

# THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE

A Weekly Journal devoted to the Interests of the Active Force of the Dominion.

Second Year.  
VOL. II, No. 79.

OTTAWA, THURSDAY, 20th JANUARY, 1887.

\$1.50 per annum in advance.  
Single Copies Five Cents

## CORRESPONDENCE.

THE MILITIA GAZETTE aims at being the recognized medium of instruction and information for Canadian militiamen and rifle shots. Communications on the subjects to which its pages are devoted are respectfully invited. Anonymous communications will not be regarded. No name will be published, except with the writer's consent. The editors will not be responsible for the views of correspondents.

## SUBSCRIPTIONS

May begin at any time, and are payable strictly in advance. Terms for Canada, the United States, or Great Britain, \$1.50; eight months, \$1.00; to clubs of four annual subscribers, four copies for \$5.00; postage in each case prepaid. Single copies can be obtained from the newsdealers at 5 cents.

## ADVERTISEMENTS

Unexceptionable in character will be inserted at 15 cents per line for transient matter. Rates for large spaces or extended periods will be given on application. Space estimated at four columns to the page and twelve lines to the inch.

## REMITTANCES

Should be made by Registered Letter, Post Office Order or Draft. For Great Britain, each dollar may be taken as equivalent to 4s., and cents as half-pence. All communications must be addressed to

THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE,

Box 316, OTTAWA, Canada.

Printed by MASON & REYNOLDS, 45 Elgin Street, Ottawa.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS.

### COMMENT AND CRITICISM.

Officers eligible for a three months' course at the R. M. C.  
The New Brunswick rifle association.  
Responsibilities of commanding officers towards military institutions.  
Organizing for the Queen's jubilee at Ottawa.  
Summary of last year's military doings in England.  
Annual meeting of the Ontario artillery association.  
Militiamen and political meetings.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE NEW BRUNSWICK RIFLE ASSOCIATION.

### SELECTED.

The "United Service Gazette's" military retrospect.  
Field and garrison artillery.  
A German officer on infantry tactics.

### REGIMENTAL NOTES.

### MOUNTED POLICE ITEMS.

### OUR TRADING COLUMN.

### PERSONALS.

### ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ONTARIO ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION.

## Comment and Criticism.

WE learn that Gen. Middleton has decided that officers are eligible to take a three months' course at the R. M. C. without having served nine months at a school of instruction previously to doing so, and we are glad to find this interpretation put upon the regulations; for as we said in our previous remarks on the subject, the men most likely to do credit to themselves and to the force are those whose time is too valuable to permit them to devote a whole year to a long course. This difficulty having been overcome, we want to see as many men as possible take advantage of this course and secure for themselves the highest certificate for military instruction given in Canada. The commandant of the R. M. C., or the adjutant-general here, will furnish all required information, and we can only urge once more every man who has a school certificate and can spare three months from the 10th March next to go.

THE New Brunswick rifle association have just issued their annual report, which shows that they have been not only active but eminently successful in their operations during the past year. We reproduce in another column the report of the council to the members. On one point only do they complain, and that is of the apathy which many of the militia officers show towards the work of the association. Unfortunately in this respect the experience of our maritime friends is common to all other associations in Canada.

WHEN we consider that the Dominion association can only show a membership of one hundred and forty we cannot help feeling that something is radically wrong. It appears to us that when a man excepts the command of a regiment of militia he should be made to understand that his position carries with it certain responsibilities, and that one of these is a generous support of all institutions intended either in a local or general way to improve the efficiency of the force at large. Consequently, we believe that every commanding officer, yes, and every field officer, in the active force and retired list should be a member not only of the Dominion rifle or artillery association, but also of his own provincial association. Some of us have got too much into the habit of wanting an investment of \$2 to bring us a gain of \$3, and the sooner we are taught that some things should be encouraged without any reference to this mercenary aspect of the case the better it will be for the country.

AS one part of the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the Queen's accession, the 20th June next, a movement has been begun with the object of organizing a field day on a grand scale at Ottawa, in which it is suggested that all the militia within a reasonable distance of the Capital should participate. We should greatly like to see this proposal carried into effect. It would do good in many ways, bringing the different corps into touch with one another, and placing them under the immediate supervision of the headquarters staff, of the heads of the government, and of parliament, if, as seems possible, it happened to be in session. Very suitable ground for manœuvring and for overlooking could be got, ground which would suffer no damage and would be rough enough to develop tactical skill, while it would effectually choke off mere review movements. To make the project a success it must be earnestly taken up by the whole city; the municipal corporation must exert itself and probably financially help the movement, and the government will also have to arrange for the necessary transport. But such a field day, if consummated, would be worth a great deal of trouble and expense.

THE summary of last year's military doings in England, which we reproduce from the *United Service Gazette*, is equally as interesting to us Canadians as to those for whom it was originally intended. In treating of the auxiliary forces their efficiency is not reckoned very highly, nor is this the first time that the periodical in question has condemned the militia and volunteers. But even if it goes beyond the facts in condemning the low standard of the auxiliaries it is well that all possible defects should be emphasized, and that all from brigade staffs down to privates should be eternally reminded of what they should aim at. Of what use would any paper be if it never pointed out defects? Fault-finding may be impalatable but it is wholesome medicine.

IN this issue we publish a synopsis of the proceedings at the annual meeting of the Ontario artillery association held in Toronto last week. The council in their annual report make some important recommendations well worthy of consideration. These deal with the question of providing a suitable and central range for the competitions; the award-

ing of prizes to drivers; an increase in the ammunition allowance; to permit of officers competing, and a more liberal annual grant is asked for. The council deplore that so few junior officers are members of the association. It will be noticed that Col. Gzowski has generously offered a prize to the association. Lieut.-Col. Gray having declined renomination, has been succeeded in the office of president by Capt. W. B. McMurrich, of the Toronto garrison artillery.

SOME of the Toronto militiamen, according to the daily papers, are about to hold a public meeting and organize for the purpose of wielding political influence to secure redress of grievances of which they complain. Of course as private citizens these gentlemen are perfectly at liberty to take what political action they please. As militiamen, however, they cannot act as proposed with directly contravening the Regulations and Orders governing them. Section 173 reads as follows: "Officers, non-commissioned officers and men are forbidden to institute or take part in any meetings, demonstrations or processions for party or political purposes, in barracks, quarters, camp or elsewhere."

WE see by the local press that a funeral march has been dedicated to the commanding officer of the Foot Guards; this is rather rough on Colonel Macpherson so soon after taking command, and we sincerely hope that no sinister suggestion is veiled under the implied compliment.

A COMMUNICATION dealing with the adjutancy question, and touching upon our remarks on this subject in our last issue, has had to be held over this week.

#### Personal.

When Capt. Constantine was appointed to the Mounted Police we spoke of his valuable services, and we are now glad to find that the authorities have shown their appreciation of them by allowing him to retain his comparatively recently acquired rank of captain. He is so good an officer and so thorough a soldier that the country alone is the gainer by this action.

The record of Arthur Hamilton, who has just joined the Royal School of Artillery at Kingston, is alike glorious and interesting. A native of Surrey, in 1876, when but fourteen years old, he enlisted in the 9th Lancers as a trumpeter. During the Afghan war he was picked out by General Roberts as his trumpeter and accompanied the general on the march from Peshaur to Candahar, a distance of three hundred miles. There were numerous conflicts all along the line of march, but at the gates of Candahar furious battles were fought, which lasted for two and a half days. At the expiration of that time, the British not only secured a footing, but had conquered the city. This was in 1879 and 1880. In one of the conflicts in front of Candahar, Lieut. Patterson, of the 9th Lancers, fell off his horse badly wounded. Hamilton, among others, saw the officer fall; but the trumpeter was the only one that went to his assistance. When the rescuer got near enough, he dismounted and assisted the wounded officer to mount. As soon as the officer was safely seated, the animal started at full speed for the British camp. This left Hamilton alone, and on foot. When the Afghans observed him, several hundreds rushed down upon the trumpeter. Taking to his heels, he soon got ahead of the main body; but the advance guard was nearing him. Suddenly wheeling around, he faced his opponents, sent one to their long home, seized one of their horses, mounted and rode to the woods, where he remained three days on two cakes, when he joined reinforcements on their way to Cabul. He served through the whole campaign, and, after the Cabul affair, carried despatches between Peshaur and Campbellpore. These were secreted in a "Guttrie" coat which he wore, and his instructions were to hand over the coat to the officer in command. Lord William Beresford carried the despatches with Hamilton. He and the trumpeter, before the walls of Cabul spiked eighteen guns, and, at the last one, they were observed by the Afghan sentries. Like a shot a number were upon the two men. They showed fight and repulsed the enemy, who had several killed and wounded. Later, Hamilton went to England and enlisted in the 1st Royal Dragoons and, after three months' service he entered the 4th Dragoons and went to Egypt where he took part in the battles of El Teb, Kassassin and Tel el Kebir. At the latter place his saddle slipped, and although a fine horseman, he was thrown to the ground. One foot however, was caught in the stirrup and he was being dragged to certain death when a comrade named Wat-

son, taking in the situation, shot the animal dead. Afterwards Hamilton went to Canterbury, Eng., from which place he was ordered to the camel corps in Egypt as a rough rider. Subsequently he went to Woolwich as riding instructor to the Royal artillery cadets. At Dublin, during the riots on Sackville street in which several policemen were killed, he had his helmet smashed in by a brick. At Aldershot Hamilton was one of the trainers of horses for military service, and in the tent-pegging competition he secured first prize over all England. Hamilton has been awarded the Afghan medal, the Candahar star, the Egyptian medal and the Khedive's star, besides the Victoria Cross, won for saving Lieut. Patterson's life. This record for a man of twenty-four, is something wonderful and Gunner Hamilton is the first man in the Canadian militia to wear the coveted decoration.

#### Annual Meeting of the Ontario Artillery Association.

THE annual meeting of the Ontario artillery association was held in Toronto on Jan. 13th, in the Rossin house parlor, the president, Lieut.-Col. Gray, in the chair. There were also present:—Col. Gzowski, Toronto; Lieut.-Col. Macdonald, Guelph; Lieut.-Col. McKenzie, Gananoque; Lieut.-Col. H. P. Van Wagner, Hamilton F. B.; Lieut.-Col. J. Hogg, Collingwood G. B.; Major Nicoll, Guelph; Major McLean, Durham; Major King, Welland; Major Hood, Guelph; Capt. W. B. McMurrich, Capt. W. McDonald, Capt. J. H. Mead, Lieut. L. H. Irving, Lieut. A. H. Malloch, Toronto; Capt. Hendrie, Hamilton; Capt. Davidson, Guelph; Lieut. Clendenning, Welland, and others.

#### REPORT OF THE COUNCIL.

The president read the annual report of the council as follows:—

The council of the association presents herewith the report for the year 1886 of the executive committee on the subject of "artillery ranges," of the secretary on the working of the association and of the treasurer, with the accounts duly audited.

Affiliation.—Nine field and three garrison batteries have affiliated with this association during the past year. Next year, owing to certain restrictions as to the training, the number of garrison batteries will probably be decreased, in fact, only one of the three Ontario batteries will be called upon to perform their annual drill and gun practice.

Gun practice.—The shooting on the whole is far above the average. The average length of range which has been used does not probably exceed 1,450 yards, Port Hope 1,300 yards, Port Colborne 1,600 yards. The council is strongly of opinion that from 1,500 yards to 2,000 yards should be the range for field gun practice and 1,300 for S.B.O., and 2,000 for B.L.R. or M.L.R. The council begs to suggest for favorable consideration the question of obtaining some improved sighting arrangements and the paying of, say, \$10 to each commanding officer of a field battery for expenses while attending practice.

Ranges.—Although the executive committee have made a report on all likely ranges so far as known, they have omitted to recommend anyone of them as being suitable. Col. Cotton, assistant inspector of artillery, in his remarks on the Port Colborne range, says of it that in his "opinion it is the best artillery range in Canada." This council favors the concentration at one point of all Ontario batteries, for the purpose of performing the practice, and recommends Port Colborne as the best place. Your council would suggest for the consideration of the council of the Dominion artillery association whether it would not be more economical and beneficial in the end if garrison batteries using guns mounted on travelling carriages were permitted to fire at the same time and over the same range as field batteries. In common justice to them, if they are to compete against batteries firing over a first-class range, like Quebec, for instance, they should not be handicapped by using some chance range.

The prize list during the past year was a most liberal one. The council would suggest whether it is a question of good policy in offering prizes for voluntary drills, so few batteries competing, and of not offering more encouragement to drivers; heretofore shooting and efficiency prizes have been the great object aimed at. An immobile field battery is useless. A prize might be offered for judging distances, which is a most important thing and should be encouraged. The council would also suggest to the parent association the feasibility of its prize list, conditions, etc., being published at an early day in the year. That the attention of the Dominion association should also be called to the fact that this association are not in favor of the present method of competing for the Gzowski cup, and would recommend that such change should be made as will enable the object aimed at to be more fully realized.

The council would recommend most strongly, and of being of urgent importance to the interest of the artillery force generally:—

1. The concentration of all batteries as above suggested.
2. An increased number of rounds of ammunition to enable officers to compete.
3. A liberal increase of the annual grant to the Dominion artillery association. It is apparent to every militiaman that the Dominion with its small grant, aided by public generosity, has done much to increase the efficiency of the militia artillery.
4. The establishment of the competitions for officers firing at moving objects.
5. A more liberal allowance of clothing. Nothing is more trying to clothing than gun drill, grooming horses, &c.

In establishing this association success was partially ensured at the beginning by a generous grant from the Ontario government, but the council expects that every officer who takes a proper interest and pride in his battery should be a member of this association; by united action and help alone can the association ensure the further success of both Dominion and Ontario associations. With regard to this the council regrets, but it is nevertheless a fact, that so few junior officers are members; the seniors are working for what really the now juniors will most benefit by, and they candidly say, and with a right, that they look to them for support, both morally and financially.

Col. Gray concluded by moving the adoption of the report.

Col. Gzowski, in seconding the motion for the adoption of the report, suggested one or two verbal alterations. He said he was desirous of offering a prize of \$50 to the Ontario artillery association, and he would leave it to the executive committee to suggest on what basis it should be contested.

After some discussion the report was adopted.

The financial statement of the treasurer showed a balance in hand on the year's operations of \$245.81.

The president said the statement was a very satisfactory one, and he had no doubt the government of Ontario this year would renew its grant of \$500.

On motion of Capt. McMurrich, seconded by Major Hood, the report was adopted.

A letter was read from Sir A. P. Caron, Minister of Militia and Defence, signifying his willingness to become a vice-patron of the association, and promising to do all in his power to advance its interests.

Several changes in the constitution were made. The Lieutenant-Governor of the province was requested to become patron of the association.

Major King moved that the annual meeting of the association be held immediately after the autumnal firing instead of on the second Thursday in January. He held that by making the change it would afford an opportunity for all the officers to be present at the meeting, and make it a more representative gathering. Captain Hendrie seconded the motion.

Lt.-Col. Macdonald approved of the annual meeting being held at the time when there was a concentration of marksmen, and he therefore moved the following amendment: "In the event of the marksmen of the batteries being concentrated, the meeting shall be held at the same time and place as the annual competitions." Captain Mead seconded the amendment.

The amendment was adopted. It was decided also, in the event of the marksmen not being concentrated, to hold the annual meeting on the second Tuesday after the meeting of the Local Legislature.

Major King moved, seconded by Captain McMurrich, that a cordial vote of thanks be tendered the Local Government for their grant of \$500. Carried.

Lieut.-Col. McKenzie moved, seconded by Major McLean, a vote of thanks to Col. Gzowski for his offer of a prize of \$50. Carried.

Lieut.-Col. Gray read his report as president, which has already been published. On motion it was adopted.

Lieut.-Col. McKenzie, moved, seconded by Major McLean, that the sum of \$50 be granted to the secretary, Lieut. Irving, as a slight recognition of his valuable services to the association. Carried.

#### ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

Lieut.-Col. Macdonald moved that Lieut.-Col. Gray be re-elected president of the association.

Lieut.-Col. Gray declined renomination. He said he did not believe in a second term for an office of that kind, and thought the honors should go round. Moreover, circumstances might necessitate his retirement from the militia force this year.

Lieut.-Col. McKenzie moved, seconded by Lieut.-Col. Macdonald, that Capt. W. B. McMurrich, of the Toronto G. A., be elected president of the association for the ensuing year.

The motion was adopted unanimously and Capt. McMurrich briefly returned thanks.

The other officers were elected as follows:—

Vice-Presidents—Lieut.-Col. Peters, London, F.B.; Lieut.-Col. Hogg, Collingwood G.B.; Major McLean, Durham F.B.; Lieut.-Col. Mackenzie, Gananoque F.B.

Secretary—Lieut. L. H. Irving, Toronto G.B.

Treasurer—Lieut. A. H. Malloch, Toronto G.B.

A vote of thanks was passed to Captain Delamere, of the Q.O.R., for his services as auditor, and he was unanimously re-elected.

The meeting then adjourned.

#### MEETING OF THE COUNCIL.

The council immediately afterwards assembled and elected officers as follows:—President, Lieut.-Col. Gray, Toronto F.B.; Vice-Presidents, Major W. Nicholl, 1st brigade F.A., Guelph; Major F. King, Welland F.B.; Lieut. D. McNaughton, Cobourg G.B.; Major John Stewart, Ottawa F.B. Executive Committee—Capt. J. H. Mead, Toronto F.B.; Capt. J. S. Hendrie, Hamilton F.B.; Capt. J. Davidson, 1st brigade F.A., Guelph. Representative to Executive Committee of Dominion Association, Lieut.-Col. W. McKenzie, Gananoque F.B.

The proceedings then closed.

The officers of the Ontario artillery association paid their respects to his honor the Lieutenant-Governor at Government House after the proceedings of the annual meeting were concluded.

**Rat Portage.**—A rifle company is being organized in Rat Portage, Ont. At a meeting held on the 7th inst the following enrolled, being half the number required:—Messrs. Michaud, Holmes, Nicholson, Murphy, Jno. Barnes, Dauphin, Chapman, Slavin, H. Barnes, Carmichael, Hare, Seaton, Readtud, Holberg, Kobold, Alexander, McKeon, Templeton, Mitchell, Glover, Robinson and McCrossan—21.

## Annual Report of the Council of the New Brunswick Provincial Rifle Association.

THE Council have to present the following as their report for the year 1886, being the twentieth since the formation of the association.

1. With a balance of \$169.00 remaining on hand the association is financially in a satisfactory condition. For a full account of the finances the council refer to the treasurer's statement duly audited and submitted herewith. Out of the balance on hand, however, are yet to be provided some twelve medals due the county associations.

It is a matter of regret that the list of members remains so small and active steps should, perhaps, be taken to secure the more general membership of the militia officers. As the association is in reality a branch and auxiliary of the active force in the province it is deserving of this slight support from all officers who would see the shooting efficiency of the militia improve.

2. The amount of the annual prize list was reduced by about \$100 to partly offset the loss consequent upon the disallowance of sighting shots. The reduction was effected by striking out the competition previously known as the Battalion match, and the Prince of Wales, so long shot at the shorter ranges, was made a Queen's range match, and in connection with it were offered the usual prizes for battalion teams. With Captain Hazen's consent his challenge cup was also placed in the match as the first team prize; the Skirmishing match being altogether struck out.

All four of the suggestions contained in the first paragraph of last year's report were, after consideration, carried out, and on the whole proved advantageous.

The Maiden match brought out three teams of new comers, one each from the 8th Cavalry, 67th Batt. and St. John Rifles.

The matches commenced as usual on a Tuesday, the 17th of August, and though somewhat delayed on that day by rain were finished easily by Thursday evening. The council judge from the general expression of opinion that the competitors approved of the meeting being thus limited to three days.

The number of competitors was slightly in excess of that of last year. The register keepers were all non-competitors, and the duty was more punctually carried out. Another year, though, they must be made more conversant with their duties before they enter upon the work.

The ammunition of Canadian manufacture is still far from being reliable and to it more than to any other cause is it to be attributed, as last year, the miserably low average of winning scores.

3. The council must again point out that the Provincial rifle association is almost wholly unaided by county associations and regimental clubs. Only three of the seven county associations held their matches before Sussex, and there is not a genuine regimental rifle club in the province. The council are very strongly of opinion that it is the duty of the county associations to do what they can to augment the attendance at the provincial meeting, and that they should not fail to hold their competitions beforehand. The prospect is happily a little better than it was last year, for there is now an energetic club at Moncton with a good membership, and from which a representation may be expected as soon as a company of active militia can be formed there, and another club is about being organized at Hampton in connection with the 8th Cavalry.

4. The past year has seen the inauguration of the annual team match between the three maritime provinces. Correspondence on the subject was resumed early in the season and the opening match was eventually shot at Moncton on the 15th of July. The association of Prince Edward Island was not able this year to send a team, so the match was confined to Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. The shooting on the part of both teams was surprisingly high, and though our team gained the match, it was only by the narrow majority of eight points. The totals were 701 and 693. The team from this province was chosen by the executive committee as the time would not admit of any other course; but the council are of opinion that some competitive method should be adopted, and they recommend this for consideration.

A number of resolutions passed at a meeting of the two teams will be submitted for the consideration of the association and the council hope that they will all meet with approval.

5. Success, and that of a brilliant kind, is also to be recorded of another Ottawa team. The members of the association must feel more than satisfied with the many high places taken by our representatives in the individual competitions, and must appreciate the fact that two of these—those in the Governor General's and Wimbledon twenty—are the first in honor in the eyes of Dominion riflemen.

6. In compliance with an application to the Militia Department 20 unused Martini rifles of the early manufacture have been loaned to the association and are now in store at St. John for issue to the members. The association has now control of about fifty of these rifles of which

thirty or more may be relied on. Martini ammunition has been placed in the militia stores and can be procured in the usual way, on deposit of \$24 per 1,000 rounds.

7. The association continues under annual obligation to Lieut.-Col. Maunsell for his prize in the Nursery match. The council would insert here their further thanks to him for having aided several applications to headquarters, and for his kind attendance at the conclusion of the annual matches to assist in the presentation of prizes. Among the prizes presented was a handsome pitcher, a gift to the marksmen of Kings county, by Wm. Pugsley Jr., M.P.P. The executive committee had the pleasure of carrying out the conditions of the prize in accordance with Mr. Pugsley's wishes, and the council are glad to mention this act of favor to so large a portion of the competitors.

8. The Intercolonial and New Brunswick railways gave the usual reduced rates to competitors, for which the council begs to return the thanks of the association. Before the next competition, the association should make a determined attempt to secure free passage to Sussex on the Intercolonial for volunteers in uniform. If it is granted anywhere on that line our riflemen should also enjoy the right.

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN H. PARKS, Major,  
President.

October 6th, 1886.

### The "United Service Gazette's" Military Retrospect.

THE year which closed last night has not been one of those marvelous periods which stand out high and rugged from the surface of history and become a landmark for the student in ages to come. It is rather a bend in the ever-winding stream of time, which, while our attention has been fixed upon the events of the hour, has brought us almost unconsciously into a different state of affairs. In point of interest none can say with Sir Charles Coldstream, that there was "nothing in it." True, no startling event took place during its progress, and we must fervently hope that 1887 may pass with as little excitement, and that the dead level of monotony may be maintained in the new-born year. The most advanced optimist can scarcely hope for this consummation. The horizon is ominously dark, and the cloud, in place of being "as big as a man's hand," has already assumed swollen proportions, and threatens, if it bursts, to rain down with a deluge of human blood. It is our province, however, to sum up the past, not to forecast the future.

The year 1886 opened with a proclamation made by the Empress-Queen notifying that "the territories formerly governed by King Theebaw will no longer be under his rule, but have become part of Her Majesty's dominions." Lord Dufferin, as Viceroy of India, was deservedly complimented for the prompt, firm and deliberate action by which this annexation was effected and another jewel added to the British Crown. At the same time General Sir Donald Stewart—one of the most brilliant commanders of the day—issued in a general order his farewell address to the Indian army. While all concerned keenly regretted his loss, the pain produced consequent on his retirement was sensibly mitigated by the fact that Sir Frederick Roberts—erst his first lieutenant—succeeded to the command. The first week in January brought the news that General Stephenson, with a force of British and Egyptian troops, had attacked the Arabs at Giniss, where the enemy was routed with severe loss, the casualties on our side happily having been only one officer killed (Lieut. Soltau, 1st Berks) and twenty men wounded. In the first week of February a change of administration caused a re-shuffling of the cards at the Admiralty and War Office. Lord George Hamilton retired in favor of the Marquis of Ripon, while Mr. Campbell-Bannerman replaced Mr. W. H. Smith. The War Secretary under Mr. Gladstone's administration, although well versed in the routine of subordinate office, had not served with cabinet rank. It was predicted that, under his auspices, the service over which he presided would be starved, and the army estimates sensibly cut down. The prophets, following the usual fate of those who go, not with but before the time, were wrong. Politics apart, common justice must be done to Mr. Campbell-Bannerman by saying that he made provision to materially increase the strength of the army when a certain but fleet popularity might have been ensured by cutting down army estimates to the minimum; and more than this, the ex-War Secretary, recognizing the national importance of the volunteers, undertook on their behalf to consider their right to an extra capitation grant, and, although no distinct promise was made, to Mr. Campbell-Bannerman belongs the credit of the fast-increasing wants of the volunteers being recognised.

The army estimates were moved in the middle of March. Briefly stated, they provided for a sum of £18,233,000 as compared with £17,750,700 for the previous year. This last-named sum was the estimate proper and stood apart from the scare vote of credit passed by parliament on the outbreak of the Afghanistan complications. The money applied for was to be spent on the increase of the regular army,

which was to be augmented by 9,500 men, owing to an enlargement of the establishment in India. The Egyptian garrison at the same time was materially reduced, and, as the increase of forces in India was thrown upon that country (we do not say with justice, but in accord with hitherto prevailing custom), the excess of estimates was to be administered as follows: The infantry of the line was to receive an increase in its home battalions, which in future will maintain a minimum strength of 750 rank and file against 520 as hitherto. There was a proposed addition to the cavalry of the line and to the Royal artillery of 1,000 to each of the above-named branches, and 500 to the Royal engineers. The commissariat and transport, as well as the medical staff, were likewise credited with a slight addition to their strength. For warlike stores there was an increased demand of £341,300, mainly required for the armament of coaling stations, which necessitated £50,000 for ordnance, projectiles, rifles and explosives. So much for the regular services. The army estimates, as cast by Mr. Campbell-Bannerman, provided for the auxiliaries receiving more attention than had up to his time been accorded them. The effective of the militia was to be increased by 20,000 men; while the yeomanry muster was computed at an excess of 3,000 over the former year. At the same time provision was made for (with no increase in the rate of the capitation grant) 254,000 volunteers, or 30,000 more than shown by their former muster. The proposed distribution for the regular army during the past year was as follows: Home strength, 114,034; in the colonies, 25,638; in Egypt, 8,846; in India, 68,196, making a grand total of 215,714. The total numbers estimated for during the past year were, not reckoning those in India, 151,867. From this number, however, must be deducted 2,534 on the general and departmental staff, and 815 for miscellaneous establishments, leaving 148,518. Again, taking from this balance the staff of militia, yeomanry and volunteers, we arrive at 141,284, the strength of the regular forces on the establishment. It is interesting to observe that the total of 148,518 is accounted for by the following details: Cavalry, 13,733; artillery 23,653; engineers, 7,073; footguards 5,878; infantry of the line, 84,934.

The above is a summary of Mr. Campbell-Bannerman's estimates. Owing to a change of ministry a vote was taken concerning them on account, and on the reassembling of parliament the fortunes of the War Office were placed under the auspices of Mr. W. H. Smith, who had before shown a special aptitude to deal with matters military. In September the army estimates again came before the House of Commons, when the Secretary of State for War practically adopted the lines laid down by his predecessor. On this occasion Mr. Smith might appositely be compared to a builder called in to finish a house half-erected. His work was simply to complete the edifice, not to alter the plan or original design, but to use the quantities already estimated and provided for him. In moving the army estimates formally he was therefore simply working out the details left by his predecessor, and as a vote had been taken on account he merely requested that the balance might be paid. So the army vote went through with but the shadow of opposition. Some few members who love words more than deeds endeavored to obtain from the right hon. gentleman an assurance that the volunteer grant would be increased; that a commissariat corps would be formed for our citizen army; while a distinguished optimist vainly endeavored to induce the War Secretary to sanction the formation of volunteer corps in Ireland. These side issues having been disposed of, the army estimates were passed satisfactorily.

During the year a controversy raged on the subject of our national armour, including ordnance, small arms, swords and bayonets. Envy, hatred, malice, and all uncharitableness were freely exhibited in the discussion of the question, and the exacerbation of temper displayed on both sides is to be regretted. Into the merits of the case it would manifestly be beyond our province to enter on the present occasion, especially as in a legal sense it may be said to be *sub judice*, the Secretary of State for War having wisely in his discretion appointed a committee to investigate the matters of complaint. Looking at the composition of the committee, the nation has every confidence in its members one and all, and the result of their deliberations cannot fail to give satisfaction when they issue their report on the weak spots in our national armour. As a corollary to the above it may be mentioned that in the past year there was issued to certain regiments of British infantry a new composite rifle termed the Enfield-Martini, supposed to embrace the best features of all existing rifles. Criticism, however, was rife on the question of its asserted excellence. Lord Wemyss led the van in attacking it, and clearly demonstrated that the straightness of its stock makes it a certainty for soldiers to shoot too high; so in the end the matter was referred back to the small arms committee, who recommended some important alterations. While these were being effected a new departure was necessitated by the almost universal adoption by all European powers of repeating rifles. It was naturally felt by the War Office authorities that if the magazine gun is considered to possess advantages over the "one-shooter," our arms would be unfairly handicapped were it called upon to face a foreign foe.

The general adoption of repeating rifles has caused the War Office to stay its hands; and as Herr J. Schulloff, whose invention (lately tried at Vienna) is pronounced by competent judges to be far superior to any one existing, has recently given evidence in London before the committee on small arms on the value of magazine guns, we may infer that the issue of repeating rifles to our infantry can be but a question of time.

Recruiting during the past year has been exceptionally good, and a better class of men has been obtained, both in physique and chest-measurement. Pessimists—their name is legion—place this flow of recruits to the credit of the labor market, and contend that, as hunger drives the wolf from the woods, so poverty, through lack of work, has impelled a large percentage of our starving population to enter the ranks, and that all such are serving Her Majesty, not with good-will and cheerfulness, but through dire necessity. We are unwilling to adopt this view in its entirety, and consider that it admits of being liberally discounted. The altered state of service, the greater inducements held out to recruits, and the strenuous exertions made to provide employment for them on returning to civil life, have all tended to make the position of the soldier more attractive, while the liberal bestowal of commissions on deserving warrant officers has greatly helped the cause of recruiting. On this subject we trust that no diminution in this direction may be experienced during the present year. On the other side of the account, we regret to read that desertions show an increase, while fraudulent enlistment has not fallen off. Under the latter head occur many cases of men passed to the reserve unable to find employment, and we recently pointed out that some provision should be made—and made forthwith—to facilitate men rejoining the colors, on the broad principle of commonsense which dictates that it is better to support a soldier in the ranks than a prisoner in gaol. On this subject we referred to an able speech made towards the close of 1886 by Major-General the Hon. P. R. B. Feilding, commanding the south-eastern district.

Our auxiliary forces have been very favorably reported upon, but on examination it will be found that any efficiency they may present is based on a somewhat low standard, and mainly depends on reports from inspecting officers of their ability to march past in more or less unbroken order; to appear clean on parade, with buttons polished, rifles clean and bayonets furnished. So long as these requirements are fulfilled we may confidently expect our auxiliaries to improve year by year. The military critic, however, is forced to confess that militia, yeomanry and volunteers are practically useless save for parade purposes. In this assertion it must be granted that the fault lies not with those branches of the service themselves, but with those set in authority over them. To begin with the militia. We notice that they presented a larger muster last year than in 1885, yet we regret to say that in many battalions the numbers absent from the annual training showed an abnormal proportion. It is also worthy of remark the disproportion of militia officers, compared with volunteer officers, who have passed a school of instruction or passed in tactics. Scant encouragement is given to militia officers to do more than the humdrum routine of regimental duty. We have for years past called attention to the fact, but hitherto without success. Again, many territorial regiments remain, as in 1881, without the formation of a fourth battalion; while (we somewhat tire of repeating) the K. O. B.'s has not even a third. The shooting of the militia is lamentable, and the vicious habit remains, although to a curtailed extent, of quartering men in billets in towns where rifle ranges are non-existent, in place of sending them to camp. The yeomanry have mustered fairly well, and done possibly as much hard work as could be crowded into the short space of eight days. The volunteers, on their part, have done excellently well. More men than ever, in 1886, went under canvas, and regiments at Aldershot associated with the regulars proved that a few weeks of embodiment would turn them into valuable troops. The shooting at Wimbledon last year was above the average, but the false impression still exists, because some hundreds of trained shots from the volunteers surpass probably the best marksmen in the world, that the whole of the force is expert with the rifle. This is a most mischievous *non sequitur*. It is notorious from the musketry drill and practice returns that many (far too many) of our volunteers are but third-class shots. On this subject it is obvious that increased range accommodation must be provided for them. This is not a matter to be taken up by each individual officer commanding a volunteer corps. It is practically a state question, and the onus of finding suitable ranges for the volunteers passes into the province of the Secretary of State for War. With the ever-increasing area of London the speculative builder will soon jostle out all the ranges existent within a moderate radius of Charing Cross, and it becomes the duty of the authorities to protect those now in force, so that with the aid of the safety shed (successfully tried at Wormwood Scrubbs) classes can be fired without entailing a trip into the country with its concomitant expense.

Lieut. Talbot, 90th Batt., is going to take a short course at the school of mounted infantry.

## A German Officer on Infantry Tactics.

By Col. W. W. Knollys, in Colburn's.

WE now come to the critical moment: i.e., that of the charge. Our author assumes that this will be made from a distance of from 300 to 200 metres, evidently preferring the latter. He lays it down as his opinion that during this charge, which should be executed at racing speed, the men should not fire. It hardly needs argument to prove that in this contention he is wright. If the men while charging were allowed to fire some would stop to discharge their rifles whilst others would continue their rush. Thus, not only would there be a loss of combined impetus, but the bolder spirits would be exposed to the danger of being hit by their comrades in the rear.

We now, however, come to a most difficult subject. It is contrary to experience, alike in battle and at manœuvres, and to common sense to suppose that a line of tirailleurs already fatigued by their previous exertions and heavily weighted could charge at any speed and in reasonably good order over so broad a zone as 300 to 200 metres. We have ourselves seen the attempt made at French manœuvres, and the result was that the run slowed down to a walk when two-thirds of the distance had been accomplished. Either a volley must be fired and the tirailleurs must advance at a swift walk under cover of the smoke till they arrive within 100 yards, when they should break into a run, or else the firing line must be somehow brought up to within 100 or 120 yards of the enemy before making the final dash. With a resolute enemy under natural cover or in shelter trenches the first alternative would be equivalent to destruction. How, then, can the other alternative plan be carried out? We can only imagine one way, and that is the following: The tirailleurs should be brought up to a line 200 yards distant from the enemy in the manner above described. Then a furious and rapid fire should be opened for, say, a minute, when from each flank the men should crawl forward successively a few yards at a time till they occupied a line of which the flanks should be 100 yards and the centre 150 yards from the enemy. At this moment the bugles should sound the charge, and every man should run at top speed towards the foe.

As to the little supports—consisting in the German army of a platoon, or one-third of a company—our author lays it down that the distances in rear of the tirailleurs should be gradually reduced from 100 or 200 metres, till at the moment of the assault they should be either in, or close in rear of, the firing line. We prefer a reinforcing of the firing line before the last halt previous to the charge shall have been made, for the firing line needs the impetus of a reinforcement to bring it up to the last halting place.

The second echelon of supports in the German army consists of a line of company columns which it may be sometimes necessary to deploy under stress of fire. As a rule, these companies advance at the ordinary step. We cannot approve of company columns under the effective fire of either rifles or artillery, especially the latter. A single shrapnel shell bursting at the right time would make but one mouthful of an entire company in such a formation. To our mind, the supporting companies should, when under effective fire, advance in line with loosened files, and should take part in the final charge either by following closely the firing line, by filling a gap in the latter, or even by mixing itself up with the men of the firing line immediately in front of it. We would, in addition, point out that in rear of the firing line the small supports and the supporting companies should follow entire battalions, who, drawing closer and closer as the enemy is nearer, should, as soon as the charge has been successfully delivered, take up the pursuit. With reference to the latter we cannot do better than imitate the German system. When they have carried a position, they do not, as most troops are at least apt to do, run after the foe with the bayonet, but halt and open fire. It is obvious that a routed body of troops will get over the ground faster than a body which seeks to retain its order. If a flying foe be followed up with the bayonet, at most a few of the hindmost will be caught and slain, while a steady fire will produce an effect lasting over some time. When the foe shall have got over 400 yards of ground, then they may with advantage be followed up, and some of the pursuers may even double a couple of hundred yards. Even then a portion of the victors should remain halted and continuing to fire.

Capt. Von Mirbach in treating of the retreat justly observes that the soldier having been taught the principles of attack and defence, requires very little special instruction for the combat in retreat. This, however, unless undertaken *before* the respective firing lines shall have come into close contact is one of the most delicate and difficult of operations. Even when it is a part of the general's plan to withdraw his troops as soon as the enemy appears in sight, much skill, steadiness, and discipline are essential to success. When, however, the retreat is forced by stress of fire upon an army which originally intended either to assume the offensive, or even to maintain the defensive, the operation is full of

risk, and demands the highest qualities on the part both of the commander and his men. Indeed, it is almost impossible to withdraw such portions of the army as may be in actual close contact with their adversaries without the retreat degenerating into a rout. Speaking broadly, a firing line which has advanced much closer to the enemy than 400 yards cannot retire. It must either conquer or die.

The following extract lays down sound principles for the firing line: "The object of the *tirailleurs* is to hold the enemy in check as long as possible. This result obtained, the *tirailleurs* would gain a great advantage over their adversary if they succeeded in evacuating the position (for example: a line of hillocks on the border of a wood) without being seen, which, however, is only possible if each man after firing completely conceals himself afresh from the sight of the enemy. The fire will be carried out in such manner as to leave the latter in ignorance of the number of the troops. The men will then by order quit the position individually or by sections, crawling as they go. Arrived at a spot out of sight of the enemy, they will stand up and continue their march. Those who remain the last in the position will keep up the uncertainty of the adversary by firing, sometimes slowly, sometimes rapidly; finally, when their platoon shall have reached a spot 200 or 300 metres distant they will in their turn quit the position without being seen, and join at a run their comrades."

Capt. Von Mirbach says that in order to check the pursuit the pursued must take up a series of good positions, but these should not be too close together, otherwise the troops are apt to become unsteady. For small bodies the halting place should have at least 200 or 300 metres between them. Dealing with the most unfavorable hypothesis, that of a retreat at the close of a defeat, it is at the same time most important and excessively difficult to fall back in good order. If a portion of the troops have not been, or only slightly, engaged, these should take up in rear a good position, behind which the beaten portions should rally; but if all the troops have been engaged, time should be given to the companies or battalions told off to hold the enemy in check to reform their ranks properly. This is only possible by withdrawing them the first from the struggle and posting them in a good position. Naturally, they should be placed on one or both flanks, in order that the beaten troops may not mask their fire.

That is the first stage of the retreat. As to the second stage, it is a question whether the beaten army should retire by echelons, or simultaneously. Our author prefers the latter, and says that the retreat in echelon can only be successfully carried out under the effective fire of the enemy. We cannot agree with him, for it seems to us that it is indispensable to keep your men in hand and good order. That they will fall into disorder and get out of hand if, under a heavy fire delivered at 300 or 400 yards distant, they run to the rear in one body, seems to us inevitable. We would suggest, therefore, that when the enemy is at a distance of 500 yards and upwards the retreat should be effected either by echelon or in one body, according to circumstances, but that as a rule it should be by echelons, when the enemy are within 400 or 500 yards. We would, however, make an exception when the nature of the position is such that the firing line of the retreating force can fall back without being seen; for instance, when occupying the border of a wood or the crest of a hill. In such a case, as Capt. Von Mirbach recommends, a few men should be left behind to deceive the enemy with their fire. With regard to positions, our author attaches much importance to the principle, "Few positions, but those good." As to the method of firing, he sagaciously observes that in the state of excitement in which the men are sure to be there should be no firing on the move, but occasional volleys by platoons or companies.

The object of all manœuvres is to place the troops in the best possible position and condition for using their weapons with effect. The chapter therefore which our author devotes to fire will be read with interest. There are two schools of military opinion in Germany on this subject. One advocates firing by volleys begun at long range; the other would confine their attention almost entirely to developing individual skill on the part of "the *tirailleurs*." Captain Von Mirbach points out that in the tumult of battle at short distances firing by word of command is impossible, while on the other hand the majority of men being only ordinary shots, in the heat of action will only shoot worse even than at the butts. He considers that the truth lies between the two extremes. We confess to a preference for volley firing whenever it is possible, but we fully recognise the fact that it will not always be possible at short distances. A recent order of the Duke of Cambridge prescribes the employment of volleys in the last stage of the attack on the ground that only thus can the firing be controlled, and a simultaneous charge made. This is a strong argument, but the German author whose book is the text of this article suggests that the commander of the section or platoon may be killed or wounded. It is clear that in the turmoil and noise created by the fire of the enemy a direct command cannot be heard by more than a few files. Hence it is essential that no attempt to fire

volleys by a larger body than, say, 100 men is really practicable. From this it follows that the battalion commander cannot by his voice instantly stop the firing of all the fractions under his orders and start them simultaneously on a charge. Still, the difficulty is diminished by restricting the volleys to section volleys, and there is this further advantage, that if the section leader is killed or wounded he will be at once replaced, whereas in the case of a company commander being placed *hors de combat* there might be a little hesitation on the part of his subordinates as to who was to succeed him. Besides, should a section pause for an instant in its firing or fail to catch the order to charge little harm would ensue, for the section in default of orders would instinctively follow the example of sections on either side.

Captain Von Mirbach dwells at some length on the question of sights. We shall not seek to follow him in his detailed examination of the subject, but shall confine ourselves to endorsing his contention that, owing to soldiers being trained to fire at high objects, their shots in action—especially at short distances—almost always fly too high. It is seldom, save when the enemy for a short time is actually moving over a perfectly flat and open piece of ground, that the object is the height of a man. Often nothing more than a man's head can be seen. To aim directly at short ranges at the exact spot wished to be struck is therefore a mistake. The line of sight should be directed when only a man's head is visible at, say, between 100 and 200 yards, at a spot a few inches short or below it; when the adversary is kneeling, at his knee; when he is standing upright and exposed, at the hip. In the German army the regulation is that for long distances down to 800 metres three elevations differing from each other by 100 metres should be used; and from 800 to 400 metres two elevations. Thus, if the distance has been estimated at 800 metres, the elevations would be for 700, 800, and 900 metres. Again, supposing the estimate was for 550 metres, the elevations would be for 500 and 600 metres. If, however, the distance is exactly known—as is often the case when on the defensive—it is not advisable to have more than one elevation; for, as Capt. Von Mirbach remarks, the errors of individuals and the differences in the range of the rifles will cause a considerable breadth of ground to be covered by bullets.

In action, soldiers instinctively fire at those who are nearest to, and are firing at, them. These are the firing line; but they are generally lying down, or under cover of some sort, and present the smallest possible mark. Capt. Von Mirbach urges that the commanders of the fractions of the attacking force—and the rule is equally applicable to the defenders—should exercise discrimination as to the object to be fired at. The supports when within 400 or 500 yards are much more easy to hit than the firing line, as their order is closer, and they are not so much under cover as the firing line. The issue of the final contest is decided by the respective firing lines, or, at all events, chiefly decided by the latter. But the firing line at 400 yards distance has little strength, and would be soon broken up and driven back were it not for the supports in rear, which are used either for thickening the firing line or act as buttresses to it. Hence, if the supports be shattered, the firing line of itself will be too weak to accomplish much. We would, therefore, suggest that a portion at least of the attacking or defending force should, when opportunity serves, give their exclusive attention to their opponents' supports.

#### Field and Garrison Artillery.

It must be palpable to all who have given the subject any serious consideration that the existing departmental organisation of the Royal Artillery is one which, for the well-being of all concerned, the reputation of the army itself, alike with the success of the service at large, to say nothing of the needless expense caused to the public by the ceaseless movements of artillery officers on promotion between garrisons scattered all round the world, must, within no lengthened period, cease to exist. Between artillery at this period of the nineteenth century and the artillery of Crimean days there is little analogy, any more than there is between the attenuated and depleted regiments controlled by the Board of Ordnance and the gigantic congeries, with infinitely extended responsibilities, in India and elsewhere, which it is still attempted to manipulate on lines long since grown obsolete. Whatever be the ultimate formation by which the artillery may be really, and not merely in idea, incorporated with the cavalry and infantry, it admits of no doubt that the first step whereby to alleviate the manifold shortcomings of the present system is to separate altogether the mounted branches, including under the term both horse and field batteries, from the service of garrison artillery. The opposition to such division which has been hitherto successfully waged by the senior officers of the arm who were brought up under the Board of Ordnance—a department altogether separate from the army—is not likely to prevail against the opinions of the vast majority with wider experience of modern warfare and modern needs, and more intimate acquaintance with the complete divorce which recent scientific discoveries and their application have brought about between the duties

of field and garrison artillery. The idea of garrison batteries, as of some penal settlement, whither might be shunted all who, from various causes, were deemed too slack or too lazy, to do credit to the more showy and more favoured mounted branches, is one against which, not only the good sense and intelligence of the regiment itself at the present day revolts, but which is assuredly unlikely longer to commend itself to the approval of the service at large, or of the long-suffering taxpayer, who is mulct so heavily for the provision of gigantic ordnance, round which fiercely rages the battle of the guns. Nor can armaments so powerful, and appliances so intricate as those now deemed essential, be calmly handed over to the guardianship of inspectors of ordnance machinery. The need of well and scientifically officered garrison artillery for the working of the guns mounted on our home and foreign defences, cannot possibly be exaggerated, and the twelve months during which the so-called long course of gunnery for trained officers extends, is in itself an unanswerable argument that the knowledge required for the adequate carrying out of such duties is neither easily nor speedily acquired. There is, however, yet another side to the shield in the well-being of the more favored branches also. What can possibly be said in behalf of a system, under which a man removed from the field to the garrison artillery, without any additional knowledge of field artillery service, acquired during an absence of some ten or a dozen years, may yet, rising to higher rank, be actually placed in command of the arm with batteries on service in the field. The case is equally plain where men after incessant service in horse or field artillery are as lieutenant-colonels first brought into contact with the garrison arm when placed in command of garrison artillery districts, and made responsible for the training of the auxiliary forces. What can any man, who has ever really wished well to the efficiency of either garrison or field artillery, urge in defence of such a system as this? With regard to the subsequent and further subdivision of the services, there is this much to be urged in favor of the regimental organisation, which obtains in the line and cavalry, that the nearer the system of the other arms has been approximated to in royal artillery arrangements, the greater the progress in military efficiency which has resulted. When the brigade system of 1859—for which the regiment had to thank the ablest organiser who has ever been at its head, the late Colonel Bingham—was introduced, it was announced that the brigades were to be considered regiments of horse, field and garrison artillery; and it admits of no doubt, that under that system batteries, field and garrison alike, attained a degree of efficiency which has never since been reached. The causes which contributed to the failure of working in the system itself need not here be investigated, suffice it to say, that the result of the existence of a quasi-regimental system for a limited period of years, with all the attendant disadvantages of constantly changing officers, pointed clearly enough in the direction of subdivision and the creation of unity, between which wholesome rivalry and emulation might be created. Arguments founded on associations with the past, or on the still more flimsy basis of dispensing patronage, are of no avail whatever when the well-being and efficiency of a most important branch of the public service is concerned, a branch also to which the other arms of the service are entitled to look as ever ready and able to afford them support and protection. With the proper solution of this question, many others round which the waves of controversy, and it may be, of calousy, have oftentimes raged, would also be laid to rest, such, for instance, as the more frequent employment of artillery officers in commands and in the general duties of the army staff.—*Broad Arrow.*

**Regimental Notes.**

**Winnipeg.**—The Winnipeg light infantry is drilling at the drill hall on Tuesday evenings. The written examinations for certificates are being held this week at the school of mounted infantry, Fort Osborne. The annual general meeting of the officers of the 90th Rifles will be held on the 17th at the drill hall at 20 o'clock. Recruit drill of the 90th is held every Thursday evening at 20 o'clock. Quite a number of recruits are offering themselves.

**Toronto.**—The annual meeting of "I" company, Queen's Own Rifles, was held at headquarters, Toronto, on the 17th, Captain John A. Murray in the chair. Lieut. J. E. W. Ross and a large number of members were in attendance. The usual committees were elected as follows: Rifle—Corp. Henderson, Ptes. Cassels, Thompson; Clothing—Ptes. Anderson, Drynan, Rogers; Recruit—Ptes. Brown, Campbell, McHenry; Sec.-Treas., Pte. McHenry. The proposed English trip was discussed with enthusiasm, and in the event of its being undertaken the company will be well to the fore as usual. The members of the city militia corps are forming an association with the object of endeavouring to procure the return of members to the house of Commons pledged to protect and secure the rights of the volunteers of Ontario. A mass meeting will be held in Verral's hall on Tuesday evening, January 25th, when a large attendance of members and ex-members of the city corps is expected. The matter will then be discussed and programme arranged. For some weeks past the officers of the Royal Grenadiers have been arranging the details of a grand ball to be held in the pavilion music hall on February 17th. It is stated that the affair will be the most brilliant that has ever been held here. The Governor-General and Lady Lansdowne, Lord Alex. Russel, commander of the British

troops in Canada, and Major-General Sir Fred. Middleton are expected to be present. Admission will be secured by invitation only.

**Ottawa.**—On Monday night the 43rd Rifles' snoeshoe club held its regular weekly tramp, and in spite of the wild blizzard which prevailed, thirty-eight members answered to the secretary's roll call. At eight sharp the "advance" was sounded by the bugler and immediately the long line issued from the drill hall and across Curtier square to Elgin street. The club trail was followed as far as the Lees farm, where a turn was made towards the Rideau river, and during the succeeding hour and a-half the Fortythirders were treated to the stiffest cross-country tramping of the season, the number of hills, hollows and drifts being legion, and an opinion prevailed among the rear files that the president, who led the way, was possessed of a well-developed evil spirit. At ten o'clock the Temperance Coffee House was reached, the halt sounded and shoes unstrapped. During the past week a feeling of curiosity had spread through the club concerning the novel supper promised by the committee, but this was quickly set at rest when all had gathered round the festive board with ravenous appetites, the following campaign bill of fare, printed on brown wrapping paper, being handed to each man: Ration List—Pea Soup (ate wid yer fork); Pork and Beans (with hurricane sass, look out for squalls); Some Molasses (use your thumb); Put 8 o's (with blankets on); One Hard Tack (hit it with a brick); Mince Poi (what's bitin' yer); Tay, Kaughphy, Nightmares, "and sich." Bricks were placed on the table at intervals to smash the hard tack on, and the way the rations disappeared was a sight for quarter-masters and proved that good soldiers fully appreciate active service grub. When supper was concluded eight new members were duly bounced, and the Blazers' cotillion indulged in with such energy that a large section of plaster was dislodged from the ceiling of the room below. Music was now in order, the following contributing songs, etc.: Sergt. Grant, Corps. Clendinnen and Wills, Ptes. Abbott, Hennessey, Jones and Mills, and Mr. Doyon, captain of the Frontenac's, who was a guest of the club. After an hour's pleasant fun "lights out" was sounded, and the jolliest tramp of the year brought to a close. Lieut.-Col. White and Major Walsh were among the trampers, and being veterans at the sport came up smiling at the finish.

**Mounted Police Items.**

**Regina.**—There can be no doubt the N.W.M.P. have made amazing progress. Most valuable officers have been secured either by promotion, the way the present commissioner greatly favors, or by transfer. Captain Matthews, an officer of boundless energy is proving great advantage to the force.—*Regina Leader.*

On New Year's Eve the non-commissioned officers and men of B division gave a ball in the mess room of the new barracks, which was tastefully and handsomely decorated for the occasion with bunting, flags, etc. A large number of invitations were issued and accepted, including all the officers and their wives and many prominent citizens. All the arrangements were excellent. The cloak rooms were in charge of Corp. Donkin, the refreshments of Consts. Stilson and Eaton and the decorations under Corp. Nicholas. The band, consisting of Corp. Farmer, flute; Const. Weatherley, piano; W. H. Pingle, violin; and H. Hamilton, violincello, was very good. A noticeable feature of the evening was the singing of "Auld Lang Syne," by the company when the clock, striking the midnight hour, announced that another year was born. Then the dancing, which continued up till four o'clock, stopped for a few minutes.

**Our Trading Column.**

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

- FOR SALE.—Two pairs of new black silk stars for rifle tunic or patrol badges. Price one dollar per pair. Register No. 6.
- FOR SALE.—Officer's Uniform, Lieut.-Col., R. Artillery. Half price, except a few articles bran new. List on application; all in good condition. Register No. 8.
- FOR SALE.—Rifle Officer's Uniform; height 5 ft. 9 in., chest 37 inches; Tunic Mess-suit, Patrol, Nickled Sword, &c., cheap. List on application. Register No. 10.
- WANTED TO PURCHASE.—Copies of vols. 1 for 1867, and 9 for 1875, with any remaining volumes to the close of its existence, of the *Volunteer Review*, formerly published at Ottawa by Dawson Kerr. State price, condition, etc. Register No. 11.



**Notice to Contractors.**

SEALED TENDERS addressed to the undersigned and endorsed "Tender for Midland Harbor Works," will be received until Tuesday, the 25th day of January, 1887, inclusively, for the construction of Works at Midland, Simcoe County, Ontario, according to a plan and specification to be seen on application to the Reeve, Midland, at the office of the Resident Engineer, Midland Division of the Grand Trunk Railway, Peterborough, and at the Department of Public Works, Ottawa, where printed forms of tender can be obtained.

Persons desirous of tendering are requested to make personal enquiry relative to the work to be done, and to examine the locality themselves, and are notified that tenders will not be considered unless made on the printed forms supplied, the blanks properly filled in, and signed with their actual signatures.

Each tender must be accompanied by an accepted bank cheque made payable to the order of the Honorable the Minister of Public Works, for the sum of one thousand dollars (\$1,000), which will be forfeited if the party decline to enter into a contract when called upon to do so, or if he fail to complete the work contracted for. If the tender be not accepted the cheque will be returned. The Department does not bind itself to accept the lowest or any tender.

By order,  
A. GOBELL,  
Secretary.

Department of Public Works,  
Ottawa, 24th December 1886.

**N. McEACHREN,**  
**MILITARY TAILOR,**

ALBERT HALL BUILDINGS,

191 YONGE STREET - - - TORONTO.

UNIFORMS of every description made to order and everything necessary to an

OFFICER'S OUTFIT SUPPLIED.

Send for List of Prices.

Terms strictly cash.

**MAYNARD, HARRIS & CO.,**  
*Military and Civil Service Outfitters,*  
 CONTRACTORS AND AGENTS,  
 126 and 127 Leadenhall Street, London, England,  
 (ESTABLISHED SIXTY YEARS.)

**UNIFORMS :: FOR :: ALL :: SERVICES.**

HELMETS, GLENGARRYS, NEW PATTERN GOLD LACE, ACCOUTREMENTS, BADGES, ETC.  
 OF BEST QUALITY AND MANUFACTURE AT STRICTLY MODERATE PRICES.

Estimates, Drawings, Patterns, &c.,  
 free on application.

References to all parts of the  
 Dominion

Inventions Exhibition, 1885. The only Gold Medal for tone quality.

— AWARDED TO —

**BESSON'S PROTOTYPE MILITARY BAND INSTRUMENTS.**



The Prototype Instruments, being unequalled in musical quality and durability, are  
 the best and cheapest for use abroad.  
 Write for Testimonials from Canadian Musicians and Bands using the BESSON Instru-  
 ments.

**F. BESSON & CO.**

198 EUSTON ROAD, LONDON, ENG.,

**Military Band Instrument Makers.**

The Besson Prototype Instruments are kept in stock by the following Sellers:—Alsin, Winnipeg  
 Grossman, Hamilton; Hubbard, Waterloo; Nye, Halifax; Orme & Son, Ottawa, &c., &c., and of all  
 leading Music Dealers in Canada.

*SUBSCRIBERS*  
 to, and other friends of  
**THE MILITIA GAZETTE**  
 would promote its interests by, whenever  
 convenient,  
 DEALING WITH ADVERTISERS  
 who use its columns,  
 MENTION THIS PAPER WHEN ORDERING.

**J. STOVEL,**  
**MILITARY TAILOR**  
 For Manitoba and the North-West  
 Territories.

A COMPLETE STOCK OF  
**MILITARY GOODS**  
 CONSTANTLY ON HAND.

All work guaranteed according to  
 regulation.  
 320 Main St., Winnipeg, Manitoba.

**Hamilton Powder Co.**  
 (Incorporated 1861)

MANUFACTURE  
**MILITARY POWDER**  
 of any required velocity, density or grain

**SPORTING POWDER,**  
 "Ducking," "Caribou," and other  
 choice grades.

**BLASTING POWDER**  
 in every variety.

**DYNAMITE**  
 And all other modern "High Explosives."

SOLE LICENSEES FOR  
**H. Julius Smith's Magneto-Battery.**

The best for accurate Electric Firing of Shots,  
 Blasts, Mines, Torpedoes, &c.

MANUFACTURERS' AGENTS  
 For Insulated Wire, Electric Fuses, Safety Fuses,  
 Detonators, &c.

OFFICE:  
**108 St. Francois Xavier Street,**  
**MONTREAL.**

Branch Offices and Magazine at principal shipping  
 points in Canada.

Descriptive Lists mailed on application.

**EVERY BUSINESS MAN**

WHO VALUES AS CUSTOMERS

**: The : Dominion : Militiamen :**

Would do well to make use of the

**CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE**

As a medium through which to solicit their orders.

**ITS LARGE AND WIDESPREAD CIRCULATION**

Makes the MILITIA GAZETTE of peculiar value to advertisers.

**IT CIRCULATES THROUGH EVERY PROVINCE,**

**IT HAS REGULAR READERS IN EACH CORPS.**

**THE REPRESENTATIVE MEN OF EVERY RANK**

In a force numbering

**NEARLY FORTY THOUSAND,**

Are subscribers to it.

**THE MILITIA GAZETTE**

— IS THE —

**ONLY :: MILITARY :: JOURNAL**

IN CANADA,

And by no other means can an advertiser appeal so effectively  
 and economically to its large constituency.

**MILITIA ATTENTION!**

NOW READY,

"SQUAD DRILL ELUCIDATED,"

BY MUNROE.

Will be found invaluable to officers, non-  
 commissioned officers and men as

**A SELF-INSTRUCTOR,**

being simple to understand and leaving  
 nothing to be imagined by the student.

Will be sent post paid to any address on receipt of  
 price 50 cts. a copy, or three for \$1.00.

ADDRESS:

**Sergt.-Inst. J. B. Munroe,**  
 School of Infantry, Toronto, Ont.

**JOHN F. CREAN,**

MERCHANT TAILOR,

AND

**MILITARY OUTFITTER.**

MASTER TAILOR TO THE QUEEN'S  
 OWN RIFLES OF CANADA.

**89 YONGE STREET,**  
**TORONTO.**

**AGENTS WANTED!**

TO RECEIVE

Subscriptions and Advertisements

For this paper, in

**EVERY TOWN AND CITY**

IN CANADA.

Liberal Commission.

Write for Terms.

**P. QUEALY,**  
**MILITARY BOOTMAKER,**  
 34 McDERMOT STREET,  
**WINNIPEG,**

N.B.—All work done in first-class style.

**JOHN MARTIN & Co**

**MILITARY OUTFITTERS,**

**457 ST. PAUL ST.,**

**MONTREAL.**



**Money Orders.**

**MONEY ORDERS** may be obtained at any  
 Money Order Office in Canada, payable in  
 the Dominion; also in the United States, the Unit-  
 ed Kingdom, France, Germany, Italy, Belgium,  
 Switzerland, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, the  
 Netherlands, India, the Australian Colonies, and  
 other countries and British 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 commis-  
 sion is:

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

For further information see OFFICIAL POSTAL  
 GUIDE.

**A. CAMPBELL,**  
 Postmaster-General.

Post Office Department,  
 Ottawa, 21st May, 1886.