



# THE CANADIAN MILITARY GAZETTE.

(SUCCESSOR TO THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE.)

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No. 1

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## THE CANADIAN MILITARY GAZETTE.

(Successor to the Canadian Militia Gazette.)

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VOL. IX MONTREAL, 1st JAN. 1893 No. 1

## Note and Comment.

A happy New Year.

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Another twelve months have passed, and the militiamen of Canada can look back upon the record of the departed year with some satisfaction. True, all the grievances of the force have not been removed, all the weak spots strengthened. The old gas pipes have not been withdrawn from the force and handed over to the tender mercies of the thrifty plumber, the Bisley team did not capture the Kolopore cup, the annual camps of the rural corps were conducted on just about the same lines, and there are still absurd appointments in the permanent force made through personal favor.

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Still, much has taken place to give satisfaction to those actuated by a desire to put the force on a respectable foot-

ing, and the outlook generally for the force is distinctly better than it was a year ago. Militiamen understand the general officer commanding better now than they did a twelfth month ago and feel that they have at their head an officer intensely interested in the welfare of the militia and determined to do his best to put it on a sound footing, in spite of politicians and other obstructions. Although the old Snider still holds its place as the recognised arm of the force, the general has at last induced the Government to take up the question of the re-arming of the infantry seriously, and the first shipment of the new arm, the Martini-Metford, should soon arrive in the country, if in fact, it is not here already. The Government has even provided a surprise in this shape of a few modern pieces of ordnance for the fortifications of Quebec, which General Herbert succeeded in obtaining on loan from the Imperial Government.

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Nothing has been done in the direction of reorganizing the rural militia but its time will come probably, as soon as things in connection with the staff and the permanent corps have been straightened out. Although some recent appointments to one of the permanent corps were a source of disappointment as indicating that the force has not yet been emancipated from the baneful influences of political favouritism, it is to be hoped that the very vigorous protest which this incident drew forth will have a salutary effect. The allotment of the vacant commission in the Regiment of Royal Canadian Artillery will, we confidently hope, show that the system of appointments by favour has been abolished once and for all.

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Last week we referred to the efforts which were being made to secure this

appointment for a recently arrived Englishman. Great influence is still being exerted in his behalf, but it is stated on good authority that the question has already been decided so far as he is concerned; and influence is not to count. If true, 's a victory for which, under the circumstances, we can hardly be too thankful

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Talking of favouritism in the allotment of commissions in the permanent militia corps recalls to mind the fact that the sister service, the Northwest Mounted Police, suffers to just as great a degree from the same evil. There is a case in point just now. There is a vacancy, and the applicant who appears to have the best chance of obtaining the commission is a comparatively recent arrival in Canada, a man with no special qualification for the duty, with no Canadian military training and with no claim on the country. All that he has is the influence, and he appears to have enough of that to secure the preference over scores of better qualified men, including graduates of the Royal Military College, Kingston, and men who have done good service for Canada as officers of the active militia. At any rate we shall watch the Official Gazette closely and if the appointment is made we may have some more to say about it. There is just one thing we may be pardoned for pointing out. This gentleman must be at least forty years old, while the regulations of the Mounted Police state distinctly that the age limit for admission is to be thirty-five. Of course some people may consider that a trifle, and the advocates of political appointments do not stop at trifles; but the fact is interesting to remember nevertheless.

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The re-organization of the headquarters staff was one of the interesting events of the year for militiamen; The

appointment of a quartermaster general and an assistant adjutant general should prove of great benefit to the force, particularly when the personal qualifications of the officers appointed to these important positions are considered. By the way, talking of headquarters, what has become of the request made by General Herbert soon after his appointment to the effect that his position should be defined?

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In view of the interest taken in the capital lecture on the solving of tactical schemes delivered before the Canadian Military Institute, Toronto, by Capt. A. H. Lee, R. A., it is not out of place to enquire why we do not hear from the officers of our own permanent corps on such subjects. Is it because they are not asked or because they are incapable of undertaking the task? Of this there can be no doubt. Such lectures are really a necessary part of the instruction of officers and they should be included in the course of training at the military schools. If the officers of the schools are not capable of imparting this instruction through ignorance, they are not capable of holding the positions they do, and that a large proportion of them are not, goes without saying. It has always appeared to the writer that the time devoted to physical drill at the schools could with advantage be employed to give the attached officers some decent instruction in minor tactics and to impart to them, at least, sufficient knowledge in topography to enable them to intelligently read a map.

Of course this is absolutely out of the question where there are no officers qualified to undertake the work of instruction, but there is no excuse for the officers of the permanent corps being so unqualified. All the officers of our well paid permanent corps should be just as capable of delivering such a lecture as the one in question as Capt. Lee, for there is no reason why the officers of our permanent corps should not have as complete a fund of technical knowledge as the officers of the Imperial army. Some of them doubtless have. If no political appointments had ever been made the same thing could be said of every officer in the permanent force.

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A correspondent asks why the positions of Brigadier at the recent manoeuvres at Toronto were not taken by the two commanding officers of the permanent corps stationed there. He says: "Commanding officers of battalions have enough to do in perfecting themselves in the work connected with the intelligent

command of their battalions. They would never get a chance to command a brigade in the case of actual service. That would fall to the permanent officers, and as they are paid to provide ordinary militiamen like ourselves with instruction in those departments of military work in which we are deficient, why don't they seize the opportunity afforded by these field days to show us how brigades should be handled?" Echo answers "Why?"

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Isn't it vandalism, or worse, snobbishness, to change the name of the "Old Fort," Toronto, to "Fort Stanley." Our late Governor-General deserves well of the militia. He never lost an opportunity to evince the most kindly interest in the force, and being a gallant and experienced soldier himself he knew how to exert that interest to some good purpose. Every member of the militia would like to see the name of the soldier Governor-General perpetuated in some way, but for goodness sake let it be a reasonable way. We maintain that it is neither reasonable nor patriotic to take away the old name of the fort at Toronto for the sake of making it a memorial of the ex-Governor. What was the matter, anyway, with the old name of the fort "Rouille," a name associated with deeds of patriotism and serving to recall whole eras of stirring history? Our national history is so brief and meagre at the best that we cannot afford to have the landmarks heedlessly blotted out by general order in this way. If it was necessary to call a fort after Lord Stanley why was not the brand new institution at London chosen? Perhaps they are reserving the name of a minister of the crown for that.

## 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 327, Montreal, Que.

### TORONTO.

The annual meeting of the Canadian Military Institute takes place in the latter part of January, and the members will probably receive a most favorable report, for the institution is in a very flourishing condition. There are more members than ever and a member has given notice that he will move that the membership fee for outside members be raised to two dollars a year. The institute has nicely furnished and well cared for rooms, conveniently situated and with all of the convenience of a club. It consequently proves a great convenience to military men living out of town and having occasion to visit Toronto now and again. The Institute is doing

good military work too. No less than twelve military publications are taken regularly, covering, besides Canada, the United States, Britain, South Africa and Australia, and this besides the daily papers. Then there are 1,000 volumes in the library. The published transactions of the Institute have been most favorably received throughout the world, and the United Service Institutions of both Great Britain and the United States have asked permission to republish certain of the articles. I understand that the following have been invited to deliver lectures before the Institute this season: Major General Herbert, Col. Lake, Qr. M. Gen., Capt. Twining, R.E., Lt.-Col. Turnbull, R.C.D., Lt.-Col. Cotton, D.A.G., Lt.-Col. D'Ossonnens, D.A.G., Lt.-Col. Munro, Oxford Rifles, Sgt.-Major Keefer, late of the Bengal Army, Capt. Ross, of the Oxford Rifles, late of the Cameronians, Lieut.-Col. Lindsay of the 24th Batt., Lt.-Col. Wayling, Lt.-Col. Deinson, G.G.B. G., Lt.-Col. Straubensee, Surgeon Major Strange, Major Buchan, Lt.-Col. Gyn, and Captain Mutton. Much of the success of the Institute is doubtless due to the indefatigable exertions of the secretary, who devotes a great deal of time to the work of the Institute.

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Christmas is an off-day for Tommy Atkins. On this day he can "cut loose" in cowboy parlance and "everything goes," with the "old man" when he walks the carpet next morning. Christmas day is celebrated by the members of Her Majesty's army all over the world. The Christmas dinner, even in the trenches, partakes, to a certain extent, of the good cheer of the season "at home." The event this year was celebrated at the Stanley barracks with all the customary formalities that have prevailed for centuries to British mess-rooms. The officers dined sumptuously in their quarters, and then visited the sergeants' mess in a body, headed by Lieut.-Col. Otter. Besides the commandant, there were Major Buchan, Capt. Macdonnell, Capt. Lezzard, and Lieut. Laurie. Lieut.-Col. Otter wished the sergeants a merry Christmas, and after they had fraternized as much as the R. & O.'s would allow, the visit was returned by a reputation of the sergeants. The band then took up a position in one of the drill-sheds and furnished music during the afternoon. Sergeant Bourke sang "Pat Malloy." Other songs followed, which, like wedding presents, were too numerous to mention. As may be surmised from this, a very pleasant day was spent.—Mail, Dec. 26th.

### MONTREAL.

The funeral of the late Staff-Sergeant Anthony of the Sixth Fusiliers, which took place on Saturday afternoon, December 23, was one of the largest which ever left Point St. Charles. The funeral was a military one and was in charge of Major Atkinson, adjutant of the Fusiliers. The cortege was headed by the usual firing party, under the command of Sergeant Hiams, of "E" Company. The brass band of the Sixth followed and then came a gun carriage of the Montreal Field Battery, bearing the

remains. A Union Jack was folded around the casket, and surmounting it, among the numerous floral tributes of the various organizations to which the deceased belonged, were the busby, sash and sword of the deceased. The pall-bearers were Staff-Sergeants Clarke and Norris, Col.-Sergeants Riddle, Marks and Morrison, and Sergeant Rosser. Behind the relatives of the deceased walked the following officers of the Sixth Fusiliers:—Majors Sath and Atkinson, Captains Chambers, Mitchell and Findlay and a number of the non-commissioned officers of the corps, including Sergeant-Major Currie and Staff-Sergeant Cunningham. Following these walked a very large detachment of Oddfellows, an idea of the high esteem in which deceased was held in the order being afforded by the fact that the district officers took charge of the funeral arrangements as far as the Oddfellows were concerned. Most of the prominent Oddfellows in the city were present. Following the Oddfellows was a large delegation of the Grand Trunk Fire brigade, of which deceased was a captain, headed by the following officers:—Chief Patterson, Engineer Walker, Inspector Black, Captains Walton, Lavers, and Williams, Lieutenants Ward, L. Jehu and Alma. Sub-Chief J. Beckingham, of the Montreal brigade, represented that body. Then followed the members of the Grand Trunk Boating Club, of which the deceased was the first president, the delegation being headed by Messrs. Stewart, president; Hadley, ex-president; Hunt, secretary, and M. O'Brien. The Amalgamated Society of Engineers was represented by the officers.

The night of Saturday, 23, was practically Christmas eve at the armories, and was well celebrated in a quiet way, mostly, it is true, amongst the shooting men. At the Victoria Rifles armory it took the form of a turkey shoot, and it was a lively competition, and when the evening was over it was found that the lucky winners of the bipeds were Sergt. Allan, 24 points out of a possible 25; Staff-Sergt. Binmore, 23; Pte. Kough, 23; Sergt. McClatchie, 21; Captain Rodden, 19, and Corp. Grant 17.

There was no shooting going on at the Sixth Fusiliers armory, as this had been already done; but the lucky winners in the turkey match for a fine lot of birds, the gift of Lieut.-Col. Burland, were present to receive their trophies. The winners of the turkeys were as follows, but Sergt. J. Riddle carried one home also for acting as range officer of the match:

First Class—	
Staff-Sergt. G. Lavers	117
Pte. A. Cameron	101
Pte. T. Scott	99
Col.-Sergt. E. Pratt	96
Pte. J. Scott	94
Second class—	
Pte. Harris	107
Pte. J. Watt	101
Pte. G. Pope	95
Corp. McEwan	95
Corp. Higginbottom	83
Sergt.-Major Currie	79
Third class—	
Pte. Grimsdale	107
Corp. Smith	102

P. W. Beech	89
Sergt. G. Rosser	80
Amb. Sergt. Pettigrew	76
Pte. Bolt	71

At the Royal Scots armory the last shoot of the monthly spoon Morris tube competition took place at the 500 yards range, and among the top scores, out of a possible 50 points, were Sergt. D. Bethune, 49; Sergt. Crawford, 46, and Pte. McGown 42.

Captain Norman Leslie dined the officers non-commissioned officers and men of his company, No. 2, Victoria Rifles, on Friday evening, December 22nd, at the armory. About forty were present, and after the menu was discussed, the remainder of the evening was spent in songs and recitations.

KINGSTON.

St. George's cathedral is a treasure-house of military records, in the shape of memorial tablets to departed soldiers, and the past week has seen another monument—a large mural brass—erected in memory of men who served their Queen faithfully and well. It occupies a conspicuous place on the wall of the nave, and the names given on its polished surface are those of Captains MacKay, Stairs and Robinson, who were Cadets together at the Royal Military college, and who died in Africa within a year of each other.

Before the dedication service yesterday morning at 11 o'clock the brass was covered with a Union Jack. Britain's colors also enveloped the pulpit, bespeaking the military character of the service. There had been a celebration of the Holy Communion in the cathedral chapel at 8 o'clock, conducted by Very Rev. Dean Smith and Rev. C. F. Lowe. At 11 the Cathedral was crowded to its doors. The large military turnout included many members of the Royal Military College club—graduates of the institution. The Military College cadets occupied pews in the middle of the nave, and the men of "A" battery, who were out in full force, filled their gallery. The chapel was occupied by the 14th band.

Morning prayer was sung by Rev. Mr. Lowe, the lessons being read by Rev. E. P. Crawford, of St. Luke's cathedral, Halifax. In place of the Litany, part of the service for the dead was said by Dean Smith, who afterwards accepted the memorial from the R.M.C. club and requested that it be unveiled. This was done by ex-Cadet Leonard, C.E., the band meanwhile playing God Save the Queen. Then followed a series of solemn collects closing with the final petitions of the prayer for the Church militant. Instead of the usual sermon an address was given by the Very Rev. the Dean of Ontario, on the lessons to be drawn from the lives of the three deceased officers which he summed up in the words of the College motto: "Truth, Duty, Valor." During the offertory the band played a Dead March. The singing of the closing hymn, "Onward Christian Soldiers," was exceedingly hearty, being led by the band, which played another march as the people left the church. Thus closed a very impressive service.

The 14th officers were all present. R. W. Leonard, who unveiled the brass, is the President of the Royal Military College club.—"News," Dec. 18th.

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Major-General Herbert has ordered that the non-commissioned officers of F Company, 14th P.W.O. Rifles, be reduced to the ranks for their insubordination at Montreal on July 1st. The Major-General writes:—"I trust their comrades will benefit by the warning now given them, and that all ranks of the 14th Battalion will bear in mind that I shall not hesitate to take any step which a recurrence of insubordination may render necessary to protect Her Majesty's uniform and the name of her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales from disgrace."

HALIFAX.

On Saturday, Dec. 17th, at the Garrison church parade, General Montgomery-Moore had occasion to lecture the troops, before they were marched home from church, on the bad habit they have of stamping their feet and coughing after the mid-day gun fires.

QUEBEC.

In the Provincial Legislature on the 23rd December, the Premier, Hon. Mr. Taillon, asked permission to introduce a bill to admit graduates of the Royal Military College, Kingston, to the study of land-surveying without preliminary examination on the same footing as the students of other colleges. He said that the College gave its students a good course and should have this privilege.

Mr. Stephens thought that it would be advisable also to insert in the bill a clause giving those who had passed through these college courses the preference in case of Government situations, etc. He said that something must be done for our young men and that they should be kept at home. A lack of good employment caused them to go to other countries where they found better employment and better pay. In England, India, the United States and other places graduates from Canada's Military College and other scholastic institutions are found occupying some of the highest positions, while here they cannot find employment. He thought that positions of emolument in the gift of the Government should be given to the best of our young men, though at present it seemed as though anyone except a Canadian could find good positions here. He also thought that Government situations were usually given from political reasons or favor rather than by reason of the merit of the applicants. He hoped that such a clause could be inserted in the bill and our young men be made to feel that it is worth something to be a Canadian.

Hon. Mr. Flynn said that the Legislature was not prepared to go as far as the step proposed by the member for Huntingdon. He even thought that it might, at no distant date, be found necessary to pass such legislation as would make the admission to these professions a more difficult instead of an easier matter, as is the present tendency. There are far too many

in the profession already, said the Hon. Commissioner of Crown Lands, and out of over 200 land surveyors in the Province there are about 60 to 70 who are absolutely without work except for small country jobs such as brought them little or nothing. He had had opportunity for seeing this since he had been Minister of Crown Lands, and he could say that if he had granted all the requests for work addressed to him both by surveyors and by members of the House, he would have had to give orders for work to the extent of about \$100,000 a year.

This bill has been read a third time and passed. This bill was promoted by the Royal Military College Club, who have obtained similar concessions in the Province of Ontario, from the Law Society, from the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons, and from the Government of Ontario in regard to Provincial Land Surveyors. All these concessions have been obtained by the Club, without the slightest aid or assistance, either from the Royal Military College or the Department of Militia and Defence.

The Club is fortunate in possessing such an indefatigable Honorary Secretary as Captain Ernest F. Wurtzle, who, residing in Quebec, has been able to get this bill, placing graduates of the College on a par with the graduates of Universities in the Province of Quebec, passed by both Houses, and now but awaits the Royal assent. As the Province of Quebec has now followed Ontario in this respect, no doubt the other provinces will, ere long, follow the lead of the two principal provinces of Canada.

## MACHINE GUNS AND THE VOLUNTEERS.

Lieut. A. L. Morant in the United Service Gazette.

Twenty-three years ago the French mitrailleuse was an object of wonder and perhaps alarm to the military authorities of Europe. It was, as is the wont of the French with a new invention of a warlike character, carefully guarded and worked only by sworn men, so particular were they that the secret of this deadly machine should not leak out. The weapon itself being entirely unknown in war, could only be given a purely theoretical place in tactics, as it was similar to no other arm, except in some respects to the artillery. Accordingly, it was settled that it should be equipped, handled, and organized in batteries. All persons who were privileged to know a little of its working were convinced that the use of mitrailleuses in war would produce far-reaching and indeed revolutionary results. It was represented that artillery could not be served under the hail of bullets with which they would be overwhelmed, and infantry could not persevere with a frontal attack in view of the shocking losses they must sustain. Alas, for these theorists, in all these respects they signally failed to sustain the parts allotted to them, and during the opening actions of the war of 1870-1 they not only proved useless when pitted against field guns, but it was found that they had absolutely no effect upon infantry in extended order. Their range was infinitely inferior to that

of artillery, and their inaccuracy of fire at long ranges was very serious, while the well-served Prussian batteries destroyed their crews and limbers in a few minutes. The twenty-five barrels radiating from a common centre were not susceptible of a lateral dispersion of their fire, since the rigidity of their construction prevented any accurate aim except at an object right ahead. The immovability of the barrels caused an undesirable concentration of their fire, causing little damage to be done except against troops in close order. Men who came in their line of fire were sometimes riddled with balls, and a Prussian officer is mentioned as having received 22 shots on one occasion.

The American Dr. Gatling produced a similar weapon, which has been adopted into our service. It has accompanied our troops into most of their "little wars," and has acquired a somewhat indifferent reputation. This is due to their tendency to jam at critical moments, as during the attack on the Italian expeditionary force at Dongali in Abyssinia. One of the officers of the expedition, who was the sole survivor, relates in a contribution to *La France Militaire*, that on the approach of the blacks, he and another officer took charge of a Gatling piece, but that they refused to act for some time. When at last they were induced to work they created some considerable havoc; however, after a few rounds they again jammed, and the final rush then taking place, the Italians were massacred to a man. During the recent assault on the little hill-fort of Milt in Kashmir, an eye-witness states, that on this occasion "as is the habit of this weapon when carried on service it frequently jammed." Jamming is due to three causes:—(1) defect in cartridge case, (2) miss-fire cartridge, (3) an imperfect extractor. All machine guns, except perhaps the Maxim, are liable to jam, and the serious nature of this defect may be imagined when we read that in the charge of the dervishers during the battle of Abu Klea (17th Jan., 1885), the jamming of the Gardner guns was attended by "the loss of half the Naval Brigade."

The Gardner gun has the axes of its barrels parallel to one another in a horizontal plane, and is in use principally in the Naval service. The terrible fire of these guns enabled Lord Charles Beresford, during the Gordon rescue expedition, to steam past the fort of Wad Harbashi on the Nile in safety. In this redoubt the Mahdi's gunners were serving some field guns, and the navigable channel being only 80 yards wide, the Safieh ran a considerable risk of being sunk. He, however, opened fire on the embrasures, silencing the guns, which were only able to re-open fire when the vessel had reached a point where the Gardners could no longer work. A later weapon still is the Maxim gun, which has one barrel covered with a water envelope, which in case of rapid fire cools the barrel. Fire with this gun is necessarily more accurate, as the difficulty arising from the axes of the barrels not being exactly accurate does not occur. It is easily handled by one man as against four needed for the Gardner, and a constant stream of bullets can be sustained by the gunner holding back the trigger. It

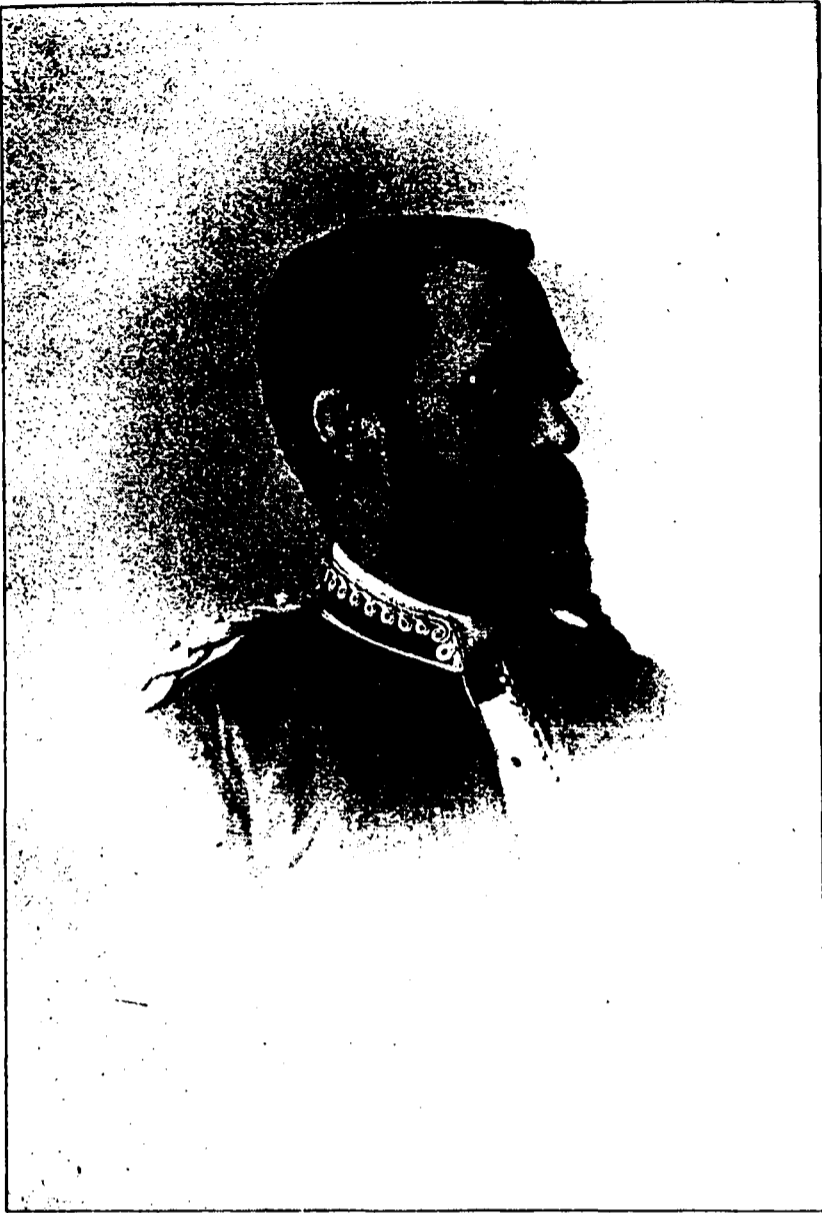
is also feasible without deranging the aim to spread the discharge over a considerable extent of the enemy's line. Jamming cannot affect its action, as by turning a crank the cartridge will drop out.

From the short summary given above, it would seem that the Maxim gun is the one most suited to Volunteers, both for its simplicity (as it can be cleaned in the field by unskilled men) and for its great accuracy of fire. Experiments with a Maxim gun, firing a .450 cartridge, were carried out last year at Bisby by the cyclist detachment of the 3rd V. B. Royal West Kent, mounted on a cycle, being drawn by two men. The most interesting experiment was that in indirect firing, in which the gun and its crew were entirely hidden from an imaginary foe. The gun was laid on a point aligned in the proper direction, and the results were observed by officers with field-glasses on either flank. The enemy represented by the usual canvas targets were 1-200 yards off, the range being afterwards accurately determined. The report does not state the proportion of hits to rounds fired, which were at the rate of 650 a minute, but the clouds of dust at the butts clearly showed the destruction such fire would cause whether by direct hits or ricochets. Yet the markers were unable to see the gun, as the crest of the hill before them was eight feet above the gun's muzzle.

Such a weapon would prove of great value in the hands of an experienced gunner, and the Infantry drill-book of 1893 recognises their utility in an ample manner. The drill-book of 1889 in its standard details of the advanced guards of divisions, brigades, and other bodies (absent from the present book), includes, in each case, a machine gun, which is attached to the mounted Infantry; "for no country is so close and intersected that a proportion of mounted troops and machine guns are not indispensable with an advanced guard." In holding defiles and important positions the machine gun demonstrates its great practical value, for it can go wherever Infantry can climb, for it is the auxiliary of this arm in particular. On service the Infantry drill determines that guns attached to units for administrative purposes are to be placed under officers commanding the force to which the units belong. They will be employed under his directions. It is, however, doubtful if machine guns can be advantageously employed in an attack of a position, except as a protection against flank attacks; it is when the position is assaulted by the second line that their real value is shown, in preventing beaten troops rallying. They should therefore accompany the second line. To mass these guns in batteries is universally admitted to be suicidal, as they can serve no possible purpose, than to present a good mark to the enemy's artillery, by whom they would be crushed. For this reason they may not be employed in greater numbers than two together.

In the defence they should be of great use in defending roads running through the position, in defending strong fortified houses, etc., in advance of the line, and in guarding a somewhat exposed flank. Where

SOUVENIR OF THE SHOOTING SEASON OF 1893.



LIEUT-COL. THE HON. J. M. GIBSON.  
PRESIDENT DOMINION RIFLE ASSOCIATION



LIEUT-COL. W. P. ANDERSON.  
PRESIDENT CANADIAN MILITARY RIFLE LEAGUE.



LIEUT-COL. J. MACPHERSON  
TREASURER DOMINION RIFLE ASSOCIATION



LIEUT-COL. THOMAS BACON  
SECRETARY DOMINION RIFLE ASSOCIATION.



MAJOR W. E. HODGINS.  
EXECUTIVE OFFICER, D. R. A. MEETING, 1893.



CAPTAIN E. D. SUTHERLAND.  
SECRETARY CANADIAN MILITARY RIFLE LEAGUE, 1893.



GROUP OF QUEEN'S OWN TEAM, 1893.





STAFF SERGEANT J. H. SIMPSON, 6th ROYAL GRENADIERS.



LIEUT. PRINGLE,  
PROMOTER OF THE CANADIAN MILITARY RIFLE LEAGUE.



GENERAL VIEW OF THE RIDEAU CAMP ON BAND DAY



CUP PRESENTED TO THE DOMINION RIFLE ASSOCIATION BY MESSRS S. DAVIS & SONS, OF MONTREAL.  
WON FOR THE FIRST TIME BY THE 13RD BATTALION, OTTAWA.



CUP PRESENTED BY MESSRS HIRAM WALKER & SONS, WALKERVILLE, TO THE DOMINION RIFLE ASSOCIATION  
WON IN 1868 BY 12TH YORK RANGERS.



the enemy has advanced through a wood, the fire of machine guns will shatter the heads of columns seeking to debouch from the wood. Where the enemy have occupied a wood immediately in front of the position, as, for example, the wood of la Course at Gravelotte, the fire of machine guns will very soon cause grave losses besides the loss of any skirmishers. They should be posted on salient points of the position so as to enfilade its front, and Volunteers told off to garrison the fortresses will do well to possess a service Maxim on parapet mounting.

The carnage consequent on the use of machine guns in repelling an assault is ghastly to contemplate, the Maxim firing so many as 650 a minute, while as we have mentioned the defect so noticeable in the mitrailleuse, that of purely concentrated fire, is absent from this type. Retreat after an assault means annihilation, and in addition to the sharp volleys of the repeating rifles, the ominous thudding of the machine guns will carry death and disaster into the enemy's ranks.

So much for the attack and defence of positions. Other uses to which these deadly weapons may be put are: the defence of villages, outposts, and detached posts in a hostile country occupied by the invader's troops. During the war of 1870, perhaps the only war between civilised belligerents if we except the Chilean campaign of 1891, in which this arm has been tested, the use of mitrailleuses was found to be adapted in every respect to the defence of villages. A prominent instance would be the defence of Chenebier. Here "the village had been strongly barricaded and supplied with mitrailleuses . . . . . Twenty-one men of the 3rd Regiment were placed hors de combat by one discharge." It can be easily imagined what a tremendous factor these guns must be in street fighting, nowhere owing to the confined space the assailants must advance in close order. The bravest must quail before the sheets of leaden hail which tear down the defiles, from the effect of which there is no escape except by advancing through the partition walls of the houses themselves. Outposts may require to hold a given position, e.g., on a battle ground, and their fire will be considerably augmented by the machine guns, while these latter may be withdrawn with the greatest facility without bringing on a serious engagement. Lastly, we must advocate their use in the case of troops detached for protecting the communications of an army, or for the purpose of maintaining tranquility in a conquered country. Such posts were placed throughout Spain by the French during the Peninsular War, and the enemy would be deterred from rushing past them armed. Where the country so occupied is infested by armed bands of inhabitants of guerillas like the Partidas of Spain, it is usual to send out flying columns which should be always accompanied by a machine gun on a travelling carriage. They would be able to accompany cavalry sent out with the same object, as in the valley of the Loire in 1870.

Very good practice can be made with the Maxim at 1,200 yards, but the present

drill manual discourages this for good reasons. It is obvious that if the ammunition is expended at great ranges there will be little left for close quarters, besides there is the difficulty of judging the range at such a distance. The drill book advises 600-800 yards as the maximum ranges, for the artillery would be then under infantry fire, and the machine guns would not suffer. Another consideration is the difficulty of replenishing the store of ammunition, without taking that intended for the infantry. In the words of the drill book, "victory is effectively prepared at medium, but is gained at decisive ranges." With machine guns, as with infantry volleys, the dangerous pace decreases with the range, and except at bodies of troops in close order it is hopeless to effect much at such ranges.

In conclusion, I would advocate the acquisition by each volunteer regiment of one such gun. It would not be hard to find an officer willing to undertake the command of the detachment, and to undergo a course of instruction at Hythe, while it would add immeasurably to the fighting power of the brigade to which such battalion belongs.

#### AN ORIENTAL BRIGAND.

Leyson T. Merry in The Volunteer Service Gazette.

"I am ver" sorry m'sieu, but zis is not sufficient. You cannot go."

The speaker was the gorgeous, gold-laced occupant of the rude hut at Beyrout, through which all outward bound passengers must pass before they can get aboard the steamer that is to carry them from picturesque, evil-smelling Syria.

The "zis" that was "not sufficient" was my passport, a fearful and wonderful conglomeration of Arabic and ink blots that had carried me from one end of Palestine to the other unquestioned.

"And what is the matter with it?" I demanded, with not a little asperity.

The only reply was a shrug of the shoulders, an elevation of the eye brows and an expression that can only be seen on the face of a Turk. The next moment I was unceremoniously bundled out into the street, or rather the ill-paved thoroughfare that in Beyrout goes by that name.

To say that I was non-plussed is but to faintly describe the situation. In my blissful ignorance I had imagined that the little sheet of hieroglyphics over the imposing signature "Ros-bey," and surmounted by something that I am told was the Turkish Consul's superscription, would carry me everywhere in Syria. And yet I had a vague indescribable feeling that in some way or other that passport would work my undoing. And for this reason. When I landed at Alexandria, one of the first gentlemen I met asked me for it, and the while he read it to himself, ever and anon scanned me very closely, and then asked me for my card. The result of a further scrutiny was that I was invited into a side room and interrogated by a fierce-looking Egyptian who sat enthroned on a soap box. He asked me where I came from, where I was going, and what I was going for. My

answers were compared with something on the passport and I judged that they were not altogether satisfactory. However, I hoped for the best, until there came the final question:—

"And the lady; where is she?"

A pretty question that to put to a man who only a week before had bidden his wife "good-bye" ere he started on a two month's tour in the East. Fortunately for me, at that moment Cook's man appeared on the scene, and after a heated discussion with the frowning Egyptian, I was advised to "give him something."

I dived into my pocket and brought out a handful of silver. From this Cook's man took a five-franc piece, and the next minute I was in the open air plus my passport and a considerable amount of perturbation.

"And now," I gasped to my deliverer, "for goodness sake tell me what's on this passport."

He took it and read it to me from beginning to end, and then I learned for the first time that my name was Thomasso Columbo, that I was aged 59, that I was born in Madrid, and was an American subject. Further, I was interested to know that my appearance was "not very good," and that I was travelling with a lady aged 28, with dark eyes and a slight limp!

In view of the fact that I was never in Spain or America, and that the color of my eyes is distinctly black, I ask the reader whether I was not justified in fearing that that passport would sooner or later land me in difficulties. The suggestion about the young lady with the limp would have been delightfully comical only that it was no jesting matter.

However, my passport was unquestioned from that day until my gold-laced friend at Beyrout took it into his head to hand it back to me and point to the door. The unfortunate thing was that I could not ascertain what was wrong with it, or whether, in fact, this was only an attempt to extort bakshesh. I remember that in a Damascus telegraph office I experienced considerable difficulty in getting a wire sent off, and it was only after my telegram had lain on the counter three days—having been duly paid for and accepted—that I was advised by the hotel porter to "tip" the telegraph clerk. I did so, and within twenty-four hours my wire was despatched; such alacrity, I afterwards learned, is rare in Damascus. It was a Jerusalem postman, too, who rapped me up one morning to say that a letter had arrived for me at the post office. If I cared to ransom it a franc would suffice! I held out for two days and a half until there came a threat to send me its ears, or do something equally atrocious, and then I succumbed, but by this time the ransom had increased to two francs. In parenthesis I may remark that the letter proved to be from a firm of solicitors threatening me with an action for libel.

But to return to Beyrout. My difficulty was of a two-fold nature. Firstly, was really anything wrong with my passport, or was it a demand for bakshesh? Secondly, if the latter, what amount would satisfy the important official who barred my way? I had just concluded to invoke the aid of the British Consul when

again a Cook's man came to my assistance. In a few words I explained the situation. He took the offending sheet, and, in Arabic, discoursed eloquently to the man in gold lace. And the man in gold lace discoursed back, gesticulating wildly as he pointed first at different parts of my passport, and then at different parts of me. Then he grew calm and said something in an undertone.

"He says," said Cook's man, "he'll let you go for two pounds. He won't believe you are the person mentioned here. He says you are a dangerous man!"

And so I was just then. I said I would see him in Hades before I would give him two pounds; and this was duly translated to him.

"He says he'll let you go for a pound," said Cook's man; "not a cent less."

"Then tell him I'll stop in his filthy country till I rot," I replied; an answer that was apparently faithfully rendered into Arabic by Cook's man, judging from the serene smile of the Turk.

"He says half a napoleon, then?"

"No."

"Five francs?"

"No."

Another consultation between the Turk and my interpreter. Expostulation by the latter and a warty smile and shrug by the former. Then Cook's man:—

"He says what will you give?"

Through the open door I could see the Port Said boat quite a quarter of a mile from the shore. Steam was up, and in a quarter of an hour there would be no boat to connect with Europe for a week. But I was not to be deterred from my purpose. Firmly, resolutely, decisively, I answered:—

"Sixpence!"

Cook's man translated "sixpence" into Arabic. The Turk visibly started, sighed, and then held out his hand.

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Ten minutes later I was hauled up the side of the steamer, the last passenger aboard.

## ARMY AND NAVY NEWS.

Commencing with the Annual Prize Meeting, 1894, veterans, as defined in N.R.A. Regulations, will be permitted to take any individual prize except Her Majesty the Queen's Prize, for Gold Medal, and Gold Badge, in all competitions at present restricted to efficient Volunteers.

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The first parade of the season of the Bombay Volunteer Rifles, held recently must have been an amusing spectacle behind. The Commanding Officer has lately adopted the course of casting aside the smart red and blue uniform hitherto worn by the corps for the more serviceable and workmanlike if less showy, khaki. Owing to the state of transition being in progress, corps presented a somewhat piebald appearance on the occasion of the parade referred to, as men wearing both varieties of uniform, and even a greater variety of head-dress, were assembled together in the several companies. The

effect could hardly have been very attractive from a military point of view, and is easier to imagine than to describe.

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General Lord Roberts has taken Grove Park, Kingsbury, for next year, and intends to occupy it as soon as the hunting season is over. His Lordship said he has no desire to go to Malta in succession Sir Augustus Smyth.

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The Die Reichswehr (Vienna) learns from Constantinople that Admiral Sir John Commerell recently visited, in company with Mr. Maxim, the inventor of the machine-gun, the fortifications of the Bosphorus. The visit was paid by permission of the Sultan, and in the presence of the Inspector-General of the defences of the Straits, Marshall Asaf Pasha, and of other Turkish generals. Considering the jealousy with which the Turks conceal from strangers everything that concerns their military resources, this permission is really remarkable. The Pester Lloyd, in commenting upon this, states that the Sultan, impressed by the warnings addressed to him as a result of this inspection, has given orders for the immediate building of new fortifications. Assuming that this report is correct, it remains to be seen whether His Majesty's good intentions will lead to anything more than in the case of the plans and advice laid before him by General Brialmont.

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Major and Brevet Lt.-Col Sir Simon M. Lockhart, Bart., has succeeded to the command of the 1st Life Guards, vacant by the recent retirement of Colonel the Hon. C.C.G. Byng. Major Eric Smith, who is now employed in Uganda becomes entitled to the brevet rank of lieutenant-colonel, and Captain C. N. Miles obtains the vacant majority.

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The Army and Navy Gazette says:—More than fifteen years have come and gone since we took over the administration of Cyprus, and yet the works which are required to give value as a place d'armes to this unique strategical position are still wanting. Admiral of the Fleet Sir Geoffrey Hornby vouches for the fact that the late Mr. Smith, when making his official visit to the Island as First Lord of the Admiralty, was immensely impressed with the capabilities of Famagusta; but in all the long years which have since passed nothing has been done to develop the harbour and to erect fortifications adequate even to ensure its defence against a coup de main. The apathetic, or perhaps we should say, the half-resentful manner with which the English have acquiesced in their tenure of Cyprus has always been a matter of surprise to German military men, and it is probable that more articles have appeared on the strategical importance of the island in the German mag-

azines than have ever seen the light in England. It remains to be seen whether current events and Sir Geoffrey's views as to the desirableness of turning the island into an Eastern Malta will open the eyes of the Government to the immense strategical value of the position.

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One of the features of the present campaign in Morocco has been the formation of a corps of convicts, organised by Captain Ariza from Spanish jails and subsequently broken up by Marshal Maximo Campos on account of the excesses they had committed. The men, counting among their number several old soldiers of the last Carlist war, acquitted themselves valiantly under fire, and earned the sinister name of the "Guerillas of Death." Such a battalion has naturally come prominently under the notice of the war correspondents making copy at Meila, but not one of their number has called to mind the fact that a similar regiment once existed in our own service under the name of the Royal African Colonial Corps. Its rank and file consisted at one time entirely of men who were released from our metropolitan prisons on condition of their taking service in the new settlements on the West African coast, and the regiment, which was not finally broken up until 1840, had its full share of the hard fighting at the first Ashantee war, when Sir Charles McCarthy was killed, and took part in the interior. The last officer who held the command was the late General Sir Richard Doherty, and presumably the last survivor who held a commission in the regiment is Lt.-Col Henry F. Saunders, who served in the Gambian expeditions from 1836 to 1841, and gained a brevet majority in the Indian mutiny.

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Viscountess Wolseley has issued an appeal for help to raise £1,000 to provide a second Soldiers' Home in Dublin. The existing Home, it is pointed out, is steadily increasing in popularity with the garrison, but, though fairly convenient to three of the barracks and to the terminus of the Great Southern Railway, it is far distant from other military centres, such as Beggar's Bush, Portobello, Ship Street, and Wellington Barracks, as well as from the North Wall and the principal railway stations.

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A correspondent of the Western Morning News states that the Admiralty is credited with the intention of undertaking extensive dredging operations in order to provide room for a fleet to lie at anchor in Portsmouth Harbour. At present much valuable space is occupied by worn-out coal bulks and troopships, but even if these were removed it would still be necessary to dredge extensively before sufficient space could be made for any considerable number of battleships and cruis-

ers. It is understood that some provision for this work will be made in the new estimates, on the recommendation of the Portsmouth Defence Committee, and there can be no doubt that it is most desirable a number of ships should be able to lie together in the stream, for they would be safer there from torpedo-boat attack than at Spithead in foggy weather. It is a pity that the reports of these local defence committees are not laid before Parliament, for it is manifest that to provide ships in sufficient numbers is only one part of the defensive needs of the Empire.

The Duke of Westminster is assisting the citizens of Chester in their effort to get the city reinstated in its military importance by having two or three regiments permanently stationed there to support Major-General J. Hall and the Staff of the North-Western District. Chester Castle lacks sufficient barrack accommodation, and the Duke of Westminster has offered the War Office a suitable site near the city extending to 120 acres, for erecting barracks for regiments of all arms, Artillery, Cavalry, and Infantry.

The Army and Navy Gazette says:—After having been told at various times that the Ajax, the Temeraire, and the Neptune were to be sent to Esquimalt as port guard ship, we are inclined to accept with caution the story that the Hercules is now assigned for this work. We understand, however, that it is in contemplation to transfer the post of commodore from Jamaica to Vancouver Island; and therefore a seagoing battleship of not too ancient type should be sent to fly the broad pennant would not be beyond what is necessary. We have for years impressed upon the authorities the needs of the Pacific station, and we hope to see good fighting vessels both at Hong Kong and Esquimalt. There should also be a Fleet Reserve and Dockyard Reserve at these places, the former being mobilised once a year at least.

The United Service Gazette says:—The Agincourt, it is said, is to go to China to take the place at Hong Kong of the Victor Emmanuel, whilst the Hercules will probably be sent to Esquimalt as guard-ship, and will fly the broad pennant of a second class commodore. This latter decision has been made in consequence of the growing importance of Esquimalt, and of the use now made of the Canadian Pacific Railway.

According to a painstaking German statistician the number of troops which took part in the present year's autumn manoeuvres on the Continent amounted to no less than 1,200,000 men. This very respectable peace total is considerably superior to that attained by the different Continental armies which

were in the field during the more sanguinary period of the Napoleonic wars. During these manoeuvres a trifle of 60,000,000 cartridges were expended, and the cost of the mimic warfare amounted to six million pounds.

### THE CANNON OF ANDORRA.

The ambition of small Republics, more particularly in matters relating to armaments, is apt to be somewhat out of proportion to the real importance of the State and to its actual requirements. A correspondent, writing recently to the Globe, tells a story of which it may well be said, *se non o vero, e ben trovato*. A short time ago, he would have us believe, the authorities of Andorra, the little Republic in the Pyrenees, conceived the idea that there was something lacking in the dignity of their State, and that something was cannon. Cannon they determined they must have, and, accordingly, inquiries were instituted, and they found that Krupp, of Essen, was a good man for such articles. But when Krupp, of Essen, sent them his price-list, they found that cannon were more expensive things than they had imagined, and that the sum that was destined to procure three or four guns would only buy one. This was disappointing; but, after consideration, they decided that one cannon was, after all, perhaps enough to give an air of importance to their little valley, and, anyhow, was certainly better than none. So one they determined to have, and Krupp was entrusted with the order. At last the cannon arrived in Andorra, and was duly put into position on the highest point of ground in the Republic, where all comers might see how well the valley was protected. Evidently, the next thing to do was to try how it acted. So they carefully studied the directions that came with it, and loaded it accordingly. Then, it suddenly struck one peculiarly bright spirit that before they fired they ought to know where they were going to fire to. The ball carried, he represented, about three times the distance of the whole length of Andorra. If they aimed to the north they would fire right into France; if they fired to the south into Spain. A European war might be the result in either case. Here someone suggested that the cannon should be pointed upwards and fired into the air. But it fortunately occurred to another intelligent native that the ball would be sure to fall to the ground again, and whether it fell in Andorra, in Spain, or in France, the damage it would do would probably be immense. So that would not do either. And then, though everyone began to talk at once, and everyone had a different opinion to advance, the authorities at last were convinced that there was no safe way of firing, and, nearly crying with disappointment, the whole Republic gave in and returned to the valley. The cannon has not been fired yet.—United Service Gazette.

### THE LATE LT.-COL. MACDONALD.

Lt.-Col. Donald William MacDonell, who was Sergeant at Arms of the House of Commons from Confederation until his retirement from that office two sessions ago, died December 14th in his sixty-ninth year, at the residence of his son-in-law, Mr. J. J. Colville 359 Cooper street, Ottawa.

His death removes one of the oldest and best known figures from the floor of the Parliament of Canada. He was first appointed Sergeant at Arms to the Legislative Assembly of the old Province of Canada in June 1854. He held that office until Confederation, and in November, 1867, was appointed Sergeant at Arms to the House of Commons of the Dominion. In his long tenure of office,—for he was Sergeant at Arms in all thirty-seven years,—he had the acquaintance and friendship of all the men who during all that time in public life and played a part in directing the Dominion's affairs in Parliament. To most of them he administered the oath of allegiance and the oath of office, as each new Parliament entered upon its course. Throughout his whole life he was known as an honourable man, who had the esteem and liking of all who knew him. The news of his death will be heard with sincere sorrow in all parts of the Dominion.

Lt.-Col. Macdonell,—who after commanding the Fourth Stormont Militia for many years retired in 1864, retaining rank—was born in Cornwall in 1824. He was a man of powerful frame, and during his youth and manhood his strength and prowess were famous in Glengarry. Of late years, however, his health had been greatly broken, but the news of his death, though not altogether unexpected, comes as a shock to his family and his many friends.

### BIOGRAPHIES.

#### MAJOR HODGINS.

Major Wm. Egerton Hodgins, of the Canadian Military Rifle League, whose portrait we publish in this issue, was born in Toronto in 1851. Entering the Military School, under special permission of the Militia Department in 1866, he obtained a second class certificate and was the same year appointed an ensign in the militia. He joined the Queen's Own Rifles as a private, and in 1877 was appointed to a lieutenancy, and assisted in organizing the law students' company in that corps. In this capacity he was present at the Montreal Reviews of 1878 and 1879. In 1881 Lt. Hodgins was promoted as Capt. and given command of "I" Company, Q. O. R., which he held until 1884. When removing to Ottawa he was transferred to the Governor-General's Foot Guards as adjutant, with the rank of captain. He holds a 1st class V. B. certificate in addition to his 2nd class R. S. I. In 1882-83 Capt. Hodgins served as orderly officer and also as brigade major at the brigade camps of No. 3 district. During the term of office of the Marquis

of Lansdowne as Governor General, Capt. Hodgins served on his staff as an extra A.D.C. In September, 1888, he was appointed an A.D.C. to the late Sir Alex. Campbell, K.C.M.G., Lieut. Governor of Ontario. In August, 1889, Capt. Hodgins was granted the brevet rank of major, and in Dec., 1890, was promoted to substantive rank and he is now senior major of the G. G. F. G. Major Hodgins is a graduate (M.A.) of the University of Toronto, a barrister at law of Osgoode Hall, and is one of the staff of the Department of Justice at Ottawa. His present wife is a daughter of the late Hon. Sir W. J. Ritchie, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, to whom he was married in 1883. Major Hodgins is well known to the riflemen of Canada, having since 1884 acted as a range officer at the meeting of the D. R. A., O. R. A., and P. Q. R. A., and for the last two years he has filled the appointment of executive officer of the D. R. A.

#### LT.-COL. ANDERSON.

Lt. Col. Anderson, president of the Canadian Military Rifle League, was born in Quebec in 1851. Educated at Bishop's College, Lennoxville, where his connection with the militia force began as a member of the Bishop's College Rifle Company, attached to the 53rd Battalion, Sherbrooke. As a member of that company he was on duty during the Fenian raid of 1866, took second and first class certificates at the Military School in Quebec in 1867, under the 30th Regiment and joined the 55th Megantic Light Infantry as lieutenant when that battalion was ordered on active service during the Fenian raid of 1870. Joined the G. G. F. G. when he entered the civil service in 1874, and served in that corps as a private, refusing promotion or a commission until the 43rd Battalion was reorganized in 1880, when he was offered and accepted the position of adjutant with the rank of captain. Was successively promoted to a majority, and on the resignation of Col. White in 1888 to the command, which he was obliged to resign after three years, in consequence of the pressure of his official duties as Chief Engineer of the department of Marine and Fisheries. Has long been an enthusiastic rifle shot and promoter of rifle shooting; has been a member of the Guards and 43rd teams, in their most successful competitions. Individually won the Macdougall cup in 1879, many other cups, medals, badges, etc., and his name is usually found on the Grand Aggregate list of the D.R.A., O.R.A. and P. Q.R.A. matches. Has been for many years and is now a member of the Executive Committee, the Range Committee and the Programme Committee of the D.R.A. Was one of the founders of the Military Rifle League, and an original vice president, and was elected to the Presidency at the annual meeting last August.

Staff Sergeant J. H. Simpson, as the winner of the blue ribbon of the D. R. A. Governor General's prize, last season, can claim to be the champion rifle shot of the Dominion. He now belongs to the 12th York Battalion, but went to

Bisley last year as a member of the Royal Grenadiers. Toronto. In 1878 at Wimbledon, he was as high as fifth for the Queen's prize and in 1881 won the Alexandria cup. He has only been a short time in Canada, but had a brilliant record as a shot in the Scottish Volunteers, having won the President's prize, the Henry vase and the Waterloo cup at the city of Edinburgh and Midlothian Rifle Association matches. Besides these his winnings consist of first prizes at nearly all the open meetings in England and Scotland. He has also represented Scotland on several different occasions in the international matches against England, Ireland and Wales. Last year at Bisley he won the Corporation of London cup, and led the Canadian contingent in the aggregate of cash winners.

#### LT.-COL. BACON

What competitor at the D. R. A. does not know the energetic secretary—the man on whose shoulders falls the direction and responsibility of the great amount of detail work necessarily connected with the business of such an association. It is at the annual matches that he comes especially to the front; and it is to his zeal, systematic plans, and personal oversight that much of the success of recent meetings is undoubtedly due. He was born and educated at Cambridge, Eng., and adopted civil engineering as a profession; was engaged on the South Eastern Railway during the heavy blasting operations at the Abbotscliffe and other tunnels of the railway, and was also employed at the Atmospheric Railway between Croydon and Epsom, when the Great Northern was commenced and appointed resident engineer on it. He was next a contractor's engineer under Messrs. Peto, Brassey & Betts, on various works, and in 1854 came to this country and was employed by the same firm on the Grand Trunk Railway until its completion. He joined the Victoria Rifles in 1861, and in 1862 was made adjutant and then captain of No 1 Company, serving twice during the Fenian raid of 1866, at Cornwall and St. Johns, Que. He was again on active service in 1879, and in 1867 was appointed a brigade major, 1st brigade division Military District No. 5. In 1878 a portion of the Montreal brigade went to Quebec, on duty in aid of the civil power, under command of Lt. Col. Fletcher D. A. G. Col. Fletcher being recalled to Montreal the command of the Montreal force devolved upon Col. Bacon, who, on the 15th June, in front of all the troops on duty, received an address of thanks from the Mayor and Corporation of Quebec to the Montreal force for their alacrity in answering to the request of Quebec for assistance. In 1881 Lt. Col. Bacon was transferred from Montreal to Ottawa, and performed the duties of brigade major there until December, 1883, when he was transferred to the store branch of the Militia Department. When in Montreal he, for a number of years, held the secretaryship of the P. Q. R. A. He is now chief clerk in the Adjutant General's office. In May, 1885, he was elected secretary of the

Dominion of Canada Rifle Association, and has acted in that capacity ever since.

In 1889 he had command of the Canadian contingent to Wimbledon—a team of exceptional shooting merit, and which brought back the much coveted but seldom won Kolopore trophy. We feel confident that we voice the sentiments of all shooting men in hoping that the association may have for many years yet the services of its present energetic and capable secretary.

#### LT.-COL. JOHN MACPHERSON.

Lt. Col. Macpherson was born in Lancaster, Glengarry, Ont., on the 8th of January, 1830, and was for a time engaged in mercantile life in Montreal. He entered the militia service, however, at an early age, and, finding the duty congenial and more in keeping of his natural gifts, he devoted much of his time to the efficient discharge of it. His zeal was recognized in 1849, when he received a commission in the 3rd Battalion of Montreal Militia. In 1856 he carried out the scheme which he had long cherished, of organizing a Highland Company, of which he was appointed captain. Soon after he was appointed to the majority, and in 1861 was made brigade major to the Montreal active force. In 1862 his sphere of duty was enlarged so as to embrace the whole of Military District No. 11. In 1865 he became Lt. Colonel of Militia, and during the Fenian troubles of 1866 he served on the staff of Major General the Hon. (afterwards Sir) James Lindsay. He was appointed Deputy Assistant Adjutant General of Militia and given command of the military district of the Province. In 1869 he commanded Military District No. 3, in Ontario, and in the following year was appointed acting superintendent of military schools—a position which he retained until the new threat of Fenian raids when he resumed his place on the staff of General Lindsay as assistant Adjutant General. He in 1870, accompanied the staff of His Royal Highness Prince Arthur to the scenes of action on the Missisquoi and Huntington frontier. After the excitement had subsided, he returned to headquarters and for a time acted as Deputy of the Minister of Militia and as accountant to the department. In 1880 he was appointed to the present position of director of military stores and keeper of militia properties. It will be seen that Colonel Macpherson's career has for more than 40 years been one of uninterrupted activity in the services of his country. He has ably filled the position of treasurer of the D. R. A. since May, 1885.

#### LT.-COL. THE HON. J. M. GIBSON.

This officer, so well known in military and rifle shooting circles throughout the Dominion, was born in the county of Peel, Ont., on New Year's Day, 1842, and is the son of the late Wm. Gibson, who came to Canada from Glamis, Forfarshire, Scotland. During the Trent excitement in 1861, Mr. Gibson enlisted in the University Rifle Company of the Queen's Own Rifles and after graduating joined the 13th Battalion. Having attended a military school he obtained a commis-



sion in the same corps, with which as lieutenant he was present at Ridgeway in 1866. In October, 1876, he was gazetted as lieutenant colonel. He accompanied the Wimbledon team in 1874, 1875 and 1879, and won high distinction as a marksman in this last year, carrying off the Prince of Wales prize of 100 pounds and a badge. In 1881 he commanded the team when it won the Kolarupore cup. He was at Creedmoor in 1876, and commanded the Canadian team which defeated the Americans at long range shooting in 1882. Col. Gibson is president of the Dominion, and has also been president of the Ontario Rifle Association. He was the first president of the Canadian Military Rifle League. Col. Gibson was also president of the Canadian Military Institute for the year 1892. He was in 1873 elected a member of the Senate of Toronto University and has been examiner in the Law Faculty. In 1879 he was elected to the Ontario Assembly over Mr. Hugh Murray, the Conservative candidate, and again in 1883, over Mr. R. Martin, Q. C. He is now Provincial Secretary of Ontario.

### NELSON'S CANADIAN ROMANCE

The Hero of Trafalgar in Love with a Quebec Girl.

In the references which have recently been made in the press touching Lord Nelson's visit to Canada, when a young man, I observe nothing is said of the romantic incident connected with his stay at Quebec, at that time, of which mention is made by Clarke and McArthur, Clark Russell, G. Lathom Brown and other of his biographers, and also by the Canadian chronicler, Lemoine. It was in 1782 that duty brought the hero of Trafalgar to the old rock city. His Lordship was then in his 24th year, and had but recently returned from the frigid region of the Baltic, where he had commanded the Albemarle frigate, 24 guns. On being ordered to proceed in that vessel with a convoy to Newfoundland and the river St. Lawrence he expressed his dislike for the employment; his recent experiences making him dread the severity of our northern climate. Nevertheless, on this as on other occasions in Nelson's glorious career, his personal inclinations were made to give way to his sense of public duty.

He arrived at Bic in July, and in due course at Quebec. There he remained for some weeks, when he departed on a cruise along the American coast, and returned to Quebec, on the 17th September, "knocked up with the scurvy," to use his own words. The sickness of his crew compelled him to remain inactive at Quebec for some time, and it was not until October 14th, that he was able to take his final departure from the St. Lawrence. Writing to his friend, Mr. Loeker, at this time, he speaks of his recent cruise as having been an unsuccessful one. "We have taken, seen and destroyed more enemies than is seldom done in the same space of time," he says, "but not one has arrived in port." He adds, "but I do not repine at our loss;

we have in other things been very fortunate, for on the 14th August we fell in, in Boston Bay, with four sail of the line and the Iris, French man-of-war, part of M. Vaudreuil's squadron, who gave us a pretty dance for between nine and ten hours. But we beat all except the frigate, though we brought to for her after we were out of sight of the line of battle ships, but she tacked and stood from us." The M. Vaudreuil here mentioned was probably Charlevoix's pupil, to whom Bibaud refers in his *Pantheon Canadien*, the same who afterwards commanded the *Sceptre* in an engagement with Viscount Hood.

Although Nelson was more than most men susceptible to the influence and charms of "lovely women" it has been surmised that his enforced idleness at Quebec, at the time mentioned, afforded an opportunity for his becoming more severely smitten in that way than he had ever been before, or, perhaps, would ever be again. There have been doubts expressed touching the identity of the lady in the case. While some claim her to have been a Miss Simpson, others have fixed on a Miss Prentice; and others again, on Miss Woolsey, whose brother afterwards became president of the Quebec Bank. The facts disclosed in some correspondence exhumed by the late Dr. Miles, previous to his death, and which were embodied in part in an interesting article on the subject contributed by him to the old Canadian Monthly, point almost irresistibly to Miss Simpson, the first named, as the object of the hero's tender attachment in Canada.

The lady was the daughter of Mr. Simpson, a Quebec merchant, in which city she was born in 1766 or 1767. She was sixteen at the time of Nelson's visit, and is reputed to have possessed not only "marvellous beauty," but likewise mental gifts of a high order. One old lady (Mrs. Harrower) speaking of her, said: "If Mary Simpson was not the most beautiful girl in Quebec, she was, at any rate, the most handsome she had ever beheld." We can well believe this in view of the complete ascendancy she seems to have acquired over the head and heart not only of the young post captain, but of others, including the estimable gentleman who subsequently became her husband, the well known Colonel Robert Matthews, long the Military Secretary in Canada to Lord Dorchester and other Governors, and for some years previous to his death holding the post of Governor of Chelsea Hospital. The climax of Nelson's infatuation is related by Clarke and McArthur in their "Life and Services of Nelson," "When the *Albemarle*, on the 14th of October was ready for sea, Captain Nelson had taken his leave and had gone down the river to the place where the men-of-war usually anchored; but the next morning as Mr. Alexander Davison was walking on the beach he saw Nelson coming back in his boat. On reaching the landing place, the former anxiously demanded the cause that occasioned his friend's return. 'Walk up to your house,' Nelson replied, 'and you shall be made acquainted with the cause.' He then said, 'I find it utterly impos-

sible to leave this place without again waiting on her whose society has so much added to its charms, and laying myself and my fortune at her feet.' Mr. Davison earnestly remonstrated with him on the consequence of so rash a step; 'your utter ruin,' said he, 'situated as you are at present, will inevitably follow.' 'Then let it follow,' exclaimed Nelson, 'for I am resolved to do it!' The account goes on to say that a severe altercation ensued, but that Mr. Davison's firmness at length prevailed with Nelson, who, with no very good grace, relinquished his purpose and suffered himself to be led back to his boat. It is perhaps useless now to speculate on what would have been the consequences to the country had not Mr. Davison's friendly counsel prevailed with Nelson in his reckless infatuation. We have only to erase from the annals of our country the four great naval actions: "St. Vincent," "The Nile," "Copenhagen," and "Trafalgar," to form some idea of our probable loss.

That Nelson did not forget what he owed personally to his determined friend was frequently proved in after years. Removing to London, Davison became a navy agent, banker and commissariat contractor, in all of which positions Nelson's great influence was exerted in his favor. His subsequent history was peculiar and eventful. Davison acquired a large fortune, was the political friend of successive cabinets many differences in which were more than once adjusted at his mansion in St. James' Square. Tempted to try and acquire a seat in Parliament, however, he was, we are told, convicted of outrageous bribery, and imprisoned for a long period; but, on his release—such was the lenient view then entertained of election bribery—he was appointed to important posts by the Government and continued his previously successful career. As commissary general of the forces, and treasurer of the Ordnance, though without salary, he had full employment as a banker, of the millions of money that passed through his hands. Sad to relate, from 1808, his life was clouded with trouble. In that year, an investigation being held into certain commissariat frauds, Davison was tried and convicted of complicity therein and sentenced to 21 years' imprisonment. Nothing is known of him further.

After the battle of the Nile he had medals struck for all ranks, one of which he presented to the King in person, who long maintained intimate personal relations with the ex-Quebec merchant. Writing to Nelson, after his interview on this occasion, Davison relates that His Majesty spoke of him (Nelson) with the tenderness of a father. These medals, one of which was worn by Nelson himself were inscribed on the rim: "A tribute of regard from Alexander Davison, Esq., St. James." It was also the same good friend who after Nelson's fall at Trafalgar, formed the 84 shilling guineas found in the hero's purse into an imposing memorial trophy which may still be seen in the new town hall, Portsmouth, within sight of the old *Victory*, Nelson's flagship, and at the very centre

of the naval service of the Empire.

As for our fair countrywoman, the beautiful and accomplished lady who inspired so passionate a regard in the heart of one of England's most illustrious sons, the record shows that yielding at length to Colonel Matthews' ardent proposals she joined him in England, where they were married. There, in London, she continued to reside for the remainder of her days, acting well her part of wife and mother, and enjoying in amplest measure the respect and esteem of all. She survived many years her early admirer, her death occurring in London, not before she had reached her 70th year. Officers of distinction who had served in Canada, including H. R. H. the Duke of Kent and Canadians on a visit to the mother country, were in the habit of calling to pay their respects to her up to the last; and on such occasions, we are informed, the former beadle of Stadacona was accustomed to make particular enquiries touching old friends and old scenes in the land of her nativity.

It may not be out of place to mention here that not a few of Nelson's veterans found their way to Canada at the close of the long war, and were either given employment under the Crown, or received from the Government allotments of land in various parts of the country. The late Admiral Baldwin, of Toronto, a near relative of the Father of Responsible Government, had fought under the intrepid naval commander; so also, we believe, had the late Admiral Vansittart, of Woolstock, the former at Copenhagen and the latter at the Nile. In the Ottawa Valley we had living with us for many years, among other gallant survivors of the stirring times referred to, two, at least, who had had the honour of serving King and country side by side with Nelson. These were Reuben Frayder, A. B., long a tipstaff, or a crier of the Court, in the older days of Bytown, and Commander Read, of South March. Traveller, as the epitaph on his tombstone in the old Sandy Hill cemetery relates, was at the battle of the Nile—where, from what we have heard of the man, we can have no doubt he gave a good account of himself. Captain Read, on the other hand, was not only at the Nile, but he was likewise privileged, as a midshipman, to participate in the other glorious victories of Copenhagen and Trafalgar.—Henry J. Morgan in the Ottawa Citizen.

#### CORRESPONDENCE.

##### THE ROYAL MILITARY COLLEGE AND MILITIA.

To the Editor Canadian Military Gazette.

Sir,—Now that the staff has been re-organized at Headquarters the General Officer Commanding may find time to look into the presumed advantages derived by the Militia from the establishment and maintenance of the Royal Military College at Kingston. The Royal Military College up to date has cost the taxpayers of Canada the enormous sum for maintenance alone of about \$1,000,000. During the time it has existed 368 cadets have attended the College, at an average cost of \$2,717 each. By the last Militia List (1893) 171 cadets have graduated together with 13 in June, 1893, making 184 at an average cost of \$5,434 per graduate. In what corps are these graduates to be found, and what advantage has and is the Militia of Can-

ada deriving from this very large expenditure? There is not one graduate connected with the local Militia in the Province of British Columbia, the Province of Manitoba, the Cities of London, Hamilton, Toronto and Quebec, or the Provinces of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick or Prince Edward Island. This is not because there are no graduates in these places, for I happen to know there are in every one of them. Surely there must be something radically wrong in the administration of the College, when such results follow. Is it not time, in the interests of the Militia and taxpayers, that the subject should be looked into? What do the taxpayers of Canada think when \$1,000,000 has been spent for the so-called benefit of the Militia, when not one single graduate is connected with the local Militia in any of the places named. And Militia corps are still without equipment, and retain the old "gas pipe" for an arm. Perhaps you will be able to enlighten me as to the benefits derived by the Militia from the College.

MILITIA C.O.

#### THE WALKER RIFLE TROPHY.

The Walker Rifle Trophy was made by the Gorham Manufacturing Co. of New York, one of the most celebrated firms of silversmiths on the continent, and was regarded by them as so representative a piece of work that they borrowed the cup to form part of their Chicago Exhibit. The prize was given to the Association last previous to last year's contest, so that it has been shot for twice. It is competed for by battalions, but this firm also gives an individual prize for the highest score made by any member of either battalion. This firm's idea in this was that it would tend to keep up the interest to the end and conduce to better shooting. It seemed to them only natural that when it should become apparent that any battalion was hopelessly behind, their shooting would under ordinary circumstances become more or less careless; whereas with such a prize as we have mentioned every man might be expected to do his best from beginning to end. The individual prize is not of a fixed character, but this firm endeavours to gratify the personal taste of the winner. Last year they gave a pair of field-glasses, and this year a match rifle. The cost of the cup was something over \$600. It is of course made of silver.

The Davis Cup was presented for the first time last year. It is a handsome piece of work, and the product of a Montreal workshop.

#### Sir Fred. Middleton's Suppression of Rebellion in the North-West Territories of Canada, 1885.

Continued.

The ball-practice was continued the next day, and accustomed the men to the recoil of their weapon if it did nothing else. At this time the whole of the Canadian militia, cavalry, and infantry were armed with Sniders, and it was feared at first that we should be at a disadvantage, as the half-breeds were known to be most of them well armed with repeating rifles. It was at one time proposed to send the troops being sent forward with Martini-Heurys, of which there were some 10,000 in store, but I did not think it advisable to put an entirely new arm into the hands of men just entering into a campaign, particularly one which was known to have a much greater recoil; better not to "swap horses crossing a stream," as President Lincoln once said. The Sniders were therefore retained, and, as it proved,

they were quite good enough for our work when they were held straight.

Fifty of the best shots of one of the regiments were armed with Martini-Heurys, but we never derived much advantage from them. The few pieces of artillery we had were all muzzle-loaders, nine-pounders, but that did not matter much, as we knew the enemy were not to be feared in respect of artillery, though they were said to have one or two guns, which proved, however, to be only a "Nor-Westler."

Thanks to the energy of Mr. Archie McDonald, assisted by Major Bell, a good many teams came in, and Bedson collected a quantity of hay and oats. The price of forage had naturally gone up, and as far as I can remember the price then was, hay twenty dollars a ton, and oats one dollar and fifty cents a bushel. These wagons, or teams as they are called in the Northwest, constituted our transport during the whole campaign. They were the ordinary waggons used by the farmers of the country, and were lightly though strongly built on four high wheels, which were very narrow as compared with those of English carts. They proved admirably suited for rough work and roads, and were able to go wherever the guns went. They were drawn by two horses of a good class, and were capable of carrying about one-and-a-half tons weight. The cost at first was high, but, after all, not much more than they were worth at the time to the Government. It was ten dollars per team—including driver per diem, and all found. The forage allowance was forty pounds of hay, the teamster receiving the same ration as the soldier, with arms and ammunition. Later on the price of forage and the cost of wages was much reduced. A man of the name of Garlon came in from Prince Albert with an account of the fight at Duck Lake.

The next day was Sunday, and after Divine service I rode out on the trail\* we should have to follow on the morrow. I found that the bridge across the stream joining two small lakes required strengthening to allow the infantry and wagons to pass, and that the guns would have to ford it. The ascent to the plateau was also very steep and muddy. After that the trail appeared fair enough. The view from the plateau of the valley, with the settlements and the tents, was very picturesque.

On my return I sent men at once to work at the strengthening of the bridge, which was done in a few hours.

This day, 5th April, I put Lord Melgum in orders as chief of the staff.

Among other grave points to be considered in my arrangements for the forthcoming campaign was the question of "drink." At that time the sale of all stimulants, including beer, was prohibited in the Northwest Territories from the fear that the Indians might get it, liquor of any sort having the effect of bringing out all their bad qualities and deadening any good ones they might chance to possess, and the half-breeds were not much better. The whites in the territories were allowed under certain circumstances to obtain a permit for the introduction of a small quantity of liquor into the territories, but these permits were only obtained from the Lt. Governor himself, who was very chary of granting them. It is needless to say that under circumstances most extraordinary stratagems were had recourse to, in order to smuggle liquor into the country. Eggs, carefully opened and cleaned, with filled with liquor, and then carefully fastened on and imparted as "eggs" in boxes. Casks, filled with whiskey and a little kerosene oil poured into them, were imported as lamp oil, medicine-bottles, labelled "Davis' Pain Killer" and "Jamaica Ginger," filled with pure whiskey, &c. &c.

To be Continued.