

# THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS.

### COMMENT AND CRITICISM.

Opening regular commissions to colonial officers.  
The organization of militia in the North-West  
The efficiency of the mounted police.  
Lieut. Van Straubenzee's return to Canada.  
Graduates of the R.M.C.  
Cavalry saddles.  
The Wimbledon target.

### PERSONALS.

### CONTENTS OF OUR CONTEMPORARIES.

THE ROYAL MILITARY COLLEGE.

ARMY REMOUNTS.

### SELECTED.

Cavalry saddles.  
The Shoeburyness team again.  
Common sense on parade, or drill without stays.—*Colburn's Magazine.*

### CORRESPONDENCE.

The Morrison Target.

### QUERIES AND REPLIES.

MESS ROOM YARNS.

THE TARGET.

REGIMENTAL NOTES.

OUR TRADING COLUMN.

## NOTICE.

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## Comment and Criticism.

THE London *Standard* is responsible for the following item. We have not been able to verify it, but if it proves true we have no doubt that many ambitious young Canadian militia officers will take advantage of the new regulation:—"It has been officially notified in general orders that regulations under which commissions in the regular forces may be obtained by officers of the colonial military forces have been approved and will shortly be issued."

IN view of the uneasiness felt in the west as to the permanent friendliness of the Red man, would it not be advisable for the government to raise a company of rifles or mounted infantry at each important town, if only to act as a garrison in the event of the Police being required for service in the field on an emergency. Several places suggest themselves where there would be no difficulty in finding suitable material; for instance Regina, Medicine Hat, Lethbridge, Calgary, Edmonton,

Battleford and Prince Albert. The objection has always been raised that in consequence of the floating nature of the population of these frontier towns a corps could not be kept efficient, and also that the arms were liable to fall into the hands of the Indians, but we submit that the time to hesitate on this account is past. Last year the several home guards gave good accounts of themselves, and the least that can be done now is to give, to the several communities so situated, that assurance of safety which the knowledge that they are adequately armed and disciplined alone can bring.

WE had the opportunity this summer of seeing the mounted policeman in all his aspects; on detached duty, on the route, in camp, and in barracks at headquarters, and coming upon them unofficially and without warning we were struck by their efficiency, by the power for maintaining order which even their uniform inspired, and by the multiplicity and variety of their duties. Whether they were on stable duty at the Regina barracks, driving heavy teams at Lethbridge, guarding the government property at Banff, or keeping order amongst the rough navvies on the British Columbia sections of the railway, they seemed equally at home, knowing what to do, and doing it so quietly and thoroughly as to excite the liveliest admiration. We had once an idea that they might be better handled if under military control and discipline, but now we feel somewhat inclined to reserve our opinion and await further developments.

THE appointment of Lieut. A. H. VanStraubenzee, R.E., to the instructorship of Military Engineering at the Royal Military college is a matter of congratulation alike to that officer and to the institution which, having left as a graduate, he returns to as a teacher, after an interval of employment on active service. Lieut. VanStraubenzee, who is a son of the Deputy Adjutant General of the Montreal district, was the second highest graduate of the class of December, 1880, and elected to take the commission in the Royal Engineers offered as a reward to the best graduates. He has ever since been with his regiment, and the fact that he has been selected by the Imperial Government to come back to Canada as an instructor in engineering is sufficient evidence of his success in the army.

EVER since the organization of the college the government has insisted upon the advantages to both the mother country and Canada that would result from its establishment, and Lieut. Van Straubenzee's return to us is one evidence of a closer bond. Not that he is the first Imperial officer who has returned to serve in Canada. We have Capt. Wise and Lieuts. Freer and Sears, and perhaps others. This view will be found advocated by the Adjutant General in a report of 1883, where he says:—"The liberality of the Imperial Government in loaning trained officers for professional work in the college, and in awarding commissions in the army to graduates, has been productive of good results, in enabling Canada to open up the college under favorable auspices, and to make provision for the future by the gradual development of its own resources. The purposes of both governments are, therefore, well served

by an arrangement which will doubtless prove beneficial to both. The professors who are lent to Canada will on completion of their tours of duty at the college return to England strengthened in experience, and with increased powers for usefulness, while it may be hoped in the course of time more of the graduates who have obtained commissions in the army may return to Canada, possessing qualifications for useful careers in the service of their native country."

WE reproduce to-day an English opinion on cavalry saddles, which should be interesting alike to our cavalymen, artillerymen and mounted infantrymen. Apropos of the discussion we may mention that the saddles now made for the Militia Department, and approved by Sir Fred. Middleton, have the line down the backbone between the side boards quite open, and that Col. Bredin, 59th, had at the last camp a very fine American saddle similarly arranged. This last had, too, the same arrangement of girths as all the Mexican and Cowboys' saddles, namely leather thongs passing from rings sewn into the saddle through a large ring on the end of the web girth, undoubtedly a much better fastening than any possible arrangement of buckles.

MESSRS. BOLLING & LOWE, of London, Eng., have sent us a colored plate showing the Wimbledon balanced targets, as supplied to the National rifle association. The design appeared to be most complete, including everything calculated to ensure facility and comfort in marking. The butts are lined back and front with brick, and roofed with iron or some bullet-proof covering, and the target and dummy which balances it travel up and down between iron guides. The system of marking differs from anything we have seen in this country. The dummy, equal in size to the target, is divided into four panels, each filled with a revolving shutter, one side of which is black with the value of a hit marked on it in a white figure. Even if the figures cannot be seen the value of the hit can be ascertained by noting which quadrant is black. We should like to have the experience of some Wimbledon men as to the relative merits of this system and the Dominion system of marking.

#### Personals.

Sir Adolphe Caron is in Quebec, and will probably be absent from Ottawa for some days yet.

Lieut.-Col. Thomas Ross will remain in England until next spring, on duty connected with the "Colinderies." Rumors that he has resigned command of the Guards are rife, but there is no official confirmation of their correctness, and we would not advise anyone to rely upon them until his resignation appears in the *Official Gazette*.

Lieut.-Col. Wyndham, late commanding the 12th Batt., to whose military colonization scheme we have alluded several times, has just returned from a visit to the North-West. His mission there was to locate a tract of land for general farming purposes. He found the land on all the rivers for 40 miles south of Calgary had been taken up, and consequently he located about that distance from the C.P.R. on the Bow, near General Strange's ranche. The colonel is an ardent sportsman, and is enthusiastic over the west as a game country. He bagged over 400 ducks and grouse while prospecting on horseback, and enjoyed some excellent fishing in the rivers. He reports that General Strange's ranche has again been run over by a prairie fire.

#### Contents of our Contemporaries.

The *Rifle* for October opens with a sketch of Mr. A. C. White's career as a rifle shot, illustrated by a cut showing the standing position adopted by him. It also contains a full report of the Creedmoor meeting, and the usual interesting English letter, which includes the text of Mr. Lowe's letter *re* the Martini-Enfield.

The *Broad Arrow* for the 25th has most interesting editorials on Ballot for the Militia, Mounted Infantry, the new German Cavalry Regulations, and Riel's rebellion, the last being principally a review of the official report of the active operations. It also continues the agitation against the new rifle.

#### The Royal Military College.

THIS institution is steadily growing in popular estimation, and year by year its several departments are becoming solidified and its course of instruction is being more and more highly appreciated. At the last entrance examination the full quota of students allowed by law, two from each military district in the Dominion, entered, this being the first occasion on which that maximum has been reached.

There have been numerous changes in the staff of the college within the last few months, which it may be well to explain. Last spring Col. Hewett, R.E., who had been commandant since the organization of the college, returned to England to assume other duties on promotion. He has been succeeded by Col. Oliver, R.A., next in rank, who will remain as commandant at least until the completion of his original term of service. Col. Oliver's former duties as professor of surveying, &c., have fallen upon the shoulders of Capt. C. B. Mayne, R.E., who has just been selected by the Imperial Government for that office. His record is an exceptionally brilliant one. He joined the Royal Engineers in 1875, having previously won the mathematics prize at the Royal Military Academy. In 1876 he joined the army in the Khyber pass and served through both Afghan campaigns from November, 1878, to August, 1880. During the first he took part in the advances on Gundamuk and in four raids on tribes, besides being employed in making excavations for archaeological purposes. After the murder of Sir Louis Cavagnari, at Cabul, he advanced with General Bright's column up the Khyber pass and joined Sir F. Roberts at Cabul with a relief column, which fought its way for nine days through a mountainous country. He returned to India with the rear guard of Sir D. Stewart's column and returned to England in December, 1880. In reward for his services he was appointed assistant instructor of surveying at the School of Military Engineering, Chatham, in February, 1881. Capt. Mayne recently brought out a work on "Infantry Fire Tactics" which has attracted much attention in military circles in England.

Capt. Davidson, R.E., previously instructor in Military Engineering, has succeeded to the professorship in that science, made vacant by the resignation of Capt. Raban, and Lieut. Arthur Van Straubensee, R.E., has been appointed instructor in Capt. Davidson's place. The late lamented Dr. Bayne was professor of chemistry, and his duties have been temporarily taken over by his assistant, Lieut. Cochrane, who, like Lieut. Van Straubensee, is a graduate of the college.

#### Army Remounts.

IN the English House of Commons recently Mr. Baden-Powell asked the Secretary of State for War if he could inform the House, in regard to reported purchases on the continent of Europe of horses for cavalry, artillery and transport, whether the authorities had recently made, or would now make, inquiries as to the comparative cost and feasibility, in view of improved steamer communications, of obtaining suitable remounts for England and India from the British colonies in South Africa and Australia. Mr. W. H. Smith replied: "The subject referred to by the hon. member has already had consideration. Officers are now in Canada inquiring as to the possibility of obtaining horses for the army in the Dominion; and attention will be directed to the resources which the South African colonies afford. I understand that the Indian army is largely supplied from Australia."

Commenting upon this, the *United Service Gazette* says: "The question of the purchase of army remounts from the continent was raised in the house by Mr. Baden Powell during the week. Mr. Smith, in his reply (which we print elsewhere), informed the house that inquiries were being instituted on the spot in Canada as to the possibility of our remounting from that Dominion; and he added that already India is largely supplied from Australia. Although it is doubtless preferable that we should draw from our colonies rather than from the continent, it would be decidedly the best plan to render ourselves practically independent of either source. Horse-breeding for army purposes ought to be more systematically encouraged as a state undertaking. The 'strip of sea' that is our strength is also the weak link in our chain of 'touch' with our colonies. There will always be a greater or a less degree of risk in depending on supplies which are liable to perils from our enemies. In India, thanks to the untiring advocacy of the press, the Government has established several centres where horse-breeding is carried on on a large scale. We would strongly urge the adoption of similar measures at home."

This is undoubtedly a natural aspect of the case from an English point of view, but if the plan were successful it would not help our Canadian stock raisers. We understand that the officers who have lately been purchasing horses in the North-West have brought back favorable impressions of the possibilities of the plains as a source of supply, and the ranchers should take care that this good impression is

strengthened by adapting their stock to the requirements of the service, and so forestalling competition from other quarters.

So far we cannot congratulate ourselves. The first batch of horses sent home as a result of the mission of the imperial officers, consisted of only sixteen from the North-West, in the vicinity of Pincher Creek, and thirty-nine others purchased in Ontario, principally around Cobourg. These were shipped by the *Carmona*, and are to be followed in a week or two by another consignment.

Speaking of their comparative want of success one of the purchasing agents mentions various defects in our system of raising horses, which are the very points that we have been urging ought to receive the constant and most serious attention of our breeders. Speaking of defects he says that the farmer and his men overdrive and overtask the young stock. The farmer thinks nothing of putting a three year old (and in many cases it had been noticed even at two years) in a team alongside an aged horse, and driving the pair along the road thirty or forty miles into town and the same distance back; is it surprising to think that such a thing ruins the young horse and brings out curbs, spavins, splints, ring-bones, ridebones and the many other ailments a horse is heir to. In the ranches we understand there are some excellent brood mares to be found and some promising young stock coming on, but more care is required in weeding all out and getting rid of the too small, the two leggy, and the unsound ones.

If a proper strain of good, sound and thoroughbred, with bone, action, color and size be only selected, a most invaluable class of horse can be raised. Care will have to be taken to lessen the present system of blemishing with the large brands used on the ranches; indeed, the best classer of colt foal should not be branded, but arrangement should be made to graze them in enclosures, to handle them quietly while young and growing up, to do away with the present system of rough treatment, lassoing, catching and then the broncho riding. Care and attention bestowed on these horses will in time produce animals full of size, heart and muscle which with good manners will command high prices in the European market, in fact as many pounds as the horse is now fetching dollars in the North-West.

### Cavalry Saddles.

(From the Broad Arrow.)

It is difficult to obtain any minute particulars about saddles prior to the establishment of standing armies, as no reference is made to them as a question of equipment before the time of Marshal Saxe, who, no doubt, in consequence of sore backs, etc., proposed one of his own construction. This saddle, of which there is a drawing in Major Luard's *Dress of the British Army*, is simply two sideboards with an iron or steel arch in front, and a sheepskin over all with a surcingle. It is doubtful whether it was ever adopted in the French service, but the idea was good, because the seat was low and the framework light. In principle some of the South American saddles are the same, viz., two sideboards made of hide and stuffed hard with a species of rush, and joined together. After this the Hungarian pilch saddle was generally adopted throughout the armies of Europe, while more recently the English army adopted the Nolan saddle, with the more modern innovation of the iron in place of the wooden arch and cantle. This is the present saddle now in use in the English cavalry, with the exception of a few which have been recently tried by the 10th Hussars at Aldershot, the product of the joint wisdom of the committee appointed with Sir F. FitzWigram, late cavalry inspector, president, and which, in one field-day, on the Fox Hills, gave 86 sore backs out of the total strength of 290 horses of the 10th! Let us now consider the modern English cavalry saddle of the universal iron arch pattern. If asked to point out the bad points of this saddle we should say: 1st. The sideboards are *too far apart*. No doubt this was to leave plenty of room for the panels, and to allow ventilation, but this is a great error, as when the boards are very far apart you do not utilize all the bearing surface of the horse's back. "The tree should not be extended beyond the surface, where it has to support pressure, and this being exercised chiefly in a *perpendicular direction*, it is not only useless but absurd to extend it too far down the ribs laterally."\* 2nd. The seat is too flat and broad, which prevents the man gripping the horse; it also brings him too far back. 3rd. The introduction of iron at all is a mistake, since if the plates are thin they open, and the saddle slides forward under the weight; if thick, to obviate this, you get too much weight, besides which there is a strain continually going on between the iron and the wood. The great point to be considered is to have the *tree* right to begin with, and *not* adapted to the horse's back by stuffing.

It may appear strange that it has been so difficult to obtain a good military saddle when the requirements have been so well known, but such is the case. No doubt prejudice and other matters peculiar to the

service are answerable to a great extent. We will now proceed to enumerate the essential points of a good saddle, and in a subsequent article we will try to place before our readers a description of a saddle which seems to fulfil all the conditions which we are about to lay down, and which has been tried by the cavalry of a country with entire satisfaction to the committee of officers appointed to report on it. First, then, a saddle for military use should be as light as possible consistent with strength. 2nd. It should fit uniformly on the horse's back without unequal pressure on any part, and having a fixed and easy seat for the rider. 3rd. It should remain in the place in which it is placed at first, without the use of either crupper or breast-plate. 4th. The under surface of the saddle should have, as nearly as possible, the same relation to that part of the back it is intended to occupy as a mould does to the cast that is taken from it, except that it must not touch the backbone. A well-made English hunting-saddle fulfils nearly all these conditions, and, consequently, sore backs in a well-regulated hunting stable are unknown. Why, then, are sore backs so common with the military saddles? Simply because, owing to a false and unscientific method of carrying the kit, wide panels are attached to the saddles. It is evident, therefore, that to effect any improvement the kit must be carried in such a way that panels shall not be required. Some twelve years ago Major Dwyer, of the Austrian service, wrote a book on saddlery and biting, which was the first book which we believe ever went scientifically into the subject. The book was thought by many persons in England to be too abstruse, and treated the horse too much as a machine, but to horsemen, as apart from mere riders, the theories put forward were very clear and simple. The principles of saddling advocated by Major Dwyer were those of the Austrian cavalry, and consisted not only in carefully fitting the saddle both to the horse and rider, but also in considering their equilibrium. Now, the idea of a general balance of rider and horse was nothing new in military equitation, but the Austrians were evidently the only European nation who systematically followed up the rule. Our own cavalry have *not* done so, the man usually not being in the centre of his saddle; while we alone among nations have stuck to the antiquated system of equipment, viz., the huge valise and old panels. To show that the principle of correct saddling and fitting of equipment was carefully attended to in the old days, we may here quote some remarks of General De Brack's from his work on Light Cavalry, 1809:—"When a saddle fits a horse well, neither crupper nor breastplate is required to keep it in its place, therefore these must not be drawn too tight so as to impede the movements of the horse and occasion useless friction." The difficulties that General De Brack had to contend against were very great, as the cumbersome and useless equipment were still universal throughout Europe, and even the continuous hard service of the First Empire failed to do away with these anomalies which the English cavalry still stick to. He continues, "The art of carrying kit lies in *three things*—1st, To take only what is *absolutely* indispensable; 2nd, To distribute the weight evenly; 3rd, To afford the rider the greatest possible facility of managing his horse, and to derive the greatest advantage from its powers (*General Rule*). The man and horse are but one; we must always try that the centres of gravity of these two must be one also, and carefully determined; for this purpose the weight must rest centrally on its support." This is precisely Dwyer's arguments, only sixty years older. The arrangement of the seat for the proper distribution of the rider's weight is of equal importance with the correct fitting of the under surface. Three-fourths of the time and trouble that are devoted in the riding-school to endeavoring to get the men to sit in a uniform manner might be spared, and the desired result more easily obtained by properly adjusting the saddle to the horse and rider instead of forcing the latter into a contest with a mechanical difficulty that requires a constant execution of muscular power. In English saddlery, except in the case of web-drawn saddles for officers, made by good makers, care is not always taken in determining the seat, and blocked leather seats are nearly *always* bad. The *girth* is another point of equal importance, and in the next article we shall point out in our opinion the place at which it should be attached to the saddle, and the texture of which it should be made, merely premising that at present *both* are the very worst that could be devised in the British cavalry. We shall also point out what we consider the best arrangement as between the vexed question of blanket or numnah.

### The Shoeburyness Team again.

ALTHOUGH the visit of our artillery team to England is now an old story, we cannot resist the opportunity of bragging a little about them now and then, and consequently make no excuse for offering our readers the opinion of the *Volunteer Service Gazette* on their merits. Speaking of the results of the competition it says:

"The meeting has been marked by two incidents of special interest—the presence throughout the two weeks of Colonel Armstrong's splendid team, and the attendance of Lord Wolseley at the prize distribution.

\* Major Dwyer's book on bits and biting.

The appearance of the Canadians ought to put our men on their mettle. We are quite aware that the former are picked men and are picked, moreover, in a way in which it would never be possible for us to pick a team to go to Canada or any other colony. But even allowing for this we must say that we have seldom seen such a body of soldiers as the Canadian artillerymen, who have just left Shoeburyness. Nobody, we think, who saw those clean-limbed giants performing the 'shift,' for the governor-general's cup will ever forget the sight. Their march past later in the day, in full panoply, was equally good in a different way. And they, or a great many of them, show by their medals that they can do, and have actually done more trying and important work than par-buckling a 64-pounder up to its carriage or marching past the adjutant-general. They will return home, indeed, laden with the spoils of the recent peaceful campaign. Our men have prevented them, not without serious difficulty, from carrying off the Queen's prize, but by their prowess with the Armstrong they have recovered the Montreal cup, which Colonel Ray and his men brought back from Canada two years ago; they have taken away the Londonderry cup from the best team we could bring against them, and they have refused even to let the prize given by their own governor-general, for excellence in repository work, remain among us. Moreover, they have won a first prize for shell-firing and a certificate in the ordinary repository competition, so that there will be rejoicing, fully justified in Canada."

### Common Sense on Parade, or Drill without Stays.

BY LIEUT.-COLONEL THE RIGHT HON. J. H. A. MACDONALD, M.P.

(Commandant the Queen's Edinburgh R. V. Brigade.)

(Continued from page 491.)

A real change must come.

It is admitted on all hands that both among the Germans and ourselves the spirit of the barrack-yard doggedly resists the spirit of the combat. Not in the matter of strict drill; this is as dear to the spirit of the combat as to her rival. It is obsolete, useless, injurious forms of drill, and the demand for the wooden performance of these as tests at inspections, by which all proper development of drill to meet modern necessities is held down. The military Prometheus, who has made fire the true ruling power of war, is an offender against the military gods who have been accustomed to men processionising before them, and countermarching, wheeling on pivots, and dressing in imposing solid bodies. Accordingly, he who says he has such fire as to make all this ridiculous, and proposes to adopt the ways of men in training for war to the exigencies of fire, is seized and made fast to the primeval rock of unbending form by the chain of custom, while the old devouring vulture of inspection takes the life out of him. Hence the piteous groans that go up to the military heaven crying out for deliverance. It must come. No Jupiter could have remained obdurate for ever against the man who brought fire to the earth. He would have had to accept the fact. If there ever had been a Prometheus he would have received a free pardon, and been promoted to a high office in Olympus, as the Controller of Fire, long ago. It is incredible that it should be otherwise in the councils of the Dii who presides over war. "Time is required before old views are modified by modern fact. I have been much struck in wandering over the battle-fields of the Franco-German war to see how much they have obtained to the detriment of the troops bound by them."—(Captain James.) And it is still so. No doubt drill books of all nations have made some advance, but the spirit of the barrack-yard holds on in preference to the obsolete parts of the drill books. Our own Field Exercise urges the use of unequalized companies, frequent changing of ranks, the dropping of men out of the ranks and going on with the drill without retelling off, &c., &c.; but such things are not done. Equalizing, countermarching, retelling off, and adherence to arbitrary fronts, with a view to the "objectless repetition of purely parade movements,"—(Lieut.-General Sir Frederick Roberts) are still the order of the day. The training in flexibility and prompt execution is sacrificed to the production of mere uniformity of appearance. Perpetual dressing at the halt, instead of exercising in recovery of order on the move, still obtains. It is the same abroad. Regulation books say that "the position of the soldier should be easy and unrestrained,"—(Austrian Regulations) but barrack-yard practices in preparation for antiquated inspection "get him into an unnatural and almost ridiculous attitude, cramping and straining his body from the crown of his head to the sole of his feet."—(Field-Marshal the Arch-duke John of Austria.) And while it is true that "military opinions in Prussia openly declare that excessive drill and the worship of forms must sooner or later disappear," (Ibid.) and although it is laid down as a principle that "a few simple forms suffice for all purposes of field service,"—(Prussian Drill Book) the parade is still too strong for the drill books. Any one who has seen a German drill parade knows how utterly contrary its practice is to the spirit of these maxims. The result in all coun-

tries is that what is done in the field, either in peace or in war, offers an absurd contrast to what is done in the supposed training for it. "We devote too much time to mere parade movements in close formation."—(Major-General Sir Gerald Graham.) Locking up was cut out of our own book, but inspection parade soon forced it in again. And in Germany "slow march and its barbarous cousin, the balance-step, are unknown to the 'Reglement.' In spite of this the slow march still lords it almost unopposed over the whole of the infantry,"—(Koppel) and this notwithstanding the distinct order that "at the instruction of infantry all the drill will be practised on the parade ground exactly as if the troops were before the enemy."—(Prussian Drill Book.)

Not only is the parade behind the drill books, they themselves are behind the time. "A general change of front, as made by an army, is so different from the methods perplexingly described and geometrically illustrated in text books, that it presents a curious instance of the difference between theory and practice"—(General Morris, U. S. A.); or rather it presents a curious instance of theory lagging behind instead of being ahead of practice whenever the show parade is left for the field of practical work. Thus, by an unconscious process, we have arrived at the absurdity "that there are two distinct drills taught, each on a separate principle from the other"—(Colonel Gordon Ives), and are found ignoring the universally important maxim, "qu'il faut tabler sur un ordre de combattre, pue la variete des lieux change a la verite, mais qu'elle ne doit pas detruire."—(Marechal Saxe.) Such a state of things must infallibly lead to results tending in case of success to too great loss, inability to follow it up and to reap its fruits (which means further loss unnecessarily on some future occasion), and, in case of defeat, disastrous loss. For "in an army, the less there is of harmony between its regulation tactics and the tactical requirements of the age, the greater will be the confusion attending its infantry attack" (Lord Wolseley), and the greater the confusion, the greater will be the loss. In all time the creation of avoidable confusion in your own ranks, has been, and will be, the playing of the enemy's game. "To bring up troops in imperfect order," that is in less perfect order than circumstances permit, "is to lose every advantage discipline proposes, and to present them to the enemy in that state that after his best efforts he has hope to reduce them"—(Rules and Regulations of British Army—Beginning of present Century. And that this has been the result in recent wars, where troops had been mainly trained on the old geometric and solid block system, is admitted. Speaking of what happened, it is said that on going into action "the organic unity of the troops is sundered at once" (Frontal Attack of Infantry), necessarily causing undue loss; and we hear on high authority of "disorder and pell-mell" (Prince Frederick Charles) as the necessary consequence of repulse, while the latest theory accepts the idea that pursuits by the successful troops "are extremely difficult now-a-days from the confusion. . . . The defeated troops have been able to retire without serious pursuit" (Lieut. Mayne); which just means this, that victory is only partial. All this arises from the fact that "too much of the school exercise," that is, the parade-style school exercise, "was retained in the fighting exercise, from which the latter must, with the progressing development of tactics, ever recede further" (Frontal Attack of Infantry); in short, that the test of the training of troops has ceased to be exact motion in exact forms, and has come to the acquirement of the power, while maintaining "the one principle," as laid down by Saxe, of "adapting the formation to the exigency of the moment, rapid rallying, maintaining connection between the tactical units" (The Fighting of To-day—R. v B.—German), and keeping in view that "we have now to consider how to adapt our tactical formations so as to retard and minimise the inevitable disintegration and confusion" (Major-General Sir Gerald Graham).

To effect this three things are necessary: that the nature of inspection should be changed, so that it shall not hold back troops, as it now does, from training in real "field aptitude;" that the character of the infantry work shall be changed and the detail minimised and simplified and adapted to the modern combat; and that persistent and perpetual inculcation of fire discipline be made of the essence of all training.

As regards inspection, it is lamentable how the general character of it affects the training of troops. The whole efforts in preparation for it are concentrated on doing nothing that will shake their formal steadiness and prevent their presenting a mechanical precision in external exactitude of formation, bearing, dressing and movement. It is generally a show and not a test. The starch of ceremony and not the firmness and toughness and elasticity of business is the principal mark of distinction. This is inevitable, as long as inspecting officers, and the book which regulates their proceedings, demand that it shall be so. "The first thing alluded to (in miscellaneous subjects in the Field Exercise) is the inspection of a battalion, which one would naturally think would lay down some sort of standard for a general to go by in ascertaining the fitness of a regiment for active service, but in the seven pages devoted to this most important subject, the only exercise alluded

to which would be of the least use in time of war is the firing exercise"—(Major Barker). If an inspecting officer is content with marching past, bayonet and manual exercises and a few antiquated manoeuvres, colonels of regiments will go on practising these *ad nauseam*, and will only devote an odd day or so to practical work" (*Ibid*). Hence such strong language as "I think nothing can be more utterly absurd than the inspections of the present day; they do not test the efficiency of the battalion in the least. Many a battalion that has the best report from the general at an inspection may be one of the most inefficient in the army" (*Colonel Davies*). "The system of inspection is not what it should be. As long as you have a system of inspection which goes very little beyond the merely ornamental part of military training you won't have the more important practical part thoroughly attended to. . . . If you want an army fit for war, make your inspections so as to go carefully into all that is important in warfare; if you want an army for show go in merely for marching past, and such like" (*Colonel Sir Lumley Graham*). The same complaint and the same views crop up abroad. "The stiff, conventional and formal become the tactics and training of our battalions, unless inspecting officers use their influence against this pedantry, and insist on the form being subordinated to the spirit" (*Von Kraft Prinz zu Hohenloke-Ingelfingen*). "What, then, is to prevent our relapsing into stiffness? . . . The real remedy lies in the nature of the inspection, for a corps will certainly be trained for the sort of inspection it will have to undergo" (*Ibid*), tending to the production of the "machine-like army," instead of the "living organism" (*Field-Marshal the Archduke John of Austria*). If this state of things were altered, there would no longer exist the extraordinary anomaly that troops coming from sham or real war are considered to be unsteady and not fit for inspection. The writer has heard officers in the army lamenting that it would take several weeks to "steady" their men, on their return from real field exercises, such as those on Salisbury Plain in 1872. This meant that real work was so inconsistent with and unlike preparatory work, that the practice of the former was detrimental to the latter, bringing about this seemingly ludicrous result, that the longer an army is on active service, the less fit it would become for inspection; which, turned another way, means that men are inspected in peace time, not as a test of their qualification for taking the field, but in much that real work in the field tends to destroy. It sounds funny, almost like a passage from "how not to do it," but the funniest thing about it is that it is true.—*Colburn's Magazine*

(To be continued.)

Correspondence.

The Editor desires it distinctly understood that he does not hold himself responsible for the opinions expressed by correspondents.

THE MORRISON TARGET.

To the Editor of the Canadian Militia Gazette.

DEAR SIR,—I have noticed in your issue of Sept. 9th, an article criticizing the "Morrison target." Allow me to correct an error into which you appear to have fallen: You say, "With this system in use the marker, when a hit occurs, observes where the bullet has passed through the target, and before putting it down places the spotting disc in the same place on that which is about to be raised." This is not so; there are two targets, and the spotting disc is placed over the bullet-hole, on (say) No. 1 target, while No. 2 target is raised and so on. Each firer, supposing there are two at the firing point, has a target on which his hits are marked, and one target *does not* act as a dummy to the other, as erroneously supposed. Greater durability and more satisfactory working of iron frames over those at present in use would, I am sure, amply compensate for the extra expense.

I am sir, yours, etc.  
JAS. A. MORRISON.

NEW FORT BARRACKS.  
TORONTO, Sept. 29th, 1886.

Queries and Replies.

Q. 1. Why do the Queen's regulations lay down the rule that an officer on service shall furnish himself with a silk handkerchief?  
2. What is the correct dress for an ex-cadet, R.M.C., when attached to a battalion for annual drill?—E.W.H.

A. 1. I do not think you will find the handkerchief mentioned in the Q. R. In Wolseley's pocket book silk handkerchiefs are recommended, I presume, because they are the most comfortable, and the most serviceable, and look well even when badly washed.

2. Unless he has graduated and been gazetted a lieutenant in the militia he has no right to any uniform; if he has graduated the question of uniform was settled by G. O. 2, of 8th January, 1886, No. 1, which appears in page 286 of the first volume of the MILITIA GAZETTE. For convenience sake we reproduce it here: "Graduates of the Royal Military College of Canada, holding rank in the militia, but not at the time belonging to any corps of active militia, will wear the infantry uniform when they desire to appear in uniform; with the exception, that the badge or headdress will be, instead of a numeral, the college crest encircled with motto, surmounted with imperial crown—crest, a mailed arm upholding a maple leaf; motto, 'truth, duty, valour.'" When only temporarily attached a graduate has been allowed to wear his cadet's uniform, with a lieutenant's badges of rank added.—ED.

Mess Room Yarns.

"That reminds me."

THE NERVOUS LIEUTENANT SCORES.

A good story has been told of a lisping officer having been victimised by a brother officer—who was noted for his cool deliberation and strong nerves—and of his "getting square" with him in the following manner.

The cool joker—Captain Blakeney—was always quizzing the lisping officer—a lieutenant—for his nervousness, and said one day at mess: "Why, nervousness is all nonsense; I tell you, no brave man is ever nervous."

"Well," inquired his lisping friend, "how would you act, thpothing a thell with an inth futhee thould drop iththelf in a walled angle, in which you had taken thelter from a company of tharpthooterth, and where it wath thertain, if you put out your nothe, you'd get peppered?"

"How?" said the captain, with a look at his brother officers, "Why, take it coolly, and spit on the fusee."

The party broke up and all retired. The next morning a number of soldiers were assembled on parade, when along came the lisping lieutenant. Lazily opening his eyes, he remarked to a cluster of officers: "I want to try an ekthperiment thith morning, and thee how extheedingly cool Tom Blakeney can be."

Saying this, he walked deliberately into the captain's quarters, where a fire was burning on the hearth, and placed in its hottest part a powder canister, and instantly retreated. There was but one door of egress from the quarters, and that opened upon the parade-ground; the occupant gave one look at the canister, comprehended the situation, and in a moment made for the door, but it was fastened on the outside.

"Charley, let me out if you love me!" shouted the captain.

"Thpfit on the canithter!" shouted he in return.

Not a moment was to be lost; the captain had at first snatched up a blanket to cover himself with; but, soon dropped it, he raised the window, and out he bounded, sans everything but a very short under garment, and thus, with hair almost on end, he dashed on to a full parade ground. The shouts which hailed him brought out the whole of the occupants of the barracks to see what was the matter, and the dignified captain pulled a sergeant in front of him to hide himself.

"Why did't you thpfit on it?" inquired the lieutenant.

"Because there were no sharpshooters in front to stop a retreat," answered the captain.

"All I've got to thay, then, ith," said the lieutenant, "that you might thafely have done it; for I'll thware there wathn't a thingle grain of powder in it."

The Target.

Quebec.—The members of the 8th Royals' rifle association held the last monthly match of the season on Saturday afternoon, Oct. 2nd, at the Beauport rifle range; a heavy easterly breeze prevailed all through. The following are the highest:

1ST CLASS.		2ND CLASS.	
Color-Sergt. Thomson.....	79	Pte. R. Smith.....	55
Sergt. Goudie.....	71	Pte. Hawkins.....	51
Color-Sergt. Perrett.....	69	Sergt. G. Norton.....	43
Sergt. Dewfall.....	64		
Pte. Douglass.....	63		

The Balfour medal, an aggregate prize for the man making the eight best scores on club days during the season was won by Sergt. Goudie, B Co., scoring 643 points, being an average of 80 3/8 points; the medal becomes the property of Sergt. Goudie, who also won it last year. The D.R.A. medal for 1885, awarded to the man making the ten best scores during the season on regular club days, was also won by Sergt. Goudie with a score of 794 points. Color-Sergt. Alex. Thomson, F Co., was a close second in both aggregates.

Peterborough.—The Review gives us the following details: The fourth and last monthly rifle meeting, under the auspices of the county of Peterborough rifle association took place on Thursday afternoon, September 30th, at the Peterborough range. The attendance was fairly large and the scores made were high, considering the very windy weather. The association has had bad weather at all of their meetings this year, but on no occasion was the wind so strong as on the last day's shooting. During the whole of the afternoon an "eight o'clock" wind swept across the range making good scoring an impossibility. One rifleman says that he had to aim 20 feet off the target to score at all. But even this is as good practical practice as could be had. As will be seen by the annexed table, the scores were very good when the unfavorable circumstances are considered. The ranges were as usual, 5 shots at each range. The following are the best scores:

W. A. Bell.....	20 21 12 53	G. Fitzgerald.....	20 12 14 46
R. H. Smith.....	17 22 12 51	A. Blade.....	20 11 14 45
F. Hall.....	13 20 17 50	D. Cameron.....	15 16 13 44
Dr. Bell.....	17 9 22 48		

The Ontario rifle association offer a silver medal from year to year to the rifleman who makes the highest aggregate score in any three out of the four monthly matches. Last year D. Cameron won it, and this year again he has carried it off. The following is the record for the medal:

D. Cameron.....	52 52 44 148	A. Blade.....	36 40 45 121
R. H. Smith.....	31 53 51 135	W. H. Hill.....	31 43 43 117
F. Hall.....	39 44 50 133	Dr. Brennan.....	27 37 39 103
G. Fitzgerald.....	35 51 46 132	W. A. Mason.....	34 24 36 94
Dr. Bell.....	37 41 48 126		

The annual matches will take place on October 11th and 12th, and those of the county of Victoria association on the 14th.

Winnipeg.—The second annual prize meeting of E company, 90th Batt., was held at Kildonan range on Tuesday afternoon last. The following is the list of prize winners:

Pte. Griffith, captain's medal and cash \$7....	75	Pte. Davis.....	55
Col.-Sergt. Dickson.....	67	Pte. Wilkes.....	53
Corpl. Smith.....	66	Pte. Holden.....	40
Corpl. Burke.....	64	Pte. Shanklin.....	32
Lce.-Corpl. Munro.....	63	Corpl. Coombes.....	22
Pte. Stevenson.....	58		

200 YARDS.

Pte. Griffith .....	30	Pte. Stevenson .....	20
Col.-Sergt. Dickson.....	26		

300 YARDS.

Pte. Davis .....	25	Pte. Wilkes.....	13
Lce.-Corpl. Munro .....	24		

400 YARDS.

Corpl. Burke .....	28	Pte. Holden .....	11
Corpl. Smith .....	26		

**Cornwall.**—The third annual prize meeting of the Cornwall rifle association is fixed for the 12th at Cornwall. The matches are open to members of the association. Snider rifles, government ammunition, D.R.A. rules of 1885. The officers of the association are:

Honorary Presidents—Lieut.-Col. Bredin, Major R. R. McLennan. President—Lieut.-Col. George McDonnell. Vice-Presidents—Capt. Smart, J. A. Paddon. Committee—A. McDonald, G. M. Snetsinger, H. S. O'Brien. Secretary-Treasurer.—Major Alfred T. Light.

The following is a list of the events:  
First match—7 shots at 200 and 500 yards. Prizes, \$6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 2, 2, and eight in kind.

Association match—5 shots at 200, 400 and 500 yards. Prizes, \$12, 10, 9, 8, 6, 4, 4, 4, five of 3 and 5 of 1.

Merchants' match—7 shots at 500 and 600 yards. 16 prizes in kind.

Team match—Open to teams of three from any association; 5 shots at 200 and 400 yards. Team prizes, \$12, 9, 6, 6. Individual prizes, \$5, 4, 3, 2, 1.

Fifth match—5 shots at 200, 400 and 500 yards. Prizes, \$5, 4, 3, 3, 3, and 5 prizes in kind.

THE ANNUAL MATCHES OF THE 43RD BATT. ASSOCIATION.

The fourth annual prize meeting of the Ottawa and Carleton Rifles' rifle association was held on Friday and Saturday last, and passed off most successfully, notwithstanding the weather, which, especially on Friday, was extremely raw and chilly. Throughout the meeting the light was dull and the wind blowing freshly from four o'clock; the only passable shooting weather was during part of the time the All Comers' match was going on, when the light was clear. The great number of events in the list kept the competitors busy and prevented them from fully realizing the cold. The two extra series, open throughout the meeting were extensively patronized, partly as a means of getting sighting shots. The Skirmishing match may be said to have been finished by moonlight, as it was not concluded till after sunset, when it was impossible to align the sights. In the Standing match a mistake was made by the markers in the size of the rings, which were only half the regulation size; consequently every score appears from three to four points too small. The officers of No. 1 company added some company prizes to those offered by the association in the first two matches, which had the effect of bringing out a large number of green shots. The secretary of the association, Major Anderson, reports that this meeting is the most successful yet held, and that a marked improvement is visible from year to year in the shooting efficiency of the battalion, due undoubtedly to the impetus given to practice by these very extensive annual matches. The merchants of both Ottawa and Hull contributed liberally to the prize list and so added greatly to the success of the meeting.

1. MAIDEN MATCH.

Open to members who have never competed at any battalion or larger meeting; 400 yards, 5 shots:

\$5 Pte. Heron, No. 4 Co.....	22	\$1 50 Corpl. Battison, No. 4.....	9
4 Corpl. Hall, No. 3.....	14	1 50 Pte. Dowler, No. 5.....	9
3 Lieut. Bradbury, No. 1.....	14	1 Sergt. Perotton, No. 2.....	8
2 50 Corpl. Tomlinson, No. 1.....	13	1 Pte. W. Kelly, No. 1.....	8
2 50 Color.-Sergt. Grant, No. 1.....	12	1 Bandsman Fisher.....	6
2 Pte. Cummings, No. 1.....	11	1 " Asselin.....	6
2 Pte. Fairbairn, No. 3.....	10	1 " Wheatley.....	6
2 Corpl. Clark, No. 1.....	10		

2. NURSERY MATCH.

Open to members who have never won a money prize of \$5 or upwards at any meeting. 500 yards, 5 shots.

\$6 Pte. Jas. Dowler, No. 4 Co.....	19	\$1 50 Lieut. Bradbury, No. 1 Co.....	9
4 Capt. Billings, No. 4.....	19	1 50 Pte. Quinney, No. 1.....	8
3 Color-Sergt. Grant, No. 1.....	17	1 50 Pte. John Ions, No. 1.....	8
2 50 Pte. E. G. Wilkins, No. 1.....	15	1 Pte. M. Birkett, No. 1.....	8
2 Bandsman Wheatley.....	15	1 L.-Corpl. J. Pooler, No. 4.....	7
2 Pte. John Fairbairn, No. 3.....	14	1 Pte. C. Cummings, No. 1.....	7
2 Pte. Boville, No. 1.....	11	1 Sergt. A. Perotton, No. 2.....	7
2 Sergt. J. Bray, No. 1.....	9	1 Corpl. Tomlinson, No. 1.....	6

3. STANDING MATCH.

Open to all members, 200 yards, 7 shots.

\$6 Pte. M. Heron, No. 4 Co.....	25	\$2 Lieut. Rogers, No. 1.....	22
5 Sergt. Henry Chamberlin, No. 6.....	25	2 Major Anderson.....	21
4 Sergt. J. C. Chamberlin, No. 6.....	23	1 Sergt. Fairbairn, No. 3.....	21
3 Capt. J. Wright, No. 2.....	23	1 Staff-Sergt. Jamieson.....	21

4. WRIGHT MATCH.

Open to all members, 500 yards, 7 shots.

\$6 Sergt. Jas. Fairbairn, No. 3 Co.....	29	\$2 Lieut. Henry Chamberlin, No. 6.....	27
5 Major Anderson.....	28	2 Sergt. J. C. Chamberlin, No. 6.....	26
4 Capt. Billings, No. 4.....	27	1 Lieut. Horace Chamberlin, No. 6.....	25
3 Pte. Boville, No. 1.....	27	1 Staff-Sergt. A. Pink.....	25

5. MARTINI-HENRY MATCH.

Open to all members, 500 and 600 yards, seven shots at each. For teams of three and individual competition.

Team Prizes.

\$8 and Printers' Cup.	Staff Team.	\$4.	No. 6 Co. Team.
Major Walsh .....	27 16 43	Lieut. H. C. Chamberlin .....	31 26 57
Major Anderson .....	30 22 52	Lieut. H. W. Chamberlin.....	30 16 46
Staff-Sergt. Pink.....	22 26 48	Sergt. J. C. Chamberlin.....	27 9 36
Staff-Sergt. Jamieson.....	24 17 41	Pte. Sparks.....	21 19 40
Totals.....	107 81 184	Totals.....	109 70 179

Individual Prizes.

\$10 Lieut. Henry Chamberlin, No. 6.	31 26 57	\$3 Major Walsh .....	27 16 43
8 Capt. Wright, No. 2.....	29 26 55	2 Staff-Sergt. Jamieson.....	24 17 41
6 Major Anderson.....	30 22 52	2 Sergt. W. T. Mason, No. 1.....	19 21 40
5 Sergt. Fairbairn, No. 3.....	27 23 50	2 Pte. James Sparks, No. 6.....	21 19 40
4 Staff-Sergt. A. Pink.....	22 26 48	1 Pte. James Dowler, No. 4.....	25 13 38
4 Lieut. Horace Chamberlin, No. 6.	30 16 46	1 Sergt. J. C. Chamberlin, No. 6.....	27 9 36
3 Lieut. S. M. Rogers, No. 1.....	21 23 44	1 Pte. M. Heron, No. 4.....	16 19 35

6. ALL COMERS' MATCH.

Open to all comers, 200, 500 and 600 yards, 7 shots at each. For teams and individuals.

Team Prizes.

\$7.50.	43rd Battalion, 2nd Team.	\$4.50.	43rd Battalion, 1st team.
Lieut. Rogers.....	28 28 27 83	Major Anderson.....	28 28 25 81
Staff-Sergt. Pink.....	27 22 22 71	Capt. Wright.....	27 30 21 78
Staff-Sergt. Jamieson.....	31 24 27 82	Sergt. Fairbairn.....	26 19 21 66
	86 74 76 236		81 77 67 225

\$6. G.G.F.G., 3rd Team.

Lieut. Gray.....	29 26 24 79
Lieut. Winter.....	29 16 22 67
Staff-Sergt. Sutherland.....	30 26 26 82
	88 68 72 228

Individual Prizes.

\$10 Lieut. S. M. Rogers, 43rd....	28 28 27 83	\$2 Pte. H. McCarthy, Gds.....	39 21 23 74
8 Staff-Sergt. Jamieson, 43rd....	31 24 27 82	2 Pte. Mailleue, Gds.....	26 31 17 74
6 Staff-Sergt. Sutherland, Gds..	30 26 26 82	2 Pte. Morrison, Gds.....	26 31 15 72
5 Major Anderson, 43rd.....	28 28 25 81	1 Staff-Sergt. Pink, 43rd.....	27 22 22 71
4 Staff-Sergt. Armstrong, Gds..	30 30 20 80	1 Corpl. Carroll, Gds.....	22 20 27 69
3 Lieut. Gray, Gds.....	29 26 24 79	1 Mr. R. H. Brown.....	30 27 12 69
3 Capt. Wright, 43rd.....	27 20 21 78		

7. AGGREGATE MATCH.

First series for the aggregates in matches 3, 4, 5 and 6.—D.R.A. medal for 1885 and \$3, Major Anderson, 183 points; \$3, Capt. Wright, 176; \$2, Lieut. Henry Chamberlin, 170; \$1, Lieut. Rogers, 167; \$1, Sergt. Fairbairn, 176.

Second series for the aggregate in matches 8 and 9.—Silver medal value \$6, Sergt. J. C. Chamberlin, 50 points; silver cup value \$5; Lieut. Henry Chamberlin and Sergt. Jas. Fairbairn, 41 points, ties, will have to shoot off.

Third series, aggregate in matches 3, 4, 5, 6, 8 and 9, open only to No. 1 Co.—A large photo of Sir John Macdonald, value \$20, Lieut. Rogers, 195 points.

8. SKIRMISHING MATCH.

\$6 Pte. Jas. Sparks, No. 6.....	30	\$2 Lieut. Henry Chamberlin, No. 6.....	21
5 Staff-Sergt. A. Pink.....	29	2 Capt. J. Wright, No. 2.....	20
4 Sergt. J. C. Chamberlin, No. 6.....	28	1 Lieut. Horace Chamberlin, No. 6.....	20
3 Staff-Sergt. Jamieson.....	23	1 Major Anderson.....	18
3 Pte. D. A. Cameron, No. 1.....	23	1 Sergt. Fairbairn, No. 3.....	18

9. RUNNING MATCH.

Sergt. Jas. Fairbairn, No. 3.....	23	Lieut. H. W. Chamberlin, No. 6.....	18
Sergt. J. C. Chamberlin, No. 6.....	22	Major Walsh.....	17
Lieut. H. C. Chamberlin, No. 6.....	20	Major Anderson.....	17
Capt. J. Wright, No. 2.....	18	Pte. J. Lawless.....	17
Lieut. M. Rogers, No. 1.....	18	Staff-Sergt. Jamieson.....	16

10. REVOLVER MATCH.

Open to all comers, 25 yards, 5 shots. Unlimited entries.

Sergt. Fairbairn, No. 3.....	23	Capt. Sherwood, No. 1.....	20
Sergt. J. C. Chamberlin, No. 6.....	23	Capt. Wright, No. 2.....	20
Lieut. Henry Chamberlin, No. 6.....	22	Staff-Sergt. Jamieson.....	18
Lieut. Horace Chamberlin, No. 6.....	22		

11. 500 YARDS.

Sergt. Short, Guards.....	24	Staff-Sergt. Jamieson, 43rd.....	20
Staff-Sergt. Sutherland, Guards.....	22	Sergt. Fairbairn, 43rd.....	19
Corpl. Carroll, Guards.....	21	Lieut. Gray, Guards.....	19
Capt. Wright, 43rd.....	21	Pte. N. Morrison, Guards.....	18
Staff-Sergt. Armstrong, Guards.....	21	Lieut. Henry Chamberlin, 43rd.....	18
Pte. Mailleue, Guards.....	21	Pte. H. McCarthy, Guards.....	18
Staff-Sergt. Pink, 43rd.....	20	Staff-Sergt. Cawdron, Guards.....	18
Sergt. J. C. Chamberlin, 43rd.....	20		

The special prize donated by Miss White for the best score made in this match by a member of the 43rd battalion was won by Capt. J. Wright.

12. 600 YARDS.

Staff-Sergt. Sutherland, Guards, M.....	23	Sergt. Short, Guards.....	18
Staff-Sergt. Jamieson, 43rd, M.....	22	Lieut. Henry Chamberlin, 43rd.....	18
Corpl. Corroll, Guards, M.....	22	Sergt. Fairbairn, 43rd, M.....	18
Staff-Sergt. Pink, 43rd M.....	21	Capt. Wright, 43rd, M.....	17
Mr. Francis, M.....	21	Major Anderson, 43rd, M.....	17
Pte. J. H. Fairweather, Guards, M.....	20	Sergt. J. C. Chamberlin, 43rd, M.....	17
Staff-Sergt. Armstrong, Guards.....	19	Sergt. Reardon, Guards, M.....	16
Pte. N. Morrison, Guards.....	19		

Regimental Notes.

(We wish to publish information respecting all the doings of all corps. Will the officers interested, particularly at a distance, assist us by having news relating to their corps promptly forwarded?)

CAVALRY SCHOOL CORPS SPORTS.

**Quebec.**—The second annual sports of the corps were held on the beautiful grounds of the Engineers' Park, Levis, on the 25th, and in every particular proved to be the most interesting and exciting day's fun which the people of Quebec and Levis have been treated to for many years. The arrangements were perfect and reflected great credit upon Lieut. Lessard, Sergt.-Major Baxter, and Staff-Sergt. Dingley, who comprised the committee of management. There was a very large gathering of spectators, and the proceedings were enlivened by the strains of "B" battery band, which rendered a selection of music during the afternoon. Among those present were Lieut.-Col. Duchesnay, D.A.G., Lieut.-Col. Montizambert, Lieut.-Col. Turnbull, Lieut.-Col. Forrest, D.P., and Major Lindsay. The entries were numerous, and each event gamely contested. The chief events mounted were the Victoria Cross competition, which consisted of rescuing a wounded man under fire, and the troop drill, with hurdle jumping in line and sections, both of which were immensely enjoyed by all present. The smoking, bucket, obstacle, and menagerie races, on foot, created great excitement and unbounded merriment. The proficiency displayed by the troop in the heads and posts contest was the subject of flattering comment. The following is the list of winners of prizes:

100 yards flat race—1st, Pte. Reason, \$3; 2nd, Pte. Simpson, album.  
 Quarter mile flat race—1st, Pte. Todd, \$4; 2nd, Pte. Simpson, \$2; 3rd, Serg. O'Brien, card receiver.  
 One mile flat race—1st, Pte. Todd, \$5; 2nd, Simpson, \$3; 3rd, Harrison, \$2; Pte. Bartlett, pocket book, Lapointe, \$1.  
 Throwing the cricket ball—1st, Reason, 85 yards, \$2; 2nd, Fountain, inkstand.  
 Non-commissioned officers' race, 220 yards—1st, Corpl. Methot, revolver; 2nd, Sergt. O'Brien, whip.  
 Obstacle race, quarter mile—1st, Reason, \$5; 2nd, Pte. Morency, \$4; 3rd Corpl. Methot, \$3; 4th, Pte. Todd, \$2; 5th, Pte. Fountain, pair spurs; 6th, Trump. Pugh, "B" battery, album; 7th, Pte. Shiels, book.  
 Sack race, 100 yards—1st, Pte. Morency, \$3; 2nd, Pte. Reason, pair snowshoes; 3rd, Pte. Simpson, lamp.  
 Hurdle race, 220 yards—1st, Pte. Reason, \$3; 2nd, Corpl. de la Salle, inkstand; 3rd, Corpl. Methot, cross.  
 Three-legged race, 100 yards—1st, Ptes. Bartlett and Harrison, \$4; 2nd Ptes. Morency and Todd, \$2; 3rd, Bg. Barker and Pte. Simpson, box of cigars; 4th, Ptes. Goodwyn and Fountain, box of biscuits.  
 Smoking race, quarter mile—1st, Sergt. Barker, \$3; 2nd, Pte. Shiels, one dozen photos; 3rd, Pte. Todd, pair slippers.  
 Bucket race, 50 yards—1st, Corpl. de la Salle, shirt and belt; 2nd, Pte. Fountain, thermometer.  
 Menagerie race, 160 yards—1st, Sergt. O'Brien, \$3; 2nd, Pte. Bartlett, picture; 3rd, Lieut. Lessard, pickle cruet.  
 Consolation race, 220 yards—1st, Pte. Trevier, a cake; 2nd, Leblond, lamp; 3rd, Corpl. Hunt, \$1.  
 Heads and Posts—1st, Corpl. Methot, \$3; 2nd, Sergt. Widgery, \$2; 3rd, Pte. Sheward, felt hat; 4th, Pte. Lepine, pair spurs.  
 Officers' race, half-mile—1st, Lieut. Lessard, cup; 2nd, Lieut. Heward, pair spurs.

P. L. D. G. SPORTS.

**Ottawa.**—The annual sports of the Princess Louise Dragoon Guards were held on the Rideau Hall grounds on Saturday afternoon last. The fact that there was a large crowd of spectators, despite the rawness of the day, testifies to the popularity of the troop and of cavalry sports.

The first event was hurdle jumping by the members of the troop. The first prize was taken by Tr. Gordon, the second by Staff-Sergt. Rogers, and the third by Tr. Olmstead.

Next came the "heads and posts" contest and tilting at the ring. In this contest each competitor had to ride past three posts, on the first two of which were dummies representing enemies' heads. These had to be cut off by right and left sword strokes, while at the end of the course there was a suspended ring which each competitor tried to carry off on the blade of his sword. The first prize was taken by Corpl. Bell, with Staff-Sergt. Rogers second and Staff-Sergt. Botterell third.

In the tent pegging contest, Sergt.-Major Thompron took first place, Tr. Gordon second and Staff-Sergt. Rogers third.

The next event was a three-quarter mile flat race in heats, open to horses owned by members of the troop or on which they had performed the last annual drill. The first heat was signalized by what might have ended in a serious accident, as two of the horses ran into the crowd in front of the grand stand and bowled over two or three of the spectators. There were no bones broken however, and the incident only caused laughter. The race was won by Corpl. Bell, who took two heats out of three; Sergt.-Major Thompson was second and Tr. Lane third.

The pony race came next and proved very interesting. There were five entries, including ponies owned by G. Gratton, Mr. Deslauriers, Doc. Coleman, W. J. Irvine and L. V. Macdougall. Mr. Macdougall's Indian pony "Batoche" was in poor condition and could not do justice to his North-West record. The race was won after three heats had been run by Mr. Gratton's Mattawa, Mr. Deslauriers' Charlie second, and Doc. Coleman's Cockalorum third.

Next came the Victoria Cross race, in which the competitors were required to ride a hundred yards, dismount, pick up a dummy representing a wounded soldier and ride with it to the finishing post, distant about two hundred yards. The first prize was taken by Staff-Sergt. Rogers, Corpl. Bell took second prize, and Tr. Lane third.

The next was the event in which the widest interest was taken. It was an open handicap steeplechase, the horses to be ridden by gentlemen riders in colors. The prizes were \$70 to first, \$20 to second. There were three starters, but of these one, Mr. W. H. Davies's Bob Madewell, dropped out immediately after starting, leaving the race to Mike Gorman's Beechmore, ridden by Mr. Paterson, of Montreal, and Mr. Wilson's Bob Lockwood, ridden by Mr. Gordon. A capital start was effected. For a short distance Beechmore led, but was passed by Bob Lockwood before the first round was finished. As the horses passed the grand stand the first time, almost neck and neck, the excitement was intense, and the closeness of the race was testified to by continuous cheering from start to finish. It was a pretty race, and both horses were well ridden. Mr. Gordon, however, was not in the best of condition, and though he rode a plucky race and received unstinted praise, Mr. Paterson overhauled him slowly but surely. All the jumps were well taken. Beechmore passed the winning post only about a neck ahead of Lockwood.

The programme was wound up by a cigar and bonnet race. The competitors were members of the corps and each was crowned with a grotesque bonnet and had to light a cigar during the race. The event was won by Staff-Sergt. Rogers, Tr. Powell being second and Corpl. McLeod third.

After the sports, Mr. William Powell, father of one of the members of the corps, entertained the troop at his residence in New Edinburgh.

**Toronto.**—The Queen's Own paraded last Wednesday evening about 450 strong, and under command of Col. Miller marched to the Moss Park rink, where they were put through a number of battalion movements, which were done in a very creditable manner.

The Grenadiers paraded on Thursday evening under Lieut.-Col. Grasett, but owing to the wet weather they were unable to leave the shed. Lieut.-Col. Grasett informed the regiment that their chaplain, the Rev. Mr. Whitcombe, had been obliged to resign in consequence of leaving the city. All ranks are very sorry to lose him, as he was with them all through the late rebellion.

**Winnipeg.**—The annual festive gathering of C company, 90th battalion, was held at Clougher's restaurant last week, Capt. Wilkes presiding, when about 40 members sat down to an excellent spread. The occasion was more than usually interesting, owing to the presentation of prizes won at the recent company matches, and to it being an opportunity of giving a send-off to Lieut. Jackes and Corpl. W. E. Slater,

who are leaving the city. Many expressions of regret were made at the loss about to be sustained by the departure of these popular members of the company.

**N. B. B. G. A.**—The following, from a late issue of the *Sun*, will be read with interest: Last evening the five batteries of the N.B.B.G.A. mustered in full force at the drill shed shortly after eight o'clock, under command of Major A. J. Armstrong, and headed by the band of the brigade, marched to the residence of Lieut.-Col. Armstrong, Wellington Row. On reaching this place, the brigade was drawn up in line, open order, and Adjt. Langan informed Lieut.-Col. Armstrong of the brigade's arrival and their desire for his presence. An immense crowd of citizens had by this time gathered and the whole street was blocked. On Lieut.-Col. Armstrong's appearance on the sidewalk he was received with a general salute. Major A. J. Armstrong, who has so efficiently commanded the brigade during the lieutenant-colonel's absence, then stepped to the front and on behalf of the officers and men, welcomed him back, at the same time warmly expressing their pride at the success of the Shoeburyness team. Lieut.-Col. Armstrong, in replying, expressed his extreme pleasure at the honor paid him by the officers and men, and gave a brief outline of the English volunteer artillery, and concluded with a high compliment to the Canadian Shoeburyness team. At the conclusion of Lieut.-Col. Armstrong's speech three cheers and a tiger were given, after which Major Armstrong handed over the brigade to the commander.

On Lieut.-Col. Armstrong assuming command, the brigade marched back to the drill shed, where the different batteries were inspected. The commandant expressed himself very much pleased with the men's drill and general appearance. He announced that the annual inspection would take place next week—probably on Wednesday.

The marching of the brigade through the streets was very good and brought out many complimentary remarks.

Lieut.-Col. Armstrong feels justly proud of the great success achieved by his team at Shoeburyness. He brought with him to St. John twelve magnificent cups—three large ones and nine small ones—won at the various competitions.

On the evening of the inspection next week, the officers of the brigade will tender Lieut.-Col. Armstrong a dinner.

## Our Trading Column.

This column is established for the purpose of enabling our friends to exchange, purchase, sell, or otherwise advertise articles they desire either to acquire or dispose of. It is not available for commercial purposes.

The cost of announcements in this column for each insertion will be one cent per word for the first ten words one-half cent for each additional word. Each advertisement will have a register number in our books, and all communications regarding it must be forwarded through the GAZETTE, but it must be distinctly understood that this office incurs no other responsibility or liability in connection therewith. Address, with stamp for return postage, Canadian Militia Gazette, Box 316, Ottawa.

**FOUND.**—In 1885, north of Lake Superior, a medal. Owner can recover it by proving property and paying expenses. Register No. 1.

**WILL THE COMPETITOR** who, on the 26th August, took a Turner Snider out of the Grand Union at Ottawa, leaving his own in its place, communicate with a view to rectification of mistake. Register No. 2.

**WANTED TO PURCHASE.**—Rifle mounted officer's saddlery. Describe and quote prices. Register No. 3.

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G. POWELL,  
 Under Secretary of State.

Ottawa, 19th Feb., 1886.

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A. M. BURGESS,  
 Deputy of the  
 Minister of the Interior.

Department of the Interior,  
 Ottawa, 6th September, 1886.

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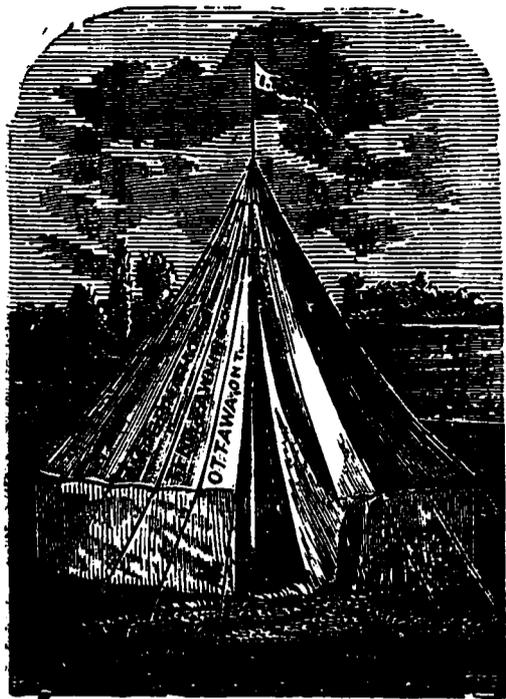
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A. CAMPBELL,

Postmaster-General.

Post Office Department,  
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