

THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE

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The End of the Volume.

With this number the CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE completes its third volume. This covers eighteen months, from July, 1887, to December 1888 inclusive. It has been deemed advisable to make the volumes end with the year, because in that way a more convenient history may be preserved in the bound copies. For instance, the programme and the prize lists of all the great Dominion and Provincial competitions will now appear in the one volume, whereas hitherto it has happened in many cases that the programme being published in the spring or early summer was in a different volume to the lists of winners, thus making reference unhandy. An index to Volume III will shortly be issued.

We trust our readers have had a MERRY CHRISTMAS this week, and we very cordially wish them a HAPPY NEW YEAR! Our own happiness, so far as this publication is concerned, is in our readers keeping—*Verb. sap.*

Topics of the Week.

We have to acknowledge Christmas greetings from Lieut.-Col. A. H. Macdonald and officers of the First Brigade of Field Artillery (Guelph), and from Sergeant-Major Crean and Sergeants of the Queen's Own Rifles. The latter proclaim their best wishes upon a card eloquent in pictorial and picturesque representations of the memorable manoeuvres connected with the annual inspection on the 15th November. The artillerymen also have had a card specially designed for the Christmas season. It shows, about a central figure consisting of a scroll bearing the crest and motto of the First Brigade, a pretty camp of artillery, off duty, and officers and men alike enjoying in a quiet way the pleasures of camp life. The preparation of such souvenirs as these demonstrates the real, live interest taken in the military organizations by their members, even at this—in a military sense—dull season of the year.

The Canadian officers who a couple of seasons ago experimented upon and discussed the resisting power of snow to bullets, will be particularly interested in hearing that Col. Hertzborg, of the little Norwegian army, last winter conducted a series of experiments with a view to determining this power. His report, recently published, claims that a parapet of packed snow, half a metre thick, is proof against, not only musketry, but against the ordinary work of field artillery. This is stated of the dry raw material of Norway, the same in a more damp packing offering still

greater imperviousness to penetration. This report the U. S. *Army and Navy Journal* commends to the attention of General Ben. Butler, who proposes a winter invasion of Canada.

It happily turns out that the press reports and not the officer himself were responsible for the strange utterances about the militia attributed to Major Mayne, of the Royal Military College, and commented upon in these columns last week. We then expressed our disbelief of the reports, and are glad to find that they were indeed wrong.

The very comprehensive description of the rifle gallery of the Seventh New York Regiment, appearing in this issue, ought to prove interesting to all our readers, and especially to those who have given any attention to work with the rifle indoors. The desirability of such practice is unquestionable, giving as it does valuable training to the eye and hand, and creating a taste for the sport which must have the effect of considerably increasing the number to go in for the more useful if more difficult outdoor practice, in its proper season. At least one regiment in Canada is putting in faithful work at its winter indoor range, this being the Victoria Rifles of Montreal. At the Vics' new armoury there are, we believe, regular weekly competitions, though the modesty of those interested seemingly prevents the news of the shoots getting into print. There are other indoor ranges in the Dominion also, of which nothing is heard, though the news would be very interesting for purposes of comparison.

Affirmative answers to the "Is Marriage a Failure?" question continue to be given by the chiefs of the fighting men. "Don't put a millstone about your neck" is the caution said to have been given by the Commissioner of that semi-military organization our Northwest Mounted Police, when a short time ago one of his command made known his intention to marry a lady of the post station. This happened to be Regina, and the disappointed lady—for her lover has been practically sent into exile at the Maple Creek station—has found a champion in the editor of the local paper, the *Leader*. "We ask the Commissioner," says this editor, "Whether he was ever in love? Oysters and bears and cockroaches and cockatoos and, to our own knowledge, potato bugs feel the tender passion, and why should not the Commissioner in his salad days have felt the exquisite glow which the girdle of Venus sent into the breast of Jupiter himself? Let him recall that time—recall the soft whisper now exchanged for the word of command—when instead of having a flag raised on a flagstaff for him, he lowered his flag to beauty. Let him recall that hour and recall the banished lover from Maple Creek and thus make two young souls happy." But even while the editor writes, a like offence is being committed across the border, and contemporaneously with the *Leader* appeal there appears this from General Roger Jones, Senior Inspector-General of the U. S. Army: "It is recommended that no married enlisted man who may now be serving his first enlistment in any troop, battery or company should be permitted to re-enlist; that no authority be granted hereafter for soldiers to marry, and that no married recruit should be accepted under any circumstances."

An agitation is being carried on in the United States for the revival of the grade of Lieut-General. Concerning this the New York *Sun* says: "The importance of our military establishment is not fully indicated by its having a maximum enlisted strength of 25,000 men. It is the representative of the armed power of 60,000,000 people. It has charge of an enormous area between the two oceans, and great responsibilities of frontier defence. The army also is becoming more and more allied with the organized militia, so that the potential rather than the actual military force must be dealt with. The rank of Lieutenant-General for the officer intrusted with the command of the army of such a nation does not seem excessive." There is something in a name after all. The question will, no doubt, soon arise whether the title of "President" sufficiently indicates the importance of the office attached. Every baseball club has a "President"; why should not a great nation like that of the United States have something more imposing?

One recommendation in the annual report of the Senior Inspector General of the U. S. Army, contains a suggestion often heard with respect to our Canadian military schools. He says: "There should be a class of candidates for commissions organized in connection with the school of infantry and cavalry at Leavenworth, Kansas, to which class a limited number of promising non-commissioned officers who have served for two years with their regiments, might be sent for one year's instruction before presenting themselves as candidates for examination for commissions." Despite the strong reasoning to the contrary which can be urged, we are convinced of the desirability of opening our military schools to candidates for officers appointments as well as to those who have already had appointments conferred upon them. There is at present a course of instruction in non-commissioned officers' duties, but that does not fill the bill. The non-com's. life at the school is congenial to very few aspirants for commissions. There are constantly being added to the ranks of the militia officers men who know nothing of military duties, and who are allowed to hang on from month to month and year to year without qualifying. Once allowed in, it is hard to get rid of them. Were the school system changed all intending officers could be taught a great part of the knowledge essential to the desired position before being allowed to wear the uniform in public.

The United States cavalry—so says the army's Senior Inspector-General—does not appear to be in a very satisfactory condition. He reports that there is too strong a tendency towards the condition of mounted infantry. It often happens that the men do not seem at home in the saddle, "the horses are too nervous to admit of satisfactory pistol practice." "Some of our cavalry commanders," he says, "seem to have assumed that the horse has ceased to be the weapon of the trooper. This condition is undoubtedly fostered by our present system of classification in foot target practice. Distinction and rewards are to be earned in rifle and carbine shooting, and the cavalry must compete with the infantry. If the cavalry arm of the service were made a distinct class by itself, and excellence in all the duty belonging to its specialty was required in obtaining distinction and rewards, a much more earnest endeavour to perfect themselves in their specialties might find birth. The reports in this office do not show that any effort is being made to instruct the mounted troops in the manner of making reconnaissances; in submitting reports of rides of exploration; in setting out outposts; in drawing rough sketches that will explain reports transmitted, etc. All these things would relieve the monotony of garrison duty and be interesting to the men after so much "right by twos" of garrison life, aside from their essential importance." The same officer reports that "some of the light artillery is still plodding along with the same guns they had at the close of the War of the Rebellion, although the Prussians learned from the Austrians at Nachod, nearly a quarter of a century ago, that such guns would not

meet modern requirements. It is anxiously waiting for the new breechloading guns. Some of our light batteries at the present time not only have no practice firing, but, owing to the peculiarities of their location it is not possible for them to have any." It would appear that the U. S. artillery is not a great deal better off than our own artillery branch, whose condition has been so pathetically portrayed in these columns by that able champion "Linch-pin."

The New "Red Book."

(Volunteer Service Gazette.)

The long-expected revised Red Book has at last appeared. It seems to us on the first (necessarily rather cursory) perusal to be the result of something like a compromise between the views of the advanced school and of those who cling to old traditions. Certainly the changes made in the English drill system are by no means as sweeping as we had been led to believe they would have been; while, on the other hand, certain small alterations may fail to be pleasing to the supporters of the ancient system. But, although compromises are never very satisfactory, it must be admitted that the editors of the new Red Book have done their work very well as far as the chapters on "manœuvres," fire discipline, outposts, etc., are concerned. The little manual before us contains, indeed, a great store of important instruction. But we must say that the value of this instruction is to a considerable extent neutralized by the fatal distinction which is still drawn between the work of the parade ground and work in the field, whether of real or simulated battle. On the former the soldier is only to occupy twenty-four inches of space, while in the latter thirty paces are allotted to him; and the aids to mathematical accuracy of formation which are insisted upon on the drill ground are swept away when the scene of action is real country. We do not believe that any useful purpose can be served by this double system. Moreover, we see with regret that although a large number of the battalion and brigade movements contained in the F. E. of 1884 have been, in accordance with the Army Orders of last April, expunged from the edition before us, all the complicated parade movements have been retained in their entirety, a new and utterly useless formality having been introduced into the "march past."

We shall, however, have many opportunities of examining the important features of the new Red Book. What we now propose to do is to give our readers a synopsis of its contents, calling special attention to the points in which it differs from the Field Exercises of 1884 as altered by the Army Order of April 1888.

In the first place, the book has changed its title. It is no longer called "Field Exercise and Evolutions of Infantry," but "Infantry Drill." In the "Definitions" we find the terms "Double Column," "Double Company" and "Pivot" omitted.

The First Division of the Book is headed "Drill," and the first part treats of Recruit or Squad Drill. In this part the changes are few and unimportant. In fact, except for one or two verbal changes, the first rules for Squad drill are the same as those of 1884, until we come to Section 5, when we find the heading "Extension Motions" superceded by that of "Physical Training," and an entirely new set of exercises introduced, many of which are to be done, or may be done, with a musical accompaniment, instrumental or vocal. Dressing a squad in single rank is a little simplified, only one man being thrown forward as a point. Of course, in accordance with the A.O. of April, the paragraphs dealing with wheeling are left out, as "forming" is now alone used for the change of front or direction of any body of troops in line. The file formation to the right about is also abolished. In drilling a squad in two ranks, the instructor, when open order is taken, will cover the flank men of the rear rank and give the word "*Steady*" before giving the word "*March*." This seems to be merely the supplying of a casual omission in the old book. More important is the regulation that a squad may take "open order" without "points," on which we shall have to make some observations later on.

A fundamental and valuable alteration is made in the formation of "fours." The new command, "*Form Fours*," was indeed introduced in the Red Book of 1862, but was abolished in 1870, if we remember rightly, in favour of the older and simpler "*Fours*." But in both these cases, "*Form fours*" and "*Fours*" were *always* succeeded by the words "*Deep*" "*Right*," "*Left*," or "*About*." The rear rank having stepped back at the word "fours," the formation was completed by a movement which, except in the case of "*Fours Deep*," was a little complex. Now the rear rank steps back, as it always did, at the word "*Fours*," and the left files step at once into their places in "*fours deep*" without any further word. If they are to turn to a flank or about, the words "*right*," "*left*," or "*about*," are added, whereupon the men turn as required. This seems to

us to be a great improvement. The squad is to be instructed in skirmishing as soon as the elementary drill in close order has been learned, but for the regulations for this we have to go to Part VIII., and the whole subject may be more conveniently treated subsequently.

In the second part, "Company Drill," we find some important changes. The two subaltern officers of the company are, after acting for more than eighteen years as "Guides," once more relegated to the supernumerary rank to command (nominally, of course, so far as close formations are concerned, the two half companies), while the two senior sergeants are right and left "Guides," being always, except when the company is extended, or happens to be broken up into column of half companies or sections, on the right and left flanks of the company respectively. We doubt very much whether the substitution of sergeants for lieutenants as guides is a wise step, but we never could see the object of making the guide on the reverse flank move to the rear when he was not actually directing. Now he is always to remain in his place, and the marker is always when not actually giving a point, in the supernumerary rank, so that the "covering" is never clouded by him. Nothing could be simpler or better than this arrangement. The flank by which the men are to dress is always to be specified, and the touch is always to be to the right in line and to the left in column, unless otherwise ordered.

We have said that the markers are always in the supernumerary rank when not actually engaged in giving points. We should have mentioned that there is an exception to this when a company takes open order. There seems to be a trifling omission in the rules for "open order." On the word "*Shoulder Arms*" after the general salute we are told that on the word "arms" the officers will recover swords, etc. Probably this should have been preceded by the sentence "Arms will then be shouldered." We find, again, that "open order" may be taken without points, and also that it may be taken on the move.

Of course, there is no *wheeling* into line, and the word of command for *forming* into line has been changed. It is now "*Into line—Left (or Right)—Form.*" "*Break into column to the right (left)*" has become "*Column to the right—right about turn,*" followed by "*Right (left) form—Quick march.*" It will be observed that the old "Rifle" practice of turning (or facing) about on the caution, which was adopted officially (in 1870, if we remember rightly), has now been again abandoned. Formations to the front or rear from files or fours are described, but those to the right or left are omitted from Company Drill. They are, indeed, given in Squad Drill, but it is there explained that they are not to be used except "when necessary, for guards and for ceremonies." The subject of marching past, fully described in Company Drill, we may conveniently defer till we come to the Battalion. The company is to be instructed in skirmishing, and then in the Attack. But here again we are referred to Part VIII., which we shall consider as a whole later on.

(To be continued.)

Personal.

Capt. Alex. Roy, No. 4 Co., 65th Battalion, has been appointed Brigade Major of the Sixth Military District, in succession to Lieut.-Col. Hughes, who resigned upon appointment as Chief of Police for Montreal.

Lieut. Lang, R.E., who has been appointed secretary to the Military Commission, is a brilliant '83 graduate of the Kingston College. He was appointed at Chatham, Eng., to a coveted aide position, and when with Col. O'Brien in British Columbia preparing plans for proposed fortifications was left in sole charge of the survey.

Capt. H. C. Freer, of "D" Co., Infantry School Corps, who with Capt. Sears of "C" Co., Toronto, leaves in January to join the Imperial regiment to which he belongs, was banqueted at London on Monday evening. Both of these officers belong to the South Staffordshire Regiment. Capt. Freer, who is a graduate of the Royal Military College, served first with his regiment in Egypt. He joined "B" Co. at St. Johns, Que., and in 1885 was A.D.C. to Gen. Middleton in the North-West. He was lately transferred from "B." to "D" Co. Capt. Sears served also in Egypt. When he joined the permanent force here he was attached to "C" Co. at Toronto. During the North-West rebellion he was brigade-major of Col. Otter's Battleford column. He was banqueted last week by the officers of the Toronto brigade.

Theophile Edouard Ayotte, who at the age of 18 left his home in Montreal to join the French army, has just returned to that city, crippled by disease in his leg, and with a life pension of 600 francs as well as a medal d'honneur. Ayotte enlisted in the 2nd Foreign Regiment, which corps is composed wholly of foreigners, and numbers 6000 men. He joined the regiment in Algeria, where he remained for over a year. There he met another young Canadian, Jean Louis Renaud, who was also a soldier. Ayotte and Renaud volunteered for service in Tonquin, and

arrived in that country on a French man-of-war towards the end of 1886. Renaud died shortly after. Ayotte took part in several engagements with the fierce Black Flags, pirates of the worst kind. On his medal is the effigy of the Republic, with the legend "Republique Francaise," and on the reverse the following battles: "Sontag, Bac-Ninh, Fou Tcheon, Formosa, Tuyen-Quan, Pescadores, 1883-85."

The New Wimbledon.

(United Service Gazette.)

In our issue of October 20 we stated that practically "the battle of the sites" would resolve itself into a question of Government assistance, and the adoption of Brookwood has amply justified our anticipations. In fact, the Government has scored all along the line, for Pirbright, the original sight offered, is Brookwood to all intents and purposes. We presume, therefore, that the "mirage" question, which was supposed to militate against the adoption of this site, has received its quietus; and, knowing something of the ground selected, we shall be extremely surprised to find that it really has any foundation in fact.

The association having now, if we may say so, come to its senses, and closed with the offer of the authorities, let us hope they will also show their good sense by at once making their council a representative one of the volunteer force as a whole, for which it professes to cater, but which is very far from being the fact. Lord Wantage, in his admirable letter to the *Temes*, shows that he, at any rate, is willing to sink his own personal feelings for the general welfare, and he makes a distinct statement as to the future action of the association in the nature of providing ground for the practice of field-firing, and generally raising the shooting of the volunteer force as a whole, which is most decidedly the proper course to pursue in the best interests of the association itself, and one which doubtless the authorities would insist upon if they are willing to give a free use of public property and allow Bisley Common to be to some extent shot over. A careful perusal of Lord Wantage's letter seems to imply that he does not contemplate retaining the position of chairman of the association. We can only hope that this is not so. There are many ornamental members on the council whose names we could well spare, but his Lordship is not one of these. We would, however, strongly urge the council to at once strengthen their numbers, or elect an entirely new council, on which we desire to see the names of some of our most prominent metropolitan and other commanding officers who are thoroughly in touch with the feelings of their men, and who can take a broad view of the necessities of the case, and not be merely a registration board for the aims of the shooting crack.

Let anyone cast his eyes back on the programme of the association for the past ten years, and point out wherein any serious effort has ever been made to cater for the recruits, the young shootist, and the rank and file generally of the force. We see year after year the same household names carrying off the highest honours at Wimbledon. In the great majority of cases, of what value are these men to their parent corps? Do they, as a rule, perform more than the minimum number of drills to constitute them "efficient," and thus able to compete at all in Wimbledon. We fancy some of our metropolitan commanding officers could give a very sufficient answer to this. Whilst no one would regret more than we should to see the new Wimbledon going backward, it will assuredly do so unless new blood is infused into the governing council, whose programme in future must be to strengthen the bonds of volunteer shooting generally and not of one branch in particular. By the adoption of what is, to all true intents, a Government site, let us also hope that the council will be wise enough to set their house in order in the matter of "uniform" when shooting.

By all means let members of associations, such as the North or South London, or Irish clubs, shoot in mufti, and encumber themselves with telescopes, paint boxes, and ammunition portmanteaus, with all the paraphernalia dear to a "crack shootist" in the matter of adjustable sights, etc.; but for pure military shooting, such as the force would have to undertake if ever called out for service, let all these "adjuncts" be sternly discarded, and every man go to the ground equipped as a soldier and not as a magpie. The distance from London will probably be quite sufficient to keep away the objectionable element of "Arrys" and "camp followers," to whose proceedings it undoubtedly is owing that the necessity has arisen for seeking a new Wimbledon at all. If this is not found sufficient, a stiff gate entrance and also railway fare for all persons not in uniform will quickly remedy this evil, which must be met with a firm hand from the outset. The "picnic" element also, doubtless, has received a well-merited death-blow. Our volunteers are all civilians, and as such have plenty of opportunities for amusement all the year round, and it cannot be necessary, because for ten days or a fortnight they go under canvas, that "high jinks" should be part of the programme.

With our Regular Army the case is different. They are always at work, and at times relaxation is a proper thing for them; but the Volun-

teers would do well to copy the better part of their army friend's work, and leave the social element to be carried on in their own homes. In writing as we have, we certainly have nothing but the best interests of the association at heart, and we will trust they will themselves take the proper steps to make themselves thoroughly representative of the force as a whole, for if they do not they will either rush blindly on failure or they will be forced to do by public opinion.

The Rifle.

The tenth annual prize meeting of the South African Wimbledon opened on Monday, 13th October, and was continued on the five following days. The weather, though on the whole pleasant, was not at all times conducive to good shooting, a mirage, and cross winds occasionally puzzling the competitors. The entries were in excess of those of last year—140 competitors having entered their names for the meeting, against 118 last year. The total value of money prizes competed for was £560, in addition to which there was the Short Range Merchants' Silver Cup, the Long Range Tradesmen's Silver Cup, the Silver Shield of the South African Wimbledon. These trophies are competed for by teams of eight. With the Governor's prize of £25 the successful competitor receives the Gold Medal of the South African Wimbledon. With the President's Prize of a Gold Medal the winner receives £20. The competitor making the highest aggregate score in the first and second stages of the Governor's "shoot" receives the Silver Medal of the South African Wimbledon. To each member of the winning team for the South African Wimbledon Challenge Shield Match is awarded a miniature shield medal. The National Rifle Association's Silver Medal is awarded to the competitor with the highest combined aggregate in the first and second match (Merchants' Cup and Tradesmen's Cup), and the first and second stages of the third match (Governor's Prize), open to military breech-loading rifles only. A silver medal, presented by Mr. H. F. Seale, was awarded to the competitor making the highest aggregate in all the matches, excluding the third stage Governor's Prize Match, the South African Wimbledon Challenge Shield Match, and the President's Prize Match.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE NOVA SCOTIA ASSOCIATION.

The 25th annual meeting of the Nova Scotia Rifle Association was held last evening in the Y. M. C. A. class room. Lieut.-Col. McDonald, 66th P. L. F., president, was in the chair. The annual report of the council was adopted. It was as follows:—There has been a slight falling off in the membership, and your council regret to have to report that there are still several regiments in district No. 9 that are unrepresented in the membership of the association. The annual prize meeting was held at Bedford, and began on Tuesday, August 14th, and was finished Thursday, August 16th. The Snider ammunition issued this year was very superior to that issued since 1885, and consequently there was a marked improvement in the scores made with the Snider rifle. The sum of \$1,633 was given as prizes, in addition to the cups and medals of the association, a gold watch presented by Hon. W. S. Fielding and a cup presented by Jas. Gas. This sum is considerably larger than that presented last year. Five members of this association were members of this year's Wimbledon team, viz.: Lieut. Fiske, 63rd Rifles; Lieut. Dover, 78th Batt.; Sergt.-Major Case, H.G.A.; Bomb. Campbell, H.G.A.; and Gr. Wilson, H.G.A. Thirty-one members of this association attended the prize meeting of the Dominion Rifle Association at Ottawa, and they won two first, two second, and other prizes to the amount of \$648, and nine were in the sixty. The inter-maritime provincial match was shot this year at Bedford, and was won by the New Brunswick team with a score of 661 points. The Nova Scotia team scored 646 points. The trophy was procured at a cost of \$275, and was delivered to the winning team. In this year's prize list an increase was made in the prizes in the battalion and long range matches, and a revolver match was added. On application of your council the Minister of Militia caused to be issued a further supply of M. H. rifles for the use of members of the association. The system of time entries worked most satisfactorily. No time was lost, and the matches were completed without undue haste in three days. Your council note with pleasure the large number of entries in the all-comers' matches from the Imperial forces, and that the first prize in the Martini Henry all-comers was won by Gunner's Mate Cole, H.M.S. *Bellerophon*. The winners of the first prizes were: 1st competition, Gr. McEachern, H.G.A.; 2nd competition, Staff-Sergt. Blair, 78th; 3rd competition, Capt. Bishop, 63rd Rifles; 4th competition, No. 7 Battery H.G.A.; 5th competition, Sergt. Elliott, 63rd Rifles; 6th competition, Gr. Mate Cole, H.M.S. *Bellerophon*; 7th competition, H.G.A.; 8th competition, Lieut. Fiske, 63rd Rifles; 9th competition, Sergt. Keddy, 68th Batt.; 10th competition, Lieut. Harrison, 93rd Batt.; 11th competition, Staff-Sergt. H. C. Blair,

78th Batt.; grand aggregate, Corp. Longueuil, 63rd Rifles; D. R. A. medal, Sergt.-Major Case, H.G.A.; Governor-General's silver medal, Staff-Sergt. H. C. Blair, 78th Batt.; bronze medal, Major Garrison, H.G.A. The treasurer's report shows that there is a balance of \$278.56.

It was decided to give the National Association medal as a prize to the man making the highest score in the Ottawa matches who represents the Nova Scotia association at Wimbledon. Sir John S. D. Thompson, Hon. C. H. Tupper and Major-Gen. Laurie, M.P., were chosen to represent the association at Ottawa. A resolution was passed thanking Messrs. Thompson and Tupper for past services.

It was decided to abolish the pool targets. \$50 was voted towards the expenses of the inter-provincial team. In view of the large surplus the council were instructed to add \$73 to the prize lists in the 2nd, 5th and 6th competitions.

A resolution was passed asking the council to have the annual prize meeting on or before July 15th. It was pointed out that August was a bad time of the year for the county members, and that many of them were unable to attend then.

The following were chosen as the council for the ensuing year: Lieut.-Col. Mackintosh, 63rd Rifles; Lieut.-Col. McDonald, 66th P.L.F.; Lieut.-Col. Curren, H.G.A.; Lieut.-Col. Murray, Supt. of Stores; Lieut.-Col. Mackinlay, 63rd Rifles; Major Egan, 63rd Rifles; Major Walsh, 63rd Rifles; Major Weston, 66th P.L.F.; Capt. Barnhill, 78th; Corp. Brown, 66th; Capt. Crane, 63rd Rifles; Capt. Adams, H.G.A.; Capt. Bishop, 63rd Rifles; Capt. Spike, 66th P.L.F.; Capt. Maxwell, H.G.A.

RIFLE PRACTICE IN THE U. S. ARMY.

Rifle practice in the United States Army is to-day in a most prosperous condition. Indeed, since the day Creedmoor began to decline, I think we have much to thank the regulars for, in keeping alive year after year the national interest in this truly necessary and great work. At every fort, arsenal, and camp in the Union, from Maine to the Rio Grande, and from Florida to Oregon, the best months of the year are devoted to this important drill. Rifle practice is graded, too, so as to make a place for all kinds of shots. The ignorant green-horn, who does not know which is the dangerous end of a gun, has his place as well as the expert sharpshooter. Besides firing at fixed and known distances, yet the trend of army rifle practice now is decidedly towards skirrimishing. In this exercise the soldier is put upon his mettle to combine accuracy of sight, quick judgment of distances and rapidity of manipulation of his piece. Most of the work is done on a run; halts, firing, advances, and retreats all being according to bugle signals, the firing limit at each halt being but 14 seconds each.—*Lieut. J. M. T. Partello, U.S.A.*

Regimental Notes.

Col. Tilton, the new commanding officer of the Guards, paid a visit to the down-town club room of No. 6 Co. last Friday evening, and spent a couple of hours there. The company are to have several souvenirs of the Colonel's first visit, as he was interested in finding out how he could best add to their equipment.

Mr. John R. Greenfield, who lately retired from the position of bandmaster of the 43rd Ottawa and Carleton Rifles, received a handsome present—a "secretary," consisting of bookcase and writing desk—on Christmas Eve from the bandsmen, in recognition of his services as their organizer and leader. The presentation was made by Col. White, lately commanding the regiment, and his successor, Col. Anderson, subsequently entertained the whole assemblage of officers and bandsmen to refreshments. Mr. James Carter, in former times bandmaster of the Guards, is Mr. Greenfield's successor in the 43rd.

At the annual dinner of the Boomer Rifle Association, in connection with A Co., 10th Royal Grenadiers, held last week, the event of the evening was the presentation of a handsome gold signet ring, with the crest and motto of the regiment engraved upon it, and a beautifully illuminated address to Pte. A. Henderson, secretary of the association, as a recognition of his efforts on behalf of the association for the past few years. The presentation was made by Sergt. Mowat and Pte. Langford. The address is signed by Capt. John I. Davidson, honorary president, and Sergt. Wm. Mowat, president.

The annual meeting and banquet of the ex-Cadets' Club of the Royal Military College will be held in Montreal on the 18th January. The club, which now numbers about 90 members, was formed for the purpose of giving the members mutual benefit and support, encouraging the maintenance of the brotherly feeling at present existing amongst the graduates, and the advancement of the welfare of the club members as well as the graduates of the Royal Military College. Ex-cadets and graduates who have served two years at the college are eligible for membership. At the meeting on the 18th several important subjects will be discussed, amongst them the revision of the by-laws. The

officers of the club at present are: Capt. W. M. Davis, Woodstock, president; Capt. Dennison, London School of Infantry, vice-president; and Mr. F. W. White, Ottawa, secretary-treasurer. Gen. Cameron will probably be elected honorary president, and will no doubt attend the dinner. Gen. Middleton and Col. Powell and other officers will be invited to attend the dinner.

The Honourable Artillery Company.

In view of the recent disbandment of this organization, the cable reports concerning which have been read with very great interest on this side of the ocean, the report of the last annual meeting appearing below, and taken from the London city press, will be instructive reading. The disbandment took place on the recommendation of the Prince of Wales, the reason assigned being the internal troubles of the corps. It is reported that it will likely be reorganized shortly, under the Volunteer Act. This is the report of the annual meeting, which was held on the 13th December:—

The annual general Court of this ancient regiment was held at the Armoury House on Thursday evening last week, under the presidency of Major Mainwaring Jones, in the absence of Lord Colville of Culross. There was an unusually large attendance of members, in consequence of the great excitement existing in the regiment in connection with the proposal to place the regiment under the Volunteer Act.

It was abundantly evident during the evening's proceedings that, after having had a little time for reflection the members hesitated to agree unreservedly to this proposal unless they had some guarantee that the ancient privileges of the Company would be maintained.

"The first motion proposed was by Major G. A. Raikes, and seconded by Private Bosanquet as follows: "That although the members of the Honourable Artillery Company, relying on the assurances which have been given, that the Company shall retain its ancient privileges, and control over its property, are prepared loyally to accept the provisions of the Volunteer Act of 1863, at the request of H.R.H. the Captain-General and Colonel, and hereby confirm the resolution passed at the special general Court, on November 8th last: yet, in order to preserve this ancient company as a distinct and separate body, or corps (which honourable position it has held for upwards of 350 years), and not as a Volunteer corps with special privileges, it would be most satisfactory and gratifying to the members of the company, if the Parliamentary powers which are necessary were obtained under a separate Act, or under any other Act than the 26th & 27th Vic. cap. 65."

After an animated discussion the resolution was unanimously passed, and ordered to be sent to H.R.H. the Prince of Wales (Captain-General and Colonel).

"Major Raikes also proposed the following resolution, which was also passed unanimously: "That the members of the Hon. Artillery Company, having always been anxious and willing to do everything to promote the efficiency and usefulness of the company as a military body, hereby record their readiness to accept the provisions of the National Defence Bill, 1888, under which they would become liable to be called out for service whenever the Militia is embodied."

The next motion was moved by the Court of Assistants, to the effect "That in accordance with the resolution passed at the special general Court held at the Armoury House on Thursday, the 8th of November last, this annual general Court do place at the disposal of the commanding officer the sum of £500 for military purposes, pending the proposed alteration in the regiment."

This motion met with a decided and, as it turned out, successful opposition. An amendment, moved by Private Bosanquet, to the following effect was, on a show of hands, carried by a large majority, and on a division being taken, this resolution was carried as a substantive resolution: "That as the vote of a fixed sum to be paid to the commanding officer to cover military expenses forms a part of the new and uncompleted arrangements suggested by H.R.H. the Captain-General and Colonel, the consideration of the resolution do stand over until the proposed alterations in the constitution of the company have been submitted to the members." During the discussion on this amendment it was stated that, although the members were not only willing but anxious to meet the views of the Captain-General, they considered that they were responsible for the maintenance of the company as far as possible in its present position, and it was reasonable that the proposed changes should be considered and carried out together.

The following resolution was also passed by a large majority, there being only a few dissentients: "That this court desires to repudiate and protest against the charge of insubordination made against the regiment by Captain Woolmer Williams in a book recently published in his name and dedicated to her Majesty the Queen."

Other formal business having been disposed of, the members proceeded to ballot for the twenty-four members to serve on the Court of

Assistants for the ensuing year. The names of the Court are given below: Private Prendegast, Lieut. Evans, Lieut. Ferrier, Lieut. Hammond, Major Raikes, Capt. Summers, Capt. Stohwasser, Major Holt, Lieut. Reynolds, Sergt. Girling, Capt. Fry, Lieut. Sanderson, Capt. Nunn, Major Baker, Capt. Pash, Staff-Sergt. Brooking, Private Bosanquet, Lieut. Birkett, Sergt. Hammond, Lieut. Gibson, Private A. McKenzie, Private Spencer, Private Elam, and Lieut. Twigg.

Gleanings.

"It looks to me," said an attache of the Navy Department, according to the *N. Y. Sun*, "as though the papers were trying to work up a war feeling among Americans. The manner in which the New York newspapers have lately handled the Canadian, Samoan, Corean and Haytian questions is decidedly belligerent if viewed from the old-fashioned standpoint of ten years ago. It was then considered the height of absurdity for America to talk war, even with the South American republics. This feeling has changed very materially now. The improvement in our Navy, and perhaps the effect of the President's retaliation message, have both contributed to make Americans more confident. When our flag was insulted before, and such insults have been humilatingly numerous in the history of the United States, the only result was a few jokes by the paragraphers on the inefficiency of our Navy and the regularity with which we were sneered at. Now there is a feeling of hot indignation, and it finds its echo in the belligerent tone of the daily press. The least sign of weakness on Secretary Bayard's part has been sharply commented on in all quarters. It is a great change, and everybody knows what this sort of thing will lead to in time."

A London correspondent of the *New York Times*, referring to the fact that French Infantry and cavalry officers are to get more pay, a captain \$720 if of the first class and \$648 if of the second, says: "Who would not be a French captain? Badly paid as our officers are they at least get more than this; but then we have more rapid promotion as well, so that upon the whole, except in war time, British officers have much the best of it. But it cannot be denied that in both countries the system is bad which compels men to put their hands into the pockets of themselves or their relatives, which comes to the same thing, to pay for the performance of public duty. The only sound system is that of the United States, where officers get, if not high, at least sufficient pay, and where the only drawback appears to be delay in promotion."

A competitive target practice took place some time ago before the President of the French Republic at the military school of Saint-Cyr, to test the relative merits of the Lebel and Gras rifles. A company of Infantry was armed with the Lebel rifle, and another with the Gras. The distance was 400 yards. While the men armed with the Lebel rifle hit the target with 180 shots out of 200, those armed with the Gras hit it only eighty shots. The firing with the Lebel rifle was done in forty seconds without noise and without smoke; while during the same period of time the firing with the Gras rifle generated a thick cloud of smoke which impeded the accuracy of the firing, and at times even hid the target from view.—*Akhbar*.

The *Revue Militaire de l'Etranger*, quoting the *Chronique*, signals the apparition of a new repeating rifle, manufactured by the Manufacture Liegeoise d'Armes a Feu. This new weapon has passed the customary ordeal without affording therefor any unfavourable observations, and has been admitted to the final trial, which will shortly take place at the camp of Beverloo, in competition with four other rifles already submitted to the Belgian Government. The most remarkable feature of this new Engh rifle is the original simplicity of its percussion and repetition mechanism, which does not require a single screw or spiral spring. It is also remarkable for the small number of pieces of which it is composed, for the solidity of each of the pieces, and the facility with which it can be handled. It can be mounted and dismounted by hand in less than a minute, and without the aid of a single tool. Thirty shots have been fired with this rifle in sixty-six seconds, presenting and taking aim before each shot.

In Germany Military Telegraphy is under the direction of officers of the Engineers. In Prussia it is directed by a lieutenant-colonel, with the title of Inspector of Military Telegraphy. Of late years a school of Military Telegraphy, under the supervision of a captain of Engineers, has been opened at Berlin. A school of the same kind was opened at Munich lately, more especially for the benefit of soldiers of the Cavalry and of the Pioneers. Soldiers who will have undergone a course of instruction at this school will wear a distinctive badge on the shoulder-straps, somewhat similar to that worn by good marksmen.

The Grenadier Guards received their name from the hand grenades they formerly used. Their orders for using these were as follows:—"Open your pouches"—"Handle your grenades"—"Blow your matches"—"Fall on."

The Rifle Gallery of the Seventh N. Y.

Gallery rifle practice, intelligently conducted, is essential to proficiency in the use of the rifle by the Guard. Here the beginner can learn all the fundamental principles of shooting, can train his nerves and accustom himself to handling his piece readily, gaining confidence and accuracy. Were more time devoted to systematic gallery practice with the State arm, and less in endeavouring to obtain clock-like regularity in drill, the value of the State troops would be greatly advanced. Successful work at the out-door range is advanced, and efficiency would be obtainable by a much larger percentage of the guard, if systematic armoury practice were within the reach of all. As a writer in the *Brooklyn Daily Times* says: "the great object to be kept in view is not the development of a few skilled marksmen, but the training of the entire rank and file so as to enable all to have a fair degree of skill with their rifles."

The best example of what systematic armoury rifle practice can accomplish, is given by the 7th N. Y., which has made such excellent use of its well equipped and intelligently managed rifle gallery. On a recent visit to the armoury we were courteously shown its ins and outs from beginning to end. The first thing that struck us was the business-like way the firing was conducted. It was one continual "bang-bang" from 7 until 11 P. M. and without the slightest interruption. The men showed a familiarity and self reliance in the aiming and firing that was most satisfactory to note, getting through their shooting quickly and with a regularity that showed a thorough system. There was no bad ammunition, no guns out of order, nor was the range monopolized by a few crack shots; the rawest recruit is given the same privilege as the best shot in the regiment. Everything is in the most perfect order and there is a system which is intelligently adhered to. Each company shoots on its drill night: the men usually come down in squads while their company is drilling, shoot quickly, return to their company and another squad takes their place. In this way much time is saved. Some shoot by company and commence an hour before drill. There is a large sized waiting room adjacent to the firing point provided with seats and lockers. Each company has its quota of ammunition separate and in a special locker, and it is available on the instant. One of the sensible regulations is that each man must shoot with his own gun. Each member of the regiment is allowed 50 rounds per annum free, for use in gallery practice; all used over this is paid for by each company at the rate of one cent per round, the amount collected going into the regimental treasury. Each company has its own inspector of rifle practice, a private being usually appointed to the position; he in turn appoints a committee to aid him, and in this way interest in shooting is developed, records kept, and each man's progress carefully looked after. Various matches are also arranged, which adds additional interest. There is shooting six days in the week. Each Saturday evening is set apart for the use of the regimental rifle club, which has a large membership, and on this evening during the season a variety of matches are contested for, and for these liberal prizes are offered.

The range was built under the supervision of Gen. C. F. Robbins, he at that time being regimental inspector of rifle practice, and it was the first indoor range in the United States to be fitted up on the improved system of sunken trench for markers, double acting sliding targets, etc. It is 100 yards in length and is supplied with six sliding, double acting targets, the marking being done by men detailed from the employees of the armoury. The value of the shot is announced by disk, and is also transmitted to the firing point by electricity to a register, from which scorers keep the record of shooting. The firing point is partitioned of and has 12 apertures for shooting through, so that the men can shoot either standing, kneeling, sitting, on the back, or prone. There are receptacles in which the shells are dropped as soon as fired. There are on an average from 1,200 to 1,500 shots fired each night.

One of the most recent and valuable improvements of the gallery is the new projectile receiver, invented by the armourer, Mr. O. H. Decumbus, for catching all the bullets that have passed through the targets, saving all the lead. It consists of a deflecting plate or plates behind the target, inclined at a sharp angle to the path of the bullets, and a cylindrical chamber, having an opening in its wall, connected to the plate. The bullets impinge upon the deflecting plate and slide along it to the chamber, where they revolve until their energy of motion is expended, and finally drop into a receiver placed below, from which they can be readily removed for remoulding. The bullets are never liquefied, and remain separate in the receiver, the only effect of the concussion being to flatten them somewhat. There is not the slightest spattering of particles, and all possibility of injury to the target men is avoided. During six months use there was some 10,000 pounds of lead shot at them, 95 per cent. of the lead being recovered and recast. Mr. Decumbus, who is a practical man, is also the inventor of the very useful sight protector which bears his name, it being well known at Creedmoor and elsewhere. All the cleaning of shells, casting of bullets, and reloading of shells is done by

the employees of the armoury. The bullets are cast by the thousand, there being a complete plant for this purpose in a special room in the engineer's department. It is here that the great mass of expended bullets are taken to be melted and recast. The dirty shells are also cleaned by the thousand. There is a simple appliance, consisting of two half cylinders; in the first is a strong solution of potash. After being given a bath in this they are lifted automatically into the second half cylinder, where they are thoroughly rinsed in clean water and dried in the boiler room. The shells are then taken to another special room, where the reloading is done, there being various appliances for tapping, filling, seating the bullet, and lubricating.

It was a very instructive visit, and demonstrated that, aside from its proficiency in the various evolutions of tactics, the 7th N. Y. is still further proficient in the most important of the soldier's art, viz.: marksmanship, and that every possible effort was made to attain it. The greater the skill of this and other regiments and companies in rifle shooting, the less chance of riot, the existence of so many expert marksmen, with deadly breech-loaders, being the surest preventative against it.—*U. S. Army and Navy Journal*.

Gleanings.

A French paper notices the re-introduction of the hand-grenade into the French service as an arm for its sappers. It is to be charged with melinite.

The French service papers criticize the marked tendency of the military authorities, especially Gen. Gallifet, in favour of the lance as a weapon not only for Dragoons, but for Chasseurs and Hussars.

The Italian Government will, it is said, shortly be in possession of a gunpowder which is expected to rival, in power of propulsion, in comparative noiselessness and absence of smoke, the new French explosive as used in the *fusil Lebel*.

Some sensation has been created in French military circles by the removal of Col. Pierre from the command of a regiment quartered in Paris to that of a corps stationed at Annecy, because of his too great intimacy with Gen. Boulanger, who was his fellow cadet at Saint Cyr, and raised him from major to the command of an infantry corps.

The men employed at the Royal Small Arms Factory, Enfield, have been put on overtime until nearly midnight, in order to clear away all the Martini-Enfield rifles, and to make the utmost possible progress with the new magazine weapon, the pattern of which has at last been definitely settled. These are to be turned out in Birmingham, Byw and Enfield at the utmost speed.

The Danish engineer, Glesner, has obtained from the Danish Government the concession for the construction of a canal, which, crossing the peninsula of Jutland, will bring the Baltic in direct communication with the North Sea. The width of the canal will be 30 metres at the bottom, and 180 at the water line; the depth will be 24 metres. At every distance of 2,000 metres wider basins will facilitate the passage of the ships. The works will be completed in five years. The capital, which is estimated at \$400,000, has been almost fully subscribed.

Dating from the beginning of October, cuirassiers in the German Army have been disestablished. All regiments hitherto so named are now armed with the lance and converted into Uhlans. Their lances are, however, a foot longer than the weapon of the Uhlans in the Franco-German War, and they are provided with carbines, for which shortly a magazine attachment will be furnished. The newly-created Uhlans are not armed with revolvers. The authorities are discussing the question of equipment to the least possible proportions.

A repetition of experiments on a large scale tends to show that iron and a very solid sort of concrete, rich in cement, are the only materials capable of offering a prolonged resistance to the action of modern artillery. Sand may be usefully employed under certain circumstances, but the uselessness of earth ramparts has been clearly demonstrated. In future, therefore, the main feature of a fort is most likely to be a round ironclad tower emerging from a glacis of concrete, and furnished with heavy ordnance to reach the assailant at long ranges, and with lighter artillery for flank firing and for firing at shorter ranges. Forty or fifty machinists and artillerymen will probably compose the whole garrison of these forts. But the defence will, moreover, consist in a body of movable troops and artillery, to be conveyed to any point in the circumference, under the shelter of natural or artificial cover, by a narrow-gauge railway. According to this system of defence, the assailants will no longer enjoy alone the advantage of concentric fire. Important experiments of this kind have been witnessed by the French Minister of War at the fort of Lucey, near Toul.

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