

The Canadian Militia Gazette

THE POPULAR ORGAN OF THE ACTIVE FORCE OF THE DOMINION.

(Adopted as their official paper, by the Dominion Artillery Association, the Ontario Artillery Association, the Canadian Military Rifle League, and the Royal Military College Club.)

VOL. VI.

OTTAWA, THURSDAY, 5TH MARCH, 1891.

No. 10.

NOTE AND COMMENT.

Apropos of the holiday parades proposed to be held in Canada under official supervision, a letter recently appearing in the *London Globe* is interesting reading. The writer, Mr. Herbert P. Miller, deploras the decreasing interest in the volunteer force, and the falling off in the number of recruits, and cites a number of causes. Amongst these he places "the abolition of grand annual reviews, such as used to be carried out at Easter, and substituting hole and corner marches of a few men." He continues:—

"The abolition of great reviews has had a detrimental effect on recruiting. On such occasions the public shook hands with its volunteer force, and the volunteers knew that, at least once a year, they would be measured by the press and their fellow-citizens. Very few people concern themselves about the doings of a few detachments scattered over the country. Again, a big review fires the imagination of youth; the march to the downs under flying banners, the beating of the drums, the rattle of the artillery, and the cheers of the people make many a lad determined to become one of the chief actors in such a scene another year; and he does it—a step he never regrets.

Removing the National Rifle Association meetings from Wimbledon to Bisley is doing much to depopularise the movement. The social meetings between the volunteers, their friends, and the public after gunfire did much to keep Wimbledon in the front rank of popular institutions, although some were stiff-necked enough to think such doings dreadfully unmilitary. Since the National Rifle Association has gone to the neighbourhood of Aldershot and Woking, to be eventually cremated for the benefit of the regular army, the public mind has taken but little interest in its proceedings. As touching the sport of rifle-shooting, Lord Wantage said the other day at Reading, "Were it not for the emulation afforded by rifle shooting the movement never would have continued to keep such a strong hold upon the people of this country. The love of sport is almost universally diffused throughout all classes in this country. Our wealthy fellow subjects indulge in it to any extent in hunting and covert shooting, and our poorer fellow subjects take it out in rifle shooting at the butts."

English papers to hand contain a synopsis of the report of the National Rifle Association, from which it is apparent that there was no good foundation for the rumour recently in circulation, that a suspension of the annual prize meetings was amongst the probabilities. True, there was a deficit of \$10,000 last year, the receipts, inclusive of special subscriptions, being \$190,000 against the immense expenditure of \$200,000, covering the cost of removal; but the council consider that the financial prospects are encouraging. The entry money amounted to \$65,000 and \$60,000 was distributed in prizes.

By oversight, we last week omitted from the list of prominent military men standing for Parliamentary honours, the name of Lieut.-Col. R. Tyrwhitt, the commanding officer of the 36th Battalion. Col. Tyrwhitt is

already elected, being one of the few members returned by acclamation last Thursday. In the next House of Commons, as in the last, he will represent South Simcoe. Col. Tyrwhitt was on active service in the North-West in 1885 with the York-Simcoe provisional battalion. He is exceedingly popular in Parliament and in the Militia.

Another military candidate not mentioned was Major Edwards, an Imperial Officer on the staff of the Royal Military College at Kingston, who deserted his post to become a candidate for that city in opposition to the Premier, Sir John Macdonald, and Mr. Alexander Gunn, one of the most influential citizens of Kingston. He certainly could not have expected to poll many votes, for Radicalism such as his does not "take" in this country, and his candidature furnishes a powerful argument for use by those who are opposed to the award of Canadian posts to old country officers.

Major General Herbert's first "General Order" consists of a pithy lecture to the officers of the permanent force on the subject of courts-martial sentences. It is evidence of the lively interest he takes in the welfare of the force under his command.

MILITARY DRILL IN SCHOOLS.

The *Guardian*, of Chicago, publishes the following, editorially, on the subject of "Military Drill in Schools":—

"Military drill, as one of the requirements in a college course, has long since passed the experimental stage and has been proven a splendid success and an inestimable benefit in many—it might be said most of our colleges. The fact of its success in the college has suggested its introduction into our high schools, and although in these latter the attempt has met with varied success, there can be no doubt that in high schools of sufficient size to afford a good company the experiment can, with perseverance, be made to work excellent results.

"The swaggering, shambling freshman is far more easily distinguished from upper classmen in colleges where drill is a part of the curriculum than in the colleges where that branch is omitted. From the time the novice takes his first 'setting up' exercise to the time when he is mustered out a trim cadet, he has undergone a physical transformation little less than miraculous. True, the freshman often faints

away from sheer exhaustion when taking his first lesson, but it does him a world of good nevertheless. It straightens the boy up and gives him a firm and commanding bearing, which will remain with him through life.

"The value to the student, of promptness of execution and close attention which is developed in drill, as well as the habit of rigid obedience of orders, is of inestimable value. Moreover, when the student goes through the marchings and manual with cheerfulness and enthusiasm they constitute the very best sort of recreation for him.

"What has proven true of this branch of instruction in colleges should be found true to a still greater extent in the high schools. The average boy enters the high school at just that period of his life when he is most ungainly and most indifferent.

"It is at this period when proper discipline will most effectually correct the boy's figure and give him a soldierly carriage.

"It is at the high school period of a youth's career, perhaps, that training in strict obedience to proper authority is most needed. Military discipline tends to effect this. It should be encouraged."

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

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

THE LEAGUE.

EDITOR MILITIA GAZETTE,—So much has been written concerning the League of late that I really feel ashamed to ask you to publish anything further, yet I think I can suggest something that would be interesting to the lovers of rifle shooting. I would suggest that each province have a league, and at the close of the season have a grand Inter-Provincial League contest, with say twenty men on each team; telegraphic of course. This would not interfere or conflict with the present Dominion League, but would rather assist it by stimulating the teams to greater efforts. It would be considered a great honour to be selected on a provincial twenty. What say the other provinces?

ONTARIO.

NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS.

EDITOR MILITIA GAZETTE,—For a number of weeks past I have read the many communications relating to the qualification of officers, and while I admit that it is necessary that officers should be qualified, I consider it far more essential to the Militia Force that the non-commissioned officers should be qualified, a fact which is too often overlooked. In the lengthy and (to his mind) unanswerable arguments of C.F.C., he proposes to make the appointment of officers compulsory from the ranks, and no doubt there might be instances in which this would be an improvement, but are those to be appointed to have no say in the matter? There are in the force many who would make excellent officers had they one of the qualifications which is needed, and that is *cash*. It is evident to all who have had any connection with the force that this is a very important qualification for an officer in our militia. I venture to say that the majority of the force are mechanics and working-men who, were they offered a commission, would refuse it

on the grounds that they were unable to spare the necessary cash and time that would be required of them, and should they accept, would they be more qualified than those already holding the positions? I fear not. How many regiments are there in the force who require any qualification other than length of service to entitle a private to receive promotion? I have seen many non-commissioned officers who, had they been required to pass even the most simple examination, would have remained in the ranks. I think the suggestion of Beaver to be a good one, but the instruction at headquarters should not be confined to officers. Open the class to all grades, and allow the non-commissioned officers and privates who wish for promotion to attend, and in this manner the expense of the instructor would not be as great to the country as the instruction of the same number at the schools would be, and then the force would be supplied with competent non-commissioned officers, as well as officers, and at a comparatively small cost. One of your correspondents said that an officer who could not spend a few days at a school to qualify was not likely to give much time to the force and was better out of it, or something to that effect, and I suppose he would apply the same argument to those not holding commissions. Well, I contend that no one, whether he hold a commission or not, can *qualify* in a few days. He may pass an examination at some of the schools, but he will not be qualified. And more, on account of the number wishing to attend the schools, especially in the winter months, it has been necessary to limit the number received from each battalion, and therefore it is impossible that all can attend who would qualify if a class was opened at their headquarters by an instructor from the school. Hoping you will pardon me for being so lengthy,

I remain,
Yours,
N. C. O.

GENERAL HERBERT'S HOLIDAY PARADES.

EDITOR MILITIA GAZETTE,—“Snap Cap” must have had a bad bilious attack (or was it gout?) about the 14th inst. I don't know much about the feeling among militiamen in other parts of the country, but in the old Rock City, when it became evident that the new Major-General commanding intended taking a really active interest in the force, the members of the different corps felt very much encouraged. We can, I think, depend upon Major-General Herbert to recommend all reasonable applications for better equipment and greater allowances for expenses, &c., but we must look to our friends in parliament to secure more encouragement for the Militia by increased grants and in other ways. The proposal to have out different corps on holidays for instruction in field duties and tactics, is considered here as an excellent one. A good many of our fellows have wives and children, who like nothing better than to see the “volunteers” out in their war paint, and would certainly consider the holiday on the 24th May a “fraud” if there were no soldiers to be seen all day.

Men who consider it a nuisance or a “fraud” to spend some of their *idle* time in learning some of their duties as citizen soldiers, do not as a rule join the militia, and when such men do join it is generally for the sake of the rifle shooting (out of which they make money enough to cover their expenses) or some other equally selfish reason, and they are, therefore, of precious little use to their corps.

I venture to say that one field day such as Gen. Herbert proposes, carried out under his personal direction and subject to his personal criticism, would be of more use to the corps engaged than a whole week spent in camp or drill hall practicing little or nothing but “display” and “parade” movements. Pull yourself together “Snap Cap” and come

out for a march on the first holiday. Or if you belong to a mounted arm of the service, a few hours in the saddle would set your liver all right.

Your obedient servant,

Quebec, 25th Feb., 1891.

STADACONA.

"DRILLED V. UNDRILLED OFFICERS."

EDITOR MILITIA GAZETTE,—To come straight to the point this time and stick to it: "C. F. C." thinks he can cure the ills of the militia by a plaster of more stringent regulations, directed against the officers. It is not necessary for me to defend the officers as they are of course perfectly capable of taking care of themselves, but suppose that C. F. C. succeeded in passing a law that all uncertified officers at once retire and that all vacancies be filled from the non-commissioned ranks, would the non-coms. accept commissions? I say the majority would not, because they haven't money enough to do it. There are plenty of vacancies and it does not require any new laws or reorganization to enable some of C. F. C.'s highly qualified and willing non-coms. to step forward and upward. The question of finance, which he says is foreign to this subject, is really the only obstacle. It is a fact that an officer, without making any attempt to "buy popularity" must spend a very great deal more than the average sergeant or corporal could think of doing.

I am sorry that C. F. C. understood me as defending the picnic element. If I have a grievance it is the picnic trip and I sincerely hope that General Herbert will be able to work his scheme of making the holiday parades good practical field days. I say that we are merely playing at soldiers, but let us play the game and not mix it up with the boyish picnic. I still say that the city battalions are practically military athletic clubs, but they are good enough battalions at the price; Canada wants a cheap article and apparently she is satisfied that what she has can do her work.

I think from his fondness for ponderous missiles that C. F. C. must be in the "Batillery." I never was under artillery fire and if it is anything like a sappaling as having terrific latin phrases hurled at one's head, then "give us peace in our time." I don't mind so much having an argumentative bullet put through me in a neat and marksmanlike manner, but I think shells, especially when they explode in latin, are cruelty.

Yours, &c.,

SERGEANT.

THE MANITOBA RIFLE ASSOCIATION.

EDITOR MILITIA GAZETTE—There is an ancient saying that "He who puts his hands to the plough and turns back, will be pursued by furies." We have put our hands on the plough. We have tried to plough a straight furrow, and if we have even as much as glanced over either shoulder let the furies follow, and welcome. It is every man's duty to be just and honourable, and as this is probably the last time that your correspondent will speak of this affair, we trust that we shall not speak without effect, not only in justice to the Association, but to its "cause." For several years shooting affairs have been on the wane in Manitoba, which to those interested has become a source of regret, and as is usual in such cases, grumbling and dissatisfaction resulted. As man is a grumbler any way, but little notice is generally paid to this kind of individual, although we might just say right here that it is the lowest, first, illiterate style of expressing grievance. But as time wore on and grumbling gave place to protest, and protest to straight open charges, then the thinking, deducing mind was forced into a search for the cause. It has been urged by the powers that be that money has not been as plentiful as in the good

old days. It has also been argued that outsiders have felt they were at a disadvantage firing on a local range, so that to meet a generally expressed wish from competitors outside the city, the Association felt it their duty to have the competition at Stoney Mountain—thirteen miles distant from Winnipeg—and were therefore put to greater expense. Then it was further believed that as a considerable amount was contributed by our own people, the said Association felt under obligation to entertain and give them a good time, and therefore the Association was unable to do as much as it had done in the past, and that the competitors were grumblers anyway. Now these are the principal arguments used by the authority on the side of the Council. Let us consider them. We cannot agree with our friends that money has been less plentiful than in the past. It is more plentiful; but, to qualify, it may have been so with the M. R. A. Why? Do we contribute to that which is unsatisfactory? And money donated for shooting has no right to be deflected from that purpose by anyone, however well intentioned. But we believe more. We are assured that Manitoba's interest in rifle shooting is expressed in her representatives at the Dominion matches, and that, and that largely, is the secret of all the trouble. It has been felt that the M. R. A. intended to discontinue sending a team to the annual rifle tournament at Ottawa; nay, some have said so. As regards the second plea, that outsiders desired the matches at Stoney Mountain. This is a question which can be disposed of in a very few words. Naturally an outsider would say so, so do a great many Winnipeggers. But how many outsiders attended our matches last year? Not more than fifteen! Facts are stubborn things. Is it not painful to think that a whole Association had to be transported thirteen miles for such a few? and I venture to say that even those gentlemen, while desiring it, were not anxious for it. And the expense of running the match, which took four days to do fourteen hours actual shooting, was as much if not more than the prize list. We cannot give figures yet, as it is nigh on two years since a financial statement has been made by our Association. As for the third idea, about entertaining, we cordially agree. Let us entertain. No place could possibly be nicer than a rifle range for entertainment for lovers of that sport. The M. R. A. offers an entertainment in the way of a series of rifle competitions. Let us make it as entertaining as possible. But—allow me to emphasize that *but*—we want no foreign elements there; I don't want to particularize—allow that word *element* to cover. Speaking generally these three questions require no straight answer. The best in them we all agree on; the worst in them is disguised under a show of reason. We must have results. If we step on a street car it is to reach some point desired. If we have a rifle association it is to develop and encourage rifle shooting. We maintain that ours was not only a failure last year, but the means resorted to to elect the council were dishonourable. The clause in the constitution which governs the election of the council, reads as follows: That any person being a subscriber of two dollars (\$2.00) per annum and paying the same before the completion of the annual matches, shall become a member of the association for the current association year and shall be entitled to a vote at the annual meeting." In the face of this clause and under strong protest from the practical riflemen at that meeting, the present council was elected by a packed meeting of those who take no interest in rifle shooting, except it be to be *entertained* at the matches. It will readily be seen why the council is incompetent. They are the product of an ignorant ballot. We wish it to be understood that personally the council are all gentlemen (we wish to plough our furrow straight), that a few of them are practical riflemen, but the election of the latter few was an accident; they were woefully in the minority, and, strive as they might, could not accomplish much among such odds. To sum

this question up, we ask what is the best course to pursue to put M. R. A. affairs right? Our opponents know that we have not been unduly harsh in dealing with the matter. We have striven to be fair; we have tried to be kind and courteous under strong convictions; we have the very best interests of rifle shooting at heart; but we feel it a duty, an imperative demand, that the Manitoba Rifle Association shall be what it pretends to be. We leave the subject to the consideration of all interested, trusting that every member will be present at the annual meeting, held early in March; that some course should be adopted by all; that the past should be blotted out by a sweeping reform. And it must be so or the association will linger and die. Let every member aim to be true to the principles and constitution of the M. R. A. and good results will follow. I have spoken.

BUCKSHOT.

FIELD ARTILLERY MATERIAL.

(United Service Gazette.)

Lieut.-Colonel L. W. Walford, R. A., on Thursday last delivered at the Royal United Service Institution a very able and critical lecture on "The Development of Field Artillery Material." General J. T. Walker, C. B., R. E., presided. The attendance was much smaller than usual.

The lecturer observed that there are certain signs which point to the possible adoption, in imitation of the Infantry rifle, of a small calibre, a shell of great length, and a high muzzle velocity. The use of a small calibre will necessarily entail the employment of a shell of small section, while in order to resist the action of the pressure needed to generate a high velocity the shell must, even if it be made of forged steel, be of considerable strength, and, therefore, of a certain thickness. Such a shell will, even though it be made of great length (say 6 calibres), have but a comparatively small content, either of bursting charge or bullets; as regards common shell, this defect may perhaps be made good by the use of a high explosive, but with respect to shrapnel it cannot be surmounted. The use of a long shell is intended to supply the necessary space for the burster or the bullets and to ensure a high remaining velocity. On the other hand, its employment necessitates the use of a rapid twist of rifling, and will probably affect injuriously the accuracy and the length of life of the gun. The high muzzle velocity will be needed to give the requisite rotation (without an excessive slope of rifling) to the long projectile, and is further desired by some officers for its own sake. As regards quick-firing guns, the rate of fire of Artillery in the field is governed by the time required to run up and lay a gun, together with that necessary for bringing up the ammunition; the operations of opening and closing the breech, and of putting in the shot and cartridge, can be performed as quickly as is needed with any breech-loading gun. It may be said, therefore, that, with respect to rapidity of firing, no advantage would be gained by the introduction of quick-firing guns for Field Artillery, except with regard to the fire of case.

There is a tendency in almost all European armies to revert to the employment of field howitzers or mortars, throwing a heavy short shell with a low velocity. This type of field gun has of late years been abandoned, except in the case of our heavy Field batteries in India, but there is now a very marked movement, led by Russia, in favour of its re-introduction. The advantage of possessing a howitzer which will throw a heavy shell is undeniable, but there must be some hesitation in accepting a weapon of which two projectiles weigh more than a cwt. as the arm of a field (therefore, presumably, mobile) battery.

The question of uniformity of calibre, which simplifies manufacture in peace, and the supply of ammunition in war, has, up to the present time, been practically tried by Germany alone, but there are not wanting signs to show that

this problem will be seriously considered by other nations when the time arrives for the re-arming of their Artillery.

The carriages of the Artillery have been made, of late years, both lighter and stronger by the employment of steel. Owing to the increased muzzle velocity of field guns, it has been found necessary to use special means to check the recoil, either by nave brakes, such as the Gruson, and that on the 12-pounder carriage, Mark I., or by tire brakes, such as the Lemoine, the German service, the Buffington, and that on the 12-pounder carriage, Mark II. Owing to the exceptionally high muzzle velocity of our 12-pounder, we have, up to the present, paid more attention than other nations to the construction and use of these buffers, as applied to field guns, but any re-construction of material will certainly be accompanied by their more general use.

Omitting case-shot, which is the same in all armies, and the new variety of shell with a high explosive, the typical field projectiles are a shell for ranging, generally called common shell, and a man-killing shell, or shrapnel. As to the former of these, we use a forged steel shell containing 2 lbs. of powder, the Germans have a cast iron ring shell with a bursting charge of 6 oz., while the French employ their shrapnel shell (which holds only 2 oz. of powder) for the purpose of ranging. As to shrapnel, the French and ourselves place the burster in the head of the shell, which is contrary to the practice of other nations, who all use a burster in the base, connected with the fuze by means of a tube which passes down the centre of the shell. High explosives have been adopted for the bursting charges of field common shell by both the French and the Germans, and trials have been made in the same direction by other nations. The French shell is a steel common shell, four calibres (as an experiment even six) in length, filled with cresylite, of which it holds 3 lbs.; it is used with a percussion fuze, and is intended to destroy cover, such as earthworks, walls, &c. A ninth waggon has been added to each heavy battery for the purpose of carrying seventy-five of these projectiles. The German shells which replace a portion of the complement of powder shell are of the same weight as the ring shell (15.8 lbs.), and are filled and wet gun-cotton primer; they are intended to be used as a rule with a time-fuze against men.

Should it be found, after the experience of some years under varying circumstances, that smokeless powder is as trustworthy as gunpowder (which is, as we know, by no means unaffected by heat and damp), the great technical advantages to be derived from its use would be sufficient, even if we disregarded the tactical benefits, to ensure its adoption, in some form or other, in every Army in the world. It is at present, however, almost everywhere upon its trial, and has been as yet definitely adopted for Field Artillery by France alone of all the Continental Powers. As to the tactical effects of the introduction of smokeless powder, the attribute of invisibility has been somewhat overestimated, both as regards its extent and its effect. The discharge of the gun is accompanied by a very vivid flash (closely resembling the flash of a heliograph), and this flash it will be difficult to conceal in the case of guns which are laid over the sights. The amount and the great velocity of the gas which issues from the muzzle throws up from any ground which is at all loose or sandy (and almost all ground will tend to become loose when the guns have been fired a few times) a cloud of dust, which, though it is equal neither in volume nor density to the smoke of gunpowder, will yet offer a mark sufficient to show the position of the battery. The absence of smoke will certainly assist materially the practice of the battery, inasmuch as not only will the observation of fire be easier, but there need be no delay in laying, since the target will be always visible.

The Germans, realizing how difficult it will be to find space for the masses of Artillery which they propose to use

in war, have reduced the interval between guns to fifteen (in some cases even to six) paces, but without diminishing battery or brigade division intervals, which they consider necessary for the preservation of fire discipline. In place of *echelons*, which obviously take up a large extent of ground in proportion to the number of batteries, they propose to use successive lines or tiers of guns, and thus to crowd such ground as is available for Artillery with the greatest possible number of weapons. Both of the above changes are entirely dependent for their inception, as they will be for their advantage, upon the fact that the new powder has no smoke which may hide the enemy.

The Germans have added two waggons and the French three to the establishment of each battery. Omitting the increased storage due to an improved pattern of waggon, we may thus say that the former have added 33 per cent., and the latter 50 per cent., to their former equipment in ammunition. The Russians have gone even farther, and have now twelve waggons to the battery, exclusive of forge, store waggons, etc.

The accuracy and volume of modern fire, both of artillery and infantry, has led at various times to different suggestions, having for their object the protection of guns by some species of armour. These have, up to the present, been rejected in practice, owing to the unavoidable increase of weight which would be the consequence of the adoption of such a form of protection.

The Russian travelling shielded mounting, which was tried at the German manoeuvres of 1889, and which was also exhibited to a gathering of officers of all nations in September last at Magdeburg, consists of a sheet-iron cylinder, which is provided with a floor and a revolving curved roof, and has a door at the rear. The weight of the gun (which is without recoil) and that of the roof are taken on a central column, and do not fall upon the thin iron sides. The system rests on four small rollers, which are used to place the mounting in position, while the transport of the whole is rendered comparatively easy by the use of a transporting axle, carrying two wheels. It is considered that the whole can be drawn by three horses, which are driven by a driver sitting on the cupola itself. These mountings might be employed in defensive positions, in cases where such positions were decided on some time in advance of the struggle and deliberately prepared for a stubborn defence, but their true vocation is in the defence of fortresses, for which they are sufficiently mobile and in which, if armed with machine-guns, they might be of considerable use.

I have now, as far as the time at our disposal will admit, brought before you the present general position of the material of field artillery. The various directions in which progress appears to be about to take place may be summed up as follows:—the universal use of smokeless powder, the use of high explosives for shells, the increase of the length, and therefore of the capacity of shells, the employment of field howitzers or mortars, increase of the muzzle velocity of guns and the increase of the amount of ammunition carried.

According to the division of class of 1889, the first which has been raised under the new military law in France, the forces of the republic since the first of 1890 have been as follows; The active army and its reserves, 1,510,290; territorial army, 994,615; reserve of territorial army, 1,266,290; officers, 25,000; gendarmes, officers and troop, 27,000. This will give the French republic, in case of war, 4,000,000 of men. Heretofore the relation of the effective army, according to the number of inhabitants in each nation, has been about 1 per cent. in time of peace and 2 per cent. in time of war. To-day the per cent. will be five times this at the moment of mobilization. At no period in her history has France had an assemblage of military forces to compare with this.

NIAGARA BATTLE-FIELDS OF 1812-14.

Fully one thousand invitations to attend the lecture delivered by Capt. Cruikshank last week were issued by the Canadian Military Institute, and if the weather had not been so intensely disagreeable it is probable that Convocation Hall at Upper Canada College would have been completely filled. Even under the decidedly unfavourable circumstances there were few vacant seats, and those who attended were rewarded by the acquirement of knowledge respecting a most important and interesting period in the history of their country which might not have been obtained but for the efforts of the lecturer, who made it a subject of special study and research. Capt. Cruikshank lectured on "The Battle-fields of the Niagara Peninsula, 1812-14," forming a chapter of Canadian history of which the information obtained through ordinary channels is comparatively meagre. Not only had the lecturer sought to qualify himself for the task by securing access to British and Canadian records, but he had possessed himself during a residence at Washington of the American view of the campaign. No wonder, then, that his lecture was anticipated with pleasure, and that it was listened to with profound attention.

In the audience were many well-known private citizens and many ladies, and, as was to be expected, a large number of local military men were present. Among those observed were Lieut.-Col. Otter, D.A.G.; Lieut.-Col. and Miss Dawson, Lieut.-Col. G. T. Denison, Lieut.-Col. and Mrs. Jones, Dufferin Rifles; Lieut.-Col. Rogers, 40th Batt.; Lieut.-Col. and Mrs. Shaw, Major Vidal, Major Mason, Major Harrison, Major Mead, Major McSpadden, Major J. Mason, 13th Batt.; Capt. Mason, Capt. McGee, Capt. McLean, Capt. J. Hughes, England; Capt. J. Stuart, 13th Batt.; Capt. Mutton, Capt. Milloy, 19th Batt.; Capt. Manley, Capt. Charles and Mrs. McDougall, Capt. Stinson, Capt. J. G. Ridout, Lieut. Evans, Lieut. Laurie, Lieut. Crean, Lieut. and Mrs. L. H. Irving, Lieut. Fleming and Lieut. Denison, G.G.B.G.; Lieut. Mickle, Lieut. W. Irving, T.F.B.; Lieut. & Miss Fahey, Surgeon-Major Keefer, late Bengal Army; Sergt.-Major Cumming and Sergts. C Company, I.S.C.; Sergt.-Major Cox and Sergts. R.G.; Sergt. Major Kennedy and Sergts. Q.O.R.; Quarter-Master Sergeant Borland, I.S.C. Among the civilians were:—Principal and Mrs. Dickson, Dr. Scadding, the President and members of Canadian Institute, Mr. Chas. Mair, Mr. and Mrs. S. Jarvis, Mr. D. B. Read, Mrs. Curzon, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Webb, Mr. and Mrs. T. Brough, Mr. and Mrs. Æ. Jarvis, Mr. Mortland, Professor Baker, Mr. and Mrs. W. Baines.

Letters expressing their regrets at being unable to be present were received from His Excellency Lord Stanley of Preston, Major the Honourable C. W. Colville, Major-Genl. Herbert, Rev. Canon Bull, Drummondville, President of Lundy's Lane and Wentworth Historical Societies.

Hon. John Beverley Robinson occupied the chair, and after an address, which was both interesting and instructive, introduced the lecturer.

Capt. Cruikshank received a warm welcome. He explained that in a lecture of an hour and a half's length at most he had to try and cover a period extending over 20 months. His object, it was readily discernible, was to show that the defence of the frontier against the American forces in the war of 1812-14 was maintained almost entirely by the Canadians. He attempted little argument or reasoning, but gave facts and figures to prove his contention. It is impossible, under present circumstances, to attempt even a condensation of his admirable paper, but as a chief point made by him was the wretched condition and insufficiency of the royal troops stationed in Canada at the outbreak of the war, his statements with respect to them are herewith given. It was his purpose, he said, to deal with the military aspects of the subject, and he would exclude all details which had not any direct bearing on it from that point of

view. The printed literature dealing with that part of Canadian history was very extensive, but for the military student, owing partly to the prejudice of the writers and partly to want of exact information, much of it was almost valueless. He preferred, where it was practicable, to go to the original and official documents. A few words on the composition and equipment of the contending forces would not be out of place. There was, unfortunately, good reason to believe that to a large part of the British force in 1812 the term applied by Wellington to his rank and file, "the scum of the earth," was applicable. The recruiting officers had been found to resort to many strange and discreditable devices to supply the drain of twenty years of war. The prisons were emptied bodily into the ranks. Men under sentence of death for the vilest crimes were permitted to serve therein by enlisting under assumed names. Prisoners of war of all nationalities were accepted as recruits, although it was apparent they intended to desert at the first opportunity. Three of the best regiments in the army were entirely composed of pauper boys drafted from the country poor houses. Little attention was paid to the physical condition of the recruits, and hundreds of these went directly to the hospital from the recruiting office. The best men were naturally sent to Spain and Hindostan, and the residuum despatched to those stations where merely garrison duty was anticipated. Accordingly when war was declared by the United States whole battalions stationed in the British provinces were actually unfit to take the field through physical causes. In Upper and Lower Canada on the 1st of July, 1812, there were, including four battalions of colonial troops, 7,147 officers and men of all arms. Of these the 10th Royal Veteran Battalion, 559 strong, was entirely composed of old and infirm men; the 103rd, 781 so-called effectives, of boys; and the Glengarry Light Infantry and Canadian Voltigeurs, 829 officers and men, of raw recruits. Ultimately the last three battalions became excellent soldiers. The British squadron on Lake Erie, and that on Lake Ontario, were tied up in port for weeks together at the most critical periods through the weakness or inefficiency of their crews.

With the production of these facts the lecturer pointed out that in this great crisis Canada had to depend for her protection upon her own sons, and that they grandly responded to the call, as the invaders had full opportunity and occasion to learn. He described how the chief engagements of the war had been fought and won, including the battles of Queenston Heights, Beaver Dam, Lundy's Lane, Stony Creek, Fort Erie and Fort Niagara. He was heartily applauded at the close of the lecture.

Lt.-Col. G. T. Denison congratulated Capt. Cruikshank upon the value and interest of his lecture, stating that it was opportune at a time when a new system of loyalty was being taught by strangers to the country. He moved a vote of thanks to the lecturer, which, being seconded by Lt.-Col. Dawson, was carried with enthusiasm.

Major Mason, R.G., on behalf of the Military Institute, thanked Principal Dickson, of the U.C.C., for the use of Convocation Hall.

Capt. Cruikshank, who belongs to the 44th Battalion, and is a resident of Fort Erie, is at present taking a course at the School of Infantry in Toronto.

He wouldn't be an emperor nor would he be a king,
A jurist nor a lawyer, nor any kindred thing;
He wouldn't be a fireman because his work was hot,
But he'd rather be a soldier and be shot! shot! shot!

The easy quiet way in which T. A. SLOCUM'S OXYGENIZED EMULSION OF PURE COD LIVER OIL has won its way into public favor speaks volumes for its merits. At the office of the company, Toronto, Ont., can be seen scores of valuable testimonials, while any druggist will tell you that for all pulmonary difficulties it stands unrivalled.

REGIMENTAL.

QUEEN'S OWN SERGEANTS' MESS.

"We're Britons born,
We're Britons still, and Britons aye shall be;
The Union Jack, the flag we love,
Shall guard our Maple Tree."

The Eighth Annual Dinner of the Queen's Own Sergeants' Mess was held in their Mess Room on Friday evening, 27th February.

At 8.45 p.m. the dinner bugle sounded and immediately afterwards the guests filed in from the ante-room and seated themselves at the tables arranged in the large mess room.

The chair was occupied by Sergeant-Major Kennedy and his first duties in his new position were well and ably performed. Seated on either side of him were Lt.-Col. Hamilton, Lt.-Col. G. T. Denison, Lt.-Col. F. C. Denison, Lt.-Col. Sweney, Lt.-Col. Gray, Major Meade, T. F. B.; Capt. McDougall, R.S.I.; Ald. Score, Capt. Macdonald, and Dr. Nattress. Among the other guests were noticed Capts. Pellatt, Mason, Thompson, Greene, Mutton and Heakes, Lieuts. Lee, Baird, Ilwyd, Rennie, Peuchen, Wyatt, Crean, Levesconte, Burnham, Knifton, Mercer, Murray and Mr. J. G. French; Sgt.-Major Athaws, 13th Bn., Hamilton; Col.-Sergt. Jack, 14th Princess of Wales, Kingston; Sergt.-Major Woodman, T.F.B.; Sergt.-Major Granger, G.G.B.G.; Sergt.-Major Cox, 10th R.G. The seating capacity was taxed to its utmost, covers being laid for one hundred and twenty guests. The decorations were exceedingly handsome, the walls and ceilings being completely covered by the numerous flags and bannerets, the signal flags of the Royal Canadian Yacht Club forming not the least item among the many. The Flag—the Old, Old Flag—predominated. By means of three electric lights placed outside the stained-glass windows the designs were brought out very prominently, and the centre one with the crest of the regiment was rendered very conspicuous. Caterer Webb filled his post to the satisfaction of everyone, and at the conclusion of the *menu* the order from Shakespear, "Prepare for mirth, for mirth becomes a feast," found ready response. Previous to entering in on the Toast List the Secretary read letters of regret from the following:—Maj.-Gen. Herbert, Lieut.-Cols. Dawson, Alger, Smith, Jones, Gibson, Grasett, Commander Law, Sir J. A. Macdonald, Lt.-Gov. Campbell, Sir Casimir Gzowski, Mr. Dalton McCarthy, and Rev. G. E. Lloyd, late chaplain of the regiment.

The toast of the Queen was accorded the reception her sons well know how to accord. The D.A.G. was responded to by Brigade-Major Gray in the absence of Lieut.-Col. Otter, caused by an injury to his knee. The Brigade Major was well received, and in response said he took pleasure in responding to this toast, and said a hearty amen to the couplet on the menu card, which read as follows: "Our country hath no worthier son than he." He stated that it was with much pleasure he informed them that that week he had taken over from the city the site of the new drill hall, and that he hoped that the powers that be would be able to start work next week. Ex-Sergt. Eddis then sang "The Three Jolly Britons." Bugle Major Swift then proposed the toast of "Our Commanding Officer and the Staff," which was replied to by Lieut.-Col. Hamilton and Capt. Macdonald. The Colonel then congratulated the sergeants on the success of the event, as well as on the greatly improved conditions of the rooms, and assured those present that the regiment owed its success to the non-coms., the backbone of the regiment, and stated that it never possessed a better class than it was composed of to-day.

The Regimental Song was rendered by Bugle-Major Swift, and Staff Sergt. Macdonald rose to propose the toast of "Our Departed Comrade" to the memory of the late Sergt.-Major S. C. McKell. He traced his life in the regiment, and in the mess of which he was for some years the

chief mainstay, summing up his remarks by referring to him as one who was every inch a soldier. "The Vacant Chair" was well rendered by Staff-Sergt. Williams. The Canadian Militia was proposed by ex-Staff-Sergt. alker, who coupled the name of Col. F. C. Denison with it. In his opening remarks the Colonel stated that if anyone desired to see how they looked in the newspapers, in full regimentals and with drawn sword, to run for Parliament. He defended the Government against the charges preferred against them for neglecting the interests of the volunteers, and stated that he could promise them the finest drill hall in the Dominion.

"The Maple Leaf," fittingly appropriate, was well rendered by Sergt. Creighton.

Staff-Sergt. Harp, in a stirring speech, proposed the toast of "Imperial Federation," coupled with the name of Col. G. T. Denison, and amid deafening applause assured him that in the ranks of Federationists would be found the members of the Q.O.R. Sergeants' Mess to a man. Col. G. T. Denison, on rising to reply, was received most enthusiastically, and he stated that although he had already spoken for an hour and a half that evening he found it no trouble to speak for a similar length of time to the sergeants of the Queen's Own, to the men who were the first in the land to have the toast of "Imperial Federation" on their toast list. He handled Prof. Goldwin Smith in regard to his recent address on "Loyalty" in a manner highly edifying to his hearers and spared no reproach on the peripatetic Professor, as he styled him, who had such an apparent contempt of Canadian loyalty. He stated that for twenty years he had stuck to the Reform party, and further stated that if the Reformers knew as much about the result of Unrestricted Reciprocity as the Hon. Edward Blake, or even as he did, they would cut off their right arm sooner than support such measures. He stated that it was hard at a time like this not to discuss politics, but that if this was politics, it was national politics, and in closing stated most emphatically that with no reciprocity there would be no annexation.

The song of "The Union Jack of Old England," sung by Staff-Sergt. Williams, then followed, and the manner in which the chorus was sung was quite sufficient evidence of the support of the Mess to the remarks of the last speaker.

"Our Brother Non Coms." was proposed by Sergt. A. M. Burns, and replied to by Col. Sergt. Jack of the 14th Princess of Wales, and by Sergt-Major Athaws of the 13th of Hamilton. Col. Sergt. Jack assured the members that no name was more honoured by the members of his regiment than the name of Rev. Principal Grant, the leading supporter in the Limestone City of Imperial Federation.

In response to the toast of "The Mayor and Corporation," proposed by Sergt. McHenry, Ald. Score briefly replied, assuring the members that in every way they could always count on the loyal support of the Council.

"Our Guests" was proposed by Staff-Sergt. Williams, coupling with it the names of Lt.-Col. Sweney, Capt. Macdougall and Mr. J. G. French. In response to the request of the proposer the toast was given with Highland honours, and given in a manner that fairly raised the roof, and was fittingly replied to by the gentlemen whose names were coupled with it, the speech of Mr. J. G. French, of Rochester, being well received, especially that part where he blamed the conduct of the Queen's Own whom he had come in contact with for his being annexed.

The toast of "The Ladies" was responded to by Sergt. Drynan, the latest member of the Mess, and the toast of "The Press," proposed by Sergt. Higginbotham, brought the list to a close. After a brief speech by Col. Hamilton congratulating Sergt.-Major Kennedy on his promotion, and also the Mess in the possession of such an efficient officer, the Sergt. Major called on those present to charge their glasses and drink to their last toast, which was, "Let every

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AUTHORIZED BY THE LEGISLATURE.

MONTHLY DRAWINGS FOR THE YEAR 1891.

January 14, February 11, March 11, April 8, May 13, June 10,
July 8, August 12, September 9, October 24,
November 11, December 9.

NINTH MONTHLY DRAWING, MARCH 11, 1891.

3,134 PRIZES
WORTH - \$52,740.00.

CAPITAL PRIZE,
WORTH - \$15,000.00.

Ticket. - - - \$1.00.

11 Tickets for - \$10.00.

ASK FOR CIRCULARS.

LIST OF PRIZES.

1 Prize, worth \$15,000	\$15,000
1 " " 5,000	5,000
1 " " 2,500	2,500
1 " " 1,250	1,250
2 Prizes, " 500	1,000
5 " " 250	1,250
25 " " 50	1,250
100 " " 25	2,500
200 " " 15	3,000
500 " " 10	5,000

APPROXIMATION PRIZES.

100 Prizes, worth \$25	\$2,500
100 " " 15	1,500
100 " " 10	1,000
999 " " 5	4,995
999 " " 5	4,995

3134 Prizes, worth \$52,740
S. E. LEFEBVRE, Manager,
81 St. James St., Montreal, Canada.

man fill up his can and drink to our next merry meeting, boys."

After the tables were cleared the remainder of the evening, or rather of the morning, was spent in songs and dancing, the chief event being the initiation of the strangers to the Grand Bounce Degree. It was well into the wee sma' hours before the last guest departed, so late, indeed, that many read the account of the dinner they were even then celebrating in the morning papers. The Eighth Annual has been by long odds the most successful event ever undertaken by his Mess.

BREECH BLOCK.

THE GRENADIERS.

The officers of the Grens. have formed a class for mutual instruction during the winter months. The intention is to keep the "old heads" from getting rusty and to teach the "goose step" to the "young 'uns."

The drummers and buglers had a drive about town on Friday evening last. A very enjoyable time was spent, finishing with a supper at the Armory Hotel.

The members of the Sergeants' Mess are making arrangements for another smoking concert, to be held in the mess room Thursday evening, 12th inst.

A meeting of members of Capt. Harston's (new) company has been called to make arrangements for drill to commence at once. He starts with a roll of about twenty men, many of whom are old drills, which gives him a good start.

It is quite probable that the directory of the Columbian Exposition will arrange for a military display. The cause of delay in arriving at a definite conclusion at present is owing to the disposition of the directory to require the troops to be present at the opening of the exposition while the officers of the National Guard wish to have strictly military encampment during the summer months of 1893.

General Miles is fond of good living, and when he is in the field his "mess" is most plentifully supplied. He believes also in feeding his soldiers well, and, unlike Julius Cæsar, holds to the opinion that a soldier can fight better on a full stomach than when weakened by the pangs of hunger.—Chicago Journal.

Militia General Orders (No. 3) of 27th Feb., 1891.

NO. 1—SENTENCES BY COURTS MARTIAL.

The Major General Commanding has, in consequence of the undue severity of sentences awarded by District Courts Martial, been frequently called upon to exercise his power of remission of part of those sentences.

Such motion when constantly repeated, cannot fail, in his opinion, to weaken the authority which should attach to the decisions of a Court Martial.

He desires therefore to point out, that while District Courts Martial are invested with large powers of punishment, the more serious forms of crime which can be dealt with by such courts are fortunately of rare occurrence. Moreover, the fact that the men serving in the Militia force, are for the most part young, and serving a short term of service, encourages the belief that breaches of military law are more frequently committed under the influence of passing temptation, than as the result of preconceived and systematic intent.

In awarding punishment, a clear distinction should be drawn between crimes against military law, and those crimes for which the offender could be arraigned before the civil power. In dealing with the former, full regard should be paid to such considerations as the age of the prisoner, the length of time he has been amenable to military discipline, and the consequent opportunity he has had of becoming imbued with the military spirit. In the latter case, punishment should not be out of proportion to that which would be inflicted for the same crime by the civil power.

Throughout, it must be borne in mind, that punishment should be the necessary and not the excessive vindication of military discipline, since an error on the side of excess, is calculated to cause a feeling of discouragement in the young soldier.

Attention is drawn to Queen's Regulations, Section vi, paragraph 99, on this subject.

NO. 2—ASSOCIATIONS FOR DRILL IN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS.

GUELPH COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE DRILL COMPANY.—To act as Captain: Acting Sergeant Walter Henry McCullough, vice C. Auld.

To act as Lieutenant: Acting Corporal Thomas Joseph Day, vice R. Henderson.

To act as 2nd Lieutenant: Acting Lance Corporal Frederick Charles Kydd, vice J. F. Kilgour.

NO. 3—MOBILIZATION.

The following changes in Company Headquarters are authorized: 74th Battalion of Infantry, N.B.

No. 4 Company, from "Shemogue" to "Moncton."

86th "Three Rivers" Battalion of Infantry, Q., No. 4 Company, from "St. Gabriel de Brandon" to "St. Boniface de Shewenegan."

By command,

WALKER POWELL, Colonel,
Adjutant General of Militia,
Canada.



North-West Mounted Police

RECRUITS.

APPLICANTS must be between the ages of Twenty-two and Forty, active, able-bodied men of thoroughly sound constitution, and must produce certificates of exemplary character and sobriety.

They must understand the care and management of horses, and be able to ride well.

The minimum height is 5 feet 8 inches, the minimum chest measurement 35 inches, and the maximum weight 175 pounds.

The term of engagement is five years.

The rates of pay are as follows:—

Staff-Sergeants\$1.00 to \$1.50 per day
Other Non-Com. Officers... 85c. to 1.00 "

	Service pay.	Good conduct pay.	Total.
1st year's service,	50c.	—	50c. per day
2nd "	50	5c.	55 "
3rd "	50	10	60 "
4th "	50	15	65 "
5th "	50	20	70 "

Extra pay is allowed to a limited number of blacksmiths, carpenters and other artisans.

Members of the force are supplied with free rations, a free kit on joining and periodical issues during the term of service.

Applicants may be engaged at the Immigration office, Winnipeg, Manitoba; or at the Headquarters of the Force, Regina, N.W.T.



MONEY ORDERS.

MONEY ORDERS may be obtained at any Money Order Office in Canada, payable in the Dominion and Newfoundland; also in the United States, the United Kingdom, France, Germany, Austria, Hungary, Italy, Belgium, Switzerland, Portugal, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, the Netherlands, India, Japan, the Australian Colonies generally.

On Money Orders payable within Canada the commission is as follows:

If not exceeding \$4.....	2c.
Over \$4, not exceeding \$10.....	5c.
" 10, " " ".....	10c.
" 20, " " ".....	20c.
" 40, " " ".....	30c.
" 60, " " ".....	40c.
" 80, " " ".....	50c.

On Money Orders payable abroad the commission is:

If not exceeding \$10.....	10c.
Over \$10, not exceeding \$20.....	20c.
" 20, " " ".....	30c.
" 30, " " ".....	40c.
" 40, " " ".....	50c.

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1st November, 1890.

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