles fired their annual match on Saturday, March 31st. The day was a very bad one for the shooting. The wind was blowing a strong easterly gale, accompanied by a heavy snow-storm which rendered sighting almost impossible. The ranges were 100, 200, 300 and 400 yards; five shots at each, the possible at each range being 20. The following were the prize-winners in each class:—

1st Class	100	200	300	400	Total
Sgt. Hartley, \$4	15	17	14	14	60
S. Sgt. Dewfall \$3	12	16	16	14	58
Sgt. Hay \$2	11	10	17	18	56
Green—Private Hay, 1st, \$3; Private Edwards, 2nd, \$2; Private Casault, 3rd, \$1; Private McDonald, 4th, 50 cents.					

OUR SERVICE CONTEMPORARIES.

Admiral Norman Bedingfield died at Upper Norwood, at the age of 70. Entering the Navy in 1839, he saw a good deal of active service in the East, rendered important services in the suppression of the slave trade on the coast of Africa, and was in command of the *Jackal* and the *Pluto* between 1850 and 1854. He accompanied David Livingstone on the Zambesi expedition in 1858.

It has been decided that the battalions of Foot Guards to take part in this year's army manoeuvres near Aldershot, under the Duke of Connaught, shall be the first and 3rd Grenadiers, the 2nd Coldstream, and the 1st Scots Guards. The brigade will be encamped at Frensham.

The Duke of Cambridge made the most minute inquiry into the condition of Gibraltar as a garrison and a fortress, and there is reason to believe that the visit of His Royal Highness will lead to some useful results there and at home.

Colonel J. B. Richardson has taken up his command of the Royal Artillery at Gibraltar with the rank of Major-General. Vice Major-General G. J. Smart, C. B., who has assumed command of the Woolwich District, and Colonel R. MacG. Stewart, C. B., A. D. C., has succeeded Colonel Richardson at the School of Gunnery.

It is understood that the Channel Squadron will be considerably strengthened during the present year. Among the vessels that will in all probability be appointed to the Squadron are the *Revenge*, *Blenheim*, *Appollo*, *Andromache* and *Speedy*.

In the Boer campaign of 1880-81 there was much talk of the gallantry of a young warrant officer, Conductor of Supplies Ralph Egerton, Commissariat and Transport Department, who saved the colors of the 94th Regiment, after the disaster which overtook that regiment, by wrapping them around his body and carrying them, although wounded in the engagement at Bronkhorst Spruit, over forty-two miles in safety into Pretoria. As a reward Conductor Egerton, whose gallantry was

brought to the notice of the War Office by the late Colonel Anstruther, was given a commission as second lieutenant in the 94th Regiment. He exchanged two years later into the West India Regiment, has since done good work as Fort Adjutant at Cape Coast Castle, as adjutant of his battalion and as adjutant of the Jamaica Volunteers, and is this week gazetted to a majority in the West India Regiment by special selection over the heads of three seniors. Major Egerton commenced his career in the 75th Regiment in 1876, and also saw service in the Zulu war and the operations against Sekukuni. He makes the seventh regimental major now serving who has risen from the ranks, and the fourth who has had similar good fortune in the West India Regiment, the late Colonels Edward Conran, John McAuley and Major Joseph Brownall being the previous instances in the Colonial corps.

We gather, says an English exchange, from the remarks of a Sussex correspondent that the armored train now in course of construction at the London, Brighton and South Coast Railway Company's works at Brighton, for the 1st Sussex Artillery, is making good progress towards completion. It is hoped to have this new adjunct to the corps ready for use at Whitsuntide. The cost will be borne by Sir Julian Goldsmid (Hon. Colonel) and Colonel Boxall (Commandant).

After April 1st the Glengarry cap, as now worn by our Infantry, will be no more seen. The new cap has no ribbons, and is decidedly more serviceable than the Glengarry. It is a form of what is known as "the field service cap," worn slightly on the side of the head, with two brass buttons in front, and the badge of the regiment on the left side. The flaps unbutton, and the cap can be worn so as to shade the eyes as well as the nape of the neck, which were left unprotected by the Glengarry.—*United Service Gazette*.

In the Imperial House of Commons, in answer to Mr. Hanbury, Sir U. Kay Sauttleworth stated that arrangements had been made for arming the Marines with the magazine rifle during 1894-95.

Orthoptics will not be allowed in the "Imperial" prize team competition of this year's Bisley meeting, which is restricted to members of the regular branches of the military service.

The Royal Military Tournament will open at the Agricultural Hall, Islington, on Thursday, May 31st, and conclude on Thursday, June 14th.

A practical joke at the expense of a whole regiment is a rather dangerous pastime to indulge in, as a peasant coming from the neighborhood of Arras, France, has just learned to his discomfiture. The

corps were marching through a village in that part of the country, when suddenly the command to halt was heard, and was naturally repeated by the officers of the different companies. Great, however, was the surprise of the colonel when he found that the gallant 33rd had been brought to a standstill. He had not given the command in question, and a stern investigation soon led to the detection of the culprit, who had been watching the effects of his jest with much composure from the doorway of a public house at which he was lounging. The fellow was at once seized and, guarded by four soldiers with fixed bayonets, was promptly on the road to Arras, whither the regiment was returning. Ere the town was reached, however, the colonel released his prisoner, who was now in a very penitent mood, but not before giving him a severe reprimand.

The semi-official announcement that Rear-Admiral R. O'B. Fitzroy, on attaining his promotion in May, will succeed Vice-Admiral Fairfax in command of the Channel Squadron, is worthy of note, since he will be junior on the list of twenty vice-admirals. According to the *World* Vice-Admiral Buller, C. B., stands a good chance of securing the command, but there are other flag officers senior to him from whom a selection may be made. There are two other vice-admirals' commands which will become vacant within the next twelve months—Sir John Hopkins's, on the North American station, and the Hon. Sir E. R. Fremantle's on the China station, both officers finishing their terms next February. There is little doubt that Rear-Admiral Fisher will succeed Sir John Hopkins, and should one of the present vice-admirals be selected for the Channel Squadron Admiral Fitzroy would not have his future prejudiced by having to wait for the China vacancy. His immediate selection, however, for the Channel, is regarded by naval men as an unjustifiable bit of favoritism. It may be mentioned that he will be succeeded in the Command of the Naval Reserve by Admiral E. H. Seymour, now second in command of the Channel Squadron.

Capt. the Hon. George FitzClarence, R.N., who died on March 24th, at Moorcroft, Uxbridge, was the third son of George, the Earl of Munster, eldest natural son of King William IV, and was born on April 15, 1836. He entered the Royal Navy, and at the time of the Russian war served as a midshipman in the Black Sea, receiving the Crimean medal and Sebastopol clasp, the Turkish medal and the 5th Class of the Medjidie. In October, 1855, he was made mate, and in that capacity served in the *Retribution*, previous to his promotion to be lieutenant in May, 1857. He was subsequently appointed to the *Cæsar*, on the North America and West Indies station, and in that vessel proceeded to the Mediterranean, where, to act as flag lieutenant to Rear-Admiral Smart, he joined the *Revenge*,

flagship of the Channel Squadron. In June, 1862, he was promoted to be commander, and in 1877 retired with the rank of captain. Capt. FitzClarence, who was a corresponding member of the Royal United Service Institution, married in 1864 Maria Henrietta, eldest daughter of John Henry, third Earl of Clonmell, and leaves four sons and two daughters.

It is stated that the German Emperor has ordered a squadron of the 1st Dragoon Guards, with the regimental band, to be sent to Coburg during the Queen's approaching visit, to act as a guard of honor for Her Majesty, who is the honorary colonel of the regiment.

A few months ago a description of the first class cruiser, *Powerful* and *Terrible*, was issued as a parliamentary paper. The designs had not then been completed, and the dimensions, it was stated, must be considered as still open to some modification. The principal dimensions contemplated were: Length, 500 feet; breadth, 70 feet; mean draught, 27 feet; displacement, 14,000 tons. The designs have now been completed, and the revised dimensions are: Length, 500 feet; breadth, 71 feet; mean load draught, 27 feet; displacement at load draught, 14,200 tons. The coal capacity at load draught is to be 1,500 tons, but by utilizing wing spaces and space bunkers each vessel will be able to stow 2,500 tons of coal. A remarkable feature in connection with the vessels is that the estimated indicated horse-power to be attained on the contractors' trial is, with natural draught, 25,000, which will give a speed of 22 knots. This horse-power will exceed by several thousands that of any war vessel afloat. The *Blake* and *Blenheim* are each supposed to attain 20,000 horse-power, which is 8,000 more than that attained by the largest and newest battleships.

"Being at St. Paul's," writes a correspondent, "I made my pilgrimage to the monument of General Gordon, the martyr of Khartoum. It was covered in flowers, and my companion—a frequenter of London's central place of worship—told me that he had seen wreaths at every festival on the great man's effigy, and at other times also. General Gordon, at all events, is not forgotten, and the flowers on his memorial effigy are fresh to-day. His magnetic influence survives his most remarkable sacrifice of himself for a lost cause."

Surg.-Gen. A. Smith, M.D., C.B., retired list, Army Medical Department, has been appointed honorary physician to the Queen. The gallant officer served in the Crimea, Jowake, and Afghan campaigns receiving the medal for each, and the C.B. in addition for the latter.

With the approval of the Secretary for War, the annual prize meeting of the National Artillery Association and Camp of

Instruction connected therewith will be held at Shoeburyness from Saturday, Aug. 4th, to Saturday, Aug. 11th.

General Lord Roberts has been entertained at Newcastle by the members of the North of England Volunteer Service Institution. Sir Henry Havelock-Allan presided over a large attendance of regular and volunteer officers. In the course of his remarks, the distinguished guest said that nothing had struck him more, on his return to England after a long sojourn abroad, than to see the thoroughness of the spirit which apparently animates volunteer officers and volunteers in all ranks, and their determination that they will do all in their power to qualify themselves for their self-taken task. He had such a high opinion of the volunteers that, although he was aware of late years their number of "efficients" had increased annually, he could not help expressing the hope that there will be a still further increase.

The old *Benbow*, one of the last, if not the very last, of the "wooden walls" which harboured Acre in 1840, is to disappear from the navy list. The *Benbow* was built some sixty years ago as a third-rate, and half of her lifetime has been spent in harbor service at Sheerness as a floating coal depot. She is now rotten, and is to go to the ship breakers'. She has just been replaced by the frigate *Forte*, which has been fitted for the purpose at a cost of £1,200.

The hundredth anniversary of the first employment of an air balloon for war purposes falls in the month of June next, the event having happened twelve years after the paper manufacturers, Etienne and Joseph Montgolfier, made their first ascent at Annonay in the balloon invented by themselves. These balloons—called "Montgolfier's" by the inventors—were filled with heated air engendered by the burning of some substance underneath the balloon, which was pear-shaped, and open at the bottom. This was, however, soon improved upon, and on the 27th August of the following year M. Charles, the renowned natural philosopher, went up from the Champs de Mars, near Paris, in a balloon filled with hydrogen gas. It was in a balloon of the same nature that the first aerial journey was undertaken from Berlin, the aeronaut being Blanchard, who, on the 27th September, 1783, ascended from the exercise ground near the Thiergarten. During the siege of Charleroi, in the Belgian Province of Hennegau, an air-balloon rendered valuable services to the French up to the 25th June, 1794, when the place fell into their hands, and on the following day, when the battle near Fleurus was fought, the French observed the movements of their antagonists from a captive balloon held in its position by three cables.

Herr Dove, the inventor of the bullet-proof coat, is just now giving the public

at Wintergarten an opportunity of witnessing some practical experiments. The coat was not originally designed to resist the bullets of the new rifle, but Herr Dove has since brought his invention up to date, and it is now capable of keeping out the bullets of the magazine rifle. In the autumn Herr Dove intends to visit London and Paris, and it is stated that he will be prepared to act as a target. If so, the importance of the invention will no doubt be recognized, but it scarcely follows that the military authorities will be any the more willing to adopt it. The fact is that the days of armor have passed away. Breastplates and other protections were, it is true, retained in use for some centuries after the invention of gunpowder, but in these days of maxim guns, and light shells, melinite, and other explosives, armor would be of no avail in war. Moreover, Herr Dove's costume is said to be too heavy for the use of troops in the field, and this, of course, is the chief objection to its adoption for military purposes.

Arrangements are being made at the Royal Naval Barracks, Keyham, for carrying out experiments with carrier pigeons, with a view to training them for the transmission of despatches. Com. W. G. White, who has voluntarily undertaken the arrangements, has secured four pairs of homers, which will be kept for breeding purposes only. In about two months it is expected that a number of young birds will be ready to commence their preliminary training. At Portsmouth similar arrangements are being made, and it is intended that to a certain extent the two ports shall co-operate. Commander White intends to train his birds from distances in a south, south-westerly and westerly direction, whilst Portsmouth will train from south, south-easterly and easterly points. After having been made thoroughly acquainted with their own neighborhood, the birds at Keyham will be flown from the Sound, and subsequently the Channel. Birds will be sent out in vessels undergoing steam trials, and by the time the naval manoeuvres commence it is expected they will be sufficiently well educated to undergo practical tests. Although the Naval Intelligence Department at Whitehall are taking special interest in the various systems of training pigeons employed by other nations, the English Government do not allow one penny for training pigeons for their own purposes.

For some months past the authorities at the India office have been engaged in investigating an extraordinary story as to hidden treasure in India. It seems that some time ago a private in the 2nd Battalion of the Royal West Surrey Regiment died at Wandsworth. On his death bed he stated that he took part in the war with Burma in the autumn of 1885, and was among the troops which surrounded King Theebaw's palace at Mandalay. According to his confession he and another private, named White, entered the palace during the night, and after several exciting ad-

ventures discovered, quite by accident, the King's crown and regalia. These they at once took possession of, and promptly conveyed them out of the palace. The jewels, it is stated, were worth an immense sum. Their massive gold settings made them heavy and cumbersome, and the two soldiers, being afraid of detection, buried them just outside the palace grounds. Shortly afterwards a centry box was placed upon the very site, and according to the statement made by the dying soldier the jewels are still there. White, upon being told that no harm would befall him, admitted that the story told by his dead comrade was correct. Subsequently the Earl of Kimberley, through his secretary, wrote stating that the government of India were prepared to give White 10 per cent. on any property he might discover up to the value of 100,000 rupees, and 5 per cent. on the remainder if any should be found in excess of that value. Ex Private White is now on his way to India, and is confident of his ability—a confidence apparently shared in by the authorities—to find the buried treasure. It is remembered now that the jewels found in the palace were not so numerous or valuable as was expected, but it was thought at the time that many had been taken away by the women who were allowed to leave.

The first annual dinner of members of the North-West Rebellion Field Force resident in the eastern part of the Territories, which took place at the Queen's on Monday night, was one of the unique events of the times. Around the admirably spread tables of Host Cleverly sat a large contingent of the N.W.F.F., gathered principally from Moosomin and district, but including representative veterans from as far north as Yorkton and as far east as Winnipeg. During the dinner, which needless to say was excellently prepared and called forth the highest praise from all the guests, the Moosomin Orchestra, led by Mr. R. Smart, played some of their high class selections which were much enjoyed. The chair was filled by Mr. Sheriff Murphy (Transport officer at the Front). The vice-chair was taken by Mr. B. Tennyson (French's Scouts). The other Veterans actively connected with the dinner were: Capt. Harris (Chief Inspector of horses for the whole Field Force and Senior Vet. Surgeon of Canada); Rev. Welbury T. Milton, (Transport); W. White, Q.C. (Transport Officer at the base, Bett'ford Column); A. E. Christie, (Midland Battalion); E. A. C. McLorg, (Boulton's Scouts); E. Gater, (Boulton's Scouts); A. G. Hamilton, (Transport); W. Mitten, (Transport); Hon. C. H. Manners, (Boulton's Scouts); H. B. Savin, (Boulton's Scouts); W. Bruce, (Transport); R. W. B. Eustace, (Extra A.D.C.); H. P. Christie, Hazelcliffe, (Scout); Jas. Norris, Winnipeg, (Halifax Battalion); W. B. Dunlop, Yorkton, (Transport); J. J. Young, (Regina Home Guard).

Before the toast list was commenced Mr. Fred. Gibson sounded the reveille on the cornet, and the usual loyal toasts were then duly honored.

The toast of "The General and Staff" was drunk with hearty enthusiasm to the strains of "See the Conquering Hero Come," played by the orchestra.

Mr. Ed. Gater sang "The Veteran" amid loud applause.

The next toast was "Fallen Comrades." This was honored silently by the company, the orchestra playing the Dead March in Saul.

The toast of the evening, "The N. W. F. F." was the signal for an outburst of speech making and corresponding eruption of enthusiasm. The list of names coupled with the toast was a long one, commencing with that of Capt. Constantine (N.W.M.P.) A letter was read from the Captain regretting his absence from town and wishing the company a jolly evening.

Mr. E. A. C. McLorg, replying for the Horse, thanked the company for the very tasteful way in which they had drunk his health and concluded a brief but interesting speech amid loud applause.

Mr. E. Gater, who divided the honors with C. P. Harris for the speech of the evening, said: Comrades and gentlemen, I feel highly honored in being called on to reply to the toast of the N. W. F. F. I am glad to see so many members of that force here this evening. We have had some trouble in starting this annual dinner, but another year I venture to predict will see four or five times the number here. (Cheers) I feel it an honor to have belonged to Boulton's force through the campaign and if there was any trouble again I should be proud to enlist again under Major Boulton. I am glad to pay a tribute to-night to the Artillery, coupled with the names of Major Peters and Major Short. Some person signing himself "Obiter Dicta," writing in the *Winnipeg Free Press* has brought in Major Short's name in decrying General Middleton and has made the statement that if it had not been for Major Short, Batoche would not have been taken. Now, I don't want to decry the late Major Short. If he had only had his chance he would have been a Victoria Cross man, and that is a great honor; but Major Short was never at any time during the Rebellion within 150 miles of Batoche. "Obiter Dicta" is either a liar—or an ass. Mr. Gater went to pay a tribute to the late Capt. French and his scouts, to the Midland Battalion, the Grenadiers, the Nintietth and the Transport. At the charge of Batoche, said the speaker, I suddenly found myself separated from the company and under the enemy's fire. A certain sergeant, seeing my position, brought a file of men and rescued me from what I thought was a perilous position. That Sergeant I afterwards discovered was A. E. Christie. The day we marched into Batoche with French's Scouts I was riding a horse who could not stand fire and I had just let down my bridle when the firing began and my horse bolted. If it had not been for Mr. Tennyson, who rode a white pony and captured my horse I should have been massacred. I wish to take this oppor-

tunity of referring to the letters which have been appearing in the press.

A certain person signing himself Lieut.-Col. Houghton has made statements about his commanding officer which are totally unbecoming an officer and a gentleman. He has made a number of statements which I have no hesitation in characterizing as false, and I consider General Middleton has behaved in more than a lenient way in not saying why Col. Houghton was sent back from Batoche. Why was Col. Houghton galloping wildly about brandishing an Infantry man's rifle? I say, gentlemen, that General Middleton behaved all through that campaign as a man wearing the Victoria Cross and the Victoria Cross is the noblest badge any man in the world can wear.

Mr. Tennyson sang "The Scout" which was received with cheers, and Mr. A. E. Christie followed with "Pork, Beans and Hardtack," apologizing for it on the ground that he was only asked to sing it two months ago.

Mr. Christie made an eloquent and witty speech in replying for the Foot, and Mr. J. T. Thompson followed with "Drill Ye Terriers, Drill."

Capt. Harris said: Gentlemen and fellow comrades, I am proud to respond to this toast, and yet sorry in one way because I was not told about it till to-night. I am a true blue Artillery man, having been in the artillery for twenty-five years. If we ever have another rebellion I don't think it will be necessary to ask for volunteers in the east. We have the bone and sinew in the North-West to take up arms for the Queen and make a corps second to none in Canada. Well, gentlemen, I've had a little active service and seen blood spilled. My comrade Mr. Cleverly can tell you that we were in the rebellion of '66 and again in '69, and wherever those big guns went they were a terror to evil doers. I was at Fish Creek the first day the Gatling gun was fired and I have in my house the first two shells fired. I am proud to support what Mr. Gater has said in praise of General Middleton. On one occasion Col. Denison said he wouldn't allow me to leave the camp, but the General said "You can't stop that man—I've no control over him at all." I always found General Middleton a perfect gentleman in every way.

Mr. White, Q.C., replied to the toast of the Transport and thanked them on behalf of the 600 he had the honor of commanding at the base. Although not in the line of fire their position was always a perilous one, and while they did not bleed for their country they all bled their country to the extent of \$5 a day and upwards. Whatever might be said about the Transport they had the pleasure of knowing it was an efficient one.

Rev. W. T. Mitton said it was a good thing to let sleeping dogs lie—they did lie anyway, even here. Mr. Mitton proceeded to give some of his very amusing reminiscences in the rebellion as a "bull driver" in the "flying column." Mr. Mitton described his adventures with the oxen, re-

calling well known figures and places and concluded amid loud cheers.

Sheriff Murphy said he was glad to reply for the Transport by some sarcastically called "high priced." After stating that the 2nd of April was selected as being the anniversary of the starting of the column from Qu'Appelle, the Sheriff concluded by saying that while the rebellion was not a first class war it taught them that a Briton, no matter whether he came from England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales and Canada, is always willing to take up arms and fight for his Queen.

Mr. Alex. Hamilton said it was during the rebellion that he first met Major White and Capt. Murphy. He (the speaker) had the honor of being in charge of a division of the Transport (voice: "who drank those hospital comforts?" Well, though only in a humble position I did my duty. There's no use telling you what I did, because I did a great deal that didn't redound to my credit and if anyone was to take up arms against the Government of Canada I would be happy to do the same again.)

"Absent Comrades" was followed by "The Girl I left behind me" from the band.

"Our host and hostess and the band" was drunk with honors and neatly replied to by Mr. Cleverly.

Dr. Harris sang with much feeling the St. Paul song "Blue Bottles" and Capt. Christie gave a very appropriate recitation. Sergt. Major Morris was called on and made a neat speech.

"The Press" was proposed by Mr. White and replied to by Mr. J. J. Young, and soon afterwards the happy gathering broke up with "Auld Lang Syne"—Moosmin N. W. T. *Spectator*, April 5th.

The Commandant and the Militia.

(From the St. Johns, P.Q., News.)

One of the best abused men in Canada to-day, exclusive at least of the noble and patriotic band of politicians, is Major-General Herbert. Fortunately the Major-General is not a sensitive man, and we do not therefore imagine that he will be seriously affected by what the critics and commentators are saying about him. The trouble is all owing to the fact that a report of the Commandant of the Canadian Militia has just seen the light of day, and that this report is far from pleasant reading to the majority of officers and men who form the volunteer force, and to a considerable extent the regular force of this broad dominion. But the question arises, is the report correct? or in other words, is the General unfair, inaccurate or prejudiced in his strictures? Different replies will of course be returned to these questions. Every one, and especially every one who is even remotely connected with the militia force, will have his own theory; but so far as we are concerned, while it is always unpleasant to say unpleasant things, our honest conviction is that General Herbert has not left very

wide open the door for hypercritical condemnation. We are only deceiving ourselves when we try to make ourselves believe that the volunteer force of Canada is as effective as it is generally represented to be, or even as it ought to be, and we are only encouraging the profligate waste of the public funds when we approve of the manner in which much of the appropriations for militia purposes is expended. Many of the corps are lamentably weak and ineffective, and so far as our observation extends the infantry suffers in comparison with other arms of the service.

It must be borne in mind that the report of General Herbert is for the year of 1892. Why it has taken so long to get the views of the Commandant before the public must be left to the red-tapists of Ottawa to explain. It would have served a more useful purpose had the report been published a year ago, when matters referred to by the General were fresh in the minds of the people. Whether in the interim the Commandant has had occasion to modify his views, or whether he has seen, as the result of his efforts, any improvements in the force, we are not aware, and we suppose shall not know until another year shall have rolled away.

Speaking of the permanent force of the country, General Herbert institutes a comparison between the artillery and the infantry, to the detriment of the latter, and he attributes the superiority of the artillery to the fact that the batteries were organized by a competent officer of the imperial army (Col. Strange), while the R.R.C.I. at its inception lacked the guidance and fostering care of a similar competent and experienced officer. It is not for us to pass judgment on this delicate point. As a matter of fact we are not qualified to do so, but it is quite apparent from what we hear and read that the declaration of the General in this particular will be sharply questioned. It is openly charged, both by members of the force and by politicians, that the Commandant is biased in favor of imperial officers, that he would like to see all the highest positions in the Canadian militia filled by men who have served in the English army, and that his preference now for the artillery over the other arms of the service is simply a result of this bias of opinion.

However this may be, and however this report in other particulars may be challenged and criticized, one cannot ignore the fact that General Herbert is a good soldier, and is a man who possesses the courage of his convictions.

(As a matter of course the MILITARY GAZETTE is not committed to an endorsement of its contemporary's opinion.)

Lieut.-Col. d'Orsonnens, D. A. G., is now making an inspection of his military district.

The rifle competitions at the Bisley ranges begin this year on July 9, and preparations for the meeting are in active progress.

Martini-Metford Cartridge.

By CAPT. FRED. C. WURTELE, R.L.

Now that the long wished for change in the S.A. armament of the Canadian service may be deemed a fixed fact, and the adopted rifle, the Martini-Metford, which may be said to be that used in the Imperial service, minus the magazine, a few words on the ammunition used in this '303 rifle and a description of the contents of those cartridges may at this time prove interesting.

Our rifle "to be" is the Metford barrel, with the Martini stock and breech action, slightly altered to fit the new requirements. The twist of the rifling is one turn in ten inches, and is in the opposite direction to that of the Martini-Henry, but the trajectory is so flat that there is no safe place for infantry to 500 yards. The penetration is very great, a bullet fired at 100 yards is said to have passed through the centre of a pine tree 22 inches in diameter, and had force enough left to go through a couple of men had they been sheltering behind it, thus showing that trees are now no protection from rifle fire. The cartridge is a solid drawn brass shell, bottle-shaped and very prettily proportioned; it is three inches long over all, and roughly speaking, seven-sixteenths of an inch in diameter at the base inside the flange, tapering to three-eighths of an inch at the neck, one and thirteen-sixteenths of an inch from the base, and three-eighths inch more in length for seating the bullet. This bullet, which is one and one-quarter inch long, is made of lead cased with nickel, and flush at the base, the casing being turned in over the lead; it weighs 215 grains, and is of the diameter of the bore of the rifle at the widest point, which is measured across the bottom of the grooves, thus being of sufficient thickness to be forced into the grooves when fired. Half a million of these nice little cartridges are now in store on the Citadel of Quebec, and are numbered Mark II., loaded with black pellet powder. The highly-trained mechanical staff of our cartridge factory are doubtless now prepared to proceed with the manufacture of this ammunition.

The powder pellet is made of the ordinary black rifle powder of the required density, but instead of being granulated is compressed into a pellet of the size of the shell, having a fire-hole in the centre through its length to insure thorough and instantaneous ignition throughout the charge. The cartridge case is necked or bottled over the pellet, the bullet seated, and finally capped. The cartridge weighs, ready for use, 438 grains, being 42 grains lighter than the *Martini bullet*. The powder pellet weighs 70½ grains, plus or minus 3½ grains, the variation allowed in the charging, which should be reduced to a limit of half a grain. The initial velocity is 1830 feet per second, being 500 more than that of the Martini-Henry. Mark I. is loaded with *cordite*, which gives an initial velocity of 2000 feet per second. What is *cordite*? This question cannot

be better or more clearly answered than in the words of Lt.-Col. Barker, R.A., in his lecture given before the Royal Artillery Institute, 23rd January, 1893, and published in the journals of that institute.

Cordite is a smokeless propellant of the combined (insoluble) nitro-cellulose (or gun cotton) and nitro-glycerine type. Its composition was determined by a committee (the Explosives Committee) of most distinguished chemists, with Sir Frederick Abel as president. They decided that the proportion of the ingredients should be gun cotton, 37 per cent.; nitro-glycerine, 58 per cent., and mineral jelly, 5 per cent. (Mineral jelly (vaselin) is the liquid which distils over from petroleum at temperatures above 200°C.) It is a hydrocarbon, richer in carbon than petroleum, and it boils about 278°C.) The gun cotton is first dried (in the form of 9 ounce *pouries*) down to about 1 per cent. moisture. Then a portion, 27½ lbs., is placed in a brass-lined box, and 43½ lbs. nitro-glycerine are carefully poured over it. These ingredients are then carefully mixed by hand and taken to the incorporating machines, and the whole is brought into a gelatinous condition by the addition of about 15 10 16 lbs. of acetone, which is poured over the charge in the incorporating machine, and worked up into a kind of dough. (Acetone is a colorless fragrant liquid, sp. gr. 0.81, and boiling at 56.3°C. Its chemical title is "di-methyl ketone." It is also called "pyro-acetic spirit," and is obtained among the products of the distillation of wood.) 3½ lbs. of mineral jelly are afterwards added, and the material is incorporated or mixed for seven hours. When it has been sufficiently incorporated and is ready, the charge is taken to the press house, where it is squeezed in a cylinder, one end of which has a small hole of the required size for the *cordite*, which is squirted through by means of a plunger or piston pressing on the other end of the cylinder. The cylinder is fitted with composition, and the plunger pushes or squirts the soft material in the form of cord or string of the thickness required. The sizes are .0375 in., which is used for the rifle, up to a .5 in., which has been experimentally used with a heavy B.L. gun with satisfactory results. This string is wound on reels for the smaller, or cut into lengths for the larger natures. It is then placed in a stove and is dried, to get rid of the acetone at 100 degrees Fahr., from three to nine days, according to the thickness of the *cordite*. It is afterwards blended in the rifle *cordite*, by taking the production of ten presses, which are on "one-strand" reels, and winding these on to one "ten-strand" reel. Then the *cordite* on six "ten-strand" reels is wound on to one drum, which makes up a rope or cord of 60 strands, which in short lengths form the 30½ grain charge of the magazine rifle. The larger natures of *cordite* are blended on the same principles as gunpowder. The strange anomaly of two of the most violent explosives known, nitro-glycerine and gun-cotton, when

combined in nearly equal proportions, producing a moderate explosive under control, was the starting point of a new era in smokeless powder. Cordite has proved itself to be very safe to manufacture in its later stages, *i.e.*, after incorporation. The small-arm magazine rifle undoubtedly suffers in the bore from the great heat evolved and the high velocity imparted to the projectile, but this difficulty has been almost overcome by the use of a suitable wad.

The Director-General said: "With regard to the erosion we do not know much yet, but that is a matter of course that has still to be proved by actual experiment."

The damaging effects of the Lee-Metford bullet are graphically related by Vet.-Surgeon Capt. F. Smith in a paper read before the Royal United Service Institution, describing the experiments which he conducted against the bones of horses at ranges from 50 to 1000 yards. "The results of these experiments were astonishing; the damage done to bones and joints was such as was never anticipated, and it was seen that, so far as the diameter of the bullet was concerned, it might safely be calculated to inflict a maximum of damage on vital parts of the body, and demonstrated the intense destruction which a small bullet was capable of inflicting on the dense tissues of the body, such as bones and joints. The outcome of these experiments was the adoption of the Lee-Metford bullet as we now know it."

Some firing experiments were lately made on Beaufort Plains range with Martini ammunition loaded with S.R. or smokeless rifle, a granulated slaty yellow smokeless powder, manufactured by the Smokeless Powder Company of England, resulting in its favor by an average of 15 points per man over the ordinary black powder, and the recoil of the Martini-Henry, it appears, was materially reduced. But a firing trial on the rifle range is not alone sufficient to decide the merits of any explosive, and as cordite has been adopted in the Imperial service after most searching investigations in all points by H.I.M. Ordnance Committee, by such eminent experienced men as Sir Frederick Abel and Dr. Anderson, the Director-General, their experience should have considerable weight in this important question of the composition of the charge for the '303 cartridge now about to be introduced into the Canadian service.

Coxey's army of tramps are still on the march for Washington, from many points of the compass. The number that will reach there even Coxey admits to be quite uncertain; but he thinks there ought to be from 300,000 to 500,000 around the capital by the 1st of May. If a reported interview with the chief of the tramps be correctly given, he predicts that "some spark will start a fire that will be worse than any prairie conflagration ever known." This may be, but we doubt much that Coxey's army will ever reach one-fourth the number mentioned above. Already various divisions of the army in the west are coming into conflict with the U. S. troops. It is impossible to believe that the Washington Government will allow these marauders to get the upper hand or to assume dictatorial powers.

MILITIA REPORT.

SHARP CRITICISM BY MAJOR-GEN. HERBERT.

OTTAWA, April 19.—The annual report of the Minister of Militia and Defence, which was brought down to-day, has been received with much more than the usual interest. This is because of the report of the Major-General commanding, which it contains.

Major-General Herbert's report is of course the first turned out. At the outset he writes:—"Both the cavalry and infantry of the permanent force are far below the standard of efficiency which has been attained by the artillery. This is due entirely to the fact that the officers appointed to raise and organize these forces, unlike the Imperial officers who laid the foundations of the Royal Canadian Artillery, had not the accurate knowledge and practical experience of military administration which is indispensable to those entrusted with command. Neither had they the assistance of carefully trained and selected non-commissioned officers. They have therefore been obliged to feel their way where they should have seen it clearly, and to learn bit by bit that with which they should have been familiar by constant habit. They deserve, however, none the less, credit for the measure of success which has attended their efforts. Since the withdrawal of the Imperial troops there has existed in Canada nothing that could serve as a model or standard of military organization and efficiency for the guidance of the militia. I have endeavoured, therefore, by means of improved organization and distribution of the small permanent force at my disposal, to remedy to a certain extent this deficiency. With this object several changes have been made during the past year."

The Officers.

After reciting the changes made and drawing attention to the lack of professional attainments in the officers of the Canadian permanent force, the Major-General goes on to remark that the number of men enlisted has been insufficient to make good the waste arising from various causes, and points out that it must be observed that no special measures have been taken to make known to the public the advantages which are offered by the permanent service, and that he has found it necessary to check the uncontrolled readmission of men into the ranks from which they had already been discharged.

The Efficient Force

In discussing the general condition of the active militia, Major-General Herbert points out that provision is made for 28,710 infantry of all ranks, divided as follows:—Officers, 2,564; non-commissioned officers, 3,628; bandsmen and buglers, 2,562; privates, 19,856. The total number of rifles which under the most favourable circumstances could be placed in line would thus be only 69 per cent. of the total number of men. A comparison between Canadian and English militia shows that in Canada the number of officers to privates (combatant) is one to eight, while in England it is only one to thirty-two. The proportion of non-commissioned officers to privates (combatant) is one to five, while in England it is one to ten. After stating the proportions Major-General Herbert writes:—"A deduction of 25 per cent. can be made from the numbers authorized for rural battalions of militia, and this deficit exists entirely in the rank of the privates, since the commanding officers always permit the non-commissioned ranks to be filled up regardless of considerations as to fitness or qualification. A further deduction of 25 per cent. can be made for men withdrawn from the ranks for various reasons, and who, while they draw pay, do not undergo any training as infantry soldiers. Thus, the possible 19,856 privates allowed by the establishment is quickly reduced below 10,000, which represents the maximum total strength of infantry that would receive elementary instruction in drill if the whole force was called out.

Suggested Remedies.

"This condition can only be remedied: 1st. By a firm refusal to authorize the formation of new units. 2nd. By raising the establishment of existing efficient units to a strength consistent with military requirements. 3rd. By the disbanding of inefficient units. By these means a consolidation of the force will be effected. There will be fewer persons occupying commissioned and non-commissioned appointments, but there will be a larger defensive force, and as there will be a greater number of men in the ranks, there will be a more extensive field for the selection of suitable and qualified men for the superior grades. It will, moreover, enable a clerk to be put upon the issue of those allowances for which at present the country receives no real value."

The Major-General closes his report upon the general condition of the militia as follows:—"I cannot close this report without expressing my appreciation of the excellent material that exists in this country for the formation of a military force. There are men of all ranks in the militia whose earnestness and zeal are beyond all praise, who are actuated by a high sense of duty, and whom any officer must feel proud to command."

PRESENTATION.

In commemoration of the tenth anniversary of the establishment of the Military School in St. Johns, and to mark the good feeling that has always existed between the barracks and the town, a double presentation was made to the Company on behalf of a number of citizens of St. Johns on Thursday of last week. The presentation took the form of an elegant cabinet of forks, knives, spoons, etc., to the officers' mess and a handsome marble clock to the sergeants' mess. The cabinet contained about 200 pieces of the best quadruple electro plate, each article being stamped with the initials "R. R. C. I.," while the artistic oak case in which they were placed contained this inscription:

"Presented to the Officers' Mess of No. 3 Co., R.R.C.I., by friends in St. Johns, April, 1894."

The spoons, knives, forks, etc., are of a remarkably chaste design, as well as the case in which they are enclosed and all reflect credit upon the enterprising firm of Messrs. Simpson, Hall & Miller, Notre-Dame street, Montreal, from whom they were purchased. The clock is a French timepiece of inlaid black marble and bears an inscription similar to that on the cabinet. It is quite a gem in its way and was purchased at the well-known establishment of W. S. Walker, St. James St., Montreal, which is in itself a guarantee of the excellency of the article.

The committee entrusted with the pleasant task of procuring the gifts and making the presentation proceeded by appointment to the barracks on Thursday afternoon of last week and first visiting the cozy and home-like room wherein the sergeants hold social intercourse, tendered the clock on behalf of the subscribers. The ceremony was a very informal one. Mr. Carreau said a few pleasant and encouraging words in French and Mr. Smith spoke briefly in English, and Sergt. Doxtrader, in the absence of Sergt. Maj. Phillips, received and warmly acknowledged the compliment on behalf of his companions in arms. Then the Commandant

supplemented the proceedings with a few felicitous remarks and this part of the ceremony was concluded.

The committee then adjourned to the officers' mess, where the officers of the Company were assembled. Mr. Carreau, as chairman, again opened the proceedings and gave a brief but very eloquent address, in which reference was made to the military history of St. Johns and to the strategic importance of this old garrison town. This was followed by a more formal address, which was read by the Secretary, Mr. J. L. Whatley, and which was as follows:—

To LIEUT.-COLONEL D'ORSONNENS, D.A.G.,
Commandant, and Officers of No. 3 Com-
pany, R.R.C.I.:

SIR AND GENTLEMEN.—Having in view the fact that your Company has just entered upon the tenth year of its establishment in this town, we, the undersigned citizens of St. Johns, have deemed it a fitting opportunity to publicly acknowledge that event and to extend our heartiest congratulations, coupled with the hope that your connection with the historic town on the Richelleu may be continued for many years to come.

To strengthen this link, and in appreciation of many courtesies extended, not forgetting the commercial advantages to the business community by the presence of so large an establishment in our midst, we ask your acceptance of the accompanying cabinet of plate which has been subscribed by some sixty friends in St. Johns.

We would also wish to refer, with pleasurable remembrances, to the many officers who during the past years, have attended the school, adding much to the social advantages of the neighborhood, and who, we trust, have gone forth with credit to themselves and consequent honor to their instructors, to take their part in the military defence of this great Dominion.

We cannot omit to place on record our recognition of the varied services rendered, with your kind permission, by the non-commissioned officers and men under your command, to the community at large. These efforts, we feel sure, have been fully appreciated, and their success bears testimony to their many soldierly qualities.

In making this presentation, we desire you to accept the renewed assurance of our high esteem, and the expressed hope that future years may serve to bind yet more closely the military and civil life of St. Johns.

We have the honor to subscribe ourselves on behalf of the citizens.

Yours very truthfully,

J. P. CARREAU, Chairman,
J. L. WHATLEY, Hon. Sec.,
E. R. SMITH,
R. GOOLD,
C. ARPIN, } Managing
A. J. WIGHT, } Committee

St. Johns, P. Q., April 19th, 1894.

The Commandant, Lt. Col. d'Orsonnens, accepted the testimonial on behalf of the officers of the Company. He spoke first in French and then in English. He was very happy in his remarks and very hearty in his thanks. Anything, he said, that could strengthen the kindly relations that existed between the occupants of the barracks and the citizens of the town was certainly a source of the utmost gratification to himself and to everyone under his command. He referred to the courtesy the school had ever received from the citizens of St. Johns, which was emphasized by this presentation made that day, and he said that nothing could be more appropriate or acceptable than the handsome testimonial which he had the honor and pleasure of accepting. This terminated the proceedings, and after mutual congratulations the committee withdrew.

The following is the list of subscribers to the testimonial:—

J. O'Call (Mayor), E. Arpin, C. Arpin, E. Archambeault, J. N. Boisvert, O. N. E. Boucher, J. O. Brassard, N. H. Beaulieu, J. B. Black, H. Black, W. Brosseau, A. Camarais, J. P. Carreau, Hon. Judge Chagnon, L. Cosineau, C. R. Cousins, P. Chasné, T. L. Dixon, P. J. Doré, L. Fogue, I. B. Futvoye, R. Goold, A. Gervais, N. J. Gregoire, Dr. Girouard, E. H. Howard, J. E. Hebert, T. Keefe, P. Labelle, J. A. Lomme, J. E. Mollieur, A. Morin, J. S. Messier, G. Marchand, D. Macdonald, A. Macdonald, F. A. Macdonald, C. Monnette, O. Meunier, L. G. Macdonald, E. Morel, F. Fayette, Jr., H. Perchard, L. S. Pariseau, J. Queneau, J. B. Stewart, Simard & Godin, E. R. Smith, H. R. Smith, H. St. Mars, W. O. Trotter, J. B. Tiesidder, W. H. Wyman, A. Walmaley, G. H. Wilkinson, A. J. Wight, W. J. Wight, J. L. Whatley.

Military Pensions.

Col. Prior, the member for Victoria, B.C., has taken an early opportunity to signify his intention of again urging upon parliament the advisability of establishing a pension fund for the permanent military corps of Canada. When this proposition was before the House of Commons last session it received sympathetic, if not favorable, consideration from the Government, and consequently there is every reason to hope that a further discussion of it will not prove a waste of effort. Specially is this the case inasmuch as the advocates of the proposal are in a position to present a peculiarly strong argument. While there may be, and no doubt are, differences of opinion as to the wisdom of superannuating ordinary public employes, it cannot be doubted that the claim of a soldier to a maintenance when by reason of age or infirmity he is disqualified from service approaches very near to an absolute right. From this point of view a pension fund for our small, but none the less necessary, standing army, if such it can be called, might be easily justified, but there is another and, to the public, a more important aspect of the subject, Canada has a volunteer militia force of which it has many reasons to be proud, and upon the bravery of which it could confidently rely in case of an emergency arising from internal or external causes. But on the battlefield a soldier needs experience and skill as well as courage. For these we look specially to the regular corps, which, by their example and instruction, are expected to impart to the volunteers the conduct and discipline of veterans when they are in action. It follows, therefore, that the maintenance of a high standard in the permanent force is the keystone upon which depends the efficiency of our militia. We had before 1871 Imperial troops in Canada to rely upon, but on their withdrawal from Kingston and Quebec it was considered advisable to establish regular batteries in those places. This permanent force, which began with a strength of two hundred, now numbers one thousand, or thereabouts, a limit beyond which it may not be necessary to go for many years to come. Indeed, if the country is prepared to be more careful in its military expenditure, it could not do better than improve rather than increase the regular service it now has, for in these times skill counts for more in war than numbers. Twenty-five or fifty years ago the dashing but inexperienced young man might rise rapidly from the ranks of military ambition. It was a common thing in those days for junior officers with influence and money to be thrust in front of older and more experienced men. But since then war has become more of a science, and the danger of such promotions has increased proportionately. Moreover, the modern appliances of battle are so intricate and complicated that an expert soldier must possess nearly all the qualifications of an electrical engineer. It is to the permanent corps that we look for this class of trained men; they are the schools from which graduate the best officers and the best instructors. Military

men tell us, and there is no reason to doubt it, that good reliable non-commissioned officers are the backbone and mainstay of any military organization, and it needs no special knowledge on the subject to realize that these cannot be obtained from ranks that are filled with inferior men.

In view of these considerations it is hard to understand why less inducements to long and faithful service are held out to the regular soldiers than to any other public employes. At the outset their pay is small. The men enlist for three years at forty cents a day, with food and clothing, and by good behaviour this sum may be increased to forty-seven cents. One who rises from the ranks will receive as corporal seventy cents a day, as sergeant eighty cents a day, as staff-sergeant \$1 a day, or as sergeant-major \$1 25 a day. The officers it must be remembered, have outlays for uniforms and social duties as well as calls upon their purses, from which the privates are exempt. Yet the allowance of captains and majors is \$105 a month, and of lieutenant-colonels, \$125. The smallness of the remuneration is, however, not so much an injury to the permanent corps as the fact that no provision is made for the maintenance when they are no longer fit for service of those who devote their lives to the work. Both England and the United States provides reasonable pensions, while Canada, neglecting the purely military organizations, pays retiring allowances to the members of the Civil Service and the North-West Mounted Police. The effect of pensioning soldiers after long service is to retain at the disposal of the country the best men, and to develop experts in the highly necessary science of attack and defence. Money wisely spent in this way is therefore a judicious and statesmanlike investment. Besides this, we know that Canadians are constantly seeking and obtaining positions in the Imperial service after they have received a military training at the expense of this country. They go abroad in most cases, reluctantly, because insufficient inducements are offered them to remain at home. The time has come when something should be done to prevent this loss, and to make better use of the material we have in this country. A moderate pension for long services would be a very important, and by no means expensive, step in that direction. It ought not to be regarded as an extravagant use of money, but rather as a means of ensuring a better return for the necessary expenditure to which the country is now put. A former Minister of Militia went so far as to prepare a bill on the subject, and soon, it is to be hoped, Parliament will enact one.—*Toronto Mail*, April 10th.

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