

THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE

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CONTENTS OF THIS NUMBER

EDITORIAL NOTES.

An admitted evil.
Only graduates need apply.
The D. R. A. finances.
Canada's good showing at Wimbledon.
How our team popularizes the country.
Militia Department annual report.
Practical suggestions from Gen. Middleton.
His views on rifle shooting.
Schemes in contemplation.
Eligibility for the Prince of Wales prize.
Revolver shooting in England.
Torpedo experiments.
Advice to commanding officers.

POETRY—"Colours to the Front"—*Colburn's Magazine.*

CORRESPONDENCE.

Compliments on the march—*Milish.*
The Cobourg Garrison Artillery—*Capt. J. H. Dumble*

MILITIA NEWS AND NOTES.

ANNUAL REPORT OF MILITIA DEPARTMENT.
Synopsis of Reports of Deputy Minister;
General Officer Commanding; Inspector
of Artillery; Inspector of Engineers; and
Director of Stores.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Current Topics.

OUR Toronto correspondent who this week questions the wisdom of making non-combatant officers eligible for court-martial duties, will no doubt be pleased to see, by the annual report of the Militia Department, that his views on the matter are those expressed by the officer commanding.

HERE is a pointer for the Canadian Militia authorities—it is an extract from the *U. S. Army and Navy Journal*: "To save civilian applicants for commissions in the regular army from further trouble, we can state with authority that the President has drawn the line at non-commissioned officers, declaring positively that vacancies from this time on will be reserved for the class to graduate from the Military Academy in June next."

FINANCIALLY, the Dominion Rifle Association is in a very creditable position, as shown by the statement of the treasurer, Lt.-Col. John Macpherson, in the annual report just published. The receipts from all sources in 1887 were \$17,448, the expenditure was \$17,133, and the surplus now on hand is \$2,440. The prize list for the year was the best yet offered, amounting to \$6,693. Towards this the competitors contributed upwards of four thousand dollars in the shape of entry and membership fees. The expenses of the Wimbledon team were \$5,811, a slight reduction from the account for 1886.

LIEUT.-COL. OUIMET, who commanded the Wimbledon team, in his report to the President of the D. R. A. alludes with pride to the fact that three Canadians won their way into the hundred competitors who shoot in the final stage for the Queen's prize. "This fine result," he says, "was an agreeable surprise to our warmest friends, and leads to the hope that in the near future, with anything like good luck, the 'blue ribbon' may be carried off by a Canadian. 'Tis will not appear to you a useless boast, when I mention that after the two first rounds at the last—that is the 900 yards—range in the last stage, a Canadian (Sergt. Ogg) was leading."

THE Commandant is enthusiastic in his narration of the kind treatment accorded the team in England. He says: "I have seen with great pleasure and pride that of the four thousand competitors who meet every year at Wimbledon, from all parts of the United Empire, none receive a more hearty welcome than the Canadians. The Association seems to have been particularly well represented in past years by officers

and men who have made the name of Canada most popular on Wimbledon common amongst the British aristocracy and yeomanry. * * * Many other successful efforts have been and are yet made to make Canada known in the United Kingdom; but nothing, it seems to me, can do more to popularize Canada amongst the best of every class of our fellow subjects in the mother country, than our sending to Wimbledon every year a Canadian representative team of our best riflemen." In conclusion Col. Ouimet pays a tribute, we are sure deserved, to Capt. J. T. Hartt, adjutant of the team, for his careful and judicious management.

THE annual report of the Department of Militia and Defence has made its appearance, and an extended synopsis of a portion of its contents will be found in this issue. As the report, exclusive of the Militia List which accompanies it, occupies close on three hundred pages of the blue book, it is no small task to master its contents and their significance. However, we have extracted for publication this week the points of most general and immediate interest; in subsequent issues the substance of other portions of the report will be published. There is a vast amount of valuable information to be gleaned from the volume. The recommendations and suggestions contained in the annual reports have very often in the past been completely ignored; why, it would be hard to say, unless it is that no one has made it his business to press for their adoption or at least earnest consideration. The greater part of the recommendations contained in the volume just out have been made on former occasions, but no action has been taken with respect to them.

A PERUSAL of our synopsis of Lieut.-Gen. Middleton's report will well repay the time spent. He makes practical suggestions for improvement in many directions. The permanent force will, we are sure, particularly appreciate the solicitude he has shown for their welfare. For the present establishment he bespeaks more pay, equipment of the latest pattern; Martini-Henry rifles, and ammunition sufficient to enable the men to become proficient in the use of them; hospital clothing for the invalided, and several other things which an appreciative country might reasonably be expected to provide; and an increase in the number of officers is asked for.

ENEMIES of the old Snider will feel that they have met with a reverse when they read the General's endorsement of that weapon. It would, as he says, be too expensive to arm the force with Martinis, in view of the fact that that arm is now about to be superseded, but we would like to have seen a recommendation that the large number now in Canada's possession should be issued to certain corps likely to make good use of them. The importance of greater attention being paid to rifle shooting is again emphasized, and the special praise given to one D. A. G. who made it a prominent feature of his brigade camp instruction we hope will stimulate others to follow his example. It will be noticed that the General is not backward in assigning to the rifle associations the credit for what proficiency has been attained in shooting by the force of this country.

A SCHEME for the redistribution of the garrison artillery in the Dominion is in course of preparation by General Middleton; and amongst other measures for the benefit of the force which he has in contemplation is the making of provision for a course of lectures on military subjects to be given under the direction of the commandants at the different stations where there are schools of instruction. Further details of these propositions will, we are sure, be received with widespread interest.

HOLDERS of National Rifle Association medals in this country will be particularly interested in a proposed amendment to the rules governing entrance for the Prince of Wales' prize. It is to be moved by Lord Wantage and seconded by Lord Waldegrave, and is that the winner of a N. R. A. silver or bronze medal, or medals, shall be entitled to compete once for the Prince of Wales' prize in respect of each such medal won by him, but he cannot compete more than once any year.

REVOLVER shooting appears to be occupying increased attention in England of late. There are two memorials about to be presented to the Council of the National Rifle Association concerning the revolver competitions of that body. One asks for a circular bulls-eye and centre, as fairer than the squares now used; and the other asks for fixed revolver targets for pool and sweepstakes, as likely to increase the popularity and add to the financial success of the revolver competitions; and also for a separate competition for those who have never won a revolver prize at Wimbledon.

TORPEDOES and torpedo corps will be apt to receive more general attention in this country now that they form one of the subjects to be considered by the lately appointed military commission. Experimenting with torpedoes is being carried on to considerable extent in the Imperial service. The Mediterranean squadron recently had a series of trials in firing Whitehead torpedoes when steaming 12 knots, probably about the usual rate which will be maintained in action, which have not shown the torpedoes to much advantage. Several proved erratic in their course, and one was altogether lost; not a few of the carriages from which they were discharged were found to be inefficient, so that the practice was anything but satisfactory. The Austrians forecast almost insurmountable difficulties to be experienced in using the Whitehead in warfare; the Portsmouth commander-in-chief dubs it unreliable, and Capt. Haig, whose views expressed in the Royal United Service Institution seemed to meet with general acceptance from his audience, thinks the flying torpedo a more formidable missile than either the Brennan or the Whitehead.

IN framing regulations and orders endeavour to adopt them to the convenience of those by whom they are to be obeyed." This was the excellent advice to commanding officers offered by Lt.-Col. A. C. Robertson, 8th King's regiment, in 1864, supplementing his injunction as follows: "The first consideration of a commanding officer ought to be the good of the service; the next, the well-being and convenience of those under his command. To promote either of these objects, he ought at all times to be ready to sacrifice his own inclinations and convenience. An officer of an unselfish disposition, who feels a real and lively interest in the well-being of those under his command, will find many opportunities of showing the influence of these feelings in determining the manner in which he exercises his authority. He will fix the hour of parade, the time of transacting orderly-room business, and the whole routine of the daily regimental duties and arrangements, not with reference to his own habits and pursuits, but with reference to the habits and pursuits of those under his command, as a general rule preferring the convenience of the private soldiers to that of the non-commissioned officers, and the convenience of the non-commis-

sioned officers to that of the commissioned officers. He will never suffer himself to be tempted to impose extra tasks, or to exact extraordinary efforts from his men, merely for the sake of reflecting credit on himself and of obtaining the reputation of being a smart officer; but in determining the kind and amount of work to be required of his men, he will be guided solely by the consideration of what he considers to be necessary for the good of the service, and to be most conducive to the well-being and happiness of the men. The natural effect of exercising authority in accordance with these principles, will be to inspire feelings of affection and good will. The devotion of his followers is the certain reward of the self-sacrifice of a leader."

Colours to the Depot.

[It was a short time ago decided that regiments of the British Army should leave their colours behind when proceeding on active service.]

NEVERMORE, in press of battle,
Shall our old, historic corps,
Midst the tumult and the rattle,
Gather—as in days of yore—
Round those emblems of our glory
Dearer still than love or life,
Round our Regimental Story,
As it floats above the strife.

Nevermore, when sore outnumbered,
Foes against us ten to one,
Field with British dead encumbered,
Fortune seems our arms to shun—
Shall a rallying point, appearing
Forth from out our broken line,
Re-unite us, madly cheering,
Round that hallowed, sacred shrine.

Nevermore shall comrade, lying
On the red field, stricken sore,
Lonely, faint, and helpless, dying
Bravely for the dear old corps—
With a last, long look of craving,
Feel the sting of death is past,
See his Colours, proudly waving,
Borne to victory—at last

—A. M. F., in Colburn's Magazine.

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.]

COMPLIMENTS ON THE MARCH.

To the Editor of the Canadian Militia Gazette:

SIR,—The "Mentor" of the militia force adopts the Milesian method of answering a question—by asking another. As he now wants to know what officers in the Canadian militia are, by Regulations, entitled to be noticed, I will try to help in his pursuit of knowledge by referring him to the Queen's Regulations, Sec. III, para. 21, where he will find it written: "Guards and parties on the march will also pay the prescribed compliments to general officers in uniform." MILISH.

THE COBOURG GARRISON ARTILLERY.

To the Editor of the Canadian Militia Gazette:

SIR,—In a recent issue of your valuable and interesting paper was an article amongst your Current Topics respecting "garrison batteries." After stating that the Toronto battery was disbanded and the Collingwood one wiped out, you observe that "the sole survivor, the Cobourg battery, is not in that condition, it is said, in which its best friends can speak very enthusiastically of its prospects." I do not know who the best friends of the battery are who make such a statement. I do not think they reside in Cobourg or are to be found among the officers who for the past twenty-one years have annually inspected us. Should the battery be wiped out by the authorities it would save its officers much trouble and expense. But I do not think it can be disbanded on the ground of inefficiency. The Cobourg battery was organized during the Fenian raid of 1866 and was composed of the leading men in Cobourg. Amongst its rank and file were those who to-day are chief justices and leading bank managers, and although the present members have not the social status of the first men they have proved themselves good shots with gun and rifle, and clean, smart soldiers at inspection. The present officers have been associated with it from its organization. The battery has never failed to turn out full strength, and never missed an annual inspection since 1866, and it always has had the good fortune to be favourably spoken of by the inspecting officers. It is a joke amongst us that we marched out during the Fenian raid 52 strong and after the campaign returned 60 strong, many of our garrison insisting upon joining us at Toronto. We have laboured under great disadvantages. We have no proper armoury, no drill shed, no modern guns, none of the advantages incident to the regimental formations of other arms of the service, *no promotion*. Yet we are all there, are very conceited and fond of our corps and its record, and consider ourselves unmeasurably superior to any other company of any service. So much for conceit. And so long as we are permitted to remain a military organization we will try to the best of our ability to maintain our efficiency and reputation, notwithstanding the forebodings of our "alleged best friends."

Cobourg, Ont., Feb., '88.

J. H. DUMBLE, Captain.

A letter from the Rev. John A. Cass will be printed in the forthcoming number of *The American Magazine*, advocating a somewhat startling method of depleting the surplus in the National Treasury. He proposes to extend the pension system to wounded and disabled Confederate soldiers. The scheme is urged on the broad ground of humanity, and its author thinks that even the Grand Army of the Republic may view it with favour.

GOSSIP OF THE MILITIA.

The Undesired Notoriety Achieved by the "Household Troops."

Honours for volunteer officers foreshadowed—The late Major Drumm—
Quiet times with the Montreal Corps—Ottawa brushing up for
the Session—Presentation to the Guards' popular
Sergeant-Major—Toronto's interesting
Budget

CURRENCY is given by the Montreal *Star* to the following speculative paragraph:—"A rumour of considerable interest to the militia has arisen in connection with the approaching change of Governor-General. The report is that Lord Lansdowne before leaving Canada will bestow C.M.G.'s upon those officers of the militia who acted as commanders of columns or of regiments under fire during the North-West uprising. At the time of the termination of the rebellion surprise was expressed that no honours were bestowed upon any but the commander-in-chief, although he is known to have recommended several of his subordinates for honours."

Major Wm. Drumm, the officer who for over twenty years had commanded the St. Johns, Q., Battery of Garrison Artillery, disbanded by last General Orders, did not long survive his corps, his death taking place last week. He had reached the allotted age of three score years and ten. Major Drumm was born in Longford County, Ireland, in 1818. He came to Canada in 1847 and was for 15 years employed in the office of the old Montreal & Champlain railway. Then, when the Grand Trunk took over this road, in 1864, and the late Mr. French (a tenant and next door neighbor of the deceased, and who met with an equally sudden death only a month ago) resigned the agency, Mr. Drumm succeeded him, and resided in St. John's, Q., ever since. Major Drumm organized the St. John's battery of artillery, which he remained in command of until its disbandment a few weeks ago.

The Sydney *Advocate* announces the death of an Imperial veteran, Colonel Biscoe, who was born in England in 1813. Educated at Sandhurst, he entered the army as ensign in the 66th regiment of infantry in 1832, retiring in 1854 with the rank of lieutenant-colonel. While quartered in Canada he saw service in the rebellion of 1837, and subsequently in the West Indies where he was stationed with his regiment for some considerable time. Since his retirement in 1854 he lived in Sydney.

Toronto.

THE fifth annual dinner of the staff-sergeants and sergeants of the Queen's Own was held at their mess rooms on the evening of the 18th instant, and was made by the board of management a most enjoyable and successful affair. The members of the Board are: Staff-Sergt. Strachan, president; Staff-Sergt. Burns, vice-president; Col.-Sergt. LeVesconte, secretary; Sergt. Henderson, treasurer, and Bugle-Major Swift, Col.-Sergt. Domelle, Sergts. Higinbotham and Small. About 70 guests and members sat down to an excellent dinner in the mess room, which was decorated with a liberal display of Union Jacks, the walls hung with pictures trophies of the field, etc. Sergt.-Major Crean presided and among the guests present were Cols. Otter, D.A.G., Gray, B.M., Denison, M.P., and Allan, Q.O.R.; Major Mead, T.F.B.; Capts. Mutton, Murray, Sankey and Macdonald, Q.O.R.; Dr. Leslie, Q.O.R.; Messrs. Knifton, Wadmore, I.S.C., George and Irving; Sergt.-Major Grainger, G.G.B.G.; Sergt.-Major Woodman, T.F.B.; Sergt.-Major Spence, T.B.A., and Staff-Sergt. Bazley, N.W.M.P.

The secretary read letters expressing their regret at being unable to attend, from Lieut.-Gen. Sir Fred. Middleton, His Worship the Mayor, Cols. Gillmor and Miller, late Q.O.R., Major Dixon, Cols. G. T. Denison and Grasett, Col. Smith, I.S.C., Capt. McMurrich, and H. Blain.

The toast list was commenced with "the Queen," followed by "Our Commanding Officer," proposed by Q. M. Sergt. Burns, which was responded to by Col. Allan in a brief and feeling speech. "The D.A.G.," proposed by Staff-Sergt. Strachan and received with much applause brought Col. Otter to his feet. He spoke of his former connection with the Q.O.R., his remarks being received with much applause, showing the respect in which the D.A.G. is held by his former comrades. "The ex-members" proposed by Sergt. Lyster was replied to by Mr. George, formerly the indefatigable secretary of the sergeants' mess. "Our Guests" given in a happy speech by Staff-Sergt. Willaims, was responded to by Col. F. Denison, M.P., who believed that the militia should not be reduced but rather strengthened to say 100,000 men, that the corps should be efficiently armed and clothed and possess a full supply of stores in case of need. He thought that the motto "in peace prepare for war" should be impressed upon the country. Col. Gray followed in a humorous strain, giving digs all round, for which he was afterwards repaid with interest in a speech from Col.-Sergt. Cooper in proposing "The Ladies." "Our Brother Non-Coms" was replied to by Sergt.-Major Grainger.

Capital songs were sung during the evening by Sergts. Eddis, Hurst, Creighton and Williams Capt. Mutton and Dr. Lesslie.

The annual meeting of "B" Co. Q.O.R. was held on the 14th instant, in the office of Capt. Pellatt, when the following officers were elected: Treasurer, Pte. A. R. Dewdney; secretary, Private J. G. Langton; clothing committee, Corporal Simpson, Privates Miller and Mortimer; rifle committee, Corporal Peters, Privates Dewdney and Lambe; finance committee, Captain Pellatt, Privates Dewdney and Langton. Sergeant Creighton, Corporal Simpson and Private Langton were chosen a committee to make arrangements for the annual dinner.—*Empire*.

A jolly sleighing party, composed of the members of "H" Company, Q.O.R., and a few of their friends, left the Buglers' Rooms, corner of Church and Adelaide streets, on the evening of the 17th inst., and rode through the cold, bracing air to the Humber. About 9.30 p.m., the sound of the bugles and roll of the drums heralded the approach of the merry crowd to mine host Nurse, who had prepared a sumptuous repast. After doing justice to the hot supper and after the usual toasts, a programme of music, songs, dances and tugs-of-war was carried out in the hall.—*Empire*

The non-commissioned officers and men of "G" Company, R.G., held their annual dinner on the 17th inst., in the Criterion. The chair was occupied by Colour-Sergeant Curzon and the vice-chair by Sergeant Judge. There were a large number of military

guests present, the members of the Grenadier corps being particularly noticeable. The toast of "The Staff" was responded to by Capt. Manley and that of "Our Officers" by Capt. Bruce. Prof. Bonner responded on behalf of the fair sex.

The chairman, on behalf of the men, presented Capt. Bruce with a magnificent silver cup as president of the Rifle Association. The cup has been won for three successive years at volley firing.

Colour-Sergt. Curzon is about to sever his connection with the company owing to business arrangements, and regret is expressed on all hands amongst his comrades at the prospective loss of such a popular and valued officer.—*Empire*.

I hear that there is a talk of raising a brigade of garrison artillery at Toronto and another at Kingston. I also hear that the 40-pounder gun, at present in charge of the Toronto Garrison Battery, is to be removed from the drill shed to the stores. At the present time, if the first rumour is true—this is a very unwise thing to do. The minute the gun is moved from the shed, the men of the battery will take it that their corps is to be disbanded and they will either join other corps or leave the militia entirely. When the time comes for raising the new brigade, the trained n. c. o. and men of this battery will have disappeared and the new commanding officer will have no men whatever to begin his scheme of organization with. This corps is still drilling, I believe they used to pride themselves on drilling all the year round—summer and winter. As an outsider I have seen some of the apparent difficulties this corps has had to deal with. Men dislike drilling in a place which was nothing more or less than a horse stall, the floor covered at times with manure, and their mortar converted into a public urinal. Snowdrifts in the shed are nothing to these two complaints.

By the last Militia General Orders it is ordered that in permanent corps, quarter-masters and riding masters are to be considered available for duty as members of Courts Martial and Courts of Inquiry. These officers are non-combatants and are not required to have any military qualification on appointment or to qualify in any way after. It is thus possible for soldiers to be tried for serious crimes by a court composed of say three officers, two of whom would not require to have any military knowledge. Is this order made on account of the number of provisional officers in the permanent corps who cannot sit on Courts Martial? There must be either too few qualified combatant officers at the schools, or not sufficient work for the quarter-masters and riding masters when they can thus be taken away from their legitimate work.

Montreal.

LINCH-PIN.

THERE is not much stirring at the Vics' armoury just now, but the number of men congregating there is steadily on the increase in both the working and recreation departments. The men entered in the non-commissioned officers' classes are gradually emerging as efficient, some taking very high figures in the percentage of marks obtainable. There being, however, more play than work at this season a larger number are becoming proficient in the several amusements provided. Challenges, acceptances and counter-challenges at shooting, billiards and bowling are as thick as snow-flakes, all keeping up a keen interest and bringing grist to the mill.

The second spoon competition was shot on Saturday, 11th inst., Sergt.-Major Rodden being the winner with 45 points—5 shots each at 200 and 500 yards. Lieut. Desbarats was a good second with 43 points, and the four men following had over the average for inners.

On Saturday the 18th inst. the third spoon match was shot, first place and prize being taken by G. Cooke, ex-private 5th Royal Scots, who scored 46 points (H. P. 50) in 5 shots each at 200 and 500 yards. Lieut. Desbarats also scored 46 points but fell to second place in counting off the tie. On Monday, 20th, a team match, 5 staff-sergeants against 5 five members of No. 3 Co., 200 and 500 yards, 7 shots each range, resulted in a victory for the staff by 248 points to 231, and the St. Andrews Home will be "in" a barrel of flour as a consequence of the match. The shooting was close and interesting from start to finish but Staff-Sergt. Macadam with an inner and 6 bulls at his first range and a 30 at 500 yards effectually stopped the company team's chances at the last pair.

A team match with the 1st P. W. Rifles is fixed for Saturday, 25th instant, particulars of which will appear in my next.

Though it is a long way to look ahead there is already some talk of a regimental outing for Dominion day, and Toronto seems to be the objective point. Should the idea take a definite form a creditable turn-out may be promised. BUSBY.

Ottawa.

SERGEANT-MAJOR CONROY, of the Governor-General's Foot Guards, had quite a pleasant surprise on Monday evening last. After the parade of the regiment he was called to the front by Lieut.-Col. Macpherson, and presented with a handsome set of winter furs, the gift of the officers of the regiment, as a token of their appreciation of his services to the regiment for the past twelve years. There is no member of the regiment more generally popular than the Sergt.-Major, who, though well up in the sixties, and after a whole lifetime spent in soldiering with regulars and volunteers, is as well preserved and active as most men twenty years his junior.

Monday evening's parade was the first the Guards have had since the fall. It was called with a view to making arrangements for the guard of honour to His Excellency the Governor-General at the opening of Parliament.

Half the newspapers of the country have during the past week been conferring notoriety on the Guards, in connection with their alleged refusal to furnish the guard of honour unless the Militia Department granted them an issue of winter caps. There was no truth in the story, so far as members of the regiment are aware. What gave rise to the report appears to have been an application made to the Department for an issue of winter caps, and the fact that in support of this application it was pointed out that such headgear was a necessity so long as the regiment was expected to supply the guards of honour called for every winter. The "wedges" now worn were purchased at the expense of the individual members of the Guards, and though they are a bit shabby, and there are none on hand to serve out to those who have lately joined, all the old members are supplied. It is altogether probable that the wedges will not be needed for Thursday's turnout, as if the afternoon is fine bushies will be worn.

At a meeting of officers and non-commissioned officers of the Guards held on Monday evening, it was unanimously agreed that Montreal would be the most desirable place for the annual trip contemplated for next summer. Meetings of the several companies will now be called to get their views upon the matter.

There are six events on the programme for the annual races of the Guards Snowshoe Club, to take place on Cartier Square on Saturday afternoon. These are, in their order: One mile, open; hundred yards (three heats); half mile, open; 220 yards; half mile, club; team race, quarter mile.

On Monday evening the Rifles' Snowshoe Club were entertained by the Oshkosh Toboggan Club, who provided refreshments as well as conferring the privileges of the slide upon their military guests.

OUR ARMY REVIEWED.

THE INSPECTING OFFICERS REPORT IN THE ANNUAL BLUE BOOK.

INTERESTING INFORMATION AND VALUABLE SUGGESTIONS.

THE annual report of the Department of Militia and Defence, for the year 1887, has been published this week. The following is a summary of its contents :

The Deputy Minister, Col. C. E. Panet, deals mainly with the finances. His report shows the militia expenditure in 1886-87 for ordinary purposes to have been \$1,193,692; on account of North-West rebellion, \$37,561, for pensions, \$34,100, to 396 pensioners—268 of whom claimed by virtue of services in 1812; 26 in Fenian raids, etc., and 102 in the North-West in 1885. From this total of \$1,315,354 there has to be deducted \$23,205 received for ammunition and stores sold, and rents of militia properties, leaving a net expenditure of \$1,292,149. The list of pensions granted supplementary to that published in last report on account of the '85 campaign, involve an annual expenditure of \$3,079, of which \$322 goes to relatives of militiamen who died from disease contracted on service.

The General Officer Commanding.

His very exhaustive and interesting report—Promised redistribution of Garrison Artillery—Rifle shooting, in camp and at prize meetings—Cavalry corps needs—Armament of the Batteries—Martinis for the permanent force—Modern Equipments requested; and more pay for the standing army—An anomaly in Quebec—The city corps should go to camp—Praise for Col. Worsley—A good word for the Sniders—But our big guns should be sold for old metal—Drill land its cost for fourteen years.

LIEUT.-GENERAL MIDDLETON expresses himself as follows :—
“My experience of another year does not lead me to alter the opinion expressed in my previous reports that, with the amount of money now voted for the militia, the strength of the force should be reduced, and every regiment, corps and battery liable to camp service should be called out every year for not less than sixteen days, which when compared with the number of days that the Imperial militia are out for training, seems a very limited time.

“I would again urge the advisability of giving more encouragement to the Engineer branch of the force, which is at present too small in number, though the few that exist are well up in their work, and the officers are zealous and hard working. The inspecting officer, Captain Davidson, R. E., is most painstaking and zealous in his work, and the works carried on this year at the camp at St. Andrews by Major Vince and the Brighton company of Engineers under Captain Davidson's immediate direction, were really most admirable. I would beg that the existing companies may be furnished with a full equipment of tools, etc., for the future.

“The reports of the inspectors and assistant inspectors of artillery are, on the whole, satisfactory, but we are in want of more guns of position, some few of which I hope we are about to obtain by your late action in regard to them, and our field battery guns should gradually be replaced by more modern ones.

“I propose laying before you a scheme for the redistribution of the garrison artillery in the Dominion, which will, I trust, meet with your approval.

“As regards the shooting capability of the force, I am afraid it cannot be taken as very good. Of course there are a number of very good shots in the militia, owing to the different rifle organizations, but these bear a very small proportion to the whole. I am strongly of opinion that more attention should be paid to the general efficiency. I have this is a question requiring careful consideration. There is no doubt

lately heard remarks made as to the advantage or otherwise of officers being allowed to compete with the men in rifle firing. Now that it is almost a necessity that officers should possess a good knowledge of musketry instruction and the use of the rifle, and anything that would tend to throw difficulties in the way of their obtaining this knowledge is to be deprecated, but it must be borne in mind that the officer is better off than the soldier, which means power to procure more ammunition and therefore more practice, and yet it is from the rank and file, and not from the officers, that we require good shooting on service. In fact, on service an officer should not be allowed to carry a rifle at all, as he has more than enough to do in commanding and looking after his men, as I had to explain to more than one officer in the North-West during the rising there.”

Concerning the Military College the General calls attention to the marked success of the graduates in the civil and military careers they have chosen, and again urges that they should receive preference for government employment.

An increase in the strength of the permanent cavalry corps at Quebec is recommended, also the addition of a riding school to the accommodation there. The corps, he says should number at least 60 troopers, with 50 horses, and the commissioned ranks should be increased by one captain, one subaltern, a riding instructor and quartermaster. Former recommendations respecting the starting of a cavalry school at Toronto, and the inspection of cavalry regiments in camp by the commandants of the permanent corps, are reiterated.

In place of the two guns provided for the Royal Schools of Artillery in connection with A and B Batteries, the General asks for four guns, fully horsed; and it is also pointed out that the guns of the Batteries should be replaced when possible by modern patterns.

The Mounted Infantry Corps at Winnipeg is reported to have made fair progress and to be in good order. The brown leather equipment has been found serviceable, smart and business looking. A riding school is asked for. The Corps lacks its complement of officers.

The Infantry School corps, the General considers, should each have an increase in the number of officers, as “owing to the paucity of combatant officers, it is now almost impossible to hold regimental courts martial without employing non-combatant officers or such officers of the local militia as can be found available; which practice is not for obvious reasons, advisable.

“I would again recommend,” he continues, “that the school corps be armed with the martini-Henry rifles now in store, and be supplied with the latest equipment—the belts and straps of brown leather. Further, that the amount of ammunition allowed for practice be increased. I have received four sets of the war game, and three sets have been already in use by three of the schools, but as it requires some experience and technical knowledge to carry out the game I propose lecturing on the system at my next inspections. Two rifles, with targets, etc., made by Major Richards for indoor practice, have also been received and will be sent to two of the schools to be tried; I would also strongly recommend that the different schools should be provided with the latest range finder, and that instruction in its use should form part of every course. They should also be provided with the latest improved targets.

“I would beg to refer you to the remarks in my last year's report concerning the status and organization of the permanent force. The want of proper hospital clothing in the different schools is much felt, and it should be supplied at once; and if you remember, I drew your attention to this deficiency when we were inspecting the hospital at Winnipeg. The time has come when the necessity of each school being provided with a gymnasium should be considered.

“I propose inaugurating a system by which, during the winter, lectures on military subjects shall be given under the direction of the commandants at the different stations where there are schools of instruction.

“I would here beg to recommend strongly that liberal assistance be afforded by the government towards the maintenance of the non-commissioned officers' messes and the men's reading and recreation room. Everything tending towards encouraging the men to remain in barracks adds not only to their well-doing, but helps to strengthen their *esprit de corps*, and assist the discipline. If they have comfortable and well regulated recreation rooms to go to they will not flock to the drinking stations of the town. A well organized canteen where good beer is procurable, and where groceries can be obtained at almost cost price, is a great assistance.

“I venture to think it would be unwise of the country to begrudge a little extra compensation, within reasonable limits, to the permanent corps, as being so small a force it should be thorough, and ready in the time of need to act as a foundation on which to form rapidly a large force.

“For these reasons each school, should, in my opinion, be so ar-

ranged as to form a sort of skeleton regiment capable of being at once expanded into a full-bodied corps.

"I would beg to bring to your notice the fact that in the Province of Quebec, if not in the other provinces, officers and soldiers when in uniform, and even when proceeding on duty, are compelled to pay turnpike and ferry tolls. The legality of this was tested in one of the courts and it was given against the military, as it appears that exemption from tolls only affects the Imperial troops. I would suggest that means be taken to include the Canadian militia in the privilege. In Great Britain no officer or soldier pays toll when in uniform, and I doubt if the troops of any country are called upon to do so.

Having this year visited all the camps assembled in the Dominion, the General still urges that the time of these should be extended to sixteen days; and also that "the city corps, who with their superior knowledge of drill would greatly benefit by it be encouraged to join the camp in their districts, if only for a few days."

The advisability of having one or more fixed camping places in each district is again pointed out, each site to be selected principally with a view to having a good and convenient rifle range. The General praises Lieut.-Col. Worsley, D. A. G., for the superior attention paid to rifle instruction at the Aldershot camp, which he conducted, and at which better results were obtained in that line than anywhere else. The General fancies that this was a good deal owing to the fact that Col. Worsley is an old Hythe musketry instructor, and therefore well up in everything connected with the work. The allowance of more time for musketry instruction and the grant of a small sum of money for prizes to be shot for at camp, are recommended.

Thirteen city regiments were inspected by General Middleton during the year. He reports himself pleased with all of them, and adds:—"I should like to see the city regiments with paid adjutants, and, as I have said above, I should like to see these regiments, when possible, attend the camps of instruction, and I think this might be done, with a little assistance from Government, instead of going forth on a sort of military picnic for a few days, which, though doubtless very pleasant, is not so conducive to military knowledge and discipline as a visit to a camp would be."

"As regards the equipment," says the General, "I beg to recommend that the following should be supplied to the force generally:

White helmets, Fatigue caps,
Grey fatigue patrols, Brown leather belts.

To the cavalry only: Long boots and jack spurs.

"The present Hussar tunic should be replaced gradually by the heavy Dragoon tunic as worn in the Imperial service—blue or red, as thought best.

"A good canteen for carrying water in.

"As regards the rifle for the force, as it is evident that the armies of the world are still doubtful as to the best arm for the future (which will doubtless be a magazine rifle), it would perhaps be too expensive to arm the whole force with the Martini-Henri, but it is certainly necessary that all the Sniders in possession should be made fit for service. With reference to repeating rifles, Captain Harston, one of our own officers, belonging to the Grenadiers of Toronto, is at present in England, having been sent for by the War Office to explain and experiment on a system patented by him for converting the existing rifle in use, viz., the Martini-Henri, into a magazine rifle, at a small cost. It seems likely, from what we can gather from England, that the coming arm will be a single shot rifle with a detachable magazine, which latter could be, with certain alterations, made applicable to any army rifle.

"I may add here in defence of the much abused Snider, that the Indian government have just armed the whole of their military police force in Burmah with the Snider, and I believe if our present supply of Sniders are all made serviceable that the Dominion government can well afford to continue its use until the rifle of the future is finally decided upon.

"We are decidedly behind hand in the matter of guns of the newest pattern, but I am quite aware that to keep up with modern wants in artillery would tax a young government beyond its strength; still I know that what can be done for the efficiency of the force will be done. I might, before leaving this subject, remark that at present there are in the Dominion a very large number of useless and obsolete guns, and it appears to me that if these were all sold for the metal they contain, and the proceeds of the sale devoted to the purchase of a few modern guns, it would prove advantageous in more ways than one."

Appended to Lieut.-General Middleton's report is the following interesting statement by Col. Walker Powell, Adjutant-General, of the strength of the militia and number drilling, and the cost and method of drill for the past fourteen years:—

Year.	Strength of Active Militia.	Authorized to Drill.	Cost of Annual Drill.	Number of days, and how carried out.
			\$	
1873-74	45,750	All.	366,897	16 days at Co. or Batt. headquarters.
1874-75	43,790	30,000	315,557	12 days in Brigade Camp.
1875-76	43,720	30,000	392,986	Fld. Art., 16; other corps, 12 days, in camp.
1876-77	43,729	23,000	124,267	Fld. Art., 12 in camp; other corps, 8 days at local headquarters.
1877-78	45,035	20,000	154,005	Fld. Art 12 do; other corps 12 do
1878-79	45,152	20,000	154,284	do 12 do do 12 do
1879-80	45,152	20,000	172,924	do 12 do do 12 do
1880-81	37,390	21,250	157,000	do 10 do city corps, 10 days at headquarters; rural, 6 days in camp at headquarters.
1881-82	37,390	25,170	264,969	City corps, 12 days at headquarters; F. Art. and other corps, 12 days in camp.
1882-83	37,229	21,407	218,801	do do do
1883-84	37,036	24,740	314,473	do do do
1884-85	37,036	18,070	230,000	do do do
1885-86	37,346	18,070	240,969	do do do
1886-87	37,999	20,255	257,385	do do do

Prior to June, 1874, the strength of the Active Militia for annual drill pay was 45,750. On the 2nd of June that year the force was diminished to 30,000, by reducing each troop, company and garrison battery from 55 non-commissioned officers and men to 40, for purposes of drill. Since then the strength of the corps for drill pay has remained nearly the same. The reduction in number shown as strength in 1880-81, and thereafter, is based on the reduction of companies to 42.

Report on the Artillery.

Warm Praise for the Field Batteries: "As efficient as it is possible to expect"—Requirements for Garrison Artillery—Practical Suggestions—The Orleans Prize Meeting—Outspoken Inspecting Officers.

LIEUT. COL. D. T. IRWIN, Inspector of Artillery, in his annual report states that of the field batteries performing annual drill the following were inspected by him: Hamilton, Toronto, Welland Canal, and two batteries of the First Brigade, at camp Niagara; Ottawa, London, Newcastle and Sydney batteries, each in camp at those places. Lieut.-Col. Cotton inspected the Kingston, Gananoque and Durham batteries in camp at Kingston, and the Winnipeg battery in camp at Winnipeg; Major Short inspected the Quebec, Montreal, Shelburne and Richmond batteries; and the Woodstock battery was inspected by Lieut.-Col. Maunsell at camp St. Andrews.

The garrison batteries were inspected as follows: 2 batteries P. E. I. Brigade, 6 do. Halifax brigade, Yarmouth battery, and 5 batteries N. B. brigade by Lieut.-Col. Irwin; Nos. 1 and 2 Quebec, and No. 1 Levis, by Major Short; No. 3 Quebec, and No. 2 Levis, by Lieut.-Col. Montizambert; Digby, Pictou, Souris, Montague and Gaspe batteries and the Montreal brigade by the district staff.

The inspections, with the exception of those by the district staff, were conducted on the system of giving marks for each detail, according to a specified scale. This plan has been in operation for several years; its results are reported to have been extremely satisfactory. Full returns of the credits are given in the report, as also are the results of the annual gun practice, but these have already been published in the MILITIA GAZETTE, in connection with the reports of the prize competitions into which they enter. Col. Irwin makes the following interesting general remarks.

Field Batteries.

"I am very glad to be able to report in most favourable terms of the general efficiency of these corps. So far, indeed, as regards the individual and comparative efficiency of the batteries which have obtained the highest number of marks, in the accompanying return, during the past five or six years, I consider that under the present system of annual drill and practice, they are as efficient as it is possible or reasonable to expect, and the fluctuations in their actual standing are mainly due to accidental causes, such as the absence of an officer or the presence of a greater or less number of recruits.

"The assembly this year of five batteries at the Niagara camp, and three and one-half batteries at the Kingston camp, under the immediate command of the Artillery Staff, was of undoubted benefit to all concerned, and it is to be hoped that a similar advantage may also be enjoyed next year by the batteries in the Province of Quebec. To enable batteries to obtain the greatest possible advantage from this system of combined instruction it is very necessary that much attention should be previously paid to theoretical instruction, and to standing gun drill, and as under the present system this can only be obtained by voluntary drills, a very great deal of credit is due to those corps which have attained to such efficiency by this means.

"The annual gun practice was carried out very satisfactorily, and the use of Major Scott's revolving sights was found to be very advantageous, and had the general effect of equalizing the scores made by individuals.

"It has been recommended for more general adoption next year."

Garrison Batteries.

"As a necessary consequence of the universal use of rifled ordnance, the efficiency and usefulness of corps which have only the opportunity of being instructed in the use of the obsolete smooth bore gun becomes more and more difficult to maintain.

"It is not possible to send rifled ordnance with their costly equipment and ammunition to individual batteries at isolated stations, and as one of the principal considerations which determine the advisability of maintaining such corps is the aid which they would bring to the reinforcement of defensible forts or redoubts and strategical

points, it becomes evident that if the corps themselves can be organized and maintained in the immediate vicinity of such localities, they can be more easily trained and their services in time of need will necessarily be of much more value.

"As previously pointed out in my reports on this subject, the re-arming of our existing fortifications, and the greater concentration of our garrison artillery at or near their immediate vicinity, are subjects of the greatest importance in a defensive point of view.

"With reference to the organization of garrison artillery west of Kingston, it appears evident that this can most usefully be accomplished by the maintenance of a small brigade of two or three batteries at Toronto. These batteries should be armed with guns of position, such as the 40-pr. B.L. or the 20-pr. R.B.L., and would be sufficiently mobile to take their place in the defence of any previously selected position.

"The existing garrison artillery force in the Province of Quebec and the Maritime Provinces, has, with a few exceptions, made very satisfactory progress this year. The opportunity of a partial meeting of representatives from different corps, which was afforded by the artillery competitions held at the Island of Orleans, Quebec, has been productive of such gratifying and satisfactory results that it is strongly recommended for annual recurrence. I append herewith a special report upon this competition."

The garrison artillery had a prize meeting, for competitive gun practice at the Island of Orleans, Quebec, on the 5th of September and following days, four brigades (15 batteries) and five independent batteries competing. The expenses of this meeting including a liberal prize list, were met by the government grant of \$2,000. Colonel Irwin says:—

"The general results of the meeting were extremely satisfactory. The scores made were generally very good and the interest and emulation incited by the wholesome competition between the representatives of corps so widely separated cannot fail to be of the greatest benefit to the garrison artillery of the Dominion.

"It was noticed that in several cases individuals in the different detachments were insufficiently grounded in a knowledge of gun drill. At future competitions this will have to be made a reason for disqualification. On the other hand, it was remarked that the drill for the 40-pr. B. L. gun was very rapidly acquired by detachments previously unfamiliar with this gun.

"I am very glad to be able to report that the conduct of the detachments was uniformly good, no irregularity of any description being noticed in camp.

"If the difficulty arising from the expense of transport by the Intercolonial Railway can be overcome, it will be advisable in future to increase the strength of each detachment by one or two men, specially selected as cooks and for fatigue purposes, in order that the arrangements for messing and camping may be carried out as on service.

"The shifting ordnance competitions were carried out very satisfactorily and in a very creditable manner. The local corps were conspicuous by their absence from this competition, which want of zeal is the more to be regretted, as the facilities for preliminary practice and instruction are more easily obtained at Quebec than elsewhere."

The artillery inspecting officers deserve credit for the outspoken manner in which they condemn, criticize, commend, or praise, as the occasion seems to call for. Here are some quotations:—

Sydney Field Battery—"The battery is armed with the obsolete 9-pr. S. B. guns, which are very inaccurate at ordinary rifle range, so that if the corps is intended to be maintained in a serviceable condition its re-arming should be seriously considered."

Newcastle Field Battery—"The battery only requires more careful preliminary instruction and an increased staff of qualified officers and non-commissioned officers, to become very efficient."

Richmond Field Battery—"I was rather disappointed at their turn out, considering their excellent condition in 1885; allowance, however, must be made for their want of smartness on parade, as they had a long and tedious march from Richmond in very bad and rainy weather, the majority of the battery being recruits. The captain of this battery, who did so well in 1885, appeared to have forgotten the most simple movements of field artillery."

Quebec Field Battery—"Too much praise cannot be given for the smartness with which this battery always turns out. The guns, harness, clothing and equipment excellent. Major Lindsay has an able assistant in Capt. Garneau, a young officer who passed one of the best short course examinations in field artillery and who affords an example of discipline and efficiency to his n.c. officers and men."

Quebec G. A.—"These batteries are very deficient in accoutrements and borrow from one another when they turn out for inspection."

Winnipeg Field Battery—"Not very efficient. It would seem that sufficient advantage had not been taken of the opportunities afforded, otherwise the result must have been different. The knowledge of duties and stores among the non-commissioned officers was very poor."

Lieut.-Col. Cotton, one of the assistant inspectors, recommends the issue of strong picketing posts before next encampments; asks for special forms of pay sheets, more suitable for artillery than those now used; urges yearly inspection, at battery headquarters, of the guns, carriages and equipment, harness and reserve ammunition, and says that unless suits of canvas working clothes are issued to the field batteries, particularly to the drivers, it is impossible for them to be neat and maintain the regimental clothing for the period it is expected to last.

The Studies of the Engineers.

How they are Helped by the R.M.C.—Suggested Method of Increasing the Engineer Force—The Winners of the Gzowski Prizes—Conditions of the Competition.

DURING the year under review, nine non-commissioned officers and sappers of the Engineers attended and qualified at the Royal Military College. Reciting this the Inspector, Capt. Davidson, says: "The benefit resulting to the Engineers from these courses is very great. Indeed in the absence of any permanent engineer school of instruction I do not think it would be found possible to keep up a force of engineers in anything but the name without this means of giving the officers and non-commissioned officers some real knowledge of what is meant by military engineering."

Capt. Davidson again refers to the desirability of issuing a working dress and of making a small annual grant for the repair of tools, etc. With reference to the recommendation by the Major-General commanding in his report for last year that the number of engineer companies should be increased, he suggests that this might to some extent be done without increasing the strength of the militia by gradually converting any suitably situated infantry companies into engineers.

THE GZOWSKI ENGINEER COMPETITION.

In the Gzowski Engineer Competition for 1887 the first prize was again taken by

the Brighton Engineers; the Charlottetown company obtained second prize for a piece of work of very nearly equal merit. The only other Engineer company, that in Montreal, was again unable to compete.

The task for the competition was the construction of a defensible camp, in accordance with the following general idea:

In an expedition into an enemy's country a company of engineers has been left behind on the line of communication for the purpose of constructing and subsequently guarding a bridge across a considerable stream. There are none of the enemy's forces in the neighbourhood, but the country is in a disturbed state and the sparse population is decidedly hostile.

The company is left to its own resources about six hours before nightfall, and in this time it has to construct its encampment and the necessary defences, in order to be ready to commence work on the bridge the following morning at daybreak.

The work to be done was the construction of this encampment, and the defences which might be judged necessary for it,—no notice being taken of the imaginary stream and bridge.

The Stores Branch.

Statement of Ammunition Manufactured and Served Out—A Year's Issue of Clothing—Additional Ordnance Purchased.

CLOTHING was issued to the following extent during the past year, according to the report of Lieut.-Col. John Macpherson, Director of Stores: Great coats, 3,748; tunics, 11,979; trousers, 10,961; and forage caps, 7,497.

The quantity of ammunition issued to the Militia force for practice during the year was 339,890 rounds of "Snider" ball and 204,000 rounds of blank, being a slight decrease as compared with last year.

The re-payment issues for the year were 549,417 rounds of "Snider" ball, 129,343 rounds of "Martini-Henry" ball, 2,812 rounds "Colt's" revolver ball, and 700 rounds "Snider" blank ammunition, making a total of 682,272 rounds to Rifle Associations and Militia corps for rifle practice and competitions, in all worth \$11,712.72, including the price of powder and friction tubes issued for the noon gun at Ottawa.

The field and garrison batteries of artillery received, for practice and salutes, 18,069 lbs. gunpowder and 7,935 friction tubes.

The cartridge factory at Quebec has not only supplied the demands for small arm ammunition—ball and blank—during the year, but has also added considerably to the reserve in magazine charge, the reserve supply of gunpowder being obtained in Canada from the Hamilton Powder Company. Shot and shell, with requisite friction tubes, have, up to the present time, been obtained from the Imperial Government on re-payment. The experiment in the manufacture of common shell for R. M. L. guns, made under the direction of Major Prevost, superintendent of the cartridge factory at Quebec, is reported to have been attended with success. It is therefore expected that the shell required for artillery practice will in future be obtained from that source.

Two additional 40-pounder guns, and 4 9-pounder field guns, with carriages, etc., have been ordered from the Imperial Government. When the 9-pounder guns are received and issued, the whole of the field batteries—with the exception of the Sydney battery, which is still armed with the S. B. guni—will be armed with rifled guns, in place of the old smooth bore ordnance.

The appointment of armourers at London, Ont., and St. John, N. B., is recommended.

The work in the stores branch of the Militia Department is reported to have enormously increased of late years.

In 1887, 169,240 recruits entered the German army and marine. Of these 163,203 had received an education in German and 4,822 in a foreign language, while 1,215 could neither read nor write.

A Vienna despatch of February 11 says: "The War Office is making contracts for the immediate delivery of a large quantity of provisions. Krupp has received orders for 150 siege guns to cost three and a half million florins. The guns ordered by Turkey and not paid for will be utilized to fill the first instalment of the order."

During his lifetime it was often affirmed that Baker Pasha was making money in Egypt, but the will of the General does not bear out the view. Baker's personality has been sworn at less than \$20,000, and as a matter of fact his income was very modest, though nothing in the shape of cash would have compensated him for his banishment from his country.

The arming of British horse and field batteries with the new pattern 12-pr. steel breech-loading guns is proceeding, and it is expected that some 30 batteries, included in the proposed two army corps, will be so armed by about April next. It is understood, however, that ultimately the 12-pr. will be relegated to the duty of arming horse artillery batteries alone, and that the recently designed 20 pr. is to be the field gun of the future.

A new 38-ton gun recently burst at Woolwich when under trial. Officials are very reticent on the subject, and represent the occurrence as merely one out of a small percentage of failures which are always expected in the course of the proof trials, but the great size of the weapon, which was a 10-inch gun of about 38 tons weight, gives prominence to the affair. The chase or barrel of the gun was blown clean out of the chamber end, and fell in one piece to the ground.

The grave news from San Remo draws fresh attention to Prince William of Prussia. What he said lately to the Bradenburg Landtag becomes of European importance. He frankly refers to the military passions which he has been supposed to cherish. "I am thought," he says, "to entertain a light headed desire for glory, loving thoughts of war. God keep me from such criminal levity!" Such words from the future ruler of Germany are welcomed and put on record.

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CORRESPONDENCE.

Correspondence on topics of interest to the Militia is invited. To ensure insertion of any communication the name and address of the writer must be forwarded with it. No name so communicated will be published without consent.

REGIMENTAL NEWS.

It is our desire to record all events of general interest transpiring in connection with each and every corps in the Dominion. That we may be kept posted, officers are respectfully requested to interest themselves in seeing that the news of their respective corps shall be forwarded to the MILITIA GAZETTE—if possible by some person chosen by them as regular correspondent.

Adjutants will greatly oblige by forwarding copies of regimental orders, especially those relating to promotions or transfers of non-commissioned officers and officers.

Reports of annual or other meetings of regimental or company clubs, etc., or rifle associations, should be forwarded by the secretaries as early as possible. Scores of rifle matches must be accompanied by full particulars as to description of rifle, distances, number of shots, etc.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

Advertisements of unobjectionable character will be inserted at reasonable rates, which will be made known upon application to the Manager.

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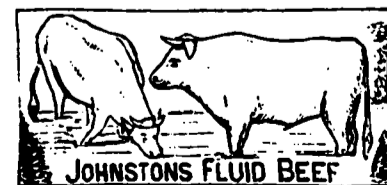
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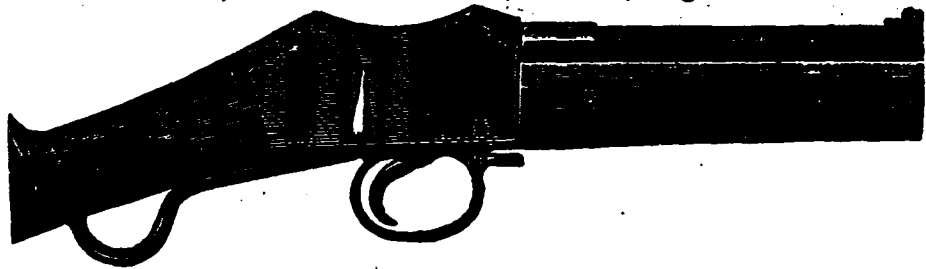
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