



THE

CANADIAN MILITARY GAZETTE.

(SUCCESSOR TO THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE.)

VOL. VIII
No. 24

MONTREAL, 15th DECEMBER, 1893

Subscription \$2.00 Yearly.
Single Copies 10 cents.

THE CANADIAN MILITARY GAZETTE.

(Successor to the Canadian Militia Gazette.)

ESTABLISHED 1885.

PUBLISHED AT MONTREAL ON THE
1ST AND 15TH OF EACH MONTH.

DEVOTED TO THE
Interests of the Military Forces of Canada.

SUBSCRIPTION:

Canada and the United States, - Per Annum	\$2.00
Great Britain, Ireland and Postal Union Countries, - - - - -	10s 6d. stg.
Single Copies, - - - - -	10 cents

Subscriptions are in every instance payable in advance, and the publishers request the favour of prompt remittance.

Unpaid accounts are subject to sight draft.

Remittances should be made by post-office order or registered letter. No responsibility is assumed for subscriptions paid to agents, and it is best to remit direct.

The date when the subscription expires is on the Address Label of each paper, the change of which to a subsequent date becomes a receipt for remittance. No other receipt is sent unless requested.

Immediate notice should be given of any delay or failure in the receipt of the GAZETTE.

No attention is paid to anonymous communications, but the wishes of contributors as to the use of their names will be scrupulously regarded.

All communications and remittances should be addressed to the Editor P.O. Box 1931, Montreal.

Vol VIII MONTREAL, 15th DEC. 1893 No. 24

Note and Comment.

Of the many good things General Herbert has done since he came to Canada nothing shows his natural shrewdness more clearly than the promptitude he displayed in filling the position of caretaker of the Montreal Drill Hall, made vacant by the death of Capt. Emond. The general of course knew that the last was a political appointment, and he rightly surmised that poor Emond's body would be hardly cold before the very dirtiest of the political heeleders of the Montreal district would be tumbling over one another in their haste to secure a position where they might have a chance of serving their grateful country, and incidentally pocket a salary of about eight hundred dollars a year besides pickings.

* * *

With General Herbert, evidently, to

think is to act, and the promptness with which he acted in the Emond vacancy just about took the breath of the political spoils crowd in this district away. Would-be applicants had barely had time to decide what they were prepared to bounses for the wirepullers when they woke up one fine morning, a very cold one for them, to find that the position had been filled by the appointment of Staff Sgt. Fellowes, of the Regiment of Canadian Artillery, Quebec, who recently arrived in Montreal as instructor of the Montreal Garrison Artillery and recruiting sergeant of the permanent artillery in Montreal. That the appointment meets with the approval of military men goes without saying, it would not be for them to express disapproval anyway, but the chief cause of the rejoicing among military men is the proof which this incident affords that the head of the militia does not intend that appointments in the service shall continue to be regarded as mere political spoils, to be disposed of with an utter disregard to the welfare of the force.

* * *

It is only to be hoped that the same sound principle which was acted upon in this comparatively insignificant case will be adhered to in the allotment of commissions in the permanent force, namely that complete qualification shall be insisted upon and that political influence and personal favour be thrown to the dogs. If political orthodoxy or association with orthodox politicians is not sufficient qualification for a caretaker, surely it should not be enough for officers in the permanent force, but that has been the chief qualification insisted upon in the past and that on the admission of no less an authority than an ex-Minister of Militia. After the thorough exposure of the evils of this system which has been made in these columns it is unnecessary to go into the matter at length here, but

it is only natural to remark that the force will now await with greater interest the allotment of the commission now vacant in the establishment of the Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery.

* * *

Great influence will, we understand, be brought to bear to secure the commission for a certain young Englishman who is an applicant. He has only been out in this country a few months, and consequently he has had a very short experience in the militia, and if he has shown any particular aptitude for military work nobody appears to know it. By the bye the little experience he has had has been in the cavalry, but under the spoils appointment system that would be considered no drawback. We only have a few permanent artillery officers, and the few we have should be the very best procurable. What an insult to scores of clever young officers in the volunteer militia artillery, not to speak of numbers of eligible graduates of the Royal Military College, to even talk of allotting this commission to an unknown young cavalry officer! One scarcely knows which to condemn most, the impudence of this enterprising applicant, or the degradation of the service which offers such applications any prospect of success.

* * *

We have no particular objection to the appointment of Englishmen to the permanent corps if they are qualified, but we most strenuously do object to young men incapable of obtaining commissions in the Imperial Army being brought out here to fill the few commissions in our permanent corps for the sake of the pay, no matter what their qualification may be. The young man in question has not the least possible claim upon the country, and the country does not need his services, for not only are there hundreds of Canadians better qualified to fill the position for

which he is an applicant than he is, but they are just as anxious as he is to get the appointment, and they have claims upon the country which should be taken into consideration, for they have either rendered Canada good service in the volunteer militia or they spent four valuable years of their lives acquiring the military profession in the belief that they would have some claim to the commissions in the permanent force.

* * * *

The status of the officers of the permanent force must be such that their comrades of the volunteer militia can look up to them with confidence at all times, and particularly when they are placed under them for courses of instruction. Things are bad enough now in all conscience with the permanent corps more than half officered with political appointees, who oftener than not know less about soldiering and care less about it than the officers who go to them for instruction. Whoever hears now-a-days of an officer with a record in the volunteer militia being appointment to a permanent corps? Such men have too much of the soldier about them to humiliate themselves to make the necessary terms with the political wirepullers, and of course they get left. Bad as things are though, what would be the state of affairs were the commissions in the permanent corps to be thrown open to impecunious young Englishmen who arrive out here in search of a job? At least no man should be given a commission in the permanent force who has not lived in the Dominion for three years. If some provision like that is not made some of these fine days we shall find our permanent force a corps of gentlemen adventurers, with an emphasis on the "Gentlemen."

* * * *

By the bye why is it that the militia list does not give the qualifications of the officers of the permanent corps? The certificates of every other officer in the militia are enumerated in detail, but the permanent officers might not have even second class certificates for any information the "List" gives on that point. This is to be all the more regretted in view of the stories about certain officers holding their commissions in the permanent force in spite of their inability to procure qualifying certificates. It is said that promotions have been held back in the permanent corps because an unqualified officer stands in the way. Be this as it may, the "List" should give the qualifications of all the permanent officers.

In the ordinary militia a man is not allowed to hold the commission of 2nd lieutenant longer than twelve months without he holds qualifying certificates, it is hard to believe that this rule is not enforced in the permanent corps, but such is said to be the case, and very likely it is true after all, the manner the commissions are allotted being taken into consideration. And yet these unqualified officers are the men the ordinary militia officer is supposed to regard as models and teachers. Was there ever a greater piece of absurdity in this absurd world?

* * * *

Look at this permanent corps question whichever way you will, it becomes more and more apparent every day that great injury is being done to the permanent force in particular and the militia in general by the systematic ignoring of the claims of the graduates of the Royal Military College to the commissions in the permanent force. Had the principle been laid down at the start that merit, not favour, should decide the allotment of the commissions, it stands to reason that the large majority of the officers of the permanent force would be R.M.C. graduates, and the remainder would be men selected from the militia for past hard work in the force and for general efficiency. There would be no unqualified officers at any rate.

* * * *

Of course no one pretends that all of the graduates of the college are bound to be successes in military life. There are muffs everywhere. But the college turns out more than enough capable officers for the permanent force, and the principle of selection would of course be observed. If the college does not produce the requisite number of well trained officers for goodness sake let the whole institution be closed down and sold out at once, for it is nothing more than a humbug, and an expensive one at that. That is the stand we take on this question.

* * * *

Before leaving the question of the Royal Military College it might be as well to draw attention to the necessity which exists for a thorough reorganization of the Board of Governors. As it is now this body consists of a number of gentlemen, interested in the welfare of the college, no doubt, but most of them quite unqualified for their positions as governors, owing to their positions in the militia. Staff officers are of course well qualified to know what is wanted of such an institution as this, but are they able to give free expression to their views? Of course they are not,

though it was just to get candid expressions of opinion as to the management of the college that they were appointed. This board should consist of gentlemen wholly independent of the Militia Department, and at least one of the members should be a graduate of the college. Such a man would get at the weak points in the system quicker than all the colonels between Halifax and Victoria.

* * * *

Has somebody at headquarters been made the victim of a practical joke, or are the general orders being used to further the Government's scheme to capture the temperance vote? One can easily be excused for reasoning this way after reading the recent general order against the sale of spirituous liquor in camp caoteens, knowing all the time that there is in "Regulations and Orders" a certain paragraph, 732, to be exact, which reads as follows: "Nothing in the Queen's Regulations and Orders for the army so far as they relate to the establishment of caoteens, is to be understood as permitting the sale within the limits of camp grounds during the annual drill of the militia of Canada, of spirituous (to include wine) or malt liquor of any kind; their sale within such limits being strictly prohibited."

News of the Service.

NOTE: Our readers are respectfully requested to contribute to this department all items of Military News affecting their own corps, districts or friends, coming under their notice. Without we are assisted in this way we cannot make this department as complete as we would desire. Remember that all the doings of every corps are of general interest throughout the entire militia force. You can mail a large package of manuscript, so long as not enclosed in an envelope, for one cent. At any rate forward copies of your local papers with all references to your corps and your comrades.

EDITOR, CANADIAN MILITARY GAZETTE,
P.O. Box 37, Montreal, Que.

TORONTO.

The season of inactivity to the members comprising the city regiments is just at present holding full sway, with no chance of a break occurring until after the commencement of the new year. Both the Queen's Own and Highlanders have classes for those desirous of qualifying as non-com. officers, which will doubtless be carried on until nearly time for recruiting for spring drill, but apart from these little or nothing is going on in military circles.

* * * *

The pay sheets have all been forwarded and the arrival of the p'argent is the next event of importance to the Toronto Tommy Atkinsons. After the pay arrives and the quartermasters of the different regiments have satiated their appetites for pay for lost stores most of the companies have sufficient left to defray the cost of a little spread, at which reminiscences of the past year are exchanged and resolves for the work of the next year solemnly made, but in some cases, made only to be forgotten.

The result of the recent competition in No. 2 district is not exciting a great deal of interest, certainly not as much as one would like to see. This is only the natural result of the way some of the details were carried out last year, such as one regiment being penalized for the absence of keepers on the slung, while another seemed to profit amazingly by the interior work of their armouries and the extra amount of burnishing on their arms. The more these things were discussed the firmer the opinion became that too much attention was paid to details and too little to the actual work that would go to make up an efficient regiment, and if the same plan was carried out this year as seemed to be the success of one last year, the continuation of the competition would prove more of a curse than a blessing. Without a doubt the original intention of the competition was towards raising the efficiency of the regiments of the district, but it is the opinion of many that the results are not as promising as one would like to see. The competition has revealed in a very apparent manner that all the regiments are weak in certain points, and I question if a dozen competitions would make any different showing. In a majority of cases the work of some of the subalterns was very weak and showed an alarming want of practise, but as many rightly state, the actual drilling time, on a parade once a week, really gives little or no chance for an officer getting that practise so necessary to inspire confidence or to find out his weak points in the details of company drill. Again, when the whole season is taken up with company drill and the greater part of it only fitted for ceremonial work, the work that that regiment should be trained to do in the field is totally neglected and when a field day comes and the nature of the work it entails has to be undertaken, almost without practise, the results cannot be beneficial nor inspire the men with confidence in themselves or their officers. Why not let the competition narrow down to efficiency of the company, both at the butts and its knowledge of outpost or attack work, guard duty, etc.; the results would certainly be more satisfactory and the time spent prove of untold benefit to all ranks.

The military column of the Empire is the best conducted of any paper in the Dominion, and the many articles contained therein are always interesting and instructive, and show how thoroughly conversant the author is with the strong points as well as the weak, the benefits as well as the wants of the militia force. The report of the last field day of the Toronto Garrison is an exception and the result of the same as shown by the Empire, compared with the verdict contained in all the other papers, only goes to show that when the military editor is a sufferer at the feet of his all prevailing majesty "La Grippe," the market or society reporter is hardly the best one to do efficient service as a substitute.

The resignation of Lt. Col. Dawson

from the command of the Grenadiers and the appointment of Major Mason to the vacancy, will deprive one of our Ottawa correspondents of one of his stock in trade specials, unless indeed he continues forecasting the probable results to the regiment, by his ill-timed remarks as to that officer's religion. With all due respect to the late C. O. the lease of life to the Grenadiers is renewed and their prospects of attaining their old position and efficiency were never brighter than they are at present. The appointment is as popular as well as a deserved one and at the same time amply provides against a repetition of the rot that has for some time past been appearing in papers that should know better of matters concerning the interior workings of this gallant regiment.

The showing made by the Queen's Own on the occasion of their last roll call is one that well deserves mention. It was such as cannot be approached, much less beaten, by any regiment in the Dominion, and despite the result of a dozen competitions, they can honestly wear the laurels which have never been yet, and I very much doubt if they can have wrested from them as the premier corps of the Dominion. With a parade state which during the year will average about 600 of all ranks, they paraded on that night 645 strong, including their full staff of officers, 38 all told and all qualified, and 52 sergeants, of whom only about 29 are allowed pay. They are complete in pioneer, ambulance and signal corps have an average parade of 45 in the brass band and 30 in the bugle, besides having an efficient bicycle corps of 22 men. Under the present strength of the militia this regiment only draws pay for 458 men, and despite the severe handicap they labor under as regards the quality and quantity of the clothing issued them they have not yet paraded as low as their official strength. The Queen's Own have more ex-members holding commissions in the militia than perhaps all the other regiments put together and cases are not uncommon where no less than three generations have paraded in the ranks.

The 48th Highlanders' buglers will during the winter give smoking concerts to the different companies of the regiment. The first will be held on Friday, Dec. 15th, to "A" Company. The committee are Buglers Russell, Stewart and Selby.

Buglers Ford and Kerr, of the 48th, are taking a course at No. 2 R.C.I.

The first assembly of the Grenadiers on the evening of December 7th will probably hold its own with any dance that may be given this season. Everything seemed to combine to make it a success—the variety of handsome uniforms, the excellent music, the well planned programme, the dresses of the ladies, and the excellent supper, all contributed to the success of the occasion. The ball was the first of a series of three to be given during the winter months, the proceeds to be

donated to the band fund of the regiment. The first intention was, had the Governor General been able to be present, to hold the ball at the Pavilion, but an answer was received to the invitation extended to him, expressing his regret at his inability to attend. One thing is certain, namely, that Lord Aberdeen missed a good time by being absent, for a more pleasant affair could not be imagined. The music was furnished by the band of the regiment, under Bandmaster Waldron, and both the selections chosen and the manner in which they were played were perfect for dancing. The floor was all that could be desired, and the pleasant sitting-room at the head of the stairs was well patronized by those who preferred "sitting it out" to dancing. The programme, too, was a good one.

The scene in the large room was a very pretty one when the band struck up the first extra. There was a large proportion of military uniforms, the dark green of the Queen's Own, the red uniforms of the Grenadiers, and the picturesque costumes of the officers of the Highlanders blending with the many coloured dresses of the ladies, and the black dress suits of the civilians. The supper was served upstairs, and was supplied by Harry Webb, the claret being furnished by Mr. William Mara. The room in which the dancing took place was decorated with plants and ferns, and was divided into ten divisions, one for each company in the regiment. The programme was arranged so that a place was left on which to enter the place of rendezvous of the high contracting parties to each dance. The air was heavy with the perfume of flowers, and the room echoed with the hum of conversation and the rippling of laughter, to an accompaniment of rustling dresses and the rushing of feet over the floor. Among those present were Mrs. Kirkpatrick, Captain Arthur and Miss Kirkpatrick, and Lt. Col. and Mrs. Otter.

The committee in charge of the arrangements was as follows: Captain Tassie, chairman; Capt. Irving, honorary secretary; Major Bruce, Capt. Cameron, Capt. McLean, Assistant Surgeon King, Lt. Sweatman, Lt. Willis and Lt. Chadwick.

Yesterday Lt. Col. Mason issued the 1st regimental orders to the Royal Grenadiers since he took over the command. In the orders Lt. Col. Dawson takes leave of the regiment. The leavetaking is expressive, brief, and soldierly, just such as could be expected from the gallant officer who has held the command for six years. Following are the orders and the valedictory:—

Royal Grenadiers' detail for week ending December 10th: Orderly officer, Lt. Sweatman; orderly sergeant, Sgt. Farley.

The following extract from the Canada Gazette, dated Ottawa, 2nd December, 1893, is published for information of the Royal Grenadiers: "To be lieutenant colonel, Major James Mason, R.S.L. vice George Dudley Dawson, who is permitted to retire, retaining rank."

Leave of absence has been granted to Capt. and Adjutant McLean from Decem-

ber 1st, 1893, to February 28th, 1894.

Capt. Irving will perform the duties of adjutant during the absence on leave of Capt. McLean.

The following is published at the request of the late commanding officer, Lt. Col. Dawson, as his valedictory to the regiment: Lt. Col. Dawson, in taking leave of the Royal Grenadiers, in which he has served for 13 years, and has had the honour to command for the past six, desires to tender his thanks to the officers, non-commissioned officers and men of the regiment for their support and co-operation during his period of command. He takes pride in the facts that during his command two companies were added to the strength of the regiment, the colours were redecorated by the ladies of Toronto, when the name "Batoche" was emblazoned on their folds, and that the enthusiasm and "esprit de corps" of all ranks were never greater than at the present time. Lt. Col. Dawson now says farewell to the Grenadiers, with the assurance that the corps will always keep and maintain in the future the distinguished position and prestige it has earned in the past, both on the field and in their native city, and that they will ever hold fast to their motto, "Ready, Aye Ready."—The Mail, Dec. 8.

* * * *

A meeting of the Volunteer Monument Committee was held at the Government House on Thursday, 7th. Among those present were: His Honor the Lieutenant Governor, Sir Casimir Gzowski, A.D.C., Mrs. McLean Howard, Mrs. Moss, Mrs. John Fletcher, Miss Fletcher, Lt. Col. Grasett, Lt. Col. Dawson, and Lt. Col. Hamilton. On motion Lt. Col. Grasett took the chair, and Lt. Col. Dawson acted as secretary. Mrs. Fletcher, the secretary of the Ladies' Committee, read the minutes of former meetings, also a list of those who subscribed to the fund. The amount collected and now in hand is \$1,342. It was suggested by Sir Casimir Gzowski that there should be some limit to the time for closing the subscription list, and whatever amount was then in hand should be expended on the monument. The meeting decided to close the list on the 1st of October, 1894, and that every effort should be made before that time to raise the necessary funds. Several designs for the monument were submitted, the cost varying from three to five thousand dollars. It was decided that the Ladies' Committee should have power to add to their number.

* * * *

A production of Offenbach's famous opera comique, "The Grand Duchess," will probably be given by Toronto amateurs this season. Lt. Col. Laurie and several of the other officers of Stanley Fort have taken hold of the matter and are actively engaged in working up enthusiasm for it. Mrs. Fraser, a beautiful widow living in the west end, will probably play the title role, and she is in appearance admirably calculated to fill the role. It is stated, also, that she has much dramatic talent. In fact, except that she is a brunette, Mrs. Fraser bears considerable

resemblance to Lillian Russell, the American prima donna who made such a success of the role. Mr. H. W. Webster will probably be asked to undertake the training of the chorus, and to appear in the role of General Boum, and Mr. Al. Holman will be engaged as stage manager. The officers themselves will possibly fill several of the roles. Easter week is the time selected for the production.

* * * *

The bandsmen of the Royal Grenadiers held their annual dinner in Brunswęjk hall on Tuesday night, the 12th, when a most enjoyable time was spent. Mr. Waldron occupied the chair, and Lt. Cols. Dawson and Mason occupied seats on either side. Among the guests were the acting adjutant, Capt. Irving, and other officers of the regiment. The music furnished during the evening by members of the band was of a very high class.

* * * *

The result of the Cumberland Cup competition between the companies of the Royal Grenadiers has at length been announced. The competition is for a cup presented by Mr. Barlow Cumberland for the most generally efficient company in the battalion as shown by the points granted by the inspecting officer and for the company strength at battalion parades. As everyone expected Capt. Irving and "A" Company have carried off the trophy, with "B" Company, Capt. Trotter, second. Capt. Trotter says that he will be first next year, but in the meantime "A" Company will jubilate.

* * * *

The "fort" at Toronto, which has been known so long as the "New Fort barracks," will in future be properly spoken of as "Stanley barracks," the name having been changed by general order 82.

* * * *

Capt. A. H. Lee, of the Royal Artillery, delivered a lecture on the evening of the 15th in the Military Institute on the solving of technical schemes as an aid to the study and comprehension of minor tactics. Lt. Col. F. C. Denison, M.P., occupied the chair, and among those present were His Honor Lt. Gov. Kirkpatrick, Lt. Col. Otter, Lt. Col. Macdonald, of Guelph, and about 30 other officers. The lecturer, who is on the staff of the Royal Military College at Kingston, illustrated his lecture with a map which was scaled to three inches to the mile and the contours traced at elevations of 50 feet. The idea was to explain the importance of certain positions in battle. The lecture was very interesting.

MONTREAL.

The last general orders gazetted another batch of officers out of the Montreal corps for non-qualification. These gentlemen, after going to the expense of uniform, etc., found that they could not afford to take from their business, the time required to go to the Royal School of Infantry at St. Johns for their examinations, and there was no alternative for them but to resign. This is about as

good an argument as one should require in favor of the establishment of a school of military instruction in Montreal, but we have already had plenty of such arguments, and they have been productive of no good result.

* * * *

At the last regular monthly meeting of the officers of the Royal Scots at the Military Institute a hockey team was organized for the winter and Capt. Cantlie was authorized to accept challenges from teams of officers of sister corps. The curling interests were placed in charge of Capt. Cameron.

* * * *

The dinner of D Company Royal Scots was held at the Richelieu on Friday evening, 8th inst., when some 60 in number took their places at the tables. Among the guests present were Lt. Col. Caverhill, Majors Ibbotson and Gault, Capt. Cantlie, Lydon, Foster, and J. Ibbotson, Lt. Brown, Sgt. Major Kennedy, B Company; Col. Sgt. Goldsack, C Company; Col. Sgt. Handcock, E Company and Col. Sgt. Corner, E Company; and Messrs. D. E. Macdougall and E. Archibald. Color Sgt. Crawford made a very able chairman and was assisted in seeing that all made themselves feel at home by the following committee: Sgt. J. Kelly, president; Pte. H. W. Edson, vice president; Sgt. A. Earby, secretary; Pipe Sergt. Clarke, Sgt. G. Yardley and Ptes. W. Maclair and H. S. Smith. At the plate of each one was a photograph of D Company, as it appeared on the Champ de Mars at the last inspection. This was a present from Capt. Cantlie and one well appreciated.

* * * *

The funeral service of Capt. Jean Baptiste Emond, late superintendent of the drill hall, took place on Sunday 9th in the morning hours, and in the afternoon the remains were escorted to their resting place at Cote des Neiges Cemetery. The funeral cortege, which left the drill hall shortly after half past two o'clock, was an impressive one, and besides the military all ranks in civil life were represented. The firing party was composed of ten men each from Montreal Garrison Artillery, Prince of Wales Rifles, Victoria Rifles, Royal Scots and Sixth Fusiliers under the command of Capt. Pelletier and Lts. Gelinas and Beauchamp, of Mount Royal Rifles. 65th Batt. had the right of line and looked very soldierly in great coats and winter wedges. Following the firing party came the Victoria Rifles band playing the dead march, and then came the remains on a gun carriage of the Montreal Field Battery, drawn by six horses, the detachment being under the command of Sgt. Porteous. The casket covered with black cloth was wrapped in the Union Jack. Among the officers were noticed Lt. Cols. Houghton, Butler and Starke, Turnbull and Stevenson; Majors Ibbotson, Labelle and Desroismaisons; Capt. Lydon, Hooper, Lefebvre, Carriere and Ostell, and Lts. Costigan, Loranger and Parent.

* * * *

The armory of the Montreal Garrison

Artillery was invaded on Friday evening 15th, but the invasion was a friendly one. The quarters had been turned over for the nonce to A Company, Royal Scots, for them to hold their annual ball and supper there. The event was a successful one in every way. Among the 60 couples present were Lt. Col. Strathy, Lt. Col. Caverhill, Lt. Col. Hood, Majors Ibbotson and Gault; Messrs. Robert W. Allan, Robt. Walker, Captain Rankin and Lt. Cameron as guests of the company. The dancing was opened with the march, led by the Pipe Major Matheson, Pipe Sgt. Clarke and Pipers McInnes, Brophy and MacRae. The decorations, both in the ballroom and the armory down stairs, the latter of which was used as the supper room, were very fine. Supper was served under the caterership of J. W. Sutherland, and it reflected great credit on Armory Sgt. Johnson, M.A., and Armory Sgt. Brown, of the Scots. The event of the evening was during supper, when Col. Sgt. Currie, who was in the chair, called upon, at the request of the vice chairman, Corp. Gardner, Lt. Col. Strathy, to present to Pte. D. Smith, on behalf of the company, an elegant set of furs for Mrs. Smith, as a mark of their appreciation for his services in the past as secretary of the Kilt fund, and also for the manner in which he had always upheld the honor of the regiment, both on and off the shooting field. After supper dancing was resumed, and was kept up until the next day was well advanced.

• • • •

"Cartridge Box," the Gazette's military writer, says: "As soon as the new year comes in the Montreal Garrison Artillery will be completely reorganized. Instead of six small companies, it will be reorganized into three large ones, with a total strength of 21 officers and 308 non-commissioned officers and men. This change has been authorized by the department, but the announcement will not be made in the Official Gazette until the new establishment has been sanctioned by Parliament. There is, however, little or no doubt but this will be done, as all the other Garrison Artillery corps have been reorganized in the same manner. Another thing our local artillerists will be glad to hear, is that a 64-pounder converted gun, with sights and carriages complete, has been ordered from Quebec for the M.G.A., and will soon be at their disposal for drill purposes. This reorganization should be of great benefit to the corps, as it has been felt for some time that the old methods were too antiquated. The details of the new system have not yet been decided, but something about the question will come up to-night, at the meeting of the association, in their armory."

• • • •

It has been the usual thing in years past for the Victoria Rifles' Reserves, better known as the Vets, to celebrate the birthday of their old regiment, December 13th, by a dinner. This year was the thirty-second anniversary, and as it fell on Sunday, the Vets, at their annual meeting, decided to celebrate it the night before. When this decision was made

Lt. Col. Starke and his commissibned and non-commissioned officers had also made up their minds that the regiment itself should also do a little celebrating to keep the name of the regiment and the date green in the memory of all. The result was that after a short conference it was decided, for the first time, that the two bodies should dine together. The dinner came off on Saturday evening, 16th, at the Vics' armory, Cathcart street, and it was a success in every way. Around the handsomely decorated tables, on which were a profusion of potted plants, cups and trophies, the latter spoils of the Vics' team on the shooting field, could be seen many of Montreal's leaders in commercial and social life. They were in multi, but on their breasts was the little silver baegd and ribbon which told to all that they had carried the rifle and the sword in the days of yore, and that they were the Vets of the Vics. Of the soldiers of to-day there was a goodly and representative gathering, every branch of the service being represented, and among others, commanding officers from Ottawa, Toronto, and New Brunswick. The tables were arranged so that all the diners could see all that was going on and hear all the songs and speeches. The chairman's table ran across the head of the room, and from this ran three others, the length of the armory towards the stage, which was warlike in its appearance, with the Maxim gun of the regiment facing the door and bidding defiance to any who would disturb the peace of her whose name the regiment bears. Lt. Col. Starke was in the chair, and immediately facing him, at the head of the centre table, was the latest gift to the volunteers of Montreal, a handsome shield mounted on a tripod. The shield bears on its face over a dozen war medals. It was given by Mr. Henry Tiffin to the volunteers of Montreal on Friday, and was given in care of the Vics' Reserves. On Lt. Col. Starke's right sat Lt. Col. Houghton, deputy adjutant general; Lt. Col. Hamilton, Queen's Own Rifles, Toronto; Lt. Col. Butler, Prince of Wales Rifles; Lt. Col. Gray, superintendent of stores, 5th district; Lt. Col. Cole, Montreal Garrison Artillery; Lt. Col. Burland, 6th Fusiliers; Major Roy, brigade major, 5th district; Capt. Frenette, superintendent of stores, 6th district. On his left were Lt. Col. Henshaw, president of the Reserves; Lt. Col. White, Eight Royal Rifles, Quebec; Lt. Col. Strathy, Royal Scots; Mr. Frank Walker, donor of the Walker cup; Lt. Col. Whitehead, V. R.; Mr. George Gillespie, Lt. Wardlow, V.R.; Surgeon Campbell, Vics. At the centre table Captain Stanley, president of the Vics' Reserve mess, presided, and around the table were Mr. J. W. Mills, "father" of the Reserves and hon. president; Lt. A. L. Dunlop, V. R.; R. Pinkerton, V. R.; Captain Sully, V. R.; Captain Sutherland, V. R.; John Nelson, jr., V. R.; A. MacKeand, V. R.; M. P. Cochrane, V.R.; Lt. Col. Massey, V.R.; Major Seath, 6th Fusiliers; Sgt. G. D. Taylor, V.R.; Major Radiger, V.R.; Lt. Col. Ferguson, 73rd regiment, New Brunswick; A. R. Fraser, V. R.; Capt. J. A. Villeneuve, R.L.; T. Trig-

gett, V.R.; F. Spence, V.R.; Charles W. Lewis, V.R.; Capt. R. A. Kellond, V.R.; J. D. Taylor, V.R.; Lt. C. A. E. Patterson, V.R.; ex-Sgt. Major Sims, V.R. At the right hand table Major Sims presided, and those seated there were A. B. Evans, E.A. Bernard, George Caverhill, Major Busted, Vics; Major Blaiklock, Royal Scots; Capt. Macpherson, R.L.; V.R.; Capt. S. Howard, V.R.; G. L. Cains, V.R.; G. L. Kilpin, Capt. Guy, Vics; Capt. and Adjutant Arthur Hamilton, Vics; Lt. F. S. Meighon, Royal Scots; Capt. Leslie, Vics; Lt. R. Costigan, Montreal Field Battery; Capt. Rodden, Vics; Lt. McCallum, Vics; Lt. E.H. Brown, Vics, and Arthur Ware, V. R. At the left hand table Sgt. Major Gorman presided, and around him were the following non-coms. of the regiment; but later in the evening they had as their special guests the members of the Ottawa Bowling team, whom they have often met on the alley. The sergeants present were Davis, E. Belcourt, Phillips, Allan, McRobie, McKerrow, Napier, Binmore, Gascoigne, Burton, James, Warrington, Shaw, McClatchie, Simpson, Gagnon, Remington, Hutchison, McCrae and Lanigan.

The toast of the evening, "The Guests," was then proposed by Lt. Col. Starke. After thanking them for being present, he alluded to the staff at Montreal, which, he said, at all times was willing to do all in its power to aid the commanding officers of the city corps. He referred to the presence of the officers of sister corps, especially those outside the city, and the representative of the Queen's Own in particular, for whom the Vics had always had the friendliest feeling.

Lt. Col. Houghton, in reply, thanked those present for the hearty manner in which the toast had been drunk, and said that the Vics and the Queen's Own were the principal corps in Canada, as they both bore the name of Her Majesty, and he was glad to say that they had always upheld it with honor and with pride. He was glad to see the friendly rivalry there was between them, as it helped both corps towards the highest state of efficiency.

Lt. Cols. Cole, Burland and Strathy also replied to the toast.

Lt. Col. Henshaw said he did not rise as a guest, but as a representative of the Reserves, and he did so to announce that speeches were in order, as the Reserves had always had them at their dinners and gatherings. Although it was against the rules to have them at a purely regimental dinner, still the Reserves did not feel, and he was sure the rest were the same way, that they should be cut out of listening to the many fine speakers who were around the tables.

Lt. Col. Starke then rose and said that as long as the Vets took the responsibility speeches would go on. He called Lt. Col. Hamilton to his feet, who, after returning thanks for giving him the pleasure of being present, said it was the first dinner of the Vics he had ever attended. Both his regiment and the Vics wore the same uniform, and when a Queen's Own man met a Vie he knew he met a brother. He referred to the visits of the Vics to Toronto, and to the Queen's Own to Montreal in 1878 and 1879, when they were

royally treated by the Montreal corps, the Vics and Sixth especially. He hoped that they would soon meet again, if not in Montreal or Toronto, then on some neutral ground. The speaker gave a little laughable incident of what good officers there were in the Vics on their last trip to Toronto, when on one occasion when one of the companies was told to fall in, only one lonely private and an officer turned up. The manner in which this incident was related convulsed the audience. In concluding his remarks he made a very patriotic reference to the militia of Canada, and said there was no country in the world where the soldiers gave up so much as they did in Canada, but they had not been appreciated as they should by the powers that be. He felt that in time to come the powers that be would appreciate them as they deserve. He also spoke of the Reserves as the backbone of the regiment, and hoped the day was not far distant when the Queen's Own would have such an auxiliary force as the Vics had.

Lt. Col. White was next called, and after returning thanks for the invitation, got out of a speech by singing a military song.

Lt. Col. Ferguson referred to the esprit de corps existing among the New Brunswick regiments, and said he was glad to see and to know that the same feeling was to be found in Montreal.

Lt. Col. Butler made a humorous reference to the regiments, saying that the Vics not only kept up to their motto, but this motto had become a maxim, and they even displayed their "maxim" at their feasts.

Lt. Col. Henshaw proposed "The Health of Mr. James Walker," the donor of the Walker trophy, which was heartily honored, after which Mr. Walker briefly returned thanks.

"The Sgt. Major and Sergeants" was proposed by Capt. Stanley, Reserves, and replied to by Sgt. Major Gorman.

Lt. Col. Starke proposed "The Vets," coupled with the names of Lt. Cols. Henshaw and Whitehead, who made suitable replies; and then all were brought to their feet together to honor the health of Lt. Col. Starke, proposed by Lt. Col. Hamilton.

The Vics C. O., in reply, spoke of the successful evening they had had, and referred to the regiment, saying that he was going to do his best to make it second to none in the British forces. O'Col. Whitehead had told him that when he was in command he had had 412 men on parade. Lt. Col. Henshaw's ambition was to secure a Maxim gun before he resigned the command, but his (the speaker's) was to have a parade of even larger numbers than in Lt. Col. Whitehead's days; and he believed that it would come to pass.

• • • •

One of the most brilliant and successful of the many company dinners that have taken place this year was that of F Company Sixth Fusiliers on Friday evening, 15th, at the mess, Craig street. Not only were the tables graced with the presence of three commanding officers, past and present, of the regiment, but

the programme of songs between speeches was far above the ordinary. Mr. C. A. E. Harriss, organist of St. James the Apostle church, presided at the piano, whilst those who sang were Mr. John Burnside, Pte. Low, Pte. Davis, Sgt. Armstrong, Staff Sgt. A. G. Cunningham, Mr. Jackson and Capt. Pettigrew.

Capt. Chambers was in the chair, with Lt. Col. Eurland on his right and the following other invited guests were grouped around the tables: Lt. Col. Gardner, Lt. Col. Massey, Major Macaulay, Quartermaster W. D. McLaren, jr., Capt. R. G. Pettigrew, Capt. W. E. Findlay, Capt. E. Mitchell, Lts. Fred. Denison, Herbert Tatley, M.D.; Geo. Burland, Mr. C. A. E. Harriss, Mr. J. Burnside, Mr. W. F. Jackson, Sgt. Major Fellowes, M.G.A.; Col. Sgt. Riddle and Sgt. Todd, A Co.; Col. Sergt. Marks, E Co.; Staff Sgt. Norris, Corp. Grant, M.G.A.; Pte. J. Scott, Pte. T. Scott, A Co.; Pte. Ward, E Co.; Col. Sgt. Morrison, E Co.; Sgt. Major Currie, and the following members of the company: Col. Sgt. Pratt in the vice-chair; Sgts. Armstrong, Morrice, Harrison; Corps. Brindle, Farrar, Walton. Watt, F. Bennett, W. Morgan, T. Maple, A. Singer, J. Dunn, Williamson, S. Bennett, T. Cauthern, W. Holdbrook, Aston, Ford, Green, Parsons, Machrie; Ptes. Fryer, A. Lowe, J. Robinson, Pike, A. Roberts, W. Scott, C. J. Vickers, J. Isom, J. McNaught, J. Davis, Porteous, P. G. Long, G. A. Hughes, J. W. Meakins, W. Lummis, G. Prowse, A. Silas, W. Clark, J. March, F. Cahill, H. Detmers.

The menu was a very good one, and was done full justice to; and as the menu card called for a long toast list, it was a late (or early) hour before the pleasure of the night was over. The first toast, "The Queen," was enthusiastically drunk, as was the one that followed, "The Prince of Wales and Royal Family."

The toast of "Our Comrades of the Royal Army and Navy" was the next toast, and was heartily drunk. It was responded to by Sgt. Armstrong, late of the 72nd Highlanders, and Sgt. Brown, late of the 78th Highlanders.

"The regiment that wears the grenade and the lily white facings" was responded to by Lt. Cols. Gardner, Massey and Burland and Capt. R. Pettigrew, all of whom referred to the high standard that F Company had attained, and complimented the captain on being in command of a company that stood highest in the brigade.

"Our Guests" was proposed by Capt. Chambers, and responded to by most of the invited guests, after which came the toast of "Our Company," proposed by Col. Sgt. Pratt, and responded to by Capt. Chambers, who then proposed "The Press," responded to by "Cartridge Box," and the last toast, "The Ladies," followed, when the evening was brought to a finish with the National Anthem.

OTTAWA.

The many friends of Hugh D. Ross will learn with deep regret of his death, which occurred at an early hour on Tuesday morning at his mother's residence, O'Connor street. Mr. Ross was well and favourably known in volunteering

circles, having been a member of the Guards for some 14 years. He joined No. 2 Company in April, 1881, received his first stripe on the 30th May, 1884, and has since passed through all the different grades till his promotion to the position of colour-sergeant on the 17th of March, 1893.

In 1883 Mr. Ross entered the employ of Messrs. McRae & Co., coal dealers, and had been with them since that time, from which it will be seen that in business as in military matters he evinced those sterling and steadfast qualities which command esteem and confidence. A good soldier, a faithful friend and an honest citizen many will mourn his loss. The remains will be taken to Kingeton by the 10.30 train this morning for interment. Amongst the floral tributes are a star from the sergeants' mess of the Guards and wreaths from the officers and members of No. 2 Company. Mr. Ross was an only son, and his bereaved mother has the sympathy of all in her hour of trial.—Citizen, Nov. 30.

The new Canadian infantry drill is shortly to be issued. Books for the instructors have already been issued. There are several innovations which show that the drill is to be less ornamental than at present. For instance, the men, in falling in, will be placed with a distinct interval between them, and the rear rank will be no less than 60 inches from the front. The men will all be assigned places in certain sections and will fall in in those sections, no matter whether others may be absent or not. Each sergeant will have charge of a section, and will be responsible for it. It is understood that the new drill book was prepared by Lt. Col. Otter, Lt. Col. Smith and Capt. Macdougall.

• • • •

Deputy Surgeon General Oliver, of the medical staff at Halifax, has been here to introduce to the favourable notice of Major-General Herbert a new field accoutrement adapted for the volunteer service. It is claimed for this device that it facilitates the easy carriage of rations, ammunition, and the soldier's usual kit. Dr. Oliver, by the way, is a brother-in-law of the Minister of Marine.

• • • •

Referring to the recent attempt by the three lads to blow up Nelson's monument in Montreal, the United Service Gazette speaks of them as "holding commissions in the 5th Battalion of the Canadian militia." I have looked through the militia list carefully and can find none of their names. They may have joined since the autumn of 1892, but if so it was probably not the 5th Royal Scots in which they took commissions.

HALIFAX.

Quite a sum has been subscribed by the militiamen who took part in the mobilization of the forces for the defence of Halifax for the sailor Mahoney, of H. M. S. Mohawk, who lost his arm on that occasion. A most pleasing feature was the amount of \$40 subscribed by the 2nd Scottish company of the 63rd Rifles in

connection with which a letter was received.

• • • •

The Halifax "Acadian Recorder" says:—"The result of the shifting ordnance at Halifax last August has been made known. In the "A" shift, in which seven teams competed, the Charlottetown team, of which Lieut. Dover was No. 1, captured first place with the accompanying prize of \$40. Sgt.-Major Gibbs' team, H.G.A., was second. Lt. Marshall's (No. 1 Co., H.G.A.) won the "B" shift and \$40, the P.E.I. team being 7 seconds behind. While Halifax has done splendidly in securing first and second prizes, artillerymen will be disappointed that they were not awarded first in both events, which they had believed would be the result. In the "B" shift the result depends altogether on time, while in the "A" shift there is a time limit of 15 minutes, but otherwise time does not count, except in case of a tie. The competition is decided on points, and in this shift the P.E.I. team was awarded full points, while the H.G.A. lose five points for dismounting and a similar number for carrying the gun around, and thus the Island team receives the first prize, notwithstanding that Sgt.-Major Gibbs' team did the shift in 9 min., 25 1-5 seconds, while the P. E. Island team took over 14 minutes. This is certainly an unsatisfactory way of awarding prizes, and will no doubt be the subject of much discussion among artillerymen."

• • • •

The Halifax Artillery are very much disappointed and disgusted with the above decision, for any artilleryman knows that a team that can beat another five minutes in a gun shift should be awarded first prize, as the other team is simply not in it with them.

HAMILTON.

The results of the competition for general proficiency among the companies of the 13th Battalion are announced and indicate that the average efficiency of the regiment is even higher this year than last, when it won the Gzowski cup. The competition was won by A Company with the others in the following order: D, B, H, G, E, F, C. The marks gained by companies out of a possible 1,500 are as follows: A Company 1,364.60, D 1,358.26, B 1,316.65, H 1,221.22, G 1,216.69, E 1,166.21, F 1,153.41, C 1,118.78. D Company led in drill, with B a close second. The highest marks earned last year were 1,316.52.

QUEBEC.

Dr. Oliver, chief of the medical staff at Halifax, gave an interesting exhibition Wednesday evening, Dec. 6th, at the Garrison Club, of his improved field kit. A large number of military men were present and all evidently took the deepest interest in the new accoutrements. Among them we noticed Colonels Duchesnay, Montizambert and White; Capts. Indale, Ray, Dunn, Montizambert, Dunbar, Richardson, Surgeon Parke, Lieuts. Hussey and Van Felson. The inventor had three, namely his own, i.e., the improved Oliver

kit, that now in use in the Imperial army, the Slade-Wallis and the Valise kit, now in use in the regular Canadian militia. Another kit, the obsolete affair at present in use among the irregular Canadian militia, was also on view.

Dr. Oliver pointed out the advantage of his kit and began by showing how to pack it. The knapsack is principally composed of leather and into it were packed the hold-all, containing knife, fork, spoon, button metal, etc., pair of rubber shoes, hard brush, pair of socks, soap, towel, flannel shirt, canteen and ration when on the march. The knapsack is supported behind the hip by the waist belt and by shoulder straps which also support the folded cape behind the shoulders. In preference to the coat cape Dr. Oliver recommends his water proof sheet with an oval opening in it for the head, and straps with which to fasten it. In case of severe rain two men may join theirs together and by arranging them with bayonets and ramrode form a shelter. In case of the ground being damp they may lie upon them. There are straps on the knapsack in order to facilitate converting them, if necessary, into saddle bags for mounted infantry. On the waist belt, there hangs on the right side a water bottle within easy reach. The arrangement of the belt and braces obviate the necessity of belts across the chest in a tightening and restraining position. The arrangement also obviates the necessity of a counterpoise to keep the load in position and thus makes it unnecessary to keep the waist belt very tight. Another improvement is the fact that there is only one cartridge pouch instead of three and it is so arranged that a man can easily lie down and fire his rifle in the new rig, while this position was almost impossible in the old one. It is possible too, to carry 160 rounds of ammunition (Lee-Metford) in the new arrangement, while 88 was the maximum in the old. The arrangement of the shoulder straps is such as to leave the shoulders perfectly free, and it is possible to unhook the bag, swing it round to the side with the greatest of ease and thus take out anything that may be required without assistance and without taking off the whole kit. There is no trouble in getting at the great coat which a man may easily himself remove from its position on his back by simply opening a hook. By opening the waist belt and one hook the whole kit may easily be taken off intact. On the belt there is a modified frog which carries in addition to the bayonet, the handle of an entrenching tool, the blade fastening under the knapsack. There is not nearly as much overheating of a man's back under the new arrangement as under the old. A man's load consists of the coat weighing, say, five pounds, and the knapsack and contents weighing 8 or 9 lbs., certainly not more than ten. The distribution of the ammunition figuring on Lee-Metford would be 100 rounds in pouch on front of waist belt, 50 rounds in stout canvas breast pocket for immediate use and a reserve of 40 rounds in two small pockets on the knapsack, inside of which a larger quantity might be

stored if necessary. The great beauty of all this is that it obviates the necessity of ammunition wagons or pack horses which could not follow a column in a modern engagement for half an hour.

There is a small and much lighter though not less serviceable bag which may be exchanged with the knapsack in cases where the base of supplies is close up or for guard duty, etc., and which is, as the inventor himself thinks, more likely to be adopted than is the heavier style. He thinks that with straps and belts, all made out of best English bridle leather the cost of the last mentioned style would not be over \$3 per man for a quantity.

Another beauty of the Oliver equipment is the fact that the belts and braces are all made of leather, simply stained with a dye and rubbed with wax which renders it water-proof. After this the more wear that it gets the better the leather becomes polished and the soldiers' nightmare—pipe clay—is banished.

The weight of the whole is distributed so as to come as nearly as possible in the centre of gravity where it is least felt and if a man feels so disposed he may open the waist belt and the load will not become displaced, everything hanging naturally in position for the shoulders are the point of application of the chief aprt of the weight.

There is a large canvas bag provided for all extra clothing that a soldier may require but this will be brought up by the transport waggons in reserve say a day after the arrival of the advanced column.

Several of the officers present tried on the equipment and all professed themselves as delighted with it. There was the maximum of supplies with the minimum of size and weight and perfect freedom of action of the shoulders and every limb of the body.

It should be added that in the contents carried in the knapsack can be stored sufficient meat for three days. The haversack and provision bag are done away with.

Time and space though compel me to stop here. Dr. Oliver has left for Ottawa to urge the adoption of his kit by the Federal Government. The eminently practical men who saw it exhibited are unanimous in its favor.

PETERBOROUGH.

Thanksgiving Day has passed and with it the seventh annual inspection of the 57th Battalion, Peterborough Rangers. Never did our city corps come out of a searching, extremely careful and eminently thorough military examination with more credit, honour and glory to themselves than did the Rangers on yesterday. "The boys," as the citizens love to call the gallant red coats, came out of the trying ordeal "with their military honours thick upon them." The whole battalion, from its doughty commander to the most lately sworn in private, shares alike in the encomiums and rewards which have been so signally and yet worthily won. Once more the fame of the local regiment of volunteers—it

has always been so—redounds to the enterprise, progressiveness and energy of the town of its citizens. But there is no need for any lengthy introductory remarks in this eulogistic strain. The facts speak for themselves, and facts like figures, never lie. A jealous observer or an indifferent reader might think that the reputation of the battalion was bolstered upon mere newspaper "puffs," but those who turned out yesterday to witness the grand military tournament and drill exhibitions are convinced otherwise, and for those who did not through inability, carelessness or otherwise, take an interest in the matter, the record of Thanksgiving Day's military achievement will, like a very useful and convenient article when put on the market—establish its true worth.

At 8.50 in the morning the battalion was formed up at the drill shed, every man looking his best and brightest. But the holiday spirit and the temptations—not to say evil ones—which come with ten-fold more force on public occasions, doubtless deterred some of the volunteers from presenting an appearance. The missing ones were soon gathered in, however escorts of pickets being sent out by the commanding officer, in charge of the non-commissioned officers to bring in the absent men of the individual companies. The battalion was as a result soon up to its full strength and perhaps over strength.

Before marching out of the drill shed the parade states were taken and showed the following strength:

A Company, Capt. Dennistoun, Lt. Tebb, 84 N.C.O. and men.

B Company, Capt. Schofield, Lt. Eastwood, 29 N.C.O. and men.

C Company, Capt. Hill, Lt. Stevenson, 81 N.C.O. and men.

D Company, Capt. Lech, Lt. Hayes, 85 N.C.O. and men.

E Company, Capt. Millar, Lt. Matthews, 41 N.C.O. and men.

F Company, Capt. Brennan, Lt. Stevenson, 29 N.C.O. and men.

Staff officers, Col. J. Z. Rogers, commanding, Lt. Col. Bell, Major Edwards, Major Langford, quartermaster; Capt. Mason, adjutant, and Dr. Halliday, surgeon. The band was 28 strong, the bugle and drum corps 17 and the ambulance and pioneer corps 19. The total strength of battalion, 279.

The battalion left the shed shortly after ten o'clock and, headed by the band, which played capital marching music, marched down George street to the exhibition grounds, where the inspection was announced to take place. Every officer and man, to quote the proverbial phrase, "looked as clean as a whistle," and the warriors certainly presented a favourable appearance, as with erect carriage and even, steady, swinging step they marched down George street. The scarlet tunics and sombre pants neatly brushed, the helmets and belts snowy white from a liberal use of pipe clay, every button and brass plate shimmering and glistening, rifles bright and clean, bayonets properly slung, all combined to make companies—the units of the whole battalion—look well and to enkindle in the hearts of their admirers a feeling of

just pride and to cause lips to utter words of approval. The marching had its drawbacks, for the militiamen had to trudge through muddy streets in a deplorable condition from the recent snow and rain. The day was rather cold and stormy, and the west wind chilling and piercing. Old Sol seemed very chary of his light. Arrived at the grounds after the tedium of marching through the sloppy and slushy streets, and the encountering of the frigid atmosphere without overcoats, battalion was drawn up in line with ranks open, by Lt. Col. Rogers. On the arrival of Lt. Col. Cotton, D.A.G., inspecting officer, the volunteers gave a general salute, which was acknowledged by the Deputy Adjutant General. Then the field officers were taken out separately, and under the command of Col. Rogers the battalion was put through several field movements. Afterwards the battalion was handed over to Lt. Col. Bell and then to Major Edwards, for the performance of further evolutions and manoeuvres. Col. Bell was recalled and put them through the manual exercises. The inspecting officer critically eyed all the battalion movements, which were executed with ease, correctness and readiness. The movements were wheeling in quarter column, deployments, manual and firing exercises, and other field movements. After these movements, which lasted nearly two hours, on account of the cold and storm which was severe, the inspecting officer remarked to Col. Rogers that it was too much to expect the men to endure the weather until late in the afternoon without any overcoats and on his advice the regiment was marched back to the drill shed. On leaving the grounds the first advance guard ever formed by the 57th battalion marched ahead. The advance guard consisted of squads of "A" Company, while "B" Company was their support. The remaining four companies composed the reserve. The advance guard were under command of the non-commissioned officers and officers, according to the size of the squads. In this order the drill shed was reached. The battalion, on coming in the drill shed, was formed up on their respective markers and battalion drill resumed.

The inspection of each company was then begun by the inspecting officer. As fast as he completed the inspection of one company another one was called out and it was not until after four o'clock that the company inspection was ended and the service rolls called and answered by the men of each company who were then dismissed. Col. Rogers addressed the men, thanking them for the manner in which they had turned out, and the order they had preserved during the day. He felt proud of their conduct.

Each company was inspected in rotation. Col. Cotton minutely inspected and carefully examined the uniforms, arms and equipments of the men of each company. The subaltern officers were then called out and put the company through manual and firing exercises, after which the captains were required to put their companies through several company movements, and as a company in line and in column. As fast as the inspection of

each company was over the red coats were dismissed for dinner. Mr. John Craig served an appetizing lunch to the men in the drill shed and proved himself an obliging caterer. The service rolls were then called. The men returned their arms and accoutrements to their respective company armouries and will hand over the uniforms to their respective captains. Drill for the season has been finished. In the company inspection yesterday each company did remarkably well and were warmly complimented by their captains for their excellent record and successful performance of the different movements. At the close of the company inspection, the Deputy Adjutant General examined each officer separately, in military discipline, military law and interior economy. The officers answered the questions readily and correctly. The books of each company, the service rolls, etc., were also inspected by the inspecting officer, and, it is understood, found well kept. It was nearly seven o'clock when Col. Cotton had completed his inspection. He had a fatiguing day's work, but he proved equal to the occasion.—Peterborough Examiner, Nov. 24.

THE ROYAL MILITARY COLLEGE AND THE PERMANENT CORPS IN CANADA.

To the Editor, Canadian Military Gazette.

Sir,—I have read with some interest the articles and letters that have recently appeared in the city papers in regard to appointments to the Royal Canadian Artillery. It appears to me that the reasons advanced in defence of the appointments in question are so very weak, that only the credulity or want of knowledge on the part of the public on military matters is the reason of their being advanced. It is a mystery to me how any sane person can contend that a man holding a "Long Course Certificate," obtained after three months' attendance at the Royal Military College, undergoing an elementary course of ten or twelve lectures in three or four subjects, without being required to have any higher education than a knowledge of the three R's, is considered to be the equivalent of a Cadet, who enters the College after a severe matriculation examination, and spends four years exclusively in acquiring what the Act defines as "A complete education in all branches of military tactics, fortification, engineering and general military knowledge in subjects connected with, and necessary to, a thorough knowledge of the military profession, and for qualifying officers for command and for staff appointments."

The excuse offered for these appointments is, that the appointees have sufficient knowledge for the Permanent Corps. The fact seems to be lost sight of that the College and its graduates are not the only ones who suffer by these appointments, but it is the Militia. It was to benefit the Militia that the College was established; when it ceases or fails to be a benefit to the Militia it should be abolished.

If untrained gentlemen are better qualified than the technically trained Military graduates of this College to officer the Canadian Permanent Corps, then indeed

it must be admitted that for Military purposes, the College is at present superfluous.

As a well known military authority in Canada said in one of his official reports: "The ordinary duties of officers may be performed without special training, but the higher class of duties, and the capacity for superior command, can only be reached through a long course of study and preparation." It is a well known axiom in military matters, that in countries having little or no standing armies, where the military forces are but partly trained, as in the United States and Canada, it is absolutely necessary that the officers should be highly trained. This was the reason why the Military College was established, and this is the reason why the Military Academy at West Point, with some 300 cadets, is maintained.

In one paper it was stated that commissions in the army were given to militia officers in England. It is true that commissions are given in the Infantry and Cavalry in England, as well as in the United States, but only after every graduate of Woolwich, Sandhurst and West Point is given a commission. Canada is the only country in the world where commissions are given to militia officers, or men from the ranks, to the exclusion of graduated cadets.

It is necessary in England and in the United States to give some commissions from the militia and the ranks, as these institutions do not turn out a sufficient number of cadets to fill vacancies.

It was also stated that the drill of a "Long Course" officer was superior to that of a cadet, for the reason that long course officers drilled (if artillery officers) exclusively in artillery for six months, and if cavalry and infantry, three months. The cadets drill in artillery as well as infantry, cavalry and engineering every year of the four they are at College.

It may also be noted that the cadets of the Royal Military College have made the highest score in Canada for target practice, with 9 pr. R.M.L. field gun and they have also, more than once, taken the prize for shifting heavy ordnance in competition with the militia of Canada, including the Royal Canadian Artillery.

I submit that the artillery drill at the College, under a constant flow of Royal Artillery officers fresh from the army, is not inferior to that of a School, where at the present moment two of its officers are at Halifax, attached to the Royal Artillery, to learn their drill, and only recently their Artillery Riding Instructor took a course in equitation at the Cavalry School.

It was also stated that the cadets, having condescended to receive a high class military education at the expense of the Government, should not look for appointments in the Permanent force. But I would like to point out that cadets receive no pay at the College, but on the contrary they pay the Government \$400.00 per annum, whereas the Long Course officer is paid by the Government for every day he serves in acquiring his certificate.

The people of Canada want the best officers obtainable for their Permanent Corps, and it is only by the appointment of such that the Permanent Force can be

raised and maintained in that state of efficiency which it should be, and which at the present time, under a system of appointment by political patronage, it is not.

MILES.

MILITIA GENERAL ORDERS.

Headquarters, Ottawa, 1st December, 1893. G. O. (75.) Royal Military College of Canada. Amendments of Regulations.—

His Excellency the Governor General, in virtue of the provisions of the Act respecting the Royal Military College of Canada, chap. 42, R.S.C. sec. 7, as amended in 1893, and by and with the advice of the Queen's Privy Council for Canada, was pleased on the 8th November, 1893, to order as follows:

That paragraph 69 be cancelled and the following substituted in lieu thereof:—

69. (1) A Cadet who fails at the end of any College term to qualify under Royal Military College Regulations, 118, 119 or 120, shall thereby forfeit his claim to consideration for a commission in Her Majesty's Regular Forces, and on the recommendation of the Commandant, may be removed from the College.

(2) A Cadet who being permitted to continue his studies at the College after first failure, again fails to qualify under either Royal Military College Regulation 119 or 120, shall be removed from the College.

G. O. (76.) Regulations and Orders for the Militia. Amendments.—

His Excellency the Governor General, in virtue of the provisions of the Militia Act (chap. 41, R.S.C.), cl. 116, 117, and by and with the advice of the Queen's Privy Council for Canada, was pleased on the 7th of November, 1893, to order as follows:—

1st. That paragraph 969, Regulations and Orders, 1887, be cancelled and the following submitted in lieu thereof,—

969. The books, printed forms and stationery, required for the public service in all the offices of the Permanent Military Staff and of the Permanent Corps, will be issued by the Queen's Printer and Controller of Stationery, through the Department of Militia and Defence, on requisitions submitted through the General Officer Commanding the Militia.

2nd. That paragraph 970, Regulations and Orders, 1887, be cancelled and the following submitted in lieu thereof,—

970. A Postage account will be kept in the office of the Officer Commanding each Military District or Permanent Military unit, which account, or a copy thereof (as may be required) will be transmitted to the Deputy Minister of Militia, at such periods as he may require.

3rd. That paragraph 971 be cancelled.

In pursuance of the above, requisitions for stationery will be submitted in duplicate on Form No. 66 and addressed to the Assistant Adjutant General at Headquarters.

G. O. (77.) Mobilization of the Halifax Garrison.—The following communication from the General Officer Commanding Her Majesty's Forces in British North America, is published for the information of all concerned:—

From the Chief Staff Officer, Dominion of Canada, To the General Officer Commanding the Canadian Militia.

Halifax, N.S., 18th November, 1893.

Sir,—Lieutenant-General Montgomery-Moore desires to acknowledge the assistance given by the Canadian Militia at the recent mobilization of the garrison of this fortress.

The Lieutenant-General is well aware of the personal trouble and expense incurred by both officers and men in joining with the Imperial Troops for the day's work, and he feels much obliged to all ranks for their services. I have the honor to be, Sir, Your most obedient servant, F. Waldron, Major, Chief Staff Officer.

(G. O. 78.) Sale of Intoxicating Liquors in Camps of Instruction.—

The Major General having observed the evil effect in Militia Camps of Instruction of the unrestricted sale of intoxicating liquors, the sale of such liquors in Regimental Messes and Canteens at Camps of Instruction is henceforth entirely prohibited.

Officers commanding Camps of Instruction will be held responsible that this order is carried out, and they, together with Officers commanding units of Active Militia will, in those districts where the law so directs, be liable to prosecution, in respect of any liquor sold in tents or other premises subject to their control, in addition to such penalty as may be inflicted for a breach of military discipline.

G. O. (79.) Dress Regulations. Field and Garrison Artillery. Adverting to Dress Regulations 10. Officers of the Militia 1st May, 1886, and to G. O. (5) of 24th March, 1882, the following alterations have been approved: Full Dress—

Tunic.—Blue cloth, with scarlet cloth collar, square in front, but slightly rounded at the corners; hook and eye at the bottom, black silk tab. The collar edged all round with gold cord, laced as described below, according to rank; and with a grenade embroidered in frosted silver 2 3-8 inches long, at each end. The skirt square in front, open behind, with a blue cloth flap on back of each skirt. Flaps edged with round gold cord, traced inside with gold Russia braid. Skirt lined with black. Scarlet cloth edging down the front, and at the opening behind, 9 buttons down the front, 3 buttons on each flap behind and 2 at the waist behind. Shoulder straps of scarlet cloth, edged with round gold cord, lined with blue, a small button of regimental pattern at the top, with badges of rank embroidered in silver.

Field Officers have 5/8-inch lace all round the collar within the cord, and a chevron of 1 1/2-inch lace on each cuff, with figured braiding above and below the lace, extending to 11 inches from the bottom of the cuff.

Captains and Lieutenants have lace round the top only of the collar; and an Austrian knot of gold cord on each sleeve 7 inches deep, traced round with gold braid 8 inches deep and figured for Captains, 7 1/2 inches deep, and plain for Lieutenants.

Undress.—Patrol Jacket.—Shoulder straps of scarlet cloth, lined with blue, with badges of rank in gold embroidery.

Serge Patrol Jacket.—Blue, full in the chest. Collar and cuffs of same material

as jacket. Stand up collar, square in front, fastened with two hooks and eyes, with grenades 2½ inches long in gold embroidery. Shoulder straps of scarlet, material same as the jacket, fastened at top with small regimental button, badges of rank in gilt metal.

Stable Jacket.—Shoulder straps with badges of rank as for tunic.

Greatcoat and winter coat.—Shoulder straps of scarlet cloth, fastened at top with small regimental button, with badges of rank in gilt metal.

Motto.—The motto "Ubique" to be replaced by "Canada" wherever the former occurs on regimental badges, waist plate, etc.

G. O. (80.) Mobilization. The following change in Headquarters is authorized:—

3rd "The Prince of Wales' Canadian Dragoons," "A" Troop, from "Cobourg" to "Colborne."

G. O. (81.) Militia Forms. The use of the following Forms is discontinued and they are struck off the list of Militia Forms.

A.G. 2.—

No. 429a. Increase and Decrease.

No. 429. Descriptive Return.

B. No. 50. (Printed to replace the above.)

M. and D. Accounts, Form 25.

Pay List Permanent Corps, N.C.O. and men.

G. O. (82.)

The Barracks at Toronto heretofore called "New Fort Barracks" will be hereafter known as "Stanley Barracks."

G. O. (83.) Active Militia. Promotions, Appointments and Retirements. Permanent Corps.—

Royal Canadian Artillery. The undermentioned Lieutenants whose appointment was notified in G. O. 65 of 15th October, 1893, will take precedence as follows:

H. C. Thacker,

J. H. C. Ogilvy,

J. A. Benyon.

Artillery.—

Quebec Field Battery.—To be Major: Captain and Brevet Major Theodore Lefebvre dit Boulanger, G.S., from No. 2 Garrison Company, Quebec, vice Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel Crawford Lindsay, who is permitted to retire with the rank of Major.

Montreal Garrison Battalion, Q.—To be Quartermaster: John Herbert Wynne, from 2nd Lieutenant, vice John Lewis, who resigns his commission.

No. 2 Garrison Company, Quebec.—To be Captain: Lieutenant L. Arthur Hudon, R.S.A., vice Brevet Major T. L. Boulanger, transferred to Quebec Field Battery.

To be Lieutenant: 2nd Lieutenant Joseph M. Dagneau, R.S.A., vice L. A. Hudon, promoted.

Infantry and Rifles.—

1st Battalion, "Prince of Wales' Regiment," Montreal, Q.—Captain Frank Scott resigns his commission, and is permitted to revert to the Retired List of Captains.

3rd Battalion, "Victoria Rifles of Canada," Montreal, Q.—To be Captain: Lieutenant James Norman Stuart Leslie, R.S.I., vice Henry George Wallace Badgley, who is permitted to retire with the rank of Lieutenant.

6th Battalion, "Fusiliers," Montreal, Q.—To be 2nd Lieutenant, provisionally, from

22nd November, 1893, Gordon John Henderson, Gentleman, vice Charles Percival Nolda, left limits.

7th Battalion, "Fusiliers," London, O.—Captain Alfred Andrew Booker and Lieutenant John Macpherson, retire from the service.

10th Battalion, "Royal Grenadiers," Toronto, O.—To be Lieutenant-Colonel: Major James Mason, R.S.I., vice George Dudley Dawson, who is permitted to retire retaining rank.

16th "Prince Edward" Battalion of Infantry, O.—No. 2 Company, Milford.—To be 2nd Lieutenant, provisionally: Sergeant Norman Wright, from No. 1 Company, vice J. Cook, resigned.

25th "Elgin" Battalion of Infantry, St. Thomas, O.—To be 2nd Lieutenant, provisionally: William James Green, Gentleman, vice G. S. McCarter, resigned.

35th Battalion of Infantry, "Simcoe Foresters," O.—No. 6 Company, Huntsville.—To be 2nd Lieutenant, provisionally: Sergeant George Somerville Wilgress, vice C. N. Chapman, resigned.

36th "Peel" Battalion of Infantry, O.—No. 2 Company, Glencairn.—To be 2nd Lieutenants, provisionally: Joseph Hood, Gentleman in succession to Lieutenant Marshall Neilly Stephens, who retires from the service; Robert Royal, Gentleman, vice V. L. Cooper, resigned.

39th "Norfolk" Battalion of Rifles, O.—No. 8 Company, Fredericksburg.—To be 2nd Lieutenant, provisionally: Sergeant Thomas Breatly, R.S.I. (2nd B.), vice John Nelson Matthews, who retires from the service.

47th "Frontenac" Battalion of Infantry, O.—No. 9 Company, Amherst Island.—This Company having become non-effective, is removed from the list of Corps of the Active Militia, 2nd Lieutenant David Finley retires from the service.

76th Battalion of Rifles, "Voltigeurs de Chateauguay," Ste. Martine, Q.—To be Quartermaster: Quartermaster Sergeant Guillaume Gagnier, vice Honorary Major Alexis Henri Gagnier, who is permitted to retire, retaining rank.

No. 2 Company, Ste. Martine.—To be Captain: Lieutenant Leglius Antoine Gagnier, R.S.I., from the Adjutancy, vice Elias J. J. Gagnier, deceased.

85th Battalion of Infantry, Q.—No. 3 Company, Longueuil.—To be Captain: Lieutenant Arthur Vincent, R.S.I., from No. 6 Company, vice J. H. A. Sylvestre, retired.

88th "Kamouraska and Charlevoix" Battalion of Infantry, Q.—No. 6 Company, Baie St. Paul.—To be Lieutenant: 2nd Lieutenant Joseph Elzear Savard, R.S.I., vice J. Lavoie.

Nanaimo Infantry Company, B.C.—2nd Lieutenant Wesley Robinson Bryant retires from the service.

Brevet. To be Majors:—

Captain Joseph David Freve, R.S.I., No. 2 Company, 89th Battalion; from 30th June, 1893.

Captain John Alexander Murray, V.B., 2nd Battalion; from 9th November, 1893.

Confirmation of Rank.—

2nd Lieutenant George Etienne Beauchamp, R.S.I., 65th Battalion; from 30th September, 1893.

2nd Lieutenant David Ernest Deschênes,

R.S.I., No. 5 Company, 88th Battalion; from 30th September, 1893.

2nd Lieutenant Joseph Elzear Savard, R.S.I., No. 6 Company, 88th Battalion; from 30th September, 1893.

2nd Lieutenant Joseph Edouard Villeneuve, R.S.I., No. 1 Company, 87th Battalion; from 30th September, 1893.

2nd Lieutenant Francois Fontaine, R.S.I., No. 5 Company, 87th Battalion; from 30th September, 1893.

2nd Lieutenant Arthur Cote, R.S.I., No. 1 Company, 84th Battalion; from 30th September, 1893.

2nd Lieutenant Wakerfield Millbank Morcu, R.S.I., 66th Battalion; from 23rd October, 1893.

THE FASTEST AFLOAT.

The new torpedo destroyer is the fastest of her kind in the world at the present time. She can do her 27 knots an hour with comfort when required. During her official time she actually achieved a pace of between 27 and 28 knots, or, in the language of landlubbers, over 31 miles an hour. The engines exerted a horse-power during this official trip of 3,500-horse power, and this was in the German Ocean in rather bad weather, and in the face of a high wind. On Saturday we had calm weather, and the vibration was very slight, not sufficient to affect the very worst sailor. The Havock is 180 feet long, with an 18½ft. beam. She has a coal carrying capacity of 60 tons and the supply is estimated to be sufficient for a run of 4,000 miles at a ten knot speed. At her maximum speed she would probably consume something like three tons an hour. Her armament consists of an 18-inch bow torpedo tube for firing straight ahead, and two 18-inch swivel tubes for side firing, which are placed on a turn-table. She has also a quick-firing 12-pounder and two 6 pounders. At the present time the new catcher, or destroyer, may be said in several important respects to be unique. The description of the Havock has not unnaturally set people asking one another whether or no the maximum speed has now been reached at last in the case of vessels of this character. This is by no means a new question; it has been mooted times out of number since the appearance of the first steamboat. A constructor of torpedo boats, and craft of the kind, has expressed his conviction that we had not yet by any means reached the maximum speed beyond which the pressure of water and air forbid any vessel to move. He remarks that it is not so very many years ago since it was predicted by many people that the maximum for big vessels had been reached in ten knots or thereabouts. If even quite a sanguine constructor in those days had been told that in 1893 a boat like the Havock with a maximum speed of over thirty-one miles an hour would be afloat, he would most probably have been inclined to regard the prediction as a wild and highly coloured one. Seeing what has been done in

the case of the Havock, and remembering the wonderful advances which have been made in the direction of speed during the last fifteen or twenty years, this constructor was confident that a rate of from thirty to perhaps thirty-five knots an hour would be attained before many years had passed by the constructors of torpedo boat destroyers and catchers. These craft are, after all quite a recent invention, and it is much too early yet to say for certain that they are only capable at the most of what the Havock can perform. This much, however, is pretty clear—that the greater the speed the greater must be the sacrifice of all other desirable points.

MILITARY AND NAVAL NEWS.

The Army and Navy Gazette publishes the following from a correspondent:—

Sir,—With reference to Col. Henderson's case it appears to me that no one can have any objection to a colonel, who is still in robust health and who has done good service, being saved, for a time, retirement on account of age, provided no injustice was thereby occasioned to his juniors. I would therefore submit, for the consideration of the authorities, that, when colonels, serving with the temporary rank of major-general, by seniority, and have reached the colonel's age-limit, they should be passed over, but be allowed to hold their appointment until the expiration of the term for which they were gazetted, and be then allowed to retire with the honorary rank of Lieut.-Gen. This would be a compensation for their previous slow promotion. If this were carried out there would be no heart-burnings or disappointment, and equally good men junior to them would not be made to suffer. On the contrary, everyone would be glad to see qualified men saved to the service for a short period longer.

COLONEL.

Major-General C. Mansfield Clarke, C. B., assumed the duties of Commander-in-Chief of the Madras Army on October 28, when Major R. G. Kekewich, Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, joined his Staff as Military Secretary, and Captain the Hon. F. R. Bingham as Aide-de-Camp.

Major-General K. G. Henderson, C. B. accompanied by Mrs. Henderson, arrived at Alexandria on the 16th ultimo by the steamship Cathay, where he was met by the Staff, and shortly after landing took command of the Alexandria garrison in succession to Major-General Sir William Butler. But for his appointment to the Alexandria Command, General Henderson would have been placed on the Retired List on Monday 27th. Having obtained the temporary rank of major-general, he can now serve on until November 27, 1898.

Col. Gordon, Commandant of the South Australian Military Forces, re-

cently submitted to his Government an elaborate report for the year ended June 30th, 1893. The whole strength of the forces, officers, and men, including those absent with and without leave at that date, was 2,235. The Commandant says it is quite evident that the present condition of the public finance will not allow of an Eastern encampment. This he took to be the case with the other colonies also, and suggests that the other colonies be approached with a view of holding a military encampment of a federal character. He suggests that the colonies should select representative units, who, on arrival at camp, should be formed into squadrons, batteries, and battalions, the whole brigade, numbering probably some 1,500 men, with 12 to 15 guns.

The cruiser Duquesne is to be put into commission at Lorient, to replace the Arethuse in the French naval division of the Atlantic.

The French are about to build an experimental wooden torpedo, the dimensions and engine-power of which will be exactly similar to those of a sea-going torpedo-boat. The object is to test the conditions of sinking a torpedo-boat going at full speed by gun fire. The wood of the new vessel, which is being built merely for the sake of an experiment, will not be thick, and will be as light as possible in order to obtain conclusive results, either favourable or unfavourable.

The Garnet on the Pacific Station is to be relieved by the Satellite.

General Lord Roberts has taken Grove Park, Kingsbury, for next year, and intends to occupy it as soon as the hunting season is over. His Lordship it is said has no desire to go to Malta in succession to Sir Augustus Smyth.

A committee is being formed to take steps for the erection of an equestrian statue of the Duke of Cambridge near the town railway station at Aldershot, as a national memorial of His Royal Highness's fifty-two years of active service.

To give some idea of the large number of men annually required, under the present service system, to feed the linked battalions in India and the Colonies, and to what straits the battalions at home are put to keep up the supply, it is stated that on the departure of the drafts of the 1st Batn. Northumberland Fusiliers and the 1st Batn. Royal Lancaster Regiment (both Aldershot batns.) the former will require 300, and the latter regiment over 250 men to complete their home establishments. The clerical and other labour, such as raising, clothing, equipping, training, etc., of such a large number of men every year is therefore enormous, and the cost immense.

A competent French critic has, in the *Revue du Cercle Militaire*, discussed the French manoeuvres of the year in a most interesting article. He brings forward the almost inevitable charge, common to all critics of all manoeuvres, large or small, that of too great extension of front as characterising the general tactics. The front of an army corps, according to French text-books, including artillery, should not exceed 1,500 metres (about 1,500 yards). It is alleged that in the campaign of 1870-71 the Germans rarely exceeded 4,000 metres (4,300 yards) but the average lay somewhere between 2,500 and 3,000 metres (about 2,800 yards). Turning movements were also, during the French manoeuvres, too freely attempted, without regard to the excessive expansion and to the occurrence of gaps in the firing line thus occasioned. The infantry are justly commended for the capacity evinced by them for marching.

Deployments were, however, often prematurely effected, the first audible round of opposing fire generally sufficing to occasion immediate deployment of any infantry near the front. Little regard was paid, according to the *Revue*, to fire discipline, and volley firing or individual firing was adopted without any apparent method or actuating cause. Individual firing commenced sometimes at 1,000 metres (1,090) yards, and much waste of ammunition resulted.

A telegram, dated Sierra Leone, Nov. 26, states that "The troops selected to form part of the military expedition against the Sofas, who have taken refuge within the British sphere of influence, and have been causing much trouble, commenced to move yesterday. In view of the previous friendship between the Government and the Sofas, public opinion here is divided as to the necessity of the expedition."

A Times correspondent states that the Russians are about to lay down in the Black Sea a new first-class battle-ship of the Trafalgar type, to be named the Paris. She will, therefore, presumably be a sister ship to the Three Saints which has just been launched.

A good deal of curiosity is being evinced in French naval circles with respect to the approaching trials of a new automobile torpedo, the invention of an engineer at Nantes. It is claimed for the new torpedo that by a special arrangement all lateral deviation is avoided, and that it is much superior in accuracy of running to the Whitehead. The greatest innovation, however, consists in an arrangement which also allows of the explosion being made to take place either on impact or after some minutes' delay. If the new torpedo possesses the special attributes with which it is credited, it is considered that it will prove of great use to

torpedo-boats when the chance offers of getting up close to the enemy, whilst to submarine boats the exaggeration of its utility would be impossible.

• • • •

The final meeting of the Committee for the restoration of Burnham Thorpe Church in honour of Lord Nelson, was held on Monday Nov, 27th at the Marlborough Club, the Duke of Saxe-Coburg Gotha (the chairman) presiding. Sir Arthur Blomfield, the architect, made a report on the work that had been carried out, after which the accounts were submitted, examined, and passed, subject to their being audited by a properly qualified accountant. A surplus of £336 16s. 1d. (which includes subscriptions in addition to those previously acknowledged) was declared, and the Committee resolved to make over this amount to the Rev. J. L. Knight, the present rector, to be applied by him for the complete restoration of the tower of the church. Subsequently the Duke of Saxe-Coburg Gotha was presented with a photogravure of three notices in the parish books bearing Nelson's name. Copies of these documents will in due course be sent to the Queen and the Prince of Wales.

• • • •

It is reported in Berlin that when the new ironclad Brandenburg is completed she will be commissioned by Prince Henry of Prussia, brother of the Emperor, and that he will then be promoted to the rank of admiral. The Brandenburg is one of the new first class ironclads now nearing completion in the German Dockyards, and with her sister ship, the Waerth, will be a formidable addition to the fighting strength of the Empire. It is not probable that either of them will be commissioned before the beginning of the year, so that Prince Henry's appointment, and his step in rank, will come in, the guise of a New Year's gift from his brother. The Prince's naval career has extended over sixteen years, so that his promotion, for a member of the reigning family, has not been remarkably rapid. During that time he has had experience on almost every type of vessel in the German Navy, from the training brig and torpedo boat to the first class ironclad. It was on the Prince Albert that he circumnavigated the globe, his voyage occupying close upon two years.

• • • •

An order has been received at Devonport that the Admiralty intend the Bonaventure, cruiser, to relieve the Boadicea as flagship on the East Indies station. Instead of being sent to Australian station, as originally intended. Several weeks ago, when the Australian Government was informed that the Bonaventure would be sent on that station, the Australian representatives in England were instructed to protest against the Admiralty's de-

cision, as the size of the Bonaventure would not justify the Australian Government in accepting her as a flagship. It is understood that the Crescent, cruiser which is fitting out as a flagship at Portsmouth, and was intended to relieve the Boadicea, will be sent to Australia. The Crescent, which has a displacement of 7,700 tons, is not only twice the size of the Bonaventure, but is larger by 2,000 tons than the Orlando.

• • • •

It is announced from Cairo that the Council of Ministers has approved the extra grant of £54,000 for the budget of the Army of Occupation, demanded by Great Britain to cover the expense of increasing the number of British troops in Egypt in January last.

• • • •

In the house of Commons the other day Mr. Campbell Bannerman in answer to Mr. W. Allen, said the number of the regular Army stationed in Ireland was substantially the same as under the late Government—27,710. Except for temporary purposes, the disposition of troops depended very much upon the barrack accommodation available.

• • • •

Mr. Labouchere recently asked the Civil Lord of the Admiralty what is the cost of the powder used annually for salutes in the navy. Mr. E. Robertson replied that the annual cost of the powder used for saluting is £1,585.

ROYAL MILITARY COLLEGE CLUB.

Office of the secretary-treasurer, Quebec, 24th November, 1893. Official communication No. 3, 1893.

9 No. 1, Annual Meeting.—The annual meeting will be held on Saturday, the 24th of February, at the Canadian Military Institute, Toronto, Ont.

No. 2, Annual Dinner.—The annual dinner will be held on the evening of the above date. Notification of place will be given at the annual meeting.

Members connected with the Army or Militia are requested to appear at the Dinner in the Mess uniform of their respective corps.

Members are requested to notify the Secretary if it is their intention of being present or not, in order that all arrangements may be completed.

By order.

ERNEST F. WURTELE.

Captain R. L. Hon. Secretary-Treasurer, Royal Military College Club of Canada.

THE VOLUNTEERS DECORATION.

In the Imperial House of Commons last week:—Viscount Wolmer asked the Secretary of State for War whether he was prepared to recommend to Her Majesty that officers of the Volunteer forces who had served in the ranks

should be allowed to count their full service as private or non-commissioned officers towards 20 years' service required to entitle them to receive the Volunteer decoration, seeing that the decoration which had already been granted to officers was now to be granted to non-commissioned officers also.

Mr. Campbell-Bannerman: The conditions under which non-commissioned officers shall count their service towards the proposed decoration have not yet been fully determined. But the decoration to be given to them will not necessarily be identical either in nature or conditions with the officers' decoration, and it does not appear to be desirable to make any alteration in the conditions under which the latter is earned.

PRIZES FOR RIFLE COMPETITION.

The Military Gazette is and always has been supported principally by shooting men whose organ it has always been, and whose interest it is always ready and eager to champion. Wishing to do something on its own account to help the riflemen, the new owners of this paper have decided to offer a handsome piece for competition to any regiment or company in Canada. In doing this they are not trying to pose as philanthropists; they have a selfish object as well as the promotion of rifle shooting in view. This object is to increase the usefulness of the paper and enlarge its field, by increasing its circulation. The more subscribers we have the better our paper will be.

The conditions then on which we will present these prizes are: 1st Eight names are to be sent us, of members of your regiment, who are not at present subscribers to our paper, and who want to receive it 2ndly. Sixteen dollars, the amount of the eight subscriptions for one year must accompany the names and these will receive the Gazette for one year.

The prize will then be forwarded all charges prepaid to any address in Canada, to be competed for by the Regiment thus qualified, all conditions of shooting, etc., to be settled by the committee of its rifle association, and the result and full details of the match to be forwarded for publication to this paper.

You will be astonished to find how many of your officers and shooting men who would be much interested by our paper and to whom it would be of much practical use, do not subscribe for it. The following is a list of the prizes from which you make a selection:

The Roll Call, by Mrs Butler, size of frame 30 by 42 inches; Quatre Bras, by Mrs. Butler, size of frame 30 by 42 inches; Balaclava, by Mrs. Butler, size of frame 30 by 42 inches; Pour La Patrie, by L. Royer, size of frame 27 by 36 inches, or the pair; Trompette de

Dragon, Detaille, size of frame 22 by 82 inches; Chasseur a Cheval, de Neuville size of frame 22 by 28 inches. The pair are beautifully colored engravings, while the other pictures are in black and white, and all are the work of Messrs. Boussod, Valadon & Cie., Paris, successors to the world renowned house of Goupil.

For a Mess Room or Armory no picture could be more suitable. Do you not think that you officers and men would be glad to get for your regimental matches, a prize worth fully \$12 at practically no cost to themselves?

"BOBS."

The following is Rudyard Kipling's latest poem. It occupies the place of honor in the December number of the Pall Mall Magazine, where it is beautifully illustrated. The hero of the verse is General Lord Roberts, of Candahar fame:

There's a little red-faced man,
Which is Bobs.

Rides the tallest 'orse 'e can—
Our Bobs.

If it bucks, or kicks, or rears,
'E can sit for twenty years
With a smite round both 's ears—
Can't yer, Bobs?

Then 'ere's to Bob's Bahadur—
Little Bobs, Bobs, Bobs!
'E's our pukka Kandahader—Fighter,
Bobs, Bobs, Bobs!

'E's the Dook of Aggy chel*;
'E's the man that done us well,
An' we'll follow him to 'ell—
Won't we, Bobs?

If a limber's slipped a trace,
'Ook on Bobs.

If a marker's lost 's place,
Dress by Bobs.

For 'e's eyes all up 'is coat,
An' a bugle in 'is throat,
An' you will not play the goat
Under Bobs.

'E's a little down on drink,
Chaplain Bobs;

But it keeps us outer chink—
Don't it, Bobs;

So we will not complain,
Tho' 'e's water on the brain,
If 'e leads us straight again—
Blue-light Bobs.

If you stood 'im on 'is 'ead,
Father Bobs,

You could spill a quart o' lead
Outer Bobs.

'E's been at it thirty years,
An' amassin' souveneers,
In the way of stugs an' spears—
Ain't yer, Bobs?

What 'e does not know of war,
Gen'ral Bobs,

You can arst the shop next door—
Can't they, Bobs?

Oh, 'e's little, but 'e's wise;
'E's a terror for 'is size,
An' 'e—dows—not—advertise—
Do yer, Bobs?

Now they've made a bloomin' Lord
Outer Bobs?

Which was but 'is fair reward—
Weren't it; Bobs?

An' 'e'll wear a coronet
Where 'is 'elmet used to set;
But we know yer won't forget—
Will yer, Bobs?

Then 'ere's to Bobs' Bahadur—
Little Bobs, Bobs, Bobs!

Pocket—Willin' ton an arder—**

Fightin' Bobs, Bobs, Bobs!
This ain't no bloomin' ode,
But you've 'elped the soldiers load,
An' for benefits bestowed,
Bless yer, Bobs!

*—go ahead.

**—and a half.

CORRESPONDENCE.

ALTERANI PARTENUS.

To the Editor Canadian Military Gazette.

Dear Sir.—Kindly allow me space in your columns for a brief reply to "Oxford" and I will not trouble you again on the subject. Will "Oxford" enlighten me why with "officers instructed as they now are, etc," it would be any greater help to rural corps to drill at Company headquarters than in Battalion or Brigade camps. Do not the same officers instruct their companies at the camps the same as though it were Company headquarters? I always supposed they did. On account of "typographical" errors in Oxford's last as well as he claims in his first letter, I cannot make much out of the former portion of it, so for fear of making him say what he does not mean, I will pass it by by simply remarking your devil must have a grudge against Oxford and takes this means of proving that well debated point—the pen is mightier than the sword, for I give Oxford credit for being in some way connected with the militia of Canada, which honor he is very loth to accord to myself, as he says:—now, Mr. Editor, mark his clear sightedness—"It is quite clear that 'Cambridge' has had very little to do 'recently' with the militia and has probably not taken any active part or had the 'privilege' of raising a company for a number of years." This is the unkindest cut of all, and I am certain if Oxford could only have foreseen how the publicity of his inspirations has rankled in this martial bosom, he would not have penned them. The facts, from 1880 to 1891 I took the entire active part and had the privilege of keeping up a full company in one of the strongest Battalions of the Dominion. Since that time I have been, and still am, the Adjutant of the same Battalion. No doubt, Mr. Editor, you will be willing to bear me out in this last assertion. Before concluding I would like to know by what system of logic or reasoning Oxford thinks I object to young men of from 18 to 21 joining the militia. Why, it has always been my aim to keep my company roll filled with names of young men after whose names were recorded ages from 17 to 25; but to have a company composed of young men whose parents dreaded to let them out of sight (for this was one of Oxford's contentions for Company headquarters drill), I would certainly object to, for I believe this class of young men would, if withdrawn from the argus eye of parental authority, figuratively speaking, go to the d—l quicker than any other. It would be a second edition of the old, but no doubt much abused saying, "the nearer the church the farther from God." Thanking you, Mr. Editor, in advance for giving space for the foregoing,

I am, yours truly,

"CAMBRIDGE."

Sir Fred. Middleton's Suppression of Rebellion in the North-West Territories of Canada, 1885.

By General Sir Fred. Middleton.

(Reprinted from the Military Service Magazine.)

(Continued.)

The medical arrangements had also to be considered. The old English system of each regiment having its own medical man was then in vogue with the Canadian militia, and I had only an assistant surgeon with the 90th Regiment; the surgeon, Dr. Orton, being at Ottawa attending to his duties as a member of the Canadian Parliament, but who intended to join his regiment, as he eventually did, on the 9th of April. In the meanwhile the assistant surgeon, who had a pair of field panniers, was sufficient for our immediate wants, and I knew the Minister of Militia was organizing a small medical staff corps with the assistance of Dr. Bergin, M. P.

It was still very cold, and there was a good deal of snow on the ground, but some horses having arrived, sent by the Hudson Bay Company for myself and staff, my Aide-de-camp and I were obliged to try them with sworas on. Most of them proved fairly quiet, and I selected a large black gelding, which carried me well throughout the whole campaign, becoming well known later on as "Sam," a skilful thief when forage was scarce. They were all a useful lot of animals, costing on an average about 200 dollars. The saddle sent with the horses were all Mexican saddles, which are those principally used in the Northwest. Nearly all my scouts and the mounted police used them. This saddle has a very sharp tree, and a horn on a pommel for the lasso or "lariat" to be fastened to; the stirrups, made of wood, are very large and worn long, the leg of the rider being almost straight. The saddle is fastened on in a peculiar way by strong strips of green hide attached to the girth drawn through iron rings fixed on the saddle. Those accustomed to their use prefer these saddles, but I was very glad that I had my own English saddle.

It was very necessary to have horses accustomed to the country, as the prairies are full of holes made by badgers and gophers, the latter being a sort of ground squirrel with the habits and customs of the prairie dog. "Muskegs," or treacherous bogs, are also frequently met with, which are sometimes very dangerous if not impassable, especially to horses not accustomed to them. These particularly disagreeable prairie obstacles are said to be caused by the common practice of the beaver of damming up small streams so as to obtain a pool to live and play in; and it is the case that you generally come across traces of beaver occupancy of ground in the neighbourhood of these "muskegs." Moreover, the western horses were accustomed to be picketed out in extreme cold weather, and to starve or half-starve occasionally on prairie grass. A knowledge of all this determined me not to attempt to use any of the militia cavalry with the columns, as not suitable for the work, but to post any that might be sent up, on the line of communication between Qu'Appelle and Humboldt, there being several small bands of Indians and some half-breeds of doubtful character about the Touchwood Hills between these two places. This was afterwards carried out; the Governor General's Body Guard from Toronto, about 70 strong, under Lt. Colonel G. Denison, being posted at Humboldt, and the Cavalry School Corps, A. Troop, about 40 strong (permanent force), under Lt. Col. F. Turnbull, at Touchwood. Both these posts were important, and I had every reason to be satisfied with the zealous and admirable manner in which the duties connected with them were carried

out by the two able commanders.

While inspecting some wagons we were going to hire for our transport, I was shown a comortable sort of covered ambulance with two fine large mules, which rejoiced in the names respectively of "Dewdney" and "Reid," after the Lt. Governor and his secretary, and was informed by one of my staff that this affair was meant for my use on the march. Much amused at the idea, I assured my informant that I intended to ride or march, and unless ill or wounded should certainly not trouble "Dewdney" and "Reid" to drag me about.

A Captain French, who had been in the Irish Militia, brother of a distinguished artillery officer, came to me during the day and offered to raise a small party of scouts from among the settlers in the neighbourhood of Fort Qu'Appelle. He had lately been an officer in the mounted police, in which force he bore a very high character for intelligenence and pluck, and had not long left it for the purpose of marrying and settling in the Qu'Appelle valley. He was naturally well acquainted with the Indians and the country, and as I knew that Bouton could not be with me for some days, I accepted his offer, and authorised him to raise at once 20 or 30 men from among the settlers of the neighbourhood, the men to receive five dollars a day and find their own horses. French succeeded in getting together a very first-rate party of about 30 men, well mounted and armed with repeating Winchesters, in three or four days, and joined me at Fort Qu'Appelle. There were several men of good birth among this party, among them being the Hon. M. Gifford and Hon. E. Fiennes, and the whole of them did good service, French, Gifford and Fiennes being especially useful and hard-working. The two latter were principally used by Lord Melgund and myself as orderly officers, sometimes riding long distances by themselves at great personal risk.

We had a good deal of telegraphing during the day, which was cold and raw, a great deal of snow falling.

A great many reports were rife about the Indians rising, and about the strength of the half-breeds under Riel. I may say here, that during the whole campaign I was constantly receiving from different parts of the country most alarming reports, some of them coupled with pitiful requests for troops, or arms and ammunition. A great many of these reports were exaggerated. At first I was rendered very uneasy, especially as it would have required at least 5,000 men, and the same number of arms with ammunition to comply with their requests, but I soon began to find out that, at this crisis, exaggeration was a "prairie peculiarity," and at last I named these stories and reports "Nor'-Westers," and it came to be a joke in my force about "the General's horror of Nor'-Westers."

On the morning of the 30th March, I sent off, under command of Lt. Colonel Houghton, a wing of the 90th Regiment, 145 strong, and one nine-pound gun, and 25 men of the battery to Fort Qu'Appelle, an old Hudson Bay post about 18 miles off on our road. As it was their first march, I sent two or three empty wagons with them, to give the men a lift occasionally. Captain Bedson drove me over to Fort Qu'Appelle that afternoon in a "buck-board," a peculiar sort of carriage, of simple construction, used in the country. I found the party had arrived quite fresh, though the marching had been heavy, owing to the slushy snow. The occasional lift in the carts had been very acceptable to the men.

Fort Qu'Appelle is really only a cluster of wooden buildings surrounded by a stockade, but a small town has grown up around it. It lies on a small river running through a broad valley with high land on each side of it. The river just here widens out into two or three small lakes, the scenery being very fine.

The place owes its name to a curious echo which the valley is said to possess.

Mr. Archie McDonald, the Hudson Bay factor there, entertained us at luncheon, and we made arrangements with him for the supply of 200 carts to be got in as soon as possible, and drove back to Qu'Appelle. Next day the weather was very bad, and it snowed hard, especially towards and during the night. Busy again with telegrams and preparations. I decided to leave Capt. Swinford at Qu'Appelle for the present, and appointed a Mr. Underwood—who had been an officer in our regular army—supply officer to the column, and a very good officer he proved to be. I also secured the services of a Major Bell, superintendent of the Bell Farm, near Qu'Appelle, who was of great assistance, and did good service throughout in procuring and forwarding carts and forage to the front. I heard from Ottawa that the following troops had left for the front: Royal Canadian Artillery, A and B Batteries (permanent), 13 officers, 213 N. C. O.'s and men, 27 horses, 4 guns; Infantry School Corps, C Company (permanent), 5 officers, 85 N. C. O.'s and men; 2nd Battalion (Queen's Own), 18 officers, 257 N. C. O.'s and men; 10th Battalion (Royal Grenadiers), 71 officers, 250 N. C. O.'s and men.

These troops were coming up by Canadian Pacific Railway, though there were still unfinished gaps in the line to the east of Port Arthur; but it was thought better, as a matter of policy, to use our own line, as it undoubtedly was, though the troops had to cross those gaps under great difficulties, both of ground and weather. An extract from the report to me of Lt. Colonel Montizambert, commanding the artillery on this march, will give an idea of these difficulties and hardships which were so cheerfully borne by these citizen soldiers, both infantry and artillery:—

"Here began the difficulties of passing the gaps on the unconstructed portion of the road. About 400 miles between the west end of the track and Red Rock or Nepegon, 66 miles from Port Arthur, had to be passed by a constantly varying process of embarking and disembarking guns and stores from flat cars to country team sleighs, and vice versa. There were 16 operations of this nature in cold weather and deep snow. On starting from the west end of the track on the night of the 30th March the roads were found so bad that it took the guns 17 hours to do the distance (30 miles) to Magpie camp. On from there to east end of the track by team sleighs and marching 25 miles further on, on flat cars (uncovered and open) 80 miles, with the thermometer at 50 deg. below zero. Heron Bay, Port Munro, McKellar's Bay, Jackfish, Isbester, McKaye's Harbour were passed by alternate flat cars on construction tracks; and, teaming in fearful weather round the north shore of Lake Superior, Nepegon or Red Rock was reached on the evening of the 3rd April. The men had had no sleep for four nights."

On the 31st March, which was a bitter cold day, with heavy snow towards the evening, I devoted myself to organizing and telegraphing, and on the 1st April, to my great satisfaction, Lord Melgund arrived from the East. He was an old Guardsman, and as I knew, had been lately serving with mounted infantry in the field. I had telegraphed to him to say I should be glad if he would join me, if his Excellency Lord Lansdowne could spare him for a time from his duties as Military Secretary. His Excellency most kindly and thoughtfully did spare him, and I received the most cheerful and valuable support and assistance from Lord Melgund (now the Earl of Minto) during the whole time he was with me. I observed on that morning several strangers in the little hotel, and was soon enlightened as to their business. They were newspaper correspondents, four being

Canadian, and one a Yankee. As regards them and their after proceedings, I may say here that the Canadians were anxious to do, and did do, their work honestly and fairly according to their lights, with one exception, though I was obliged to send him away from my camp. The Yankee reporter was all right at first, but latterly fell off and got rather wild in his statements. They were all more or less handicapped by the novelty of their positions as war correspondents, and when I was obliged to decline confiding all my information and intentions to them, they were more or less inclined to attribute it to my not knowing myself what I was going to do! I must, however, except one of the Canadians, a Mr. Chambers, whom I always found to be reasonable and satisfied with what I could tell him. Later on we were joined by the well-known Mr. Henty, as correspondent of the Standard, which was the only English paper that condescended to send a war correspondent to us; however, we could not have had a better representative of the English press.

During this and the following day, I received rather alarming news from Battleford, the mounted police officer in command there being evidently a pessimist, and from what I could gather I did not believe Battleford was in such danger as he described, but I telegraphed to Lt. Col. Herchmer, at Regina, to hurry on to Battleford with his party of mounted police and one mountain gun.

The next day, the 2nd, I left Qu'Appelle at 8.30 a. m. with the other wing of the 90th, and the other gun of the battery, and arrived at Fort Qu'Appelle at 12.15 p. m. after a longish and sloppy march owing to the melting snow, as it was a fine sunshiny day. The men in this case also were assisted by occasional lifts in wagons. They camped with the others, and my staff and self put up at the hospitable abode of Mr. McDonald, the Hudson Bay factor.

The next day, the 3rd, I had "my army" out early at blank cartridge firing, to see how our steeds would stand it, and found that they nearly all stood the firing well, chargers as well as draught horses. I then tried a little drill with the 90th, which they went through very well, considering they had had very little training of any sort, the regiment having been formed quite lately by Lt. Col. Kennedy, who had gone to Egypt with the Canadian boatmen, and of whose sad death by smallpox we were so soon to hear. After the drill was over I went down the ranks of the 90th, and questioned each man, and found that many of them had never fired a rifle, some even had never fired a weapon at all. This was not a cheerful look-out after receiving Lt. Col. Irvine's telegram to Mr. Dewdney, dwelling on the excellence of the shooting of the half-breeds, and that my force should be 1,500 strong, and another message from the same to the same, which one of my telegraphic operators intercepted, to the following effect: "Matters are in a very critical state—feel confident all Indians will join rebels if immediate steps are not taken; 1,500 men sufficient if immediately sent in, otherwise several thousand will be required. Teton Sioux roaming the country on the warpath," &c.

I ordered the regiment to parade for bull-practice in the afternoon, some of their men themselves making and putting up three movable targets with marker's butts in the meanwhile. I here discovered, in the handiness and capability of the men as workmen, a superiority in the Canadian militiamen over our regular soldiers.

To be Continued.