

THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE

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Topics of the Week.

An interesting letter on the subject of the Bremner fur case appears in the *Toronto Mail* of Saturday last, from the pen of Mr. G. Mercer Adam, who, as a historian of the rebellion, has given deep attention to all matters connected with it, and is therefore in a position to treat intelligently of his subject. The letter throughout is a rebuke of the harsh criticism passed upon General Middleton in this connection, and it thus concludes: "On the slender support there is for the charge, it is cruel to impugn the General's honour, and malicious to hint, as has been done, that his should be the last appointment of an English officer to command the Canadian militia. While Canada remains a colony of Britain, we shall but respect ourselves by honouring the source, while we take the advantage, of these appointments. Nor, as men of honour ourselves, should we seek to sully our own fame, and befoul our own nests. I can imagine no officer or man of the force, at least, joining in the outcry against its honoured chief. Of late there has been a tendency to belittle the feats and detract from the triumphs of the North-West rebellion. If the story of the insurrection, and the part the Canadian regulars and militia played in its suppression, is not worthy of the glory claimed for it, let us at least speak with respect of the soldier-graves on the Saskatchewan, and leave us still our poor illusions."

We have much pleasure in announcing that, in response to the request preferred as stated elsewhere in this paper, the Government will issue, free of charge, the ammunition required for the matches of the Canadian Military Rifle League. Those interested in rifle shooting have reason to be grateful to the Minister of Militia for this handsome contribution towards the success of the League; and also, in no small degree to Lieut.-Col. O'Brien, M.P., who actively interested himself in having the request presented to Sir Adolphe Caron in the most favourable light. Col. O'Brien took an active part in establishing the League, and the corps which he commands, the 35th Battalion, promptly entered two teams for the competition.

The Dominion Rifle Association.

The executive of the Dominion Rifle Association met at Ottawa on Tuesday, 6th inst., to consider the programme and for other business. There were present Lt.-Col. White, Chairman; Lt.-Cols. John Macpherson, Macdonald, Anderson, and Tilton, of Ottawa; Major Bond, Major Blaiklock and Capt. Hood, of Montreal, and the Secretary, Lt.-Col. Bacon.

The changes made recently in the firing rules of the National Rifle Association were discussed, and it was decided to adopt for the Dominion meeting this year the permission to use the back position at ranges of six hundred yards and upwards. With respect to the one sighting shot at each range to be permitted by the N. R. A. it was decided after lengthy discussion not to adopt this change.

To give additional accommodation required by the increased attendance of competitors, it was decided to add eight targets, those at present in use to be placed closer where practicable, and the additional space required to be taken on the right of the present targets. The firing points at 600 yards will be made continuous by filling in the gully behind the range keeper's residence. It was decided to adopt the N. R. A. system of firing by threes instead of by pairs, thus making it easier to carry out the programme within the stipulated time, and as well giving the individual competitors greater leisure between shots. The three competitors will now be required to fire their seven shots each within twenty minutes, whereas hitherto fifteen minutes have been allowed for a pair. The targets will be arranged in groups on the Wimbledon plan.

The matches will commence on Monday, 1st September, and will terminate on the Friday following. It is proposed to again have a public presentation on Thursday evening, the inauguration of this system last fall having resulted satisfactorily.

The programme and prize list will be much the same as that of last year, though there will be a few variations, and the money offered will be slightly increased, now amounting to close on \$7,500. The Nursery match will be open only to those competitors who have not at any previous prize meeting of the Association won a prize of \$8. or upwards, in place of \$10 as heretofore. This is intended to effect the retirement of a number of rather senior nursery shots. In the Minister of Militia match there will be eight in place of six team prizes, the number of team entries having largely increased. The Rideau and Ouimet matches, last year 7 shots each at 600 yards with the Martini, are to be changed. They will still be Martini matches, but one will be seven shots at 500 yards, and the other ten shots at 600 yards. In the Grand Aggregate fifteen prizes are to be added, so that there will be seventy-five in place of sixty prizes. In the Governor General's match, the first hundred in the Grand Aggregate will be allowed to compete, in place of the first sixty as heretofore. The matter of increasing the shooting test for places on the representative Canadian twenty was discussed, but no change was decided upon. The extra series matches were also discussed at length, but no material change was agreed to.

The Field Artillery.

The following "Circular No. 1" for 1890, has just been issued by the Inspector of Artillery, Lt.-Col. D. T. Irwin:—

1. It is notified for general information that a correction should be made in the published efficiency return, by which six points should be deducted from the total gained by No. 2 Battery, 1st Bde, for absentees not satisfactorily accounted for at inspection.

2. *Ammunition.*—Batteries which perform their annual drill in the vicinity of an Artillery Range, will be required to bring into camp, properly packed in the limbers, the following detail of ammunition, to be taken from their reserve, viz.: Common shell filled, 24; shrapnel shell filled, 8; shrapnel primers, 8; R. L. fuzes, 24; 15 sec. time fuzes, 8; friction tubes, 170; cartridges, filled, service, 32. Requisitions in duplicate for 100 cartridges filled, blank, 1 lb. and to complete the above detail, if necessary, should be forwarded upon the receipt of the orders for Annual Drill. The common shell when filled, should have a "wad, papier machie G. S." inserted, and the plug screwed home. Shrapnel shell when filled should have the primer firmly screwed in, and also the fuze-hole plug.

3. *Harnessing.*—Curb chains, or straps, are invariably to be worn with harness bridles. The bridoon bit, attached to the bearing reins, is only to be worn in draught by the off horses, and side rein by the off wheeler.

4. *Artillery Store Ledgers.*—As some uncertainty exists with regard to the manner in which these are to be kept posted, it is to be understood that the actual numbers of all articles on charge are to be entered on the left hand or Dr. side, together with the numbers of all articles received, in addition, from time to time,—in the latter case, the date, and official number of each receipt voucher should be inserted. All issues, expenditures, losses, &c. should similarly be shewn under their respective headings on the Cr. side, and the Annual Store Return should contain a summary of these transactions for each year. The printed numbers in the first column of the Annual Store Return shew the full equipment at present sanctioned for a Field Battery—and the detail on pages 52 to 55, F. A. Manual 1884, shows how these articles are carried. In the case of Batteries which have not received a full equipment of harness, the detail on pages 6 and 7 should only be made out with reference to the number of sets actually on charge.

5. *Camping.*—As detailed for 1889, viz., guns parked at half interval, tents aligned on the flank guns 30 yards apart, and an interval of 15 yards maintained between adjacent corps. When it is necessary that the horses should be attached to a picket rope, the latter should be securely made fast not less than 2' 6" from the ground. Batteries should bring their picket ropes to camp.

6. *Accoutrements.*—As detailed for 1889, viz.:—No. 1 cir. valise on his horse. Lead driver, valise, on trail. Wheel driver, valise, on off wheeler. When marching to and from camp, the drivers' valises will be carried on their own horses, and valises for spare drivers carried on the other horses, and on the trail. Dismounted men whose knapsacks cannot be carried on the gun carriage and limber as directed, will carry their own knapsacks and great coats on above occasions. Batteries not in possession of the regulation number (44) of serviceable knapsacks, should send in their requisitions (in duplicate) without delay, for the required number, or to exchange for serviceable issue, and also if necessary for valise straps, 2 per valise.

7. *Kit.*—It is expected that each N. C. officer and man will bring to camp with him, packed in his valise or knapsack, the following articles at least, viz., 1 pair of boots, 1 pair of socks, 1 shirt, 1 towel, 1 piece of soap, 1 cloth brush, 1 boot brush. These articles will be shewn at kit inspection. With the exception of the Sergt.-Major and Quarter-Master Sergeant, who may have one small trunk or valise each, for the conveyance of books, &c., no boxes, trunks, &c., or articles of furniture, are to be brought into camp by any N. C. officer or man.

8. Credits for Discipline, Camping, &c., will be affected by the manner in which the Battery books, &c., are kept, and the preceding instructions observed.

9. The following corrections should be made in the printed drill cards recently issued—*Changing rounds in action*—No. 2 becomes 4; 4, 9; 9, 8; 8, 7; 7, 6; 6, 3; 3, 1; 1, 5; 5, 2. *Positions mounted*—Nos. 2 and 3 on limber. Nos. 4 and 5 on gun axletree seats. No. 8 between 2 and 3. If only four horses, No. 7 on off lead. No. 6 between 2 and 3.

A committee of naval and military officers will shortly be appointed to consider the measures to be taken for the defence of the Dutch coast and harbours.

The first of a series of monuments to commemorate the events of the war of 1812 will be erected at Lundy's Lane this summer as a memorial of the British defeat there in 1814.

Regimental and other News.

A company of amateur minstrels, including many well known riflemen of the prairie capital, gave an entertainment at Regina on the 15th ult. in aid of the funds of the Regina Rifle Association. On the following day the entertainment was repeated at the barracks in aid of the Mounted Police amusement funds.

Capt. Kittermaster will shortly be appointed adjutant of the 27th Battalion, and the captaincy of No. 7 Company will go to Lieut. Mackenzie.

The competition for officers for Capt. Lydon's Highland Cadet Corps, of Montreal, has resulted as follows: W. Stuart, Captain No. 1 company; A. Bain, Captain No. 2 company; F. Ebbitt, 1st Lieutenant No. 1 company; A. Opzoomer, 1st Lieutenant No. 2 company; A. McRae, 2nd Lieutenant No. 1 company. The competition for the 2nd Lieutenantcy of No. 2 company was a tie among four boys, and will be tried over again. The Cadets have formed a temperance society in connection with the organization.

The 43rd Battalion, Ottawa, have secured for their bandmaster, vice Lewis, resigned, Mr. J. T. Farmer, who has just left the Mounted Police, after having in five years' service organized and maintained a first class band in connection with the Police. Bandmaster Farmer received his training with the celebrated band of the Grenadier Guards, which he left in 1882 after about twenty-five years' service. He was only a boy when he joined. During his service with the Grenadiers, the present Governor-General was an officer of that corps, and His Excellency has shown a kindly interest in Bandmaster Farmer's coming to Ottawa.

Brantford.

The officers of the Dufferin Rifles have long contemplated the substitution of a handsomer and more soldierly head-dress for the bobby-like helmets that have been worn for the last dozen years. Last week their samples arrived from England, and at a meeting of officers held subsequently it was unanimously decided to adopt the new head-gear. It is a new shape military busby, the officers' being of Persian lamb, and costing according to quality from \$3.50 up, and the privates' are of seal. Both have plumes of horsehair or feathers, and a handsome braided line about the front. They are lighter and much preferable to the helmets, and though an outfit will cost the regiment some \$700 or more, the order has been sent and the busbies will be here for the use of the regiment on the Queen's birthday if necessary. The meeting was a representative one, including the following officers, namely: Lieut.-Col. Jones, Surgeon Harris, Majors B. H. Rothwell and T. Harry Jones, Capts. McGlashan, Leonard, Wilkes, McLean, Nelles, Jones and Hamilton, Lieuts. Robertson, Curtis, Killmaster, Jenkins and Fowler and Assistant-Surgeon Minchin. The consent of all these being freely given made the vote as nearly unanimous as it could be. The head-dress adopted is the latest authorized and recommended by the Imperial government, and the Dufferins are the first in Canada to have them. Both officers and men are feeling very sore on account of the long delay in starting the new drill-hall. It is now nearly 18 months since an appropriation was made, and nothing has been done except to draw the plans.

Hamilton.

A rainy day and a cold wind did not prevent the 13th Battalion and Hamilton Field Battery from marching through the muddy streets to attend divine services at "All Saints Church." The parade was large, every company mustering well up to its full strength. The men of the 13th Battalion, in their bright tunics and clean white belts and helmets, presented a smart, soldierly appearance. The battalion was commanded by Lieut.-Col. the Hon. J. M. Gibson, M.P.P. The Field and Staff Officers present were Majors McLaren, Barnard and Mason (Quarter-Master) and Capt. Stuart, Adjutant. The Hamilton Field Battery was commanded by Capt. Hendrie with Lieuts. Bankier and Duncan. Headed by the bands, the line of march was up James to King, thence along King to the church, followed by a vast concourse of spectators. The service was conducted by the Rev. Rural Dean Forneret, M.A., assisted by the Rev. A. G. Miller. The sermon was preached by Mr. Forneret from the text, "And the soldiers likewise demanded of him, saying, And what shall we do?"—Luke 3, 14. The sermon was an appropriate one and was listened to with the greatest attention. The preacher referred to the coming of John the Baptist and his announcement to the Roman soldiers that Christ was coming. He touched upon the duties of citizen soldiers and said their calling was both honourable and useful, besides affording them great advantages for the development of physical strength. He told them he had stood in the ranks of the militia and was proud to acknowledge it. He compared the militia to the army of Christ, and referred to the god fearing men who had been soldiers from olden times to the time of Gordon.

The musical portion was particularly attractive, a full choir being

present. During the offertory Mrs. Förneret sang "Light and Darkness." After the service the battalion and battery returned to the drill-hall, and after being complimented by Col. Gibson the parade was dismissed.

Owing to the May day fete in the drill-hall the battalion has had a rest from drill for a few days.

There is to be a grand band concert in the drill-hall by the combined bands of the Q. O. R. and 13th Battalion in aid of a fund for band instruments for the 13th band.

H. A. M.

Toronto.

THE ROYAL GRANADIERS.

The regular weekly route march of the Royal Grenadiers, last Thursday, was attended by 300 members of the regiment. Lieut.-Col. Dawson was in command. The battalion marched to Wellington street, where the men were exercised in company drill, the movements consisting principally of the different formations, from fours, to the front and rear. At the close of these manoeuvres the regiment resumed the line of march, proceeding down Yonge street to Front, thence to York, up York street to King, and eastward to the drill shed. Crowds witnessed the parade from the Rossin, Walker and Queen's hotels, and the battalion was loudly applauded by the spectators. Upon returning to the drill-shed the men were addressed by Lieut.-Col. Dawson, who informed them that rifle practice would begin at the Garrison ranges at 1.30 Saturday afternoon, and would continue on the same day during the season. Invitations has been received for the 24th May from Owen Sound and Belleville, but it appeared unlikely that the railways would be able to provide cars for the transportation of the regiment. If it is decided that the Grenadiers shall remain at home they will hold a parade on the morning of the Queen's birthday, and this demonstration will be followed by a dinner in the drill-shed. A church parade will be held to St. James' cathedral on Sunday next. During the route march Sergt.-Major Cox, assisted by Sergt. Rogers and Corporal Curtis, were employed in drilling recruits to the number of eighty. There are four classes. The senior class will join the ranks on Thursday next, and the others will follow weekly. The following appointment was made: To be Lance-Sergeant, provisionally, Corporal J. Hughes, "G" company.

QUEEN'S OWN RIFLES.

Considering the threatening aspect of the weather, an unusually large parade of the regiment was held last Wednesday evening. For a time it looked as if it was to be a night in the shed, but at last a venture was made, and the regiment, headed by both bands, marched to Wellington street, where review exercises were practised.

The following were contained in the orders of the evening:

No. 3. The officer commanding has been pleased to make the following promotions: "A" Co.—To be sergeant, Corpl. W. S. Duncan, vice McMaster, promoted.

No. 4. Sergt. Fuller is hereby placed on the supernumerary list of sergeants.

No. 5. Rifle practice will commence on Saturday next, May 3rd, at 1.30 p.m. Rules and regulations for rifle practice for season of 1890 will be distributed this evening after parade.

No. 6. Officers will do duty at the ranges as detailed hereunder: Officer of the week, Capt. Pellatt; next for duty, Capt. Murray; subaltern for the week, Lieut. Lee; next for duty, Lieut. Baird. Officers for duty are reminded of the necessity of being present at the hour named for practice to commence, and must remain on the ranges during the continuance of the shooting.

No. 7. Arrangements are being made for a lacrosse match in conjunction with other games to be held in Peterborough on the 24th May. All lacrosse players (members of the regiment) are requested to meet in "I" company armoury immediately after parade.

No. 8. The miniature regimental badge, in gold, silver or bronze, as authorized by the commanding officer to be worn in plain clothes, can be procured from Staff-Sergt. Ashall, No. 262 Yonge street.

No. 9. The plan of reserved seats for the entertainment on 12th May will be opened at Nordheimers' on Monday next at 10 a.m.

HEADQUARTERS, OTTAWA, 18th April, 1890.

GENERAL ORDERS.

No. 5. 2nd Bn. Queen's Own Rifles of Canada.—To be lieutenant, 2nd Lieut. Jno. Francis Crean, vice W. J. Nelson, resigned. To be lieutenant provisionally, Corpl. Edw. Lyall Morton, vice T. Coleman, promoted. Pte. Alan Frederick Matheson, vice J. W. Ross, appointed paymaster. Pte. James Gilchrist Burnham, vice T. C. Robineite, resigned.

Judging from the manner in which the seats were reserved Monday morning, "Life on a Troopship" promises to be very popular. The party who obtained the first check was down about 1 a.m. Evidently the text of the last church parade, "Young man, I say unto thee, arise!" was entirely forgotten by any quantity who wooed Morpheus at the expense of good seats.

It is stated that the Russian Government intends to begin building the great trans-Siberian railway in the spring. The line will be 4,500 miles long, and on completion, if connection is made with the Canadian Pacific, will give a railway route from Europe to America by way of Behring Straits and Alaska. Its strategic value will be incalculable.

The Rifle.

The Bisley team remains without change. Capt. Gray, G.G.F.G., being the twentieth man. The next in order, Capt. O'Grady, 43rd Rifles, would not accept if called upon, so that Lieut. Manning, 62nd Fusiliers, is the first waiting man.

WHAT THE QUEEN'S OWN ARE DOING.

A circular just issued announces that with a view to encouraging rifle shooting in "G" company of the Queen's Own Rifles, the following prizes will be offered for the season of 1890:

BY CAPT. BENNETT.—To the man attending the greatest number of butt practices, and shooting over ranges as qualified to do, and making the five highest scores, over 30 points, \$4; 2nd, to the man next entitled under these conditions, \$3.50; 3rd, \$2.50. Above competition open only to recruits, including those joining last fall.

BY LIEUT. MERCER.—To the non-commissioned officer or man making the greatest number of cross gun scores at the regular butt practices during the season, not including scores in battalion matches, \$10. There will also be a practice team competition on the following conditions: Teams of four men each (one of whom will be captain and be responsible for shooting of men on his team) will be chosen by the rifle committee on basis of last year's scores, and as nearly as possible teams shall be of equal shooting strength. Each competitor to pay 50 cents to the treasurer, 25 cents on or before 3rd May and balance on or before 1st July next. Scores to be taken from regular practice returns, the three highest scores made by members of each team to count. Dates of matches—May 10th and 31st, June 11th and 21st, July 9th and 19th, August 2nd and 13th, September 27th, October 1st. Prizes to be awarded to the individual members of the team making highest grand aggregate score, and to the individual members making the next highest grand aggregate score. A prize will be given to the competitors making the highest grand aggregate score in teams to which they belong.

QUALIFICATIONS.—Competition for prizes will be restricted to those who have performed at least 50 per cent. of the regimental drills for the current year, or for that period in which they have been members of the regiment. Supernumerary n. c. o's not eligible to shoot in above competitions.

Arrangements are being made for sleeping accommodation on the ranges for members of the company desiring to attend Wednesday morning practices. Ranges open May 3rd for Saturday afternoons practice and on May 28th for Wednesday mornings practice. The Rifle Committee are as follows:—President, Capt. Bennett; vice-president, Lieut. Mercer; treasurer, Corpl. Baynes-Reed; secretary, Sergt. N. B. Sanson; Corpl. Leacock, Corpl. Capp, Staff-Sergt. Williams.

ALTERATION.—The matches will be fired on Wednesday mornings instead of alternately Wednesday mornings and Saturday afternoons, to accommodate those who are unable to be up at the ranges in time for practice Saturday afternoons.

THE MILITARY RIFLE LEAGUE.

Entries continue to arrive for the matches of the Canadian Military Rifle League, and the following have to be added to the list of 29 teams published last week:—

12th Battalion, Toronto.	78th Battalion, Windsor, N.S.
43rd Battalion, Ottawa (2 teams).	37th Battalion, Cayuga, Ont.
38th Battalion, Brantford, Ont.	6th Fusiliers, Montreal (2 teams).

The first match takes place on the 17th inst., and the official score sheets have to be despatched from Toronto in time for use on that date, so that those teams intending to enter but not yet having done so, have no time to lose.

Mr. J. Foster, of Toronto, who has been named official optician of the League, has presented a first quality field glass, to be awarded for the highest individual score made at any of the League competitions.

Staff-Sergt. Thos. Mitchell, of the 10th Royal Grenadiers, has presented a pair of League shooting boots, to be awarded to the Nursery shot (D.R.A. qualification) making the highest individual score at any of the competitions.

The proprietor of the MILITIA GAZETTE (the official paper of the League) offers a first quality Snider rifle, to be awarded to the competitor making the highest aggregate in any three of the League matches, provided such competitor is a PAID UP SUBSCRIBER to this paper at the time of shooting.

A deputation representing the various provinces of the Dominion from which teams have been entered for the League matches, had an interview with the Minister of Militia this week to prefer the request that the ammunition required for the matches might be issued by the Government free of expense to the competitors. Amongst those present were Lieut.-Col. O'Brien, Lieut.-Col. Denison, Lieut.-Col. Amyot, Major Carpenter, Messrs. Cockburn, Mackintosh, Dickinson, Brown, Montague,

Hall, Curran, Kenny, Daly and Davin, M.P's. It was pointed out that teams had been entered from the cities of Montreal, Toronto, Hamilton, Quebec, Halifax, St. John, Winnipeg and Ottawa, and from rural battalions in all the provinces with the exception of British Columbia. As all the expenses of the matches will be borne by the regiments entering teams, it was urged that the Government should supply the ammunition, in view of the fact that the proposed matches, being carried on at battalion head quarters, promised to give to the men of the various corps, especially of the rural battalions, more direct encouragement than the great contests for the prizes offered by the Dominion and Provincial Rifle Associations. The Minister in reply entered very fully into the question and promised to give the request made the most favourable consideration.

The Minister gave his answer on Thursday, just in time to give the MILITIA GAZETTE the pleasure of making the announcement this week that free ammunition will be issued by the Government to all teams competing in the League matches.

ASSINIBOIA PROVINCIAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION.

The annual meeting of this association took place on Monday evening, 21st April. The president, Major D. Mowat, was in the chair, and a good number of the members were present. Minutes of the last annual meeting approved, the president read his report, a highly satisfactory one, showing the membership to be seventy, besides honorary members. Some of the facts referred to in the report have been already published. The entries in the competition last year numbered 380 and in the extra series matches 164. During the season 20,000 rounds of ammunition were fired off. The association competed in 22 inter-association matches and had 360 entries for the Saturday afternoon spoon competitions. The president referred in flattering terms to the valuable services of the secretary-treasurer, to whose energy and ability the credit for last season's success is due.

The secretary-treasurer then read the statement of receipts and expenditure, together with a general balance sheet which had been duly audited and signed by the auditor, Mr. A. E. Forget. The total receipts from all sources, including subscriptions and prizes in cash and kind, sale of ammunition, membership fees, etc., were \$1,571.23, and after a few outstanding subscriptions were collected and the accounts due by the association paid, would leave a balance to credit of \$14.73, together with 78 feet of new butts and 3 sets of targets, erected and paid for out of last season's work at a cost of over \$250. The secretary-treasurer also stated that last season he sent out over 850 letters, circulars and notices, and he strongly advised the amendment of the constitution as regards the office of secretary-treasurer, as the amount of work was too great to be imposed upon any single member of the association. Mr. A. E. Forget, Assistant Indian Commissioner, stated that he had gone over all the items of receipts and expenditures most minutely and found the same to be correct. He also had pleasure in testifying to the admirable manner in which the books had been kept by Mr. Jowett. The report was adopted, and it was resolved that clause 8 of the constitution be further amended, to read that a secretary and treasurer be appointed instead of a secretary-treasurer as heretofore.

The following officers were elected: The patrons were all re-elected; president, Major D. Mowat; 1st vice-president, Major Hayter Reed; and vice-president, Mr. A. E. Forget; treasurer, Dr. J. H. C. Willoughby; secretary, John W. Jowett; council, Major Bell, Indian Head; W. Sutherland, Qu'Appelle; Capt. Harris, Moosomin; H. P. Clifton, Swift Current; Messrs. R. Sweet, W. M. Williamson, T. C. Johnstone, A. T. Fraser, W. G. Pettingell, R. J. Steel, H. A. Carruthers, W. Laurie, S. Varder, J. F. Mowat and J. A. Peddon; auditors, Messrs. A. T. Abbey and W. J. Chisholm; range officer, R. J. Steel; team captains, Major Bell and H. A. Carruthers. Hearty votes of thanks were passed to the donors of prizes at the last annual meeting; to the newspapers; to Mr. Davin, M.P., for his lecture; to the Regina Minstrels, and to the officers of the past year for their services. It was resolved that in addition to the thanks of this meeting, the association shall purchase a "Turner" Target Snider Rifle with chequered stock complete, and present the same to Mr. J. W. Jowett, as a slight recognition of his valuable services as secretary-treasurer during the past year, Mr. Jowett having the option of choosing any other make of rifle he preferred.

THE CUMBERLAND RIFLE ASSOCIATION.

The first practice of the Cumberland Rifle Association, the shooting organization lately formed by members of the Royal Grenadiers, was held on Saturday afternoon at the Garrison, common. About 100 members were present at the butts, out of which number some 25 participated in the shooting. The ranges shot over were 300, 500 and 600 yards. The atmospheric conditions were not as favourable as they might have been, a strong and unsteady wind blowing all the time. Much interest was manifested in the competition. Several of the

officers of the regiment were present and encouraged the contestants. Col. J. Bedson, of the First Colorado U. S. Cavalry, was a spectator and participant, and succeeded in making a creditable score. Owing to the shooting point at the 600 yard range being in an unfinished state many of the competitors were unable to complete their scores.

Appended are the scores of the first six who finished the series:

	200	500	600	Total		200	500	600	Total
W. J. Urquhart....	29	34	25	88	J. Patterson.....	26	31	17	74
J. Davis.....	32	25	28	85	J. J. Spencer.....	23	29	17	69
J. Shand.....	26	27	21	74	Wm. Towers.....	24	22	18	64

ALLAN RIFLE ASSOCIATION

The Allan Rifle Association held their first practice of the season on Saturday afternoon, there being a large turnout of the members. Although the weather was anything but favourable for rifle shooting, still a few good scores were made. Following are the scores; Snider rifle, 7 shots at each range:

	200	500	600	Total		200	500	600	Total
John H. Knifton...	28	31	26	85	Jno. Davidson....	26	26	20	72
Wm. Harp.....	29	27	28	84	G. M. Donnelly...	28	18	19	65
N. B. Sanson.....	30	25	26	81	D. D. McNeil....	30	14	19	63
Tom Westman....	27	22	27	76	G. E. Robertson..	24	24	15	63
T. M. Major.....	27	28	19	74	J. O. Thorn.....	28	16	16	60
G. E. Cooper.....	27	19	27	73	Geo. Banks.....	26	14	20	60
W. H. Meadows...	21	28	24	73	A. D. Crooks.....	31	16	13	60
C. D. McNeil.....	27	22	23	72					

OTTAWA RIFLE CLUB.

This club had a regular spoon competition on Saturday afternoon, firing with the Snider rifle at Queen's ranges. There was considerable rain and a very variable wind. These were the scores: Capt. H. H. Gray (dessert spoon, 1st class), 87; J. P. Nutting (tea spoon, 2nd class), 85; J. H. Ellis (tea spoon, 1st class), 85; J. A. Armstrong, 83; Major A. P. Sherwood, 82; W. T. Mason, 79; F. W. Smith, 78; C. S. Scott, 78; T. C. Boville, 76; Capt. C. F. Cox, 76; W. G. Dial, 76; A. Pink, 75; T. Carroll, 75; Capt. S. M. Rogers, 74; W. Short, 74; R. J. Taylor (dessert spoon, 3rd class), 73; Lt.-Col. W. P. Anderson, 73; Major J. Wright, 73; Capt. B. H. Bell, 71; S. Short, 70; J. C. Saunders, 70; T. McJanet, 70.

GUARDS RIFLE ASSOCIATION.

These were the scores of the weekly competition of the Guards Association, with Snider rifles, at 200, 500 and 600 yards, at Rideau range on Saturday: Capt. Gray (senior spoon), 87; Pte. Nutting, 85; Pte. Armstrong, 83; Corp. Hagan (spoon, 3rd class), 76; Pte. Timk, 75; Corp. Carroll, 75; Sergt. Short, 74; Pte. Saunders, 70.

Canadian Military Rifle League Rules and Regulations.

TEAMS.—The teams for the season of 1890 to be limited to regimental teams of ten men each, comprised of officers, non-commissioned officers, or men who are certified as having been duly enrolled previous to the 1st May, 1890. Each regiment may enter any number of teams, and it is not necessary to have the same men on the team each match; but when a man once fires on a team, he cannot fire on any other for this season. It is not necessary to send the names of those to compose team to the Secretary previous to match. Hand them to Range Officer before commencing to fire. In the case of the North-West Territories, Associations may enter teams composed of ten bona-fide members (whether military or civilians, or both) until militia corps are established, at the discretion of the Executive.

RANGES, ETC.—The ranges and positions will be at 200 yards (standing or kneeling), at 500 and 600 yards (any position, with head to target), seven shots at each. No pool targets or sighting shots are allowed.

RIFLE.—The Snider (long, short, or carbine).

DATES.—The matches to be held on Saturday, 17th and 31st May, 14th and 28th June, 12th and 26th July, and 9th August, any time after 12.30 o'clock p.m.

TELEGRAPHING.—The team's total score and weather detail to be telegraphed via Canadian Pacific Railway Telegraph Co., to the Chief Operator, Montreal. Telegraph charges, 50 cents per team for match, to be paid at telegraph office at time of sending despatch. (Do your telegraphing as soon after completion of match as possible.) As soon as the chief operator shall have received all the scores, he will send a return despatch to each team, containing said scores.

SCORE SHEETS.—This score sheet to be properly filled out and containing the shot for shot detail, weather detail, etc., of team, and to be vouched for and signed by the register keepers, Captain of team and Range Officer, and to be made out in duplicate, and sent to W. R. Pringle, Secretary of League, 63 Front street West, Toronto.

RANGE OFFICERS.—The Range Officer must not belong to the corps for which he is acting. He will please endeavour (when possible) not to allow more men to fire at one time than he can personally oversee, and also (when possible) to appoint register keepers from another corps than the one they act for. It will be his duty to see that all the rules, etc., are properly observed and that the conditions of competition are strictly enforced, and also to have all register keepers sign their names in full to the scores which they register, and to have the Captain of each team and himself sign score sheet. The names of those to compose team to be handed to Range Officer before commencement of firing. After first shot is fired, no change to be made in personnel of team.

A CORPS IN CAMP.—In the event of corps being in camp on any League match day, its team or teams may fire there on condition that they notify the Secretary a week previous, so as to enable him to make telegraphic arrangements.

ENTRANCE FEES.—The entrance fees are \$10.00 per regimental team, or when more than one team is entered from any corps, \$10.00 for the first and \$5.00 for each additional team of ten men.

PRIZES.—The entrance fees to be devoted to the purchase of trophies and badges. There will be one trophy for every five teams entered, if the funds allow, and certain individual prizes at the discretion of the Executive. All team prizes to be won by the highest aggregate scores of the seven matches.

BADGES.—The "League Championship" badge to be won by the highest individual aggregate scorer of the whole League. The "Trophy" badges to go to the ten members comprising the team winning the first prize trophy. The "Team" badge: Every team competing will receive a badge, to be won by the highest individual aggregate score on each team.

D. R. A. RULES.—Where not specially covered by League rules, the Dominion Rifle Association rules to be in force.

DISQUALIFICATION.—The penalty for non-observance of all rules is disqualification of team on which offender may be.

OBJECT.—The object of this League is to encourage rifle practice, and it is to be hoped that the older shots will help their younger comrades and also induce those who have not already made military rifle shooting their favourite pastime to do so. Competitors are urged to observe all the rules and do their share towards making the League a success, as if so it will become a permanent institution. The first annual meeting of competitors and presentation of prizes will take place at the D. R. A. matches, Ottawa, 1st September.

SPECIAL PRIZES.—A special prize of a field glass is presented by Mr. James Foster, Optician, Toronto, to the competitor who, in any one match during the season, comes the nearest to the possible 105 points.

All notices pertaining to the League will be published only in the CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE, Ottawa.

The trophies are being made by one of the leading Canadian manufacturers.

The badges are being embroidered at the military outfitting establishment of Mr. J. F. Crean, Toronto.

J. M. GIBSON, Lieut.-Col.,

JOHN BRUCE, Capt.,

President.

Treasurer.

WM. R. PRINGLE, Secretary, 63 Front St. West, Toronto.

N.B.—On account of the Ranges having to be closed on 12th July the Toronto corps will fire the fifth match on 5th July instead.

Many scientific experimenters have studied the results of the pressure and friction of the atmosphere upon bullets fired from a rifled or smooth barrel. The results of some recent English experiments are outlined briefly in the following notes: It has been found that when an elongated projectile is fired from a smooth-bore, the head of the bullet is gradually lifted until it is thrown completely over, after which the flight is very uncertain. A judiciously rifled barrel overcomes this defect. It has long been a disputed point as to whether the longer axis of a bullet preserves its original direction or whether the point droops and follows the trajectory curve. It is now believed by the best authorities that the latter obtains, as otherwise projectiles fired at a high angle would strike nearly lengthways, which has not been observed. An attempt has even been made by constructing a model bullet, mounted on a gyroscope facing a powerful fan, to demonstrate the effect of the air resistance upon a bullet. "As soon as the revolving projectile is put in position, the fan is set in rapid motion; the current of air first causes the point of the bullet to lift slightly, then it moves to the right or left (according to the direction of the spin), and eventually it makes a strong dip down toward the ground." While this is probably true with regard to the motions of a bullet discharged from a rifle barrel, it can hardly be regarded as proved, as the conditions are not the same.

Correspondence.

This paper does not necessarily share the views expressed in correspondence published in its columns, the use of which is freely granted to writers on topics of interest to the Militia.

STATE OF THE MILITIA.

EDITOR MILITIA GAZETTE.—I am much pleased to note the remarks of your correspondents B. N. W., etc., which indicate that some, at least, of our volunteers realize that it is high time something was done to increase the efficiency of the force. Let us apply business principles to the management of affairs and see that we get value for the money expended. Every one acquainted with the working of the force will admit that at present this is not the case. No sane individual would dream for a moment of employing overseers or foremen who did not understand their business, and that is exactly what we are now doing, placing officers in command who in many or in fact in most cases are deficient in training. We all know what would ensue. Let us spend what money is appropriated, first, in training our officers; when we have accomplished that we shall have made a vast stride towards the desired end. In the military schools we have the necessary machinery for doing this, why not then devote all our energies in that direction? I might also observe, *en passant*, that if our gallant Minister of War could see his way to adopt a system somewhat similar to that at present in the British Army of retiring commanding officers after a certain number of years service, it would certainly be a boon to the force. Many of the old officers won't take the trouble to qualify. They should, therefore, give place to the better instructed in modern drill and tactics.

EX-VOLUNTEER.

New Hamburg, Ont., 5th May, 1890.

Experiments have been recently carried on at Toulon with a view of determining to what extent accuracy of aim can be attained at night with the use of an electric light. A gun was mounted on a revolving platform, which also carried an electric projector. The target was fixed at a distance of between three and four kilometers, and it was found that the same accuracy could be obtained under these conditions as during daylight.

The Emperor of Germany in a recent order to his Army, enjoins commanders to set an example of self-sacrifice to officers and to check indulgence in unnecessary luxuries, the habit of making costly presents and giving frequent banquets, and so forth. He also directs that the names of officers who do not conform to the rule prescribing a simpler mode of life, shall be submitted to him. He declares that habits of luxury must be seriously and firmly opposed, and intends, to a large extent, to judge of the officer by this standard.

The London correspondent of the *New York Times* depicts a gloomy state of affairs in Russia. He says: "The present Czar's Government is the meanest, stupidest, and worst than even Russia has known in this century. In truth, he is a thick-headed, obstinate, unintelligent fanatic, without ability or tact enough to manage a carpenter's shop. He knows no way of meeting this universal convulsion, save by the knout, the gallows, torture, and by exile, and the worse the situation grows the more crudely and unwisely does he use his weapons of repression. All efforts to bring Russia back into the barbaric despotism of Nicholas have ignominiously failed, and at last the Czar is face to face with an openly-hostile nation."

Major General Schofield has addressed an interesting communication to Senator Plumb in regard to a proposed reform in the chaplain service of the U. S. Army, saying very sensibly: "After much and careful study of this subject my impression is that the best policy would be to leave the various garrisons in the army free to select religious ministers of their own choice as other communities in this country do, the action of Congress to be limited to supplying the necessary money to pay for their services, and that of the War Department to regulating the mode of their selection, etc. In this manner a large proportion of the troops, if not all could have the services of their own faith at least a part of the time, which they do not now. Our system of army chaplains is an attempt to follow the custom of foreign countries, where one religion, and only one, is recognized and supported by the Government: a system not applicable to our institutions. Our military legislation has never yet recognized the principles of religious liberty by providing the soldier at remote frontier stations with the religious service which he craves and needs. On the contrary, such remote garrisons are provided with chaplains in whose religious opinions and mode of worship the great majority of the troops do not believe. Yet wonder is expressed that so little interest is manifested in religious services at the military posts. Give the army religious liberty, and assist the men to obtain the religious ministrations of which they feel the need, and there will be the same interest in the army as elsewhere."

In an article on modern French artillery, *Engineering* says: "To go back to the commencement, in the year 1842 Captain Treuille de Beaulieu submitted a report to the Minister of War, on rifled guns, in which a screwed breech-block is suggested. Certainly a part of the original credit for this must be given to the United States, where, in 1853, a joint patent was taken out by J. P. Schenkl and A. S. Saroni, for an interrupted breech-block. Two years after, the English Government purchased six guns from a manufacturer at Boston, in which the breech was closed upon the same principle, but they were absolutely useless owing to the crude and imperfect manner in which the work was carried out."

The importance of music is thus laid down by Lord Wolseley in his *Soldiers' Pocket Book*, page 209, 2nd edition, 1871: "Whenever it is possible, have music to march to. If the band is broken up, drums and bugles should play together, as the French do. Nothing is more martial in sound, and the men march a hundred per cent. better to it than in silence. If you have nothing else, get your men to sing by companies. During the long night marches in India, at the beginning of the Mutiny. I found that with singing we got on admirably, whilst when we marched in silence, as men will do after the first half-mile at night, they almost went to sleep, lagged behind, stumbled and fell. The moment a song was struck up the men stepped out briskly."

The ordnance officers in the War Department, in making their calculations for the 16-inch guns to be built for coast defence fortification, hope to overcome the defects developed in such guns built abroad. In most of the guns of this calibre thus far built, cracks have appeared between the jackets and hoops after the first few rounds have been fired. This is believed to be the result of errors in calculating the force of the explosion and the elastic limits of the metal. It is thought that the hoops have been stretched beyond their elastic limit by the explosion of the charge, and that the cracks are the results of the metal not returning to its original shape. It is believed that the guns to be built here have been so planned that the force of the explosion will be distributed evenly throughout all the jackets and hoops of the gun, without unduly straining any of them.

DECISIONS REGARDING NEWSPAPERS

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DATES OF COMPETITIONS—Saturday, 17th and 31st May, 14th and 28th June, 12th and 26th July, and 9th August.

ENTRIES CLOSE 30th APRIL.

W. R. PRINGLE, Secretary.

N.B.—The time for closing entries has been extended for one week, to 7th May.

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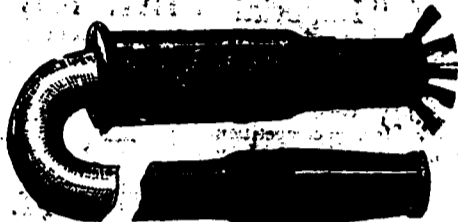
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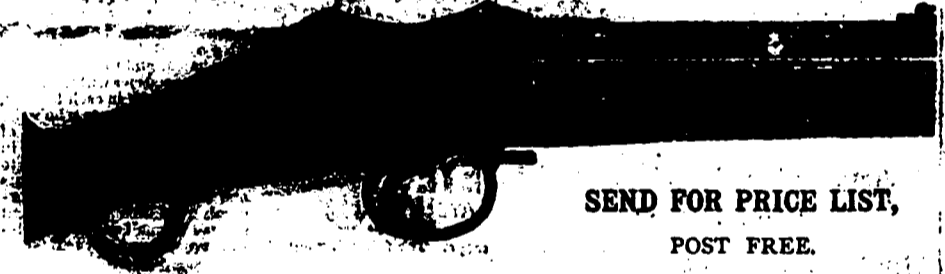
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