

THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE

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Topics of the Week.

An artillery commanding officer stopped his subscription to this paper last week, complaining that rifle matches monopolised too much of its space. He is perhaps a type of those commanding officers who, as the *Victoria Warder* says, do not represent the sentiments of their corps, for his brigade has long been noted as a nursery whence emanate many of the best shots of the Dominion, and has had a large share of the glory of a recent decisive victory in a team competition with the rifle. Had he only been patient he might have revelled in artillery literature, for the rifle season is about at its close, and artillery returns of all sorts are due. A batch of these, just received from the secretary of the Dominion Artillery Association, we publish this week. They include the results of the Field Artillery general efficiency competition; the prize lists and detailed scores of the Field firing practice; and the results of a drill and driving competition between two batteries of our regulars, the Regiment of Canadian Artillery, for a challenge trophy kindly donated by the officer commanding.

Apropos of the general efficiency competition, the officers of the Hamilton Battery will doubtless be interested, and grieved too, to note that but for the absence of two officers from inspection the battery might have been easily first, whilst now it is but third. We know nothing of the circumstances producing the absence of these officers, and likely it was altogether unavoidable, but that would make the fact none the less regrettable. The highest score was 260 points, and Hamilton had 254. The non-commissioned officers and men received 62 out of 64 points possible for their answers to the questions asked by the inspector, but the officers received only 19 out of 40 possible for their replies. Those who were present were well up, but they could not answer on behalf of the absentees. The prize for general efficiency is annually a cup presented by the Governor General. The winners this time were No. 1 Battery of the 1st Brigade, Guelph. This is their fourth victory in eight years, the former occasions being in 1882, 1884 and 1888. We congratulate them upon demonstrating this year their ability to make good their title to the Dominion championship, last year the subject of such fierce dispute.

We have to hand, and will in a future issue publish extracts from, the Instructions for Horse and Field Artillery, Practice issued to the Royal Artillery for 1889. These extracts we would recommend to the attention of battery commanders or instructors as an assistance in preparing for next season's competitions, which will probably be carried out on the lines here laid down.

A new manual of infantry drill for the Austro-Hungarian Army has been issued. It supersedes the one that has been in use since 1874, and aims at introducing a greater simplicity and rapidity in all exercises. It says: "The soldier must be able to load and fire in every attitude, in every circumstance, and under any condition, day or night, with the utmost rapidity and steadiness. He must be able to give his whole attention to the word of command." The new manual insists much on troops keeping to the closest order when in line. Although the French issued a new volume of instruction on field exercises in 1884, they already find a new manual required by modifications in the drill and tactics of infantry necessitated by the latest improvements in firearms, and the increased fire effect. Doubtless the lead in this respect set them by the Germans had a good deal to say to their decision. The French having just introduced a smokeless powder for the use of their new rifle, are in advance of all the other nations of Europe in this respect.

During the recent encampment of the Maine militia, the Frontier Guards were credited with making the best record in skirmishing under the conditions laid down in Blunt's Manual. Major E. E. Newcomb, I. R. P., 1st Brigade of Maine, gives the following particulars regarding the score made by the Frontier Guards. "With 30 men: bullseyes, 30; centres, 139; inners, 93; outers, 18; 280 hits out of a possible 300; total, 1,021 points, and with an average of 34 out of a possible 50 or 68 per cent. It will be observed that the centres exceed the inners by two-thirds; that the inners exceed the outers by four-fifths, while the bulls average one per man. In regard to the grouping of shots, it is found that had an ordinary sized man been standing in front of the bullseye he would have been hit by 196 of the 280 bullets which struck the target. I know of no such shooting being done by the same number of men, all *bona fide* members of the same company, either in the Regular Army or National Guard of this or any other country."

During the German manœuvres a trial was made of the smokeless powder, the troops representing the enemy using the old powder, so that the comparison was made between the old and the new. Correspondents of the London papers who attended the manœuvres describe the results as most striking. The enemy found it impossible to determine the position of their opponents, who were constantly getting to within 200 to 250 yards of them. Under the protection of cover they were frequently taken on the edges of a forest in flank, two or three companies being sent forward at double-quick and compelling them to withdraw under a murderous fire from their rear and right. So much in doubt were they as to the direction of the fire that they would, had the engagement been a real one, have been nearly annihilated before discovering the position of the enemy. The fire of a whole company only showed faint brown puffs of smoke, which would have taken keen eyes to discover. In fact, a whole battery of artillery with the new powder does not make half so much smoke as that made by a company of infantry with the old powder, and a whole company of infantry firing a volley with the new powder does not make half so much smoke as a single gun makes in firing with the old.

Indoor Rifle Practice.

On account of the difficulty of finding rifle ranges convenient to the great centres of population in England, and the fact that a large proportion of the volunteers cannot absent themselves from business to perform target practice, the authorities have sanctioned practice in underground ranges, provided an experimental one now being constructed proves a success. Outside practice will still be compulsory for all passing out of the third class on an underground range.

Firing on this new plan the ordinary service charge is to be used, so that the men will become accustomed to the "kick" of their rifles. In all the American underground ranges, reduced charges are used, so that the full advantage to be obtained in practising men to stand up to the recoil caused by the full service charge is not reached, and therein they cannot be compared to the scheme now sanctioned. The range being built under the actual head-quarters, the men can be trained in musketry by companies, or squads of companies, under their own officers, and this benefit cannot fail to be appreciated by the company officers who take a due interest in the shooting of their men, and will of itself tend to increase the interest in shooting throughout the whole force. Until the new smokeless powder and the new magazine rifles are introduced, special arrangements are necessary to rapidly clear away the smoke engendered by the discharge of the full service charge, and this will be effected by adopting a "wing" fan, driven by a small gas engine, which will exhaust, by means of an uptake, all the smoke, and at the same time act as a ventilator to the range and an absorber of the noise caused by the discharge of the rifles. The walls and roof of the range will be of solid concrete; and as no openings whatever, will be requisite, it follows that the range is absolutely safe. The width of the tunnel will be from 10 to 11 feet, sufficient to allow three men to fire side by side simultaneously, and the height will be 8 feet in the clear. Paper targets will be adopted, each man having a carton of his own to fire at, and after each competitor has fired, his carton will be detached and the actual bullet holes found in it will be credited to him according to the value of their position on the target; thus no falsification of returns can be possible, and no splash back of the bullet apprehended, the bullet, after passing through the paper target, being caught by a deflecting plate and sent downwards into a heap of sand, whence the lead can be subsequently extracted.

After some rounds of preliminary practice—which will be insisted on in all cases of recruits and previous third class shots—when a man has been found to become accustomed to his rifle and to occupy the true military position, he will fire his twenty rounds in the third class, and, so far as his musketry course is concerned, he will have finished with the underground range; but in order that he may put in practice what he has been taught, he will have to proceed once to an open-air range and fire twenty rounds in the second class, by which means he will have at least had forty rounds of practice instead of twenty, as at present in the vast majority of cases, and yet his business hours will not be trenching upon any the more than at present, but he will have the great advantage of having been thoroughly taught out of business hours, when he has ample time at his disposal; and the probable result will be that, finding, with the previous practice had, he is now something of a shot, he will not only get through his second class, but will strain every nerve to find time to go on still further and fire in the first class, and ultimately reach the summit of ambition of every good shot—the marksman's badge.

Much of the influence of artillery is due to the moral effect produced by the rush of the projectiles overhead. It is inexpedient, therefore, except in desperate circumstances, to place guns in rear of other troops. Cavalry certainly, infantry probably, would be rendered unsteady by the cannonade.—*Hamley.*

The Rifle.

The Twenty-first Battalion.

The first annual rifle match held by the 21st Essex Fusiliers in Essex Centre on Monday and Tuesday, October 14th and 15th, is described as by far the best match ever held in Essex County. Col. H. Smith, Deputy Adjutant General of District No. 1, alighted from the west bound express on Tuesday for the purpose of inspecting the battalion range while the match was in progress. He expressed himself as highly pleased with the range, and said it was one of the best in Ontario. He commended Mr. A. J. Green, President of the Rifle Association, as well as the officers of the battalion for the interest taken by them in this match. Lieut. Col. Wilkinson and Capt. Fox, the Adjutant, were on the range from early morning on the first day until the match was finished. This fact received particular mention from the D. A. G. on his visit to the range. The officers, non-commissioned officers and men from the various companies present were as follows: No. 1 Company, Windsor, Capt. Cheyne, Lieut. Laing, with 12 non-commissioned officers and men. No. 2 Company, Leamington, Capt. Ley, Lieut. Alderton, with 6 non-commissioned officers and men. No. 3 Company, Essex Centre, Capt. Jones, Lieut. Russell, with 15 non-commissioned officers and men. No. 5 Company, Windsor, Capt. Dewson, Lieuts. Bartlet and Ponting, with 12 non-commissioned officers and men.

The presentation of the prizes took place at the Royal Hotel in the evening of the second day. Dr. J. Brien, M.P., was present. Col. Wilkinson, on behalf of the 21st Essex Fusiliers, thanked Dr. Brien for his liberality and kindness in presenting the battalion with such a costly cup as a prize. He said Dr. Brien had always been foremost in promoting the interest of the battalion, for which he tendered the hearty thanks of officers and men. Dr. Brien replied briefly. The Leamington and Windsor teams having to leave on the evening train prevented any lengthy addresses. Mr. A. J. Green, President of the Essex Centre Rifle Association, received the thanks of the battalion for the medal given by him, and for the trouble taken by him in having all arrangements made for making the match a success. Mr. Green took a great deal of trouble, and lost considerable time in obtaining prizes to offer at the match.

The staff officers presented the battalion with a very fine cup. A number of these officers could not be present, but the cup they presented showed the interest they took in the welfare of the battalion. In the competition for the Staff Officers' Cup, the team winning the Brien Challenge Cup was barred out. This necessitated the making up of another team by No. 3 company in order to compete for the cup. This was done, and the second team proved as efficient as the first. The chief prize winners were:—

Brien Challenge Cup Match.—Teams of six; 200, 400 and 500 yards, seven shots.—Cup, No. 3 Co., 384; \$12, No. 2, 341; \$9, No. 1, 252; \$6, No. 5, 202.

Staff Officers' Cup Match.—Teams of six; 200, 400 and 500 yards, seven shots.—Cup, No. 3 Co., 390; \$9, No. 2, 355; \$6, No. 1, 271.

The individual matches were an "all comers," with some forty cash prizes; and two extra series competitions, for which prizes in kind were offered.

Ottawa Rifle Club.

This club had a match on Saturday afternoon last, for two special spoons presented by the president, Major H. F. Perley. The firing was at 200 (prone), 500 and 600 yards, seven shots with Sniders, and the chief scores were:—

J. H. Ellis, (sp, 1st cls).	29	32	24	85	J. E. Hutcheson.....	30	27	25	82
Dr. G. Hutchison.....	32	26	26	84	Major H. F. Perley....	31	27	23	81
Major J. Wright.....	31	27	25	83	R. Moodie, (sp 2nd cls).	30	26	24	80

The Russian army has a grade of officer peculiar to itself—namely a sage-femme for each fortress, as appears from an advertisement in a Russian paper seeking competitors for the situation. The emoluments amounted to \$150 a year, and a sous-officers apartment.

The five years' service system in France is now formally at an end, for the Chamber, by a party vote of 386 to 170, has adopted the three years' system, which will practically be little more than two. Instead of half the year's conscripts escaping with twelve months' service, by virtue of lucky numbers, all will nominally be enrolled for three years, but an opening is left for lucky numbers, if, as is most probable, the Budget cannot meet the expense of the full period of service for the entire contingent. Although, moreover, upper class and middle class youths will no longer be entitled after a literary examination and the payment of 1,000 fr. to volunteer, as it has been called, for 12 months, there are provisions enabling those destined for professions to obtain release after one year on proving their military efficiency. The same favour is extended to Seminarists, but if in time of war priests should be called out as Reservists, they are to act as infirmary attendants.

Comparative Efficiency Return of Field Batteries.

Table with columns: Battery, Commanding Officer, Clothing and accoutrements, Guns, carriages and equipment, Horses, Harness and harnessing, Marching past, Gun drill, Sword drill, Manoeuvres, Discipline and camping, Answers to Questions (Officers, N.C. Officers), Percentage of score gun practice, Reduction for absences or below establishment, Total.

*Lt.-Col. Macdonald, commanding brigade. a. Fired with S. B. guns. Scores cannot be compared. b. Failed to show proficiency in this drill. Hamilton had two officers absent; Montreal 1; Toronto 1; and Welland Canal 2.

Field Artillery Competitions.

The following are the official returns, just compiled, of the Field Artillery firing competitions, with 9 pr. R. M. L. Guns:--

Prize List.

Table with columns: Competition Name, Score, Prize Value, Battery Name, Score.

INDIVIDUAL PRIZES.

Table listing individual prize winners, names, scores, and battery affiliations.

The Detailed Scoring.

NEWCASTLE FIELD BATTERY.

Detailed scoring table for Newcastle Field Battery, including columns for Dir., Elev., Hit, Score, Total, and Overtime.

Table showing scores for other batteries: Sgt.-Maj. Touchie, Corpl. Petrie, and Battery total.

WINNIPEG FIELD BATTERY.

Detailed scoring table for Winnipeg Field Battery, including columns for Dir., Elev., Hit, Score, Total, and Overtime.

WELLAND CANAL FIELD BATTERY.

Detailed scoring table for Welland Canal Field Battery, including columns for Dir., Elev., Hit, Score, Total, and Overtime.

	Dir.	Elev.	Hit.	Score.	Total.
Sergt. Slingerland..	1	..	..	..
Time 9m. 6s.	1	..	..	..
	1	..	..	..
	2	..	..	..
	1	3	..	4	
	1	5	..	6	
Total				10	
Lost for overtime				1	9

Sgt. McDonald....	2	6	2	10	
Time 10m. 53s.	1	2	..	3	
	2	6	..	8	
	2	..	..	..
	2	4	..	6	
	2	2	..	4	
Total				31	
Lost for overtime				4	27

Sgt. McRae	2	2	..	4	
Time 8m. 34s.	..	2	..	..
	1	6	..	7	
	1	..	..	..
	2	3	..	5	
	1	5	..	6	
Total				22	22
Battery total					189

RICHMOND FIELD BATTERY.

Gr. Woodbun	4	..	..	..
Time, 11m. 10s.	2	6	2	10	
	
	1	6	..	7	
	1	5	..	6	
	1	5	..	6	
Total				29	
Lost for overtime				5	24

Sgt. Hawk	2	4	..	6	
Time, 9m. 50s.	1	2	..	3	
	1	..	..	..
	2	6	..	8	
	1	5	..	6	
	2	..	..	3	
Total				23	
Lost for overtime				2	21

Gr. Tonks.....	1	2	..	3	
Time, 8m. 35s.	1	2	..	3	
	2	..	..	..
	2	..	..	..
	2	5	..	7	
	..	3	..	..
Total				13	13

Gr. Fleming.....	1	..	..	..
Time, 9m. 45s.	..	..	..	..
	2	2	..	4	
	1	..	..	..
	2	5	..	7	
	2	..	..	..
Total				11	
Lost for overtime				2	9
Battery total					134

SHEFFORD BATTERY.

Sgt. Booth.....	1	..	..	..
Time, 8m. 55s.	1	4	..	5	
	1	4	..	5	
	2	6	2	10	
	1	5	..	6	
	2	5	..	7	
Total				33	33

Sgt. Reid.....	1	6	..	7	
Time, 7m. 10s.	2	6	..	8	
	1	2	..	3	
	1	..	..	..
	..	2	..	..
	2	..	..	..
Total				18	18

	Dir.	Elev.	Hit.	Score.	Total.
Sgt.-Maj. Birchall.	2	2	..	4	
Time 7m. 36s.	1	6	..	7	
	1	4	..	5	
	2	4	..	6	
	2	5	..	7	
	1	5	..	6	
Total				35	35

Sgt. Harper	2	2	..	4	
Time 9m. 29s.	1	4	..	5	
	2	2	..	4	
	2	..	..	..
	2	5	..	7	
	1	4	..	5	
Total				25	
Lost for overtime				1	24

Qr.-Mr.-Sgt. Chelew	1	..	..	..
Time 8m. 33s.	2	6	2	10	
	1	4	..	5	
	2	..	..	..
	2	4	..	6	
	1	5	..	6	
Total				27	27

Corpl. Dixon.....	1	4	..	5	
Time, 8m. 55s.	2	2	..	4	
	..	2	..	..
	1	4	..	5	
	2	4	..	6	
	2	5	..	7	
Total				27	27

Gr. McNaughton	2	4	..	6	
Time, 9m.	..	6	..	..
	2	6	2	10	
	1	..	..	..
	1	..	..	..
	2	5	..	7	
Total				23	23

Sgt. Stalker.....	2	..	..	..
Time, 10m. 25s.	1	2	..	3	
	2	..	..	..
	2	..	..	..
	2	..	..	..
	..	5	..	..
Total				3	
Lost for overtime				3	0

Q. M. Sgt. Davis..	..	..	..	..
Time, 9m. 25s.	2	6	2	10	
	..	6	..	..
	1	2	..	3	
	1	..	..	..
	1	4	..	5	
Total				18	
Lost for overtime				1	17

Sgt. Gaw.....	1	4	..	5	
Time, 9m. 27s.	2	4	..	6	
	2	..	..	..
	2	..	..	..
	1	3	..	4	
	1	3	..	4	
Total				19	
Lost for overtime				1	18

Corpl. Dudley....	2	6	2	10	
Time, 7m. 55s.	2	4	..	6	
	1	4	..	5	
	1	4	..	5	
	1	..	..	..
	2	5	..	7	
Total				33	33

	Dir.	Elev.	Hit.	Score.	Total.
Sgt. Seale.....	2	4	..	6	
Time, 9m.	2	2	..	4	
	2	..	..	..
	2	..	..	..
	2	5	..	7	
	2	..	..	..
Total				17	17

Sgt. Maj. McKerley	2	..	..	..
Time, 8m. 18s.	1	2	..	3	
	2	2	..	4	
	2	4	..	6	
	2	..	..	..
	2	3	..	5	
Total				18	18
Battery total					180

HAMILTON BATTERY.

Gr. White.....	2	..	..	..
Time 8m. 14s.	2	..	..	..
	1	2	..	3	
	1	2	..	3	
	2	..	..	..
	1	..	..	..
Total				6	6

Gr. Atkinson.....	2	2	..	4	
Time 10m. 6s.	2	6	2	10	
	2	6	..	8	
	2	6	2	10	
	2	3	..	5	
	2	4	..	6	
Total				43	
Lost for overtime				3	40

Sgt.-Maj. Wholton.	2	6	..	8	
Time 9m. 32s.	1	6	..	7	
	2	6	..	8	
	1	6	..	7	
	1	2	..	3	
	2	4	..	6	
Total				39	
Lost for overtime				2	37

Sgt.-Inst. Kerley...	1	4	..	5	
Time 8m. 14s.	1	6	..	7	
	1	2	..	3	
	1	..	..	..
	1	5	..	6	
Total				21	21
Battery total					218

The scores will be continued next week, when those of the Quebec, Ottawa, Gananoque, Guelph, London, Kingston, Durham, Toronto and Montreal batteries will be published.

Drill and Driving Competition.

Mounted Sections of A and B Batteries Canadian Artillery Regiment.

Conditions, same as previously published for a similar competition for all Field Batteries for the Gzowski Challenge Cup and cash prizes, but limited in this case to three subdivisions from each battery, with Government horses. Prize, a challenge trophy presented by Lieut.-Col. Irwin, commanding the regiment, to become the property of the battery winning it three times in five years.

B BATTERY.

Sub-division No.	Time.	Errors.	
1	1 m. 41 s.	5	1.46
5	1 m. 36 4-5 s.	0	1.36 4-5
3	1 m. 56 4-5 s.	5	2.01 4-5
Average			1.48 1-5

A BATTERY.

Sub-division No. 1	1 m. 56 4-5 s.	10	2.06 4-5
" 2	1 m. 54 1-5 s.	0	1.54 1-5
" 3	1 m. 46 s.	0	1.46
Average			1.55 2-3

B Battery thus won by 7 4-15 seconds.

Not a little comment has been excited in military circles in London, Vienna, Rome and Berlin, at the action of the Austrian military authorities in permitting only the military *attaches* of Germany and Italy to be present at the manoeuvres of the First Army corps.

Correspondence.

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

THE PROPOSED RIFLE LEAGUE.

EDITOR MILITIA GAZETTE,—I have a few suggestions to make concerning the Rifle League, and in making them feel that I speak for many other riflemen in St. John. These are: 1st. That the prizes should be awarded to the teams making the highest aggregate scores, instead of those winning the greatest number of matches. 2nd. That the times of firing should be, two in May, two in June, two in July, and one in August—seven in all. August is pretty much taken up with the provincial and other big meetings, and it is desirable that the League matches should all be over before the D. R. A. meeting, when there can be a meeting of all the teams and suggestions made for the next year's League. I would suggest also, three big telegraphic matches such as that recently held—one on the Queen's Birthday, one on Dominion Day, and one on some other day suitable. These arouse a great deal of interest on the part of the outside public; at least that is our experience down here. The non-appearance of a couple of our chosen men prevented our taking part in the recent match, and the public are quite eager for the next chance.

BRUNSWICK.

St. John, N.B., 19th October.

The Khedive has conferred the Orders of the Osmanie and Medjidie on 13 British officers who were brought to notice for their services during the operations at Suakim in December last.

The Vienna *Bulletin Militaire* publishes an imperial order increasing all the infantry regiments by 86 men each, being a total addition to the 102 regiments of the army of about 9,000 men. This brings the infantry to a war footing. The 41 regiments of cavalry, however, are to be reduced by 36 men each.

In an article in the *Illustrated Military and Naval Magazine* on Range Finding, by Capt. Willoughby Verner, the "Weldon" is represented as the best range finder for infantry, being portable and strong, not liable to get out of adjustment, capable of being used by a man single-handed for stationary objects, and able to take the range of moving objects with ease.

In commenting upon the magnitude of the forth-coming naval review as compared with those of the last two years, most of the papers overlook the fact that in some respects, at least, it is far smaller than that of 1856, after the Crimean war. In weight of guns and in destructive power the world never saw such a formidable array as will assemble at Spithead next week; but in 1856, 300 ships took part against about 170 this year, and, while those 170 will only carry some 25,000 men, there were 30,000 on board the 1856 fleet. Though the event of thirty-three years ago was more or less of a fiasco through some of the vessels becoming unmanageable, the mighty squadron with white sails set (the steamers were comparatively few) afforded a far nobler sight than will the heterogeneous collection of machines which all the world will in a few days be running to gaze at.—*Hawk*.

The results of the recent field firing by the British troops at Aldershot, when two regiments of cavalry, machine gun detachments, and five and a half battalions of infantry took part in the operations, have been issued by General Sir Evelyn Wood (umpire in chief), who remarks that the cavalry were employed more to test their skill in collective firing than as an example of their proper role in war. They fired from three positions advancing, and from two positions retiring, driving the advanced scouts of the enemy back as far as the butts. There the enemy was supposed to have been reinforced and to have compelled the cavalry to retire. The enemy's scouts were represented by a succession of rows of dummies varying from 300 to 400 yards apart. Out of the total of 4,271 rounds fired 505 hits were made, or a percentage of 11.82. Respecting the infantry field firing, Sir Evelyn Wood explains that the enemy's front line was marked by dummies 3 feet high, about one yard apart, and extending over 800 yards; his second line (supports and reserves) by screens 6 feet high and 30 yards apart, and his guns by screens and dummies about 400 yards in rear of the first line. The ground was covered with deep heather, most unfavorable for observing and correcting the fire. The actual distance from the main position was from 1,300 to 200 yards, and in the firing line 1,468 hits were made; supports and reserves, 1,438; and by guns and gunners, 145. The number of men engaged was 2,839, and the number of rounds fired by the men 20,308. The value of the fire, it is remarked, should not be judged by the percentage of hits, but by considering the extent to which the enemy's position generally was swept by a low and level fire.

Regimental and Other News.

The 66th Princess Louise Fusiliers, commanded by Col. Humphrey, underwent their annual inspection on the 10th October, before Lt.-Col. Worsley, D.A.G. The regiment assembled at the drill shed, and proceeded to the Common, where they formed in line, and received the inspecting officer with a general salute. He then rode down the line, and formed quarter column on the right company. Each was then minutely inspected, and the inspecting officer expressed himself as much pleased with the clean and smart appearance of the men. The regiment then marched past in column, quarter-column, and at the double; a line was formed to the left on the run, after which the battalion advanced in line in review order. The regiment was put through the manual and firing exercises by Major Weston, and Captains Brown and Chipman were then called to the front and exercised the regiment in several movements. Col. Humphrey then resumed command and put the regiment through a number of manoeuvres in line, column, squares and extended order; at the conclusion of which the regiment, headed by their splendid band and drum and fife corps, marched through some of the principal streets to the drill shed, where the rolls were called by Col. Murray, District Paymaster, showing there were about 300 men on parade. The fine appearance of the men, and the splendid condition of their arms and clothing, was particularly noticeable, and their drill was performed with much precision.

A ceremony which will be of interest to military men in many parts of Canada, took place at Woodstock, Ont., this week, being the marriage of Miss Catherine Scobie McKay and Mr. Wm. Mahlon Davis. The groom is the popular Adjutant of the 22nd Battalion "Oxford Rifles," and is the senior member of the firm of Davis & Van Buskirk, Civil Engineers, Woodstock and Stratford. Capt. Davis is a well known military man, being one of the first graduates of the Royal Military College, Kingston, popularly known as the "old 18." After graduating from the college he practiced civil engineering in the United States, and was for some time city engineer of St. Joseph, Missouri. Subsequently returning to Canada he "located" in Woodstock, forming a partnership with Capt. Van Buskirk, 22nd Batt., also a graduate of the R.M.C., and was shortly afterwards appointed engineer of that town as well as of the county, and the firm now have a very large practice both in Woodstock and Stratford. He identified himself with the militia by joining the 22nd Batt. as Adjutant with rank of Captain.

Toronto.

At a meeting of the officers of Toronto Garrison, held Monday night, arrangements were completed for the Thanksgiving Day parade, near High Park, in which besides the city corps the Thirteenth from Hamilton and the Brantford Rifles will take part. Arrangements are being made for low fares for visiting corps. The sham fight will take place in the country immediately west of the High Park, finishing at the west of Grenadier Pond. It will be followed by a luncheon. Then there will be a review and a march home. In the evening the visiting officers will be entertained at luncheon by the officers of the city garrison.

The Army and Navy veterans are arranging to celebrate Inkerman by a grand banquet which will be partaken of by the heroes who suffered and conquered in the Crimea and also by their comrades who fought and bled on equally glorious fields in other parts of the world. This will be the first appearance of the society band.

At the police court, last week, an old pensioner, Richard Byron, once Colour-Sergeant in the 100th Regiment, acknowledged that he was a vagrant, had no home, or any visible means of support, and got \$1 and costs or 30 days. His pay station is Halifax, and he was on his way to Barric.

THE GRENADIERS.

The Royal Grenadiers paraded on Thursday evening last about 320 strong. They marched out by way of Jarvis, Gerard and Yonge to Wellington st. where they practised battalion drill and marched past under Lieut. Col. Dawson. While the regiment was out, Sergts. Allen and Rogers put the recruits through their facings.

The regimental orders were as follows:—Second Lieut. Dixon will be attached to "H" Company until further orders. Blank forms of target practice returns and pay lists can be obtained at the orderly-room, and officers commanding companies will be good enough to have the former filled in and returned to the orderly-room without delay. The pay lists must be completed before the inspection, which will take place on Nov. 7. The commanding officer has been pleased to make the following promotions and appointments, to take effect from this date:—To be colour-sergeant, Sergt. G. T. Blake, vice Jack, invalided. To be sergeants, Lance-Sergt. Ph. Foley, "C" company, vice Moore, discharged; Lance-Sergt. H. Dye, "C" company, vice Price, discharged; Corp. O. Freemantle, "D" Company, vice Blake, promoted. To be lance-sergeant,

Corp. W. Carter, "C" company. To be corporal, Lance-Corp. G. Sparling, "C" company, vice Foley, promoted. To be lance-corporal, Pte. F. Gilbert, "C" company.

Col-Sergt. Jack is suffering from a paralytic stroke caused by the fatigue and exposure in the North-West. His company will miss him as he has always been a hard working non-com, of which there are not too many.

There will be another church parade for the "Grens" on Nov. 3rd. Capt. Harston of "C" Co. is moving towards the formation of a company fund for the better equipment and clothing of the company.

THE QUEEN'S OWN.

On Saturday afternoon last the Queen's Own Rifles paraded at the drill shed and marched to the Garrison Commons, where they practised the new attack formation under Lt. Col. Otter. Before they commenced he gave them a short lecture on the formation and movements, and then they advanced on the point of attack simply to drill the men and officers. They were then retired to the starting point and had blank ammunition issued to them, after which they again advanced to the attack amid the crackling of the small arms and the boom of the artillery of the enemy. When at about 150 yards distance, under cover of the smoke, the supports and reserve reinforced and then with a ringing British cheer, such as might have done credit to the Guards at Waterloo, they charged the position and took it with the bayonet.

It made the flank men "weary" to be ordered to lie down and die, because they had to give up their ammunition, and their fun was done. One of the "casualties" died very hard, judging by the way his legs waved aloft.

Capt. of Co.—Mr. Lloyd, rush your half company.

Lt. Lloyd.—You forget sir, I am dead; Sergt. Higginbotham is in command now.

Capt. Mutton's little whistle attracted a great deal of attention.

Lt.-Col. Dawson of the "Grens" was an interested spectator. So were Capt. Manley, Elliott, Michie and Gibson. The Grenadiers are going to have a similar practice on Saturday next.

Last Wednesday evening the Queen's Own received the prizes won at the recent regimental matches.

Massachusetts vs. New York

(Forest and Stream).

As the outcome of the matches shot at Creedmoor during the annual fall prize meeting of the National Rifle Association, a novel competition has been proposed by the Twenty-third Regiment of Brooklyn. In the inter-State match at 200 and 500 yds. the Massachusetts twelve, firing ten shots at each distance, beat the Pennsylvanians and the New Yorkers by 10 and 20 points respectively. In the Hilton trophy match, seven shots each at 200, 500 and 600 yds., the "world beaters" won by the narrow majority of 2 points over Pennsylvania's and 5 points over New York's team. [By reason of the unexpected enforcement of the time-limit for completing the match, two men of the Pennsylvania team were not able to complete their scores at the 600 yards range; otherwise the trophy would have gone to Pennsylvania.—ED. C. M. GAZ.]

The two teams first named shot with the Springfield rifle, .45 cal., equipped with the celebrated Buffington sights, which gave their members the advantage of employing the most improved arm known to the military service. The New York team, on the other hand, made its score with the Remington rifle, a .50 cal. weapon, having only "open" sights, and derisively termed the "gas-pipes." The closeness of the competition was a decided disappointment to the Massachusetts marksmen, inasmuch as it opened up the crucial question of men or rifles. Under the circumstances the "world beaters" should have won by a decisive majority, and left their less-fortunately-equipped competitors far in the rear. Having failed in the accomplishment of this result, the Massachusetts men began to cast about for the reason of the narrowness of their victory. They were satisfied that they had shot the best "military gun" in the world, since the experiments of the experts of the United States Army, foremost among whom stands Capt. Greer, the ordnance officer under whose supervision Fort Hill, at the State Camp of Instruction at Peekskill-on-Hudson, was constructed, had demonstrated such to be the fact, and there could be no doubt that the ammunition employed by them, and which was specially loaded by Government employees at the Springfield Armory, could not be surpassed.

The "world beaters" were accordingly anxious to ascertain the reason for the close call to which they had been subjected, and this expressed anxiety led to the following proposition from the 23rd Regiment of Brooklyn. Through Major Heyward C. Brown, captain of the rifle team of "Ours," it was proposed that an exchange of rifles should be made, and a match shot between the experts of New York and Massachusetts, either at Walnut Hill, Boston, at Creedmoor, or on some neutral range, such as Mount Gretna Park, Pennsylvania, or Sea Girt, N.J., as might be determined, the teams to consist of six, eight, ten or twelve men, as warranted by circumstances.

On behalf of the 23d Regiment Major Broun stipulated to furnish the Massachusetts men with a sufficient number of Remington rifles for team practice, Major Hinman to supply the 23rd Regiment team with a corresponding number of Springfields. Equal opportunities for practice should be afforded the contestants preliminary to the deciding shoot, the only condition insisted upon by the Brooklyn men being that the Massachusetts team should be selected wholly from some one regiment of the Volunteer Militia of that State, it being held that it would be unfair to compel a New York regimental team to shoot against the pick of the shooting men of the Commonwealth as represented by the "world beaters."

The match is likely to be made, since both sides are eager for the contest, and it is quite possible that it may be arranged to be brought about before the close of the current shooting season.

Military Bands.

The military bands of the United States are the subject of a very interesting article contributed to *Harper's Weekly* of Sept. 28, by Leon Mead. There are, it appears, over 10,000, averaging in the cities 25 men; in country towns 12 to 18 members. Despite the humorous and sarcastic depreciation they have received from the press, the military bands of the country are doing a great educational work among the people. They dispense both the popular and higher class music of the day in remote sections where the inhabitants are unable to hear them at first hand, and without their local band they would perhaps never hear them at all. Among the various nationalities represented in the military bands, the Germans, reliable as performers and steady-going in temperament, predominate ten to one. In the larger cities the Italians come next in numbers. There are comparatively few French musicians in this country; the number of native Americans being the smallest in the list, though they are increasing year by year. As musicians the English, Irish and Scotch belong to about the same artistic grade, no appreciable superiority of skill or accomplishment being possessed by one over the other. Curiously enough, the best musicians are usually very nervous men. Their sensibilities seem to attain an almost abnormal development. They are easily excited or irritated, often by trifling causes, which always keeps them on the edge of a row with one or more of their associates. It scarcely seems credible that divine melody could be such a strain on the nervous system. Yet the fine musician usually possesses a delicate, uneven temper, and though playing like an angel before the public, he may act like a demon behind the scenes. The bands that receive special mention for excellence are the Marine band, Sousa leader; D. W. Reeve's American band, Providence, R. I., and Cappa's Seventh Regt. band. But a large part of the article is occupied with a record of the triumph of Patrick Sarsfield Gilmore, who "to-day stands without a peer in his line in this country if not abroad." Poor and unknown he landed in Boston in 1848. He was only 19, but his rare abilities were promptly recognized. Ten years later, in 1858, he organized his own band, having meanwhile been the leader successively of the Suffolk band, of Boston, the Boston Brigade band, and the Salem band. Signor Carlo Alberto Cappa is singularly well fitted for the responsible position of bandmaster of the leading regiment of the National Guard. He is 55 years of age, having been born at Alessandria, in Piedmont, in 1834. His father was a major in Napoleon's army, and died from a wound received during the retreat from Moscow. Carlo began his musical studies at the age of ten. After a five years' course in the Royal Academy at Asti—devoted exclusively to the instruction of sons of soldiers—he joined the band of the 6th Lancers, in which he played the first trombone. Remaining in the army for four years, he then enlisted in the U. S. navy, and in the frigate *Congress* made a two years' cruise. On his arrival in New York, in 1858, Cappa, then a stalwart young man of 24, joined Kendall's band, and, later on, the 7th Regt. band, when Grafulla became its leader, in 1860. Though Cappa has served in the 7th Regt. for 29 years—for the last eight years as its leader—his service has not been continuous. From 1869 to 1876 he played first trombone in the Theodore Thomas orchestra. He also played the euphonium in the orchestra of the Mapleson Opera Co. for three years."

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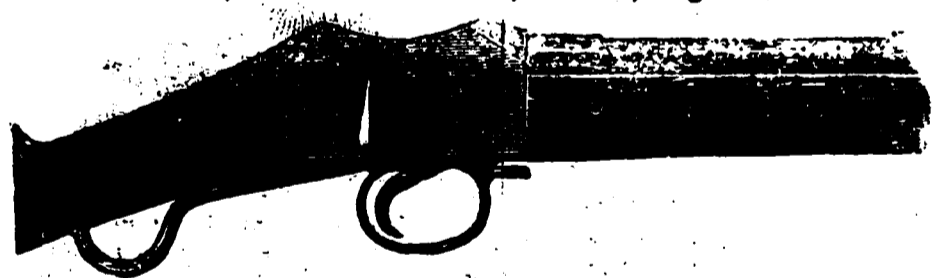
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