

# 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, and the Canadian Military Rifle League.)

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## NOTE AND COMMENT.

A LEADING article in the *Broad Arrow* strongly advocates the use of the Canadian route for the transport of troops between England and the East. After pointing out that it was the admitted importance of this as a military route which led the Imperial Government to grant a substantial subsidy for the conveyance of the mails to Hong Kong via Halifax or Quebec and Vancouver, the *Broad Arrow* proceeds:—

“It seems absurd that when men and stores can be delivered on board our ships on the Pacific Station, via Canada, within from seventeen to twenty days of leaving this country, that they should be transported round Cape Horn; or that when troops have to be sent to Hong Kong and Singapore the Canadian route should not be utilized. But so it is. The annual reliefs for these stations are now on their way round the world, and in about five months' time, the time-expired men whom they replace will be brought home. We will not say that there is no energy at the War Office, because a good deal is frequently displayed in one direction or another—sometimes in the right, quite as frequently in the wrong—when occasion requires, but there is certainly no initiative. Because Hong Kong has hitherto been served by the Eastern route, so things must go on. It took years to reconcile the authorities to the Suez Canal. There are in fact at this moment officials who, if they had their way, would still be sending troops to India round the Cape of Good Hope by sailing ships. The War Office is, like the Army itself, essentially a conservative institution. But it should be kept abreast of modern conservatism, and progress with the times. The Government has paid a price to secure important facilities for the conveyance of troops to the East, and yet probably for no better reason than that because there is no precedent for starting troops Westward, when they have hitherto gone Eastward. In the branch of the War Office which deals with the movement of troops, the existence of the Canadian Pacific Railway and what it means to the Empire, is ignored. We commend the matter to the consideration of the new Quartermaster-General. Whatever difficulties may exist in sending troops to China via Canada, and no doubt a new service requires careful organization, they will be well worth the trouble of combating and overcoming.”

“THE Marquis of Lorne,” says the *Army and Navy Gazette*, has contributed to the *Daily Graphic* a very interesting and sympathetic account, not of the last of the Mohicans, who was a creation of Fenimore Cooper's brain, but of the last of the Sioux, ‘Sitting Bull,’ who was a veritable Indian chief. It is not pleasant reading. *Nimum ne crede colori!* That is the white man's motto when dealing with the dark-skinned brethren, black, brown, or red. The arrest of the old chief, the sudden *mêlée*, the rescue, the fall of the Sioux, and the death of the gallant boy who was fighting for his

father, have all the elements of a stirring episode. We may omit the brutality of the native police—the scalping, mutilation, and degradation of the fallen. Meantime, Americans proper will feel unmitigated satisfaction that Custer, who was a Murat in his way, and his braves have been avenged. And it is well suggested by Lord Lorne that, ere they are finished off like the buffaloes, it would be well for some painter to let succeeding generations know what the Redskins, in all their glory of paint and feather and arms, were like before they were civilized into *Ewigkeit*. Sitting Bull has died a soldier's death, and his son has been spared an evil future. The son of Theodore, who was well cared for here, would probably have envied the death of the Sioux Iulus. ‘I can forgive the French everything but one,’ said Abdul Kader when he visited Cairo, long after his subjugation. ‘And that is?’ ‘That they did not kill me in battle!’”

WHILE it is not a matter of special concern to the Militia, our readers will as Canadians be interested in a complimentary reference appearing in the *Army and Navy Gazette* to our Gulf telegraph system, which is cited as an example of coastal communication worthy of emulation by the Mother Country. The article proceeds: “A most complete system of gulf telegraphy and signal service is in operation between Quebec and all important points of the north and south shore of the St. Lawrence. Ten named stations and all intervening points are connected—and there are over thirty of these offices between Newfoundland and Quebec—from which reports touching the weather, movements of the ice in the spring and autumn, and the passage of steamers and other ships either inwards or outwards, are immediately made to Quebec.”

## R. M. C. MATRICULATION.

THE progress which has characterized the onward march of the Dominion, is none the less gratifying that its educational advantages have kept pace with industrial and commercial development. Schools and colleges are provided for primary and technical instruction as fast as the necessities of the Dominion require them, and the nature of the instruction is also progressing in the same ratio. A few years ago technical instruction was limited to certain cities,

and its description to the requirements of the time, or rather supposed requirements. Now facilities exist for the study of many technical subjects, the primary or public schools and collegiate institutes undertake and carry out a higher and more extensive system of instruction, and the matriculation examinations are of a higher order than could be properly prescribed a few years ago. This improved condition of the more advanced schools and colleges, is rendered less difficult to carry out by reason of the extension of educational facilities in the public schools. As a rule the matriculations are for colleges where the higher branches are taught, and where those colleges are in Provinces which are supplied with matriculants from schools under direction of the educational departments of those Provinces.

But in the Royal Military College, the only educational institution maintained by the Dominion, the case is different, inasmuch as its cadets are drawn from all the Provinces, and the primary education they have received must have been under different conditions and systems. It is therefore fortunate that the progress in industrial advancement has not been confined to a Province, and that it seems to have made rapid strides in all the Provinces.

In the matriculation examinations for the Royal Military College the obligatory subjects for pass, are: Mathematics, Arithmetic, Algebra and Geometry, grouped; Grammar and Composition, grouped; Geography, History, French, Latin and elements of Free Hand Drawing, and in addition for honours, the same subjects, but more advanced and with Elementary Geometrical Drawing added. French is an optional subject and may be omitted, but those who elect to be examined in it count the marks obtained. Hitherto to be qualified for pass the candidate had to obtain not less than one third of the marks allotted to each subject, Mathematics being counted as one, and Grammar and Composition as one; the same maximum marks are awarded to each group of subjects as for the same subjects if they were separate.

The plan adopted for competitive examinations on this basis for the 24 cadetships authorized for each year, is doubtless better suited to the conditions of the country than any other would be, as the vacancies are by this method open to competition by candidates in every portion of the Dominion, but as the cadets who are admitted each year compose one class for instruction during their college course, it is more necessary that each one should possess an intelligent knowledge of each subject in which he is required to be examined before matriculation. If any other course is followed, such for instance as the grouping of subjects, allied to each other as provided for, a candidate might obtain the minimum of marks allotted for the combined subjects, and fail either partially or entirely in one of the subjects of which the group is composed. In any such case the cadet would enter the college at a disadvantage, and either retard the progress of the class, or fail in that subject in the promotion examination at the end of the college year.

For recent examinations as already shown the three sub-

jects Arithmetic, Algebra, and Geometry, and the two subjects Grammar and Composition, have been grouped, and candidates passed who obtained one-third of the maximum of marks allotted to the combined subjects in each group. Such a plan may have been necessary when adopted, in consequence of the lack of uniformity in the educational systems of the Provinces, but it is now apparent that such an advance has been made as will permit a change, and that it is in the interests of all concerned that in addition to the one-third marks in the combined subjects, each candidate should also obtain at least 25 per cent. of those marks for each subject in the group. This will be the rule for the future, a General Order having been issued embodying the change. Such a condition will not prove onerous, but it will insure a greater knowledge of all the subjects.

The good record made by the graduates indicates that they have improved their advantages as cadets, but it is equally apparent that those who have passed highest at the matriculation examinations, and keep up their studies, are rarely overtaken by those who only obtained enough marks to pass.

#### FIELD BATTERY FIRING COMPETITION.

The following are the official returns, just made up, of the prize winners in the Field Battery firing competition of the Dominion Artillery Association, for the year 1890:—

##### BATTERY AGGREGATE SCORES.

	Score.	Prize.
1. No. 1, 1st Brigade.....	243	\$30 00
2. Welland Canal.....	212	25 00
3. Shefford.....	195	20 00
4. Montreal.....	194	15 00
5. London.....	182	10 00

##### INDIVIDUAL SCORES.

Name.	Battery.	Score.	Dir.	C. S. Score.
1. Sergt. Case.....	London.....	41	..	\$15 00
2. Corp. Hay.....	Durham.....	38	11	31 10 00
3. Sergt. McLean.....	Kingston.....	38	11	27 10 00
4. Sergt. Lawrence.....	No. 1, 1st Bde.....	38	11	25 8 00
5. Q.M.S. Armstrong.....	" ".....	38	10	29 8 00
6. Sergt. Kennedy.....	" ".....	38	10	28 6 00
7. Corp. Dunn.....	" ".....	37	10	.. 6 00
8. Sergt. Harvey.....	Ottawa.....	37	8	.. 6 00
9. Q.M.S. Hamel.....	Quebec.....	36	..	.. 5 00
10. Sergt.-Major Colerick.....	London.....	35	11	.. 5 00
11. Sergt. Mitchell.....	" ".....	35	10	28 5 00
12. Corp. Brennan.....	Welland Canal.....	35	10	27 4 00
13. Sergt. McDonald.....	Hamilton.....	35	10	22 4 00
14. Bomb. Scooley.....	Welland Canal.....	34	10	.. 4 00
15. Gunr. Fowler.....	Kingston.....	34	6	28 4 00
16. Sergt. Williams.....	Shefford.....	34	6	24 3 00
17. Sergt. J. Seale.....	" ".....	32	7	.. 3 00
18. Corp. Holbrook.....	Montreal.....	32	6	.. 3 00
19. Sergt. Lockhart.....	No. 1, 1st Bde.....	31	7	.. 3 00
20. Sergt. Nelson.....	Welland Canal.....	31	6	.. 3 00
21. Capt. Purby.....	Shefford.....	31	4	22 2 00
22. Sergt. Balfour.....	Welland Canal.....	31	4	20 2 00
23. Sergt. Kethro.....	Newcastle.....	30	..	.. 2 00
24. Sergt.-Major Bertrand.....	Quebec.....	29	10	.. 2 00
25. Sergt.-Major Gilchrist.....	No. 1, 1st Bde.....	29	6	.. 2 00

It is now generally known that many cases of consumption of long standing as well as advanced cases of catarrh and asthma have been permanently cured by SLOCUM'S OXYGENIZED EMULSION of PURE COD LIVER OIL. This famous medicine is manufactured at 186 West Adelaide St., Toronto, Ont., and every druggist in Canada has it for sale.

## 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 MILITIA ORGANIZATION.

EDITOR MILITIA GAZETTE,—I have read with much pleasure the letters which have appeared in your paper on the subject of the reorganization of the Canadian militia by Captain Cartwright and "T," and although I feel it impossible to more than touch upon the subject in a letter as short as this must necessarily be, yet I have written these few suggestions, for which I shall be fully repaid if you think them worthy of insertion.

To begin with I don't propose to criticise either of those letters, as I agree in most part with the contents of both, with perhaps this exception, that I cannot agree with "T" in wishing to do away with the men of the permanent corps, unless you do away with the permanent corps and the schools of instruction altogether, because we can hardly expect officers in their uniform as such, doing "sentry go," orderly man, cook, servant to attached officers, manning skeleton ropes, etc., etc., for if they are not, they ought to be, Gentlemen.

There may be some who would prefer doing away with the permanent corps altogether, but so long as they are maintained for the purpose of stimulating the militia, furnishing the schools of instruction with the men absolutely necessary for the proper carrying out of their work and setting a good example to the militia generally, I am not one of them.

It would of course be very easy to write volumes upon the reorganization of the militia, if we don't take the financial aspect into consideration; but the few suggestions that I am about to make would not, if carried into effect, cost the Government one iota more than is spent to-day on the militia.

Some of my suggestions are not original, while the others are, but I think they are all worthy of consideration. However, to plunge "*in medias res*": Let us divide the militia into the two parts of which it is composed:

1st.—The officers.

2nd.—The rank and file.

With reference to the first, under the existing regulations, all officers are given twelve months from date of appointment in which to qualify, failing which they are to be gazetted out. When an officer has taken a certificate at one of the schools of instruction he is a useful man, but until he has he is absolutely useless, and all those who won't take steps to qualify should be removed from the militia, but they are not. Why? Not because it will cost the Government anything to turn them out; certainly not; but from political and other reasons, whereas if we got rid of them, we should have the satisfaction of knowing what we have and what we have not in the way of officers.

It may be argued, as I have heard it argued, that if we turn them out we can't get any one to take their places. Then, I say, leave their places vacant, and we won't be counting on what we haven't got, as at present.

Let this law be enforced; half of these men will qualify; that will be so much good done; the other half will leave and make room for better men—that will be so much more good done and at no cost.

My next suggestion is to have a "List of Officers Qualified for Staff Appointments" in the Militia List, and place upon that list all those officers who take the trouble to pass such examination as the authorities deem it necessary to set, and have all the officers on the staff of the district camps appointed from that list. This would give them a chance of learning their duties and of securing the prizes for the more zealous and therefore most deserving officers.

This would, in time, give us a list of very useful men

from which to select a staff in case of trouble, and if the standard is not too low, it would, to my mind, do more to raise the tone and efficiency of the militia than anything else; it would encourage officers to do more to qualify themselves, and it would be a means of repaying those zealous officers who have taken at great inconvenience and loss of time, the long course certificate at the Royal Military College at Kingston, such as Major McLaren of the 13th Batt., and others, who should be the first to be placed upon that list. This suggestion, if carried out, would be a step in the right direction and can be objected to by none, as it will be open to all and would cost nothing.

My third and last suggestion as to the officers, is that our senior grade should be extended and that we should have an established number of majors general and colonels, say six of the former and twelve of the latter, and that the appointments to these ranks should be made by selection, rather than by seniority alone; this would give tremendous impetus to the militia and by limiting the number it would prevent the country becoming over-run with senior officers and would make the rank more eagerly sought after; it being a so much greater prize when obtained.

It is ridiculous to suppose that because our militia was so run by the army element, when we had Imperial troops stationed here, that we are never to strike out for ourselves and have the rank of Colonel anyway, which is open to every officer who serves a certain length of time in the English militia, and that too in a country where they have a Regular Army. But here, where our militia is our first line, surely we can have the rank of Major-General, and we will have it sooner or later, and the sooner the better. This suggestion, like my two others, will cost the Government nothing and is worthy of consideration.

I now come to the non-commissioned officers and men, and to cut it short, as my letter is already much longer than I intended:—

Don't interfere with city corps, unless it is to add to their strength; for their organization, drill and discipline is good, the men are stationary and money spent on them is well spent; but as to the rural corps, I say interfere with them, don't spend any less money upon them, but spend it more judiciously, spend it on men who are always to be found, such as the officers and N. C. O.'s, and say ten men per company. There are very few rural regiments in which there are more than ten men per company who drill regularly with it each year; now instead of drilling the other thirty-two men per company, who are very often mere boys or old men who have been drummed up just before going to camp and turn out on the understanding that they are going to have a picnic and are never seen again either by their regiment or their captain; spend the money saved by not drilling, or rather not attempting to drill these thirty-two "transients" (if I may call them such) upon the officers and N. C. officers in sending them to the Schools of Instruction for two or three weeks each year in addition to the time they spend at camp, and you will then have an organization complete as to officers and N. C. O.'s and ten men per company, and with these officers and trained N. C. O.'s you would in a short time have a trained regiment if required, which under the present system, where in some corps you will scarcely find either among the officers or N. C. O.'s one capable drill instructor, it would take ten times as long to acquire the same efficiency. In the one case we would have an organization and in the other a regiment on paper. Ten men per company are plenty to teach all ranks their different duties and you would then have no more men than the Staffs of the District Camps can handle properly. This suggestion like all the others if carried out would cost nothing.

I could make many other suggestions, but time and space prohibit.

Yours, &c., DISTRICT CAMP STAFF.

## AN ANSWER TO "T."

EDITOR MILITIA GAZETTE—

"T's" letter is hardly to be taken seriously in all its parts, especially as regards his idea of reducing the rank and file of the permanent corps; but like many such statements, it contains an idea which might be enlarged on; namely, this: Let the pay of the rank and file in the permanent corps be raised to sixty cents per diem, and the non-commissioned officers' accordingly. We could then maintain an excellence that would make us a corps each man of which would be expert in all that pertains to a soldier's profession, and each one capable of acting as instructor to a battalion. The great need of our force if suddenly called out will be such instructors and officers who know their work.

It is safe to say that the man who has only been to camp twelve days in two years will not be worth as a soldier any more than the man who has not. In many cases he will be of positive injury because he will have got into despising discipline. For my part, if required to raise a company suddenly for real service, I would pick my men without the slightest regard to their having been twelve days in camp at some previous period. In plain English, the twelve days is only of use to brush up knowledge already acquired.

As far as keeping up the nominal strength of the Militia is concerned, a stroke of the pen is all that is needed to give us an equally effective force of double or treble or quadruple the present strength.

This cry of more money for the Militia deserves no sympathy, at least until the funds at their disposal are expended on a system better calculated to secure efficiency. The statesmen who have guided this country in the past, and those who are at present at the helm are perfectly right in not voting to waste another cent on a force that has the system ours has. It is the system, not the men, which is at fault.

If going out to camp with a big crowd is the point to be aimed at; then am I altogether wrong.

But if having a small but perfect organization, which can be rapidly expanded, is the objective; then am I right.

As far as the difficulty of recruiting is concerned, it can never be worse than it is at present; if the young soldier could choose his tent and messing companions; make sure within reasonable limits who composed the remainder of his company; was served out with a pair of trousers which had not been in use by several different persons in previous years; then, perhaps, it would be different.

But under the circumstances recruiting can hardly be expected to be popular. That this is a fair sample of the "minor" inconveniences a militia soldier is put to can easily be verified. It has gone on so for years, and, no doubt, will continue to do so, unless those most interested wake up and recognize the need for a change.

Even "T," who admits the general inefficiency, seeks to divert attention by a side issue that had nothing to do with the question; because it is easy to increase or decrease the strength of the permanent corps without reference to the calling out of only ten men per company in the militia.

The permanent corps should be kept at that strength whatever it may be, which makes them of most use to the militia. And those officers of the militia who have been long enough at the schools to understand their working will agree, that it would never do to decrease their present strength.

But if there were neither permanent corps nor schools, it would make no difference, as to the wisdom of expending money in bringing men out for twelve days each two years.

My letter aims at the good of the militia, and is written with an earnest desire to point out real and practical remedies. I recognize fully that the thousand permanent corps soldiers in the Dominion are not the fighting backbone of the nation. That our sturdy farmers, tradesmen

and artisans are the strength and dependence of the nation. They are the men who will enrol themselves in the different battalions, who will in case of need entrust their lives to the care of the officers who at present command the force, and therefore it is of the utmost importance to them that these officers should have something besides their uniform to enforce the command they may be called upon to exercise.

ROBERT CARTWRIGHT,

Lieut. and Capt. I. S. Corps.

The Barracks, London, 14th January, 1891.

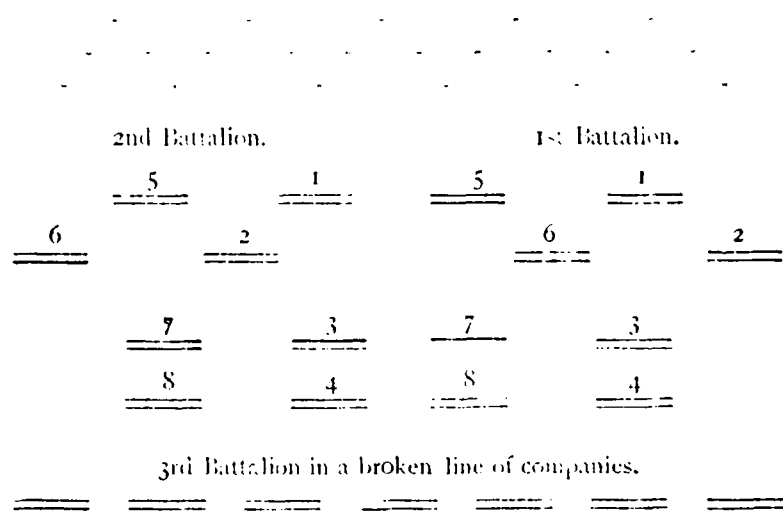
## THE REVISION OF OUR INFANTRY DRILL.

(The Broad Arrow.)

On the appearance of the last edition of the Infantry Drill-Book early in 1889, we expressed a feeling of disappointment that so much that was antiquated and unsuited to the requirements of actual war had been retained. The system it taught was clearly a compromise between that of the barrack-yard and the manoeuvre ground. In it were to be found most of the old rigid forms of battalion and brigade drill, whilst the essential part of the infantry soldier's training, the form in which he would be called on to meet the enemy, was treated as an excrescence and relegated to the end of the book. Instead of the drill-book having been curtailed, it was actually expanded by some sixty pages. And this expansion seemed the more remarkable, as the Germans had just issued a drill book of one quarter the size of ours. The only consolation in respect to the shortcomings of the drill-book of 1889 was the report that it was only to be looked on as an instalment in the direction of reform. We have reason to believe that a further advance in the simplification of our drill may shortly be expected, and that a strong committee has been appointed to consider its revision, in accordance with the best modern views of what an infantry soldier requires to be taught. As we have already said, the great fault of the drill-book of 1889 is that the most important part of a soldier's training is kept until the end of the book, instead of being worked into squad, company and battalion drill from the commencement. And here we might observe that if the revisers are unable to reduce the proportions of our drill-book to those of the German one, it would be better to publish it in parts. The French have little books called *École de Squad*, *École de Company*, &c.; and, in the same way, we might have "squad drill," "company drill," and "battalion drill," published separately. We should like to see the setting-up drill and the bayonet exercise taken out of the drill-book and made a part of the gymnastic course, and if there must be such things as musical drill and the high step, banish them to the gymnasium. As Prince Kraft of Hohenlohe pointed out, infantry regiments are what the inspecting officers make them. If they find that the drill-book is founded upon the principles of the barrack-yard, they will require barrack-yard drill, and regimental commanding officers will endeavour to meet their views by practicing "marching post," and battalion "changes of front," to the exclusion of what is more important. If a general officer is not able to judge of the condition of a regiment by the way the men stand in the ranks, and by the intelligence they show on the manoeuvre ground, he is not fit for the work. We trust, therefore, that the Revision Committee will carefully consider the necessity for abolishing many of the battalion and brigade movements which now adorn the drill-book. They should ask themselves where can these movements come in on the field. The basis of infantry drill should undoubtedly be the independent movement of companies under their captains. The great object should be to have as few movements as possible, and to have these performed in the simplest way possible. For instance, if open order is required, on the command "open order" each captain

should give the command to the rear rank to step back two paces and dress, and it should take up its own dressing. Then, again, instead of wheeling into line to a flank, and deployments, the battalion command might be, "Line to right, to left, or to front," and the captains would move their companies then in any way they pleased. All the pretty changes of front from line as a matter of drill should be abolished. If such a change were actually required in the field or at manœuvre, an intelligent captain, with a properly trained company, could have no difficulty in placing his company in the required position. What is required is that the battalion commander should indicate, as the brigade commander does, the position he wishes the several units under him to take up, and for the captains then to carry out his wishes. What is now called brigade drill should be almost entirely abolished. Brigade formations can in future never be anything but formations of assembly, and all that is wanted is the line of columns or the mass of columns. We do not know whether our military experts are immovably fixed in the resolution to abide by extended order and loose formations for the combat. The main argument in favour of independent fighting and loose order is that it is said to be the only mode in which soldiers can be brought up to attack an enemy in the face of the storm of bullets proceeding from modern rifles. Anything like a close formation would form too easy a mark, and would suffer such losses that any advance becomes impossible. There are two schools in Germany in this matter, the first composed of those who advocate open order and individual training, and the second composed of those who advocate thin, but closed formations. Considerable excitement was caused a short time ago, by a writer in Germany, who pointed out the inconveniences of the open formation, how men snirked and huddled together, and how hard it was when they were not under the eye of their superiors, and even when they were, to get them to leave cover, and he pointed out that thin but closed lines of company sections could be brought up with probably less losses than the confused and huddled masses of irregular combatants. We should say that the independent leading of companies or half companies by their captains would be found most suitable to our infantry soldiers. The company commanders would then be able to exercise a proper superintendence over their men, and carefully regulate the firing. They could move their men according to the nature of the ground, and with reference to the intensity of the enemy's fire. They could move their companies, or half companies, in double or single rank as might be most convenient. The front might be screened and searched by a line of skirmishers composed of picked shots, and for this purpose we would have the rifle regiments composed of nothing but picked shots. The formation of a brigade of three battalions would be something in this order:—

LINE OF SKIRMISHERS.



Or in column of half battalions.



Or in any suitable formation adapted to the ground and severity of the enemy's fire.

A form of attack of this kind would be found most simple and flexible. It would be a modification of the whole line suited to modern requirements. It seems certain that the independent order of fighting only leads up to the thickening of a chain of skirmishers until it becomes a bad copy of the line without its cohesion and discipline. In the diagram the companies are shown intact, but if they were very strong, or if the ground was so difficult as to require it, they might be worked as half companies with intervals. In conclusion we may observe that the first thing to be done is to make provision at every military station for the training of troops on an extended scale. It is useless to prescribe a drill which can never be properly practised, or at all events can only be practised at the few camps we possess. Land is at the present time such a drug in the market that the right to soil over lands in the neighbourhood of every important garrison might no doubt be acquired without any great cost to the State.

In a useful article the *Times of India* discusses the question of our cavalry and its fitness for war, saying: "The *Times'* criticism of September 24 on the British cavalry manœuvres, of which Reuter gives us the outline, comes none too soon, and we can only hope now that the question has been so authoritatively brought forward, something may be done to put matters on a better footing. To say that our cavalry is 'insufficient in numbers' is to put the case very weakly indeed. In India we do not notice this, because, in addition to the nine British cavalry regiments, we have 11 native cavalry regiments—excluding body-guards and small local corps—which may be reckoned all round at 600 men each, or a total for the 20 regiments of 30,000 sabres. At home, however, there are only 21 regiments all told, including the Household Cavalry, or a total of 500 men per regiment—a high estimate, probably 10,500 men, are our Lord of the Indian struggle. Many regiments are necessarily stationed in Ireland, and could not be spared from there even in time of war, so that the total available for active service is probably very little more than 4,000 or 5,000 men. A considerable number of these are not mounted, and we have absolutely no reserve of horses. The want of horses is, in one way, even more serious than the want of men, for they are more difficult to obtain and train. The accusation that our home cavalry 'are not in a fit state of preparedness for war purposes' is, we fear, even better founded. The fault, however, lies, not with the regiments, but with the authorities. In India the grasscutters with their ponies form a light transport that is always available, and can be utilised when necessary, while constant camps of exercise furnish the regiment with transport, camping, and the other essential details of war, on which success so greatly depends. We are so accustomed in India to grumble at the paucity of practical training afforded to our troops that we overlook the fact that it is only in India that the British Army gets a chance of approximating to service conditions. As a matter of fact, we expect that India would have to furnish a good deal of the cavalry for any campaign in which England was engaged. It is an arm of which we may justly feel proud, and which is as well if not better fitted than any branch of the Native Army to cope with a European foe."

## REGIMENTAL.

The annual outing and dinner of No. 2 Co. of the Guards took place on Monday, the 5th inst. The company left the Ottawa drill hall, in 'busses, at 8 p.m. and proceeded to Mrs. Litchie's Hotel, Aylmer, where the table was spread in first-class style. After doing justice to the good things provided, the remainder of the evening was devoted to songs and speeches. Amongst the guests present were: Lt.-Col. J. P. Macpherson, Major Hodgins, Capt. Powell, Capt. Winter, Mr. E. A. D. Jones, Mr. L. H. Colman, Mr. Carter (Bandmaster), and several members of the band, whose presence and performances were greatly appreciated. Lt.-Col. Macpherson, in replying to the toast of "Our Guests," gave a brief but very interesting history of the Guards, alluding to No. 2 as the shooting company of the regiment, and showing how they had always borne a reputation for marksmanship. (Indeed the company has the record for this season, having captured no less than five first prizes at the D. R. A. meeting.) Songs were rendered by Major Hodgins, Messrs. Fairweather Bethune, Colman and Campbell. The boys returned to the city towards morning, having spend a very pleasant time. Amongst those invited but unable to attend were Lt.-Col. Todd and Sergt. Major Conroy.

## TORONTO.

Following the custom so prevalent in the city now among the different regiments and clubs, the bugle band of the Queen's Own gave their first smoking concert last Saturday night, and with a result similar to all that attends on any affair gotten up by this crack little corps.

Bugle Major Swift occupied the chair, while the onerous duties of master of ceremonies were ably discharged by Bugle Corporal Ross. The attractions were numerous and all of a nature suitable to the occasion. Among others were the mandolin quartette, under Mr. G. Smedley, the bugle band orchestra, under Bugle Sergt. Woods, and the Columbia Minstrel, under Bugler A. B. Davis. The minstrel performance was very unique and of itself was sufficiently good to fill the whole of the time allotted for the concert. The remaining portion of the time was filled in by songs and recitations, chief of these being by Mr. H. Stevens and Mr. J. Winters. Refreshments were served during the evening, and the "witching hour of midnight" tolled all too soon for the delighted guests. Nothing keeps up the *esprit de corps* so much as these social gatherings, and all trust that many more will follow in the steps of the one of January 10th.

## Q. O. R. SERGEANTS' MESS.

The annual meeting of the sergeants' mess was held in their mess rooms on Monday, the 12th inst., and when Quartermaster Sergt. Burns called the meeting to order about fifty members of the mess were present.

After the routine business was finished the retiring President, Col.-Sergt. W. G. Kennedy, presented his report, in which all the changes to the mess, entertainments during the season, etc., were dealt with, and in closing he paid a very touching tribute to the memory of our late Sergt.-Major S. C. McKell.

The Treasurer, A. M. Burns, read the most satisfactory report ever submitted to the mess, showing a surplus of assets amounting to about \$1,700 and dwelt with great satisfaction on the fact that not a cent of liabilities are standing against the mess.

Reports were also presented by the retiring Secretary, Col.-Sergt. H. M. George, showing the membership of the mess to be 74, and also by Sergt. Cauldwell, Superintendent of Refreshments. The election of officers for 1891 then proceeded by acclamation as follows:--President, Col.-Sergt. H. M. George; Vice-President, Col.-Sergt. J. G. McMaster;

Secretary, Sergt. J. G. Langton; Treasurer, Sergt. G. Bailey; Supt. of Refreshments, Sergt. T. Cauldwell; Room Committee, Sergts. Vicars, Berthon and Mingay.

In response to the very kind invitation from the sergeants' mess of the Princess of Wales Own Rifles of Kingston, Col.-Sergt. H. M. George was delegated to represent the mess of the sergeants of the Queen's Own.

Supper, tendered by the retiring board of management, was then discussed, and an exceedingly happy family whiled away the time into the wee sma' hours with speech and song. Patriotism was in the air, and every one joined in with a will to such chorusses as the "Union Jack of Old England," "Rule Britannia," and "Maple Leaf for Ever." Songs were rendered during the evening by Sergts. Crichton, Woods and Sanson. Staff-Sergts. Williams and Fletcher, and recitations by Staff-Sergt. Harp and Col. Sergt. Cooper. 'Twas long after Big Ben had tol ed the hour of 2 that Auld Lang Syne and the National Anthem brought the festivities to a close. To judge by the success of last Monday night the idea of a social reunion after every monthly meeting, meets with a warm response on all sides. They certainly help to make the bond of fellowship tighter, and make every one much better acquainted than if a crowd of out-iders were partaking of the festivities. I can't let this letter go without expressing the fact that high encomiums are heard on all sides on the new appearance of the GAZETTE.

"BREECH BLOCK."

## THE MILITARY RIFLE LEAGUE.

The Secretary is busy preparing the proposed programme for this year's matches and wishes any riflemen who may have suggestions to make to kindly forward same to him to Box 542, Toronto.

The Executive for Ontario, together with several leading local riflemen, will meet at the office of Capt. Bruce, Adelaide street East, Toronto, on Tuesday evening, 20th inst., for the purpose of considering the programme.

## AN OLD COUNTRY CUSTOM.

Last Christmas morning, the excellent band of the New Brunswick Brigade Garrison Artillery, some twenty-five in number, broke the stillness of the dawn of day at St. John by playing Christmas carols in front of the residence of Lieut.-Colonel Armstrong, commanding the Brigade. The members of the band committee were treated in a similar manner, and after this, Colonel Blaine, the officer commanding the 62nd Fusiliers, was waked from his slumbers by like strains. The music sounded sweetly on the frosty air, and residents in the neighbourhood of the various localities visited thought it a delightful way of ushering in the happy morn.

## DE PEN OR DE SWORD.

A Georgia colored lycum discussed the question, "Which is de mos' powerful, de pen or de sword, de newspaper or de gan?" The debate was closed by a disputant who spoke as follows:

"Mr. President: 'Spose dar was a bar at de do', an' you was to go dar and shake de newspaper at him, you'd see what de bar would do. But jes' shoot a cannon at him and see what comes. I call for de question."

The President forthwith decided in favor of the gun.

## STRAY SHOTS.

"A soldier of a cavalry regiment was brought up for stealing his comrade's liquor ration. He was an Irishman, and his defence was unique:

"I'd be sorry in lade, sur, to be called a thafe! I put the liquor in the same bottle, and mine was at the bottom; and sure, I was obliged to drink his to get at me own."

"Major, I see two cocktails carried to your room every m'raing as if you had some one to drink with."

"Yes, sir; one cocktail makes me feel like another man, and, of course, I'm bound to treat the other man."

## DRILL AND DISCIPLINE.

LECTURE BY LT.-COL. W. E. O'BRIEN, M.P., CANADIAN  
MILITARY INSTITUTE, 15TH DECEMBER.

*(Continued from page 12.)*

It remains for us now to try and draw from the teachings of history some lessons for our guidance in the discharge of our own duty as officers of Her Majesty's army in Canada, and if my premises have been correctly stated, and my conclusion properly drawn, we must consider first the motive which calls our force into being, and which would, if need be, impel it into action; and, secondly, the character of the men who compose it, and the conditions under which they engage.

First, then, our force is for defence, not for aggression. Aggression it may be, but only in the sense that aggression may be the best method of defence. We aim at no conquest. We seek only to defend and keep what is our own. As part of a great empire we may have to bear our share of Imperial as well as local defence, but so far it is for defence that our force has been called into being, and for defence only is it likely to be called on to fight. And this consideration largely determines the character of the men who compose it, and the conditions under which they serve. Being purely local, it offers no such field for the adventurous spirit as is to be found in the Imperial service. It has nothing for the mercenary or the soldier of fortune. Its prospects of achieving any share of military glory are remote. It is therefore wanting in many of the inducements which cause men to engage in the profession of arms, and to submit to the discipline which that profession requires. On the other hand those who join our force do so of their own free choice, and, all other inducements being excluded, we may assume that they do so from a feeling that the duty devolves upon them, having a liking for the work, and opportunity of doing it, of making that provision for defence which reason and experience prove to be essential to the life of a nation. Thus entering, we have also a right to assume that they fully intend cheerfully, willingly and intelligently to submit to all the conditions which their choice entails.

Thus, I think, we arrive at a safe foundation on which to rest our discipline. We have the motive power, the character of the force, and the conditions of service. What are the rules by which such a force should be governed? The answer, I think, is obvious. With men such as will enlist under the conditions described, a clear and distinct understanding of the duties required of them, and the restrictions imposed upon their freedom of action, is the first essential. A conviction that the discharge of their duties, and the submission to these restrictions, is a necessary part of the service they have undertaken is, in general, all that is required to ensure a willing and cheerful obedience. The power of punishment is necessary, but punishment will be rarely required, and must be carefully used. Certain offences must not be passed over, and in every corps there will be a sprinkling of careless, with a few, happily very few, vicious characters, whom nothing but the dread of punishment will control, and the sooner such men are got rid of the better. Commanding officers must never forget the important fact that the men under their control are most of them for the first time subjected to any discipline whatever, domestic or otherwise; that for the first time in their lives they have been required to live by rule, to do certain particular things at certain particular hours, and to abstain from certain other things; to obey orders promptly, to recognize authority,—all this being so contrary to the usual habit of their lives that to me, and I have no doubt to others, the docility, the cheerful obedience, the respectful demeanour of the men of our force is a constantly recurring source of wonder as well as of the highest gratification. It

is true that the short period during which our men stay in camp does not try their good qualities as a longer period would, but when we have had a more lengthy experience the result has been the same. And I may here say that I look upon even the short period we stay in camp as of greater advantage in respect to discipline than to drill. Drill can be taught to men collected for an hour or two for that purpose, and during that time it is easy to enforce order, but discipline in the true sense of the term can only be taught when men are together, subject to all the rules, and engaged in all the duties, which pertain to a military life.

I have said but little about drill except that by means of drill we teach discipline. I believe drill should be thorough—much more thorough than we, unfortunately, are able to make it. But after all, when men are well grounded in the rudiments of drill, when they can march, turn on the march, form fours, and front and right and left turn, and form to the front, and do that with precision, the rest is comparatively easy and depends more on the officers than the men. The skirmishing and modes of attack and defence they take to naturally, just as a boy at school goes to cricket or football when he has done with the grammar and lexicon. The trouble with us is that we have so little time for our military education that the rudiments are hurried over in order to get at the rest, and our men are required to skirmish before they have learned to march—in my opinion, a grievous and lamentable error. I hope I may be pardoned the observation, when speaking of skirmishing, that the new mode of attack which we have lately been learning, seems to me so exceedingly complex, that a great deal of time is being spent in learning a method which, in actual warfare, would be found unworkable by any troops, and certainly by men no better drilled than ours are, or are likely to be.

And now, in conclusion, I venture, after more than five and twenty years active connection with the force, to say, with some degree of authority, that what is most essential to its well being, is that the officers, upon whom its discipline depends, must enforce that discipline by example more than by precept, and I would say to the officers of the force, and especially to the younger ones—whatever your rights or privileges as officers may be, always act as though bound by the same obligations as the men, set them an example of subordination in all things, even the most trivial. If a thing is forbidden to the men, let it be equally forbidden to you, even though the order does not apply to you, and especially, in all matters relating to conduct and discipline. I have, for instance, to my great vexation, when men on the march have been forbidden to enter a drinking saloon, seen officers go in to that saloon before the men, using their privilege as officers to do that which their men were not allowed to do. Everything of that nature should be carefully avoided. Nor must familiarity be allowed to breed contempt, as it inevitably will do if freely indulged in. In this democratic country, and in a force like ours, when often there is nothing but the Queen's Commission to make the distinction between officers and men, the former must be specially careful to prove themselves, in all respects, worthy of that distinction, and competent to exercise the power which it confers. Men are very quick to note any weak point in the conduct or qualifications of their officers, but I have always found them ready to value and respect their good qualities. The men expect that their officers shall be competent to instruct them, and command them in the field. It is also necessary that the officers should set the men an example of neatness, smartness and punctuality; of willing obedience to orders; of cheerful endurance of hardship and privation. They must watch to see that all duty is promptly and properly carried out; that the non-com. officers are up to their work; they must be patient and forbearing, but able and willing to be firm and resolute when firmness and resolution are necessary. Much that in the regular service may be left to sub-

ordinates they must see to themselves, yet they must not weaken the chain of responsibility by doing too much. I have sketched a difficult task I admit, but I do not know of any position in life the duties of which require greater care and diligence than those of an officer in our force, nor upon whose proper discharge such important results depend. I firmly believe that, whether by accident or by the far-seeing wisdom of our rulers, we have devised the best practical method of providing a force for the defence of this country in its present condition, and capable of expansion with the expansion of our political responsibilities. The drill and discipline of that force mainly depends, I believe, upon the efficiency and good conduct of its officers, upon whom therefore rests a responsibility not lightly to be undertaken, and not easily discharged. If, therefore, in the preceding remarks, offered with great diffidence, but with an earnest desire to promote the welfare of the service, I have thrown any light upon subjects in which we all are so deeply interested, I shall feel that the time and attention which those present have given them has not been altogether thrown away.

A RHYME OF THE RIDEAU.

(After Nobody.)

On the Rideau range the sun rose high  
And sparkled on the Rideau water,  
And the hopes of the Riflemen shone in each eye  
As they thought of the coming slaughter.

Old Thomas he stood like a statue cold  
As cool as a green cucumber,  
And though he was questioned oft by the bold

His answers were few in number ;  
For he kept his eye on the changing wind  
And debated the —— and the V,  
For he never could get quite fixed in his mind  
As to which was the best for *he*.  
And if you should ask that old warrior to-day,  
And make your strongest endeavour,  
To find out which of the two he prefers ;  
You'll be almost as wise as ever.

And all o'er the field the knowing ones  
Were saying just a very little,  
And what little they said when boiled down fine  
Was extremely non-committal.

Then the gun boom'd commence  
And the racket began,  
And roll'd along the line  
Till *Snapshot* was fined a dollar and costs  
For being on number nine ;  
Then Inman laughed, a fiendish laugh,  
He laughed both long and high ;  
Though he had then got a magpie low  
Through that growth just above his eye,  
Then up from the mound rose two great shots,  
They danced and capered with glee ;  
For Pringle had just made 34,  
And Davidson 33.  
And so the merry match went on,  
While fortunes rose and fell,  
As to how it fared with all of the boys ;  
I haven't the time to tell.

But more I may say, some future day,  
Perhaps on the self-same plan  
Good luck all round, is the maxim sound,  
Of—

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