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Topics of the Week.

Those members of the Canadian militia interested in the Dominion Messenger Pigeon Association, promoted by Major-General Cameron of the Royal Military College, may read with profit the report, printed in this issue, recently made by Major Allatt to the British Naval Volunteer Home Defence Association upon the use of messenger pigeons on coasts. Major Allatt is the leading British military authority on messenger pigeon service. His report makes plain the great possibilities of usefulness of pigeon service in military operations, and the encouragement thus afforded should give renewed impetus to the movement to establish in Canada the pleasant sport and valuable military auxiliary it is the aim of the Messenger Pigeon Association to create.

Major Mayne's lecture on Infantry Fire Tactics for the Canadian Militia, recently delivered at the Military Institute, Toronto, has been printed in pamphlet form for circulation. It has been distributed gratuitously by the Institute to all commanding officers, and we are informed that others desiring copies may secure them for the modest price of fifteen cents each. Major Mayne is known as an eminent authority on the subject of his lecture, and it may be perused with profit and interest alike. The production and dissemination of lectures such as this will be amongst the most beneficial of the undertakings of the Institute, which, we are glad to learn, is already a pronounced success, having now a membership of upwards of two hundred and fifty.

The annual attack upon the Garrison Common rifle ranges at Toronto is in progress, and as usual the Exhibition Association takes a leading part. This time it is a contractor employed by that body who is the figurehead. He had a number of men engaged in building a wharf some three hundred yards outside the line of fire, and stopped the work on the absurd allegation that their lives were endangered by the rifle practice. The dodge was a smart one, but in the interest of volunteering it is to be hoped it will not be allowed to have the effect desired. If the ranges really are dangerous, and competent authorities be found to so pronounce them, it will then be in order to devise means for ensuring their use with safety to the public. This would be an easy undertaking, and cost but a fraction of the expense to which the volun-

teers would be put were they compelled to travel many miles by rail to do their firing. Montreal just now furnishes an apt illustration of the evil effect of closing the city range and substituting for it one seven miles distant.

As the facts become better known the good sense of the public leads to a decided protest against the attack upon General Middleton because of the loss of the furs in the possession of Charles Bremner at the time of his arrest at Battleford for participation in the rebellion. Bystander, an eminently independent revlewer, has published a strong editorial article in the General's defence; and simultaneously there appears in the Manitoba Liberal an article pointing out the absurdity of the attack on General Middleton, which the Liberal thinks proceeds from the desire to "pull down the old General because he was sent over to Canada from the British Army." The paper proceeds very sensibly to condemn the agitation against the award of the command to a British officer, pointing out that while we have the very best material in Canada for officers, we have not yet men of sufficient training by real experience: On the last day Parliament was in session, the subject being brought up in the House, Lieut.-Col. Kirkpatrick thus concisely stated the case, speaking in opposition to the contention that General Middleton should be asked to pay for all of the furs in place of for only the few carried away by his order:-

"There is a total misapprehension," he said, "on the part of hon, gentlemen as to the way these furs came into the possession of the Police. This man Bremner had come into Battleford with these furs, and the furs were being pillaged by people there; by whom I do not know; but, at all events, it is stated that an officer of the Police came to the General to say that these furs were being taken from him, and the asked for authority to have them handed over to the Police for safe-keeping. At that time the General had no idea whatever of giving any order for confiscating the furs; or asking that they be put up for himself. They were handed over to the Police for safe-keeping, just as Bremner himself was arrested and handed over to the Police for safe-keeping. Two months after that, when word was brought to General Middleton that Bremner had gone to Regina as a prisoner, as the report states, Mr. Reed them asked the General whether these furs should be confiscated, and what was to be done with them. After he had come back, on the 4th of July, from pursuing Big Bear, he gave that order to confiscate the furs, and then said that some might be given to his staff, and some left for himself, and receipts were to be taken for them; so that they were really in possession of the Mounted Police, that is, of the Government, and whoever received the furs is the party that should be called upon to pay for them."

We note that the case of musical instruments placed by our advertisers Fontaine Besson & Co., at the Royal Military Exhibition in London, England, has been very generally admired. To this exhibit we would call the attention of the members of the Bisley team and other Canadian militiamen who will visit England this summer. The Besson instruments are very largely used by the military bands in Canada, and give the greatest satisfaction.

Much interest is attracted to the experiments being carried on in France in training dogs to act as scouts, messengers and sentinels. To teach a dog to act as messenger two men take the animal some distance and one returns to the starting-point, the dog upon being set loose invariably finding his way back. As a sentinel the dog gives indications of the approach of a stranger at the distance of a hundred yards. Acting as scouts, as soon as the dogs perceive a soldier wearing a foreign uniform they retreat, running to the soldiers who accompany them, and thus announce the presence of an enemy.

The Use of Messenger Pigeons on Coasts.

The Council of the Naval Volunteer Home Defence Association have recently directed their attention to the various modes of communication that can be made use of in connection with a Scheme of Naval Home Defence. Amongst the different means proposed is the employment of Homing Pigeons as message bearers. It was thought that the Naval Manœuvres would afford a favourable opportunity of testing the value of communication carried on by this means, and application was made to Major Allatt for information on the whole subject. In his report rendered to the Council of the Association, Major Allatt observes:—

The utility of pigeons as messengers in war, under certain conditions, does not admit of doubt. The subject has been exhaustively considered by most continental powers, with the result that a "Millitary Pigeon System" has invariably been established. Amongst Englishmen, however, it appears always to have been doubted whether such a means of carrying intelligence was applicable to our insular position. This impression is due chiefly to the want of knowledge of the subject amongst the educated classes. In any scheme of Home Defence the question of keeping up communication between ships and the shores is an important one. There can be little doubt that great advantage might accrue from the employment of pigeons liberated on board observation ships, especially in and about the English Channel, so as rapidly to convey intelligence to our harbours and other coast towns. Although fast despatch vessels may be employed for this purpose their use is restricted on account of their liability to capture, and the limited number that would be available. Recent naval manœuvres have abundantly demonstrated that fast hostile cruisers can inflict serious damage on our coasts, particularly if ther approach is totally unexpected. Intelligence of the movements of an enemy hovering around our coasts is of primary importance. As regards the maintenance of communication between different ships at sea—to which your letter alludes—it is very doubtful if pigeons can be advantageously so made use of.* Experiments have been tried at different times both in France and Germany, with a view to test the feasibility of carrying on correspondence at sea in this manner. Although these trials are said to have had satisfactory results, it is certain that pigeons could not be relied upon to fly back to a moveable home (such as a ship at sea) that had shifted its position a considerable distance, and in an uncertain direction, while the birds had been absent. The naval officers of the leading Continental powers have given considerable attention to the employment of homing pigeons in connection with naval operations, and preparations have been made for an extended use of the birds in case of necessity. The Italians place implicit reliance on pigeons to carry reports from their ships in the Mediterranean to their shore pigeon stations. There are twelve Government lofts established in Italy for naval and military purposes. Some of the birds are trained for land service, others for naval purposes. According to official reports of the work done in 1887, during the squadron manœuvres of that year, messages were regularly sent from ships by pigeons to the shore, and "often arrived many days before the despatch vessel sent at the same time." The birds were also used as message bearers between Rome and the Island of Maddelena, a passage of 150 miles of sea. In these latter experiments the average rate of flight was about 30 miles an hour. The pigeons from the Government loft of Cagliari were employed by ships as messengers across 300 miles of sea, which was said to be the greatest distance yet attempted over water. In Germany this question of pigeon flying has not been neglected. The whole Empire is spotted with pigeon stations. The northern coast line from Konigsberg to Wilhelmshaven has several stations under the control of the Minister of Marine. The German Government "pigeon system" is by far the most extensive and complete of Europe. The English Channel has received a due share of attention, and a good many German birds have been trained, through Belgium, to fly from several points on our southern shores. The present Emperor appears to take a keen personal interest in the work of homing pigeons, and is doing a good deal to promote their use for war purposes. In France both the Minister of Marine and the Minister of War have systematically organised a service of pigeon post both in and around French territory. Valuable Government prizes are distributed in the presence of officers of high rank to successful competitors in the different pigeon races. At the annual squadron manœuvres in the Mediterranean pigeons are the messengers used to carry news to land. Toulon-Sur-Mer is the shore station for this service. Recently a large number of birds have been trained to fly via Dover from London to various parts of

France. Only a few weeks ago one of the Flying Clubs in the neighbourhood of Cherbourg flew a race from Plymouth, and the prize appears to have been given by the Minister of Marine. There are therefore in France a number of winged messengers available to carry intelligence across the Channel from any part of our southern coast. I think it would be unwise of us to give no serious attention to this method of communication. Besides the considerations which have influenced Continental naval services we have to bear in mind that our whole system of cable correspondence, on which we have become accustomed to depend for rapid and certain communication with the rest of the world, is obviously dangerously exposed to attack. Our Submarine Cables might be cut by an enemy that has never come within sight of our Island. It would be a difficult task for our home or Channel fleets to watch and protect them. Most of the telegraph lines which run into chief coast towns and between our coast fortresses are quite unprotected, and communication by their means might be interrupted or destroyed when its maintenance had become a matter of paramount importance. We appear to have made no provision for a contingency of this nature. Abroad provision has been made to meet such a situation by the training of pigeons to act as message bearers in such emergencies. There are at the present time a certain number of Pigeon Flying Societies, and, consequently, of trained homing pigeons, in the United Kingdom, but their number is quite inadequate to furnish sufficient material for naval or military purposes. The expenses of training the birds, that is of railway transport, are so heavy that the sport of pigeon flying can only be indulged in by those who are comparatively well to do. If the Naval Volunteer Home Defence Association recognise the utility of pigeons employed as messengers in connection with coast defence, their first step might be to give an impetus to pigeon flying in this country generally, by securing a reduction in railway rates, and offering prizes for races flown under specified conditions. With assistance and encouragement of this nature the number of birds trained by private enterprise would rapidly and largely increase, as has been the case abroad, and they would become available for public service in case of necessity.

The Military Rifle League.

The League teams fired the third of their series of seven matches on Saturday afternoon last, 14th June. The weather seems to have been on the whole very favourable for shooting, the top scores and the general average both being the highest yet. Exceptions to the favourable conditions were, however, experienced in Prince Edward Island and in the North-West, as will be seen from the weather report appended.

THE WEATHER.

The following are the reports received of the weather, wind and light: Belleville, cloudy; slight 12 o'clock, light dark; Bowmanville, rainy, fishtail, light dull; Brantford, light variable; Charlottetown, cold, blustery gale 10 o'clock, light dark: Essex Centre, hazy, light variable; Halifax, foggy and rain, light 10 o'clock wind, light dark; Hamilton, fine, fishtail 3 o'clock, light hazy; Lindsay, showery, variable 2.30 o'clock, light variable; Montreal, overcast, fresh 3 o'clock, light dull; Ottawa, rainy, fishtail, light variable; Niagara Falls, raining, medium 10 o'clock, light dull; Port Arthur, fair, gusty 3 o'clock, light variable; Prince Albert, showery, strong gusty 4 o'clock, light very dull; Quebec, cloudy, cold, gale 10 o'clock, light dull; Regina, moderate gale 9 o'clock, light good; Sherbrooke, overcast, variable 8 o'clock, light dull; St. John, N.B., cool, variable 5 o'clock, light dark; St. John's, Q., fair, variable 5 o'clock, light indifferent; Toronto, rainy, variable 3 to 9 o'clock, light dull; Windsor Mills, fine, calm, light grey; Winnipeg, mild, fishtail 10 o'clock, light good; York, cloudy, 9 o'clock, light dull.

RESULTS OF THE MATCH.

For the second time the 54th Battalion headed the list, on this occasion with the total of 830 points, or the grand average of 83 points per man, and thus maintained first place in the aggregate, and substantially increased their lead over the field, being now 65 points above the second team, and 224 over the third. Also for the second time, the Halifax Garrison Artillery were second in the match, their total being 817 points, and they too retain their place in the aggregate, being a good second with but 65 points less than the 54th, and increasing their lead to 159 points over the third team. The handicap is a big one, but the third team—the 13th Battalion—are very strong, and apt to make the contest quite interesting in the succeeding matches. The difference in the aggregates of the teams next in order is not so marked, the hundred odd points between the third and the fifteenth being very evenly divided. The most noteworthy improvements in position in the aggregate are that the 13th Battalion rose from fourth to third place, the 53rd Battalion from tenth to fourth, the Royal Grenadiers from fourteenth to ninth, 45th Battalion Bowmanville teath from thirteenth to fifth, and the 43rd Battalion from eighteenth to thirteenth. The Ottawa teams stick close

^{*}It is to be understood that this remark is strictly limited to direct communication between two vessels at sea—one or both of which have moved subsequently to the despatch of a bird. A vessel at sea can communicate with a shore loft by birds—and thence by despatch vessel with any other ship at sea. Ex: Assume war with France. A ship of war in English channel sends a message by bird to Dover, Plymouth, &c.; this is telegraphed via Germany to Italy, whence a despatch vessel communicates with the Mediterranean fleet at sea.

NOTENAM AND COMPANY OF A CARSTAN

together, the seniors of the Guards and 43rd having now 2,111 each for the three matches. Curjously enough the leading Toronto teams—the roth Royal Grenadiers and the 12th York Rangers—are also even in their totals, having 2,146 points each. The two teams of the 45th Battalion have changed places, that from Bowmanville moving up as above stated, while the Lindsay team has dropped from ninth to eleventh place. The other teams holding good places who lost ground in the third match were: The 63rd Battalion, from fifth to sixth; B Battery, R.C.A., from third to eighth; 96th Battalion, from eighth to twelfth; 8th Royal Rifles, from seventh to sixteenth; and the 21st Battalion from sixth to seventh.

STANDING OF THE TEAMS.

The teams are given below in the order in which they now stand, the team totals of the three matches being published, together with the aggregate. Next week the individual totals will be given; the teams then being placed in the order of their scores in the third match. This is how they now stand in the aggregate:—

	N	Iay 17.	May 31.	June 14.	Aggr.
ı.	54th Battalion	807	799	830 ·	2436
2.	Halifax Garrison Artillery, 1st team	797	757	817	2371
3.	13th Battalion	688	775	749	2212
4.	53rd Battalion	683	724	795	2202
5.	45th Battalion, Bowmanville	623	755	814	2192
6.	63rd Battalion	756	696	738	2190
7.	21st Battalion	625	820	737	2182
8.	B Battery R. C. A	748	767	647	2162
9.	10th Royal Grenadiers, 1st team	638	732	776	2146
10.	12th Battalion	648	744	754	2146
II.	45th Battalion, Lindsay	652	769	722	2143
I 2.	96th Battalion	677	747	701	2125
13.	43rd Battalion, 1st team	576	738	797	2111
14.	Gov. General's Foot Guards, 1st team	614	731	766	2111
15.	82nd Battalion	610	757	715	2082
16.	8th Royal Rifles	634	799	641	2074
17.	57th Battalion	688	694	691	2073
18.	Queen's Own Rifles, 1st team	622	657	769	2048
19.	Saskatchewan Rifle Assn	738	619	675	2032
20.	Victoria Rifles, 1st team	528	733	758	2019
21.	62nd Fusiliers	598	681	708	1987
22.	90th Battalion	628	600	739	1967
23.	Charlottetown Engineers	653	633	678	1964
24.	F. Division N. W. M. P	616	633	676	1925
25.		569	68o	646	1895
26.	6th Fusiliers, 1st team	512	637	723	1872
27,	P. E. I. Garrison Artillery	551	672	635	1858
28.	Halifax Garrison Artillery, 2nd team	600	600	644	1844
29.	43rd Battalion, 2nd team	528	630	652	1810
30.	5th Royal Scots, 1st team	448	608	723	1779
31.	Montreal Garrison Artillery	439	665	65ĭ	1755
32.	10th Royal Grenadiers, 2nd team	526	565	595	1686
33.	44th Battalion	395	634	657	1686
34.	37th Battalion	491	590	589	1670
35.	9th Battalion	403	622	617	1642
36.	6th Fusiliers, 2nd team	427	544	631	1602
37.	C Company I. S. C	511	468	594	1573
38.	35th Battalion, Orillia team	413	482	672	1567
39.	38th Battalion	390	507	564	1461
40.	Regina Rifle Assn	571	465	412	1448
41.	Governor General's Body Guard	325	462	490	1277
42.	Gov. General's Foot Guards, 2nd team D	id not fi	re 569	699	1268
43.	5th Royal Scots, 2nd team	· 292	426	526	1244
44.	B Company I. S. C	317	437	461	1215
45.	Victoria Rifles, 2nd team	257	421	478	1156
46.	49th Battalion	"ii	455	606 _	1061
47.	ist P. W. R., 1st team	254	389	386	1029
48.		424	570	Did not fire	994
49.		414	559	Did not fire	973
.50.		356	447	No return	803
51.	65th Battalion	139	238	322	709
52.	1st P. W. R., 2nd team D	id not fi	re 209	Did not fire	209
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NOTES.

On account of the camps interfering, and it being found impossible to make other satisfactory arrangements, the League match announced for the 28th June will not be fired on that date, but to make up for the omission the executive have decided to have a match on the 2nd of August. This will bring the last three matches in three consecutive weeks, the dates being 26th July and 2nd and 9th August. The next match is now fixed for the 12th July, but some of the teams who cannot use their ranges on that day are to fire on the 5th instead.

The ten reserve men for the Grenadiers' two competing teams fired again last Saturday, scoring as follows: Pte. Dotherty, 70; Pte. Shand, 67; Pte. Hart, 61; Stf.-Sgt. Hutchinson, 59; Sgt. Smith, 59; Corp. Patterson, 57; Capt. Greville Harston, 54; Corp. Stenman, 51; Pte. Bowman, 41; Pte. Hart, 38; total, 557.

The Kingston ranges being out of order the teams from A Battery and from the 14th Battalion could not fire in the third match.

DELAYED SCORES.

The following detailed scores of the second match, fired 31st May, arrived too late for insertion in last issue:—

FIFTY-THIRD BATTALION.—Pte. G. H. Morkill 90, Stf.-Sgt. A.

Martin 82, Stf.-Sgt. C. H. Clarke 81, Lieut. R. J. Spearing 77, Sgt. W. Bloomfield 72, Surgeon A. N. Worthington 68, Pte. R. Robinson 67, Pte. J. D. Bush 66, Pte. E. W. Davies 66, Corp. A. Byrd 55; totals, 286, 250, 188—724.

F DIVISION NORTH-WEST MOUNTED POLICE.—Const. R. A. Payne 76, Const. O. St. Denis 73, Sergt. A. G. Montgomery 69, Const. E. B. Creighton 67, Stf.-Sgt. W. Parker 67, Const. A. R. Carmichael 66, Insp. F. Norman 59, Sgt. H. Bailey 59, Corp. Wm. Kerr 57, Supt. A. B. Perry 40; totals 283, 207, 143—633.

SASKATCHEWAN RIFLE ASSOCIATION.—D. Williamson 85, T. J. Agnew 67, Jas. McKay 65, F. C. Baker 63, R. J. Pritchard 63, J. L. Johnson 60, A. Goodfellow 58, J. Stewart 53, Geo. McKay 53, T. E. Baker 52; totals 247, 206, 166—619.

ERRATUM.—In the scores of the Governor-General's Body Guard team in the second match, published last issue, the name of Tpr. Brebber incorrectly appears in place of Tpr. Humphrey.

The Maritime Inter-Provincial Match.

A leading feature of the rifle season in the Maritime Provinces is the annual competition between teams of eight men representing each of the Provinces of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island, the teams meeting together upon each provincial range in turn and shooting side by side. The first match was fired in 1886 and was won by New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia and New Brunswick have won turn about each year since. The Islanders make a good fight, but success has never yet crowned their efforts. The fifth match was fired at Charlottetown on Thursday last, 12th inst. The rifles and ranges were as usual Martinis at 200, 500 and 600 yards. The New Brunswick team, the victors, were captained by Capt. McRobbie of the 8th Cavalry; the Nova Scotians by Major Egan of the 63rd, and the Islanders by Capt. Stewart of the 82nd. The new third-class target was used at 200 yards, with 16-inch inner and 24-inch magpie, and this appears to have had the effect of taking a good many points off the score. The weather was fine, though the wind was a little troublesome. These were the scores in detail :-

NEW BRUNSWICK.

	_			
ColSgt. Henderson, 62nd 4	1444453—28	5354534—29	3555533-29	86
	555254—31	3345243-24	4445553—30	85
Lt. S. H. Langstroth, 74th Bn	1444345—28	4235442-24	3342553-25	77
Capt. J. H. McRobbie, 8th Cav 4	145453429	0542543-23	325353425	77
Lt. Perkins, 71st Bn	1532434—25	525444428	4445402-23	76
StfSgt. Loggie, N. F. B	1554355—3I	4323454-25	0235504-19	75
Lt. McAvity, 62nd Fus	3442354—25	053252522	2254545-27	74
Lt. McFarlane, 71st Bn	1554444-30	3224543-23	0023432-14	67
		•		
Totals	227	198	192	617
PRINCE &	DWARD ISLA	ND.		
Capt. Hooper, 82nd	1255445 - 29	5344535-29	5235542-26	84
Capt. Crockett, 82nd	445455-31	4554344 - 29	525353224	84
Spr. Anderson, Eng	454543-29	4455255-30	4353322-22	8i
Sgt. Davison, Eng	435354-29	4543535-29	0253225-19	77
Sgt. Longworth, Eng,	1334543—26	5050535—23	5535252-27	76
Capt. Weeks, Eng	5243544—27	454554532	2330302—13	72
Capt. Longworth, Arty	145443428	5043525—24	3452320-19	71
Sgt. Allen, 82nd	2424434—23	232020211	2042523—18	52
_	•	•—		-
Totals	222	207	168	597
	A SCOTIA.			
Capt. Adams, H.G.A	4444355—29	405455527	4422555—27	83
Lt. Stevens, 66th	5344445—29	352433323	4553345-29	18
Lt. Flowers, 66th	4353444-27	4525535-29	535435025	81
StfSgt. Harris, H.G.A	123432422	5522454-27	3523554-27	76
Capt. Harris, H.G.A	5542534—28	2322334-19	5333332-22	69
Bmbr. Campbell, H.G.A	3433522-22	3304544-23	534322422	67
Major Egan, 63rd	453553429	435532426	3303002-11	66
Lieut. Dimock, H.G.A	2222353—19	4254544—28	3332402-17	64
	• •—			-
Totals	205	202	178	587
To the annuing the sideman			Listal Day	:

In the evening the riflemen dined together at the Hotel Davies. The chair was occupied by Lt.-Col. Irving, B.M., and the vice chair by Lt.-Col. Dogherty, who had umpired the shooting. The usual toasts were honoured, and a good deal of speech-making was indulged in. Capt. Weeks, of the Island team, suggested that for the future this match should be made a feature of the Provincial Association annual competitions, but Major Egan and Capt. McRobbie held that it would lose a great part of its interest if deprived of the distinctive character it enjoys at present.

Gen. Viscount Wolseley has declined to accept the chief command of the British forces in India, which was tendered to him as the successor of the Duke of Connaught, and also has resigned his position as adjutant general of the army, to take effect in July. In severing his connection with the active forces General Wolseley writes that he will always be at the service of the country in the capacity of councillor or warrior.

The Rifle.

The Ottawa Rifle Club held their eighth weekly spoon competition on Saturday last, using Snider rifles at Queen's ranges. The spoon winners were: 1st class, J. H. Ellis, 91, and Capt. H. H. Gray, 86; 2nd class, D. R. Brown, 85; 3rd class, W. Lambkin, 74. The club offer an extra spoon for a "possible" score at any range. In the two years since this offer was made the spoon has only twice been earned, the second occasion being on Saturday, when Mr. Ellis made seven bulls eyes at 500 yards; he secured two spoons, therefore, being first in the general competition as shown above.

At the weekly competition of the Guards Association at the Rideau range last Saturday, Snider rifles, 200, 500 and 600 yards, Capt. Gray won in the first class with 86 points, and Corp. Brown in the second

The first provincial association programme for the 1890 prize meeting came to hand this week. It is that of Nova Scotia. gramme is much the same as that of last year, which divided up the prizes in a very interesting and useful manner. There are, however, two very attractive new features. For the encouragement of young shots an "Affiliated Match" is introduced. This, in which there is \$100 offered in twenty-four prizes, consists of seven shots at 400 yards. It is restricted to militiamen who have never won a prize at a meeting of the association, and each regiment paying \$10 is allowed to enter fifteen representatives, with the right to shoot in all the matches. The other new feature is the Laurie Military Match, for the Laurie Bugle and \$75, to be awarded in six prizes to the sections of five n.c.o. or men making the highest score in twenty rounds skirmishing between 450 and 200 yards. The matches open on Tuesday, 12th August.

The prize list of the Dominion Rifle Association shows few changes compared with last year, but the net result is an addition of about \$85 to the money offered, the amount being \$7,392, in addition to which there are the many valuable badges, medals and trophies. The number of prizes in the Nursery match, in which the competition has been further restricted, has been reduced from 77, amounting to \$380, to 67 amounting to \$350. In the Manufacturers' match there will be 74 prizes and \$545, in place of 82 prizes and \$585. In the Minister of Militia match there will be 8 in place of 6 team prizes, the individual prizes remaining at 62, and the money for both combined being \$642 in place of \$618. The Snider aggregate becomes much more important, with 47 prizes and \$250 in place of 27 prizes amounting to \$150. The Revolver list is also increased, being now 17 prizes and \$80 against 11 prizes and \$50 last year. The matches will be held at the usual time, commencing

Regimental and Other News.

on Monday, 1st September.

Capt. Sheppard having resigned, the command of No. 2 Company, orth Battalion, has been handed over to Lieut. R. C. Brown.

The Duke of Connaught has signified his intention to present a set of colours to be competed for annually by the Cadet corps of Montreal, and to be awarded on each occasion to the best drilled company.

James Page, the oldest survivor of Nelson, died at Dunbar, Dundas County, Ont., on the 10th May, at the extraordinary age of one hundred and twenty-three years. So writes a correspondent of the Morrisburgh Courier, giving facts in support of his statements. He had for many years been supported by the township council, who paid for his maintenance by a friendly family. He was with Nelson in all his great naval engagements. About twenty-five years ago application was made to the British Government for a pension for the old man, but his discharge papers had been burned and the pension could not be secured.

In the last issue of the MILITIA GAZETTE a brief paragraph stated the result of a rifle match between the Bachelors and Benedicts of the Queen's Own Sergeants' Mess. Thinking that further details of the match might be of some interest, I have ventured to write this letter, and I hope your regular correspondent will not take offence at me for thus entering upon his preserves. Since the inception of the Military Rifle League all matters relative to shooting are heard with eagerness by all aspirants to honours on Bisley Common, and I trust a description of the manner in which the Sergeants' Mess try to encourage shooting will not be amiss.

It seems that last spring one of the "young bloods" of the Mess, contending that the supernumary rank, at least, ought to be well versed in all matters pertaining to shooting, suggested that in order to promote interest during the coming season matches among members of the Mess should be arranged which could not but fail to excite the interest of all the regiment. Accordingly negotiations were entered into between the Benedicts and Bachelors for a match to be fired at the Garrison Common ranges, and the losing side to provide a supper for the Mess. After

a postponement on account of wet weather, it was finally decided that the match should come off Saturday, 7th inst., and filled with the barn ing desire of wiping the Benedicts out of existence (metaphorically speaking), the Bachelors sallied up, armed to the teeth. After the firing was over, they sallied back again, but without any open display of intention, as the Benedicts had risen in their might, and with cool and dauntless mien piled on the overwhelmed Bachelors the heavy majority of 41 points, not half so easily relished as the prospects the poor Bachelors thought looked so inviting that many intended going in training for the epicurean feast it should be their fortune to share at the expense of the Benedicts.

Lieut. J. Knifton acted as range officer, discharging the onerous duties to the satisfaction of all. The following table shows the scores made (200, 400 and 500 yards, 5 shots, Snider):—

Married.	Bachelors.	
Sergt. McNeil	StaffSergt. Harp. 57 ColSergt. Crooks. 54 Sergt. N. B. Sanson. 53 StaffSergt. Walker. 49	
Total 652	Total 611	

Upon the conclusion of the match adjournment was made to the Mess rooms, and here the defeat was further rubbed in by the appearance of a tombstone bearing the following inscription: "Erected in memory of the 'Bachelors,' slaughtered to a man June 7th, 1890, after a gallant resistance to a superior force. Their end was peace. Let them R.I.P. Langton."

Rumour is very busy about the secretary of the Bachelors, and some critics are mean enough to ascribe his absence from the match to a presentiment of a defeat which he did not want to share. The return match takes place on the 28th, when, I hear, the Bachelors, not being content with simply reversing things, have almost completed arrangements to drive in state from the range to the Mess, headed by the two bands of the regiment.

Some of the shootists are wondering if one of the Bachelors only obtained one-quarter of the "growler" as well as one-quarter of the score of the Benedict with whom he was fraternizing all afternoon?

I will give full particulars of the return match as soon as the event " LOCK-PLATE," comes off.

Instructions for Field Artillery Practice.

[Royal Artillery Regimental Orders.-Continued from page 162.]

18. Elementary Practice should be throughout in the hands of the Officer Commanding the Battery, but the details should be submitted to the Camp Commandant or Commanding Officer for approval

Its objects are :—

1. To teach and practice fire discipline.

2. To teach observation of fire,* and enable the Commanding Officer to practically select his best observer.

3. To teach ranging by trial shots and adjustment of fuze, using both ordinary and telescopic sights, direct and indirect methods of laying.

4. To practice supply of ammunition as laid down in chap. iv. section 9, and chap. v, section 4, Field Artillery Drill, Vol. II.

5. To teach ranging on a moving target. One day at least should be devoted to this, the battery, before firing shell, being drilled at it with blank ammunition.

6. The Officers of the battery should be tested in the conduct of fire, so that they may, if necessary, be capable of replacing the Commanding Omcer.

19. No opportunity should be neglected of pointing out, especially to Officers and Non-commissioned Officers, any faults that may occur in the course of practice, e.g.,—

(a). When firing trial shots, creeping up to or back to the target by small alterations of elevation.

(b). Commencing Shrapnel fire with time fuzes, before the elevation is satisfactorily determined by trial shots. (c). Alterations of elevation or of fuze, after they have been fairly

* This can also be done at drill. The best observers would then be known jus as the best layers.

established, from results of single rounds, instead of taking the mean of a series.

As error in judgment is certain to produce some, if not all, of these faults, some time or other during the practice, they need never be purposely committed simply for the sake of illustration.

20. The range and battery practice reports should be compared and discussed, as soon after the conclusion of each day's practice as possible, and mistakes then pointed out to all concerned.

Instructions in ranging both at standing and moving targets are given in chap. iv, sections 8 and 9, Field Artillery Drill, Vol. II.

21. With regard to this it may be noted—

a. That the exact part of the target to be ranged on should be pointed out to Section Commanders and layers: if there is any difficulty in describing this, the shortest and most certain way of doing it is to lay a gun and let them look over it. Bear in mind the importance of selecting such a part, that the drift of the smoke will be of assistance.

b. The size of the large bracket may depend on the reliability of the range takers. If unassisted by them, about 10 per cent. of the supposed range may be taken as a guide, but it generally saves time to err on the side of making it too large

rather than too small.

c. Verification should take place on the mean of the small bracket. If the first two rounds of the verifying series are both + or both -, 25 yards alteration of elevation may be at once given. If one is + and one -, the elevation may be at once accepted.

d. If at any time during the process of ranging a palpable hit or "range" is observed, verification should take place at once on the same elevation.

e. A single hit, especially if it is the first round fired, must never be accepted as giving the correct elevation without verification.

f. If firing at troops in close formations, when speed in ranging is necessary for the best effect (for they will certainly not remain under fire in such a favourable formation), batteries are at liberty to accept the mean of the small bracket as the elevation for Shrapnel, without further verification. To do this, however, the Commanding Officer must have perfect reliance on his layers and on the accuracy of his observation.

g. When rapidity in ranging is the object, the caution, "Slow fire," means simply that no gun is to be fired without the order "shot" from the Commanding Officer; not necessarily slow in

point of time.

SERVICE PRACTICE.

- 28. The object of this is to practice under service conditions the lessons learnt at Elementary Practice. The officer commanding the battery is not to concern himself with petty details regarding the duties of his officers, non-commissioned officers, and men; all this should have been seen to during the preparatory instruction and the elementary practice. If it be observed that such interference is necessary the camp commandant shall be empowered to order the battery to return to elementary practice, until it is in a condition to work without the constant attention of the commanding officer to details which are not within his province.
- 29. The duties of all the officers and of the Nos. 1 are laid down in the Field Artillery Drill (chap. iv., section 6, and section 9, p. 159, et seq.), and each will, at service practice, adhere strictly to those duties.
- 30. The method of bringing up a battery in position will also be found laid down in the Field Artillery Drill. Great care must be taken that the instructions there given, for the precedence of the battery by the

range-takers and ground-scouts be strictly obeyed.

The officer commanding a battery will, before coming into action, give the following information to his officers and Nos. 1, halting it for this purpose under cover, viz.: the exact part of the target on which the battery is to be ranged, and subsequent distribution of fire, the range, and the flank from which the fire will commence.

Every gun will be laid at once, with the given elevation, as soon as it is in action.

- 31. While halted under cover, the limber gunners of each subdivision will fill a portable magazine with three rounds complete, two common and one Sharpnel shell ready fuzed. If the distance to be advanced subsequently is short, the magazine may be carried up by hand; if such that the gunners must again mount, they will steady it between them on the footboard of the limber. In either case it will be left with the gun when halted for action, so that fire may be opened, if required, without any delay.
- 32. When the battery is ordered to take up an advanced position where the opportunity for halting under cover for instructions will not

occur, the magazine should be filled before quitting the last position and carried on the limber as above. A Discount of the country of the c

- 33. The range takers, who have preceded the battery, should be careful to take up such a position as will not interfere with its coming into action; they should also as far as possible keep themselves out of the sight of the enemy. Attention to the latter point is much required by them, and also by the commanding officer and his staff, who generally expose themselves to a most needless extent.
- 34. At service practice no assistance to observation will be given by signals from the range party.

Field Batteries Annual Gun Practice, 1809.

1. In accordance with GO. (7), 30-5-90, the following instruc ons have been issued by Lt.-Col. D. T. Irwin, Inspector of Artillery, for the Annual Gun Practice of the Field Batteries in the Dominion:

2. Batteries which perform their drill in camp in the vicinity of which a land or water range can be obtained, will carry out the follow-

ing instructional practice.

(a) Range finding by sections.—The entire battery will parade in drill order, with practice ammunition as detailed in circular No. 1, 1890 -equally distributed in the limbers, march to the practice ground and will be halted if possible under cover, but at least 100 yards in rear of the firing point—and be ordered to "Prepare for action."

(b) The target will consist of a barrel or large cask, moored or placed at any distance between 1,800 and 2,500 yards. A small flag in the target will be found very advantageous. The range party will not signal any of the shells, but will keep a record of the estimated distance from the target at which each shell strikes the plane, or bursts.

(c) Upon the command "Right (or left) section advance for action," the named section will advance at a trot and come into action at the

firing points indicated by the Officer Commanding.

(d) The officer in charge of the section will then give the command to load with shell and state the elevation to be given. When the guns are loaded No. 1 gives "Take post"—the officer will look over the sights and direct any alteration he may think necessary to be carried out. The officer superintending the practice will give the order to "commence firing." No. 1 gun will then be fired, and according as the shell is short or over, the elevation of No. 2 gun will be altered so as to ensure the shell falling on the opposite side of the target. Three rounds will be fired from each gun by the first (previously selected) No. 1 or Layer, according to the rules laid down for finding the long and short brackets. (Annual practice, 1889.)

(e) Upon the completion of these rounds the section will be ordered to "cease firing," limber up, and retire to the original halting ground, and the other section to advance and go through the same prac-

tice and retire.

(1) The first section will then advance, and fire a second series of three rounds of shell from each gun, taking advantage of the elevation already obtained. These rounds will be laid by the second No. 1 or selected Layer. The section will then remain at the firing point until the second section has completed its second series.

(g) The whole battery will then be ordered by the Officer Commanding to fire shapnel, the fuze being bored at the number of graduations ordered by the officer in charge of each section. The first round will be laid by the first No. 1, and the next by the second No. 1, any necessary alteration in the boring of the fuze being properly made—under instructions—and the guns fired in rotation at the order of the Officer

Commanding Battery.

- (h) All the above operations are to be performed with the greatest exactitude and celerity. The time will be taken from the command "advance for action" until "Take post," and again from "commence firing" until each series is completed. Each officer should keep a record of the elevation given to each gun of his section and the result of each shot. The yard scale only will be used for elevation. Points for direction will pe given by the officer superintending the practice. The only competition sanctioned in the above practice will be between sections of the same battery. The officer commanding the artillery in camp will make the necessary arrangements for providing targets and for rang
- 3. A general meeting for field artillery competitive practice has been authorized to be held at Kingston during September, under arrangements similar to those authorized in 1889. Detailed information as to dates, transport, messing, &c., will be published subsequently.

4. Revised rules for practice have been published and will be strictly adhered to in all artillery competitive practise at Kingston or

elsewhere.

5. Officers commanding batteries which practice elsewhere than at Kingston, will make the necessary requisitions for ammunition according to the scale authorized in G.O. without delay.

Militia General Orders (No. 7) of 30th May, 1890.

(Continued from last Issue.)

No. 3.—

1st Brig. Field Art.—No. 2 Bat.—Capt. W. A. Higinbotham retires retaining rank.

P. E. Island Brig. Gar. Art.—No. 2 Bat.—To be 2nd Lieutenant, prov., Sergt. Thomas Dover, vice Lemuel Ezra Prowse, who resigns.

8th Bn. - To be Lieutenant, prov., Percy Peebles Myles, vice A. E. Hall, retired.

12th Bn.—No. 7 Co.—The headquarters of this company are removed from "Sharon" to "Sutton West."

13th Bn.-To be Lieutenant, 2nd Lieut. R. H. Labatt, R.S.I., vice J. W. G. Watson, promoted.

and Lieut. R. H. Labatt is confirmed in his rank from 1st May, 1890.

27th Bn.-No. 7 Co.-To be Captain, Lieut. R. Mackenzie, R.S.I., vice F. W. Kittermaster, appointed Adjutant.

To be Lieutenant, prov., Corporal Frederick Gorman, vice R. Mackenzie, pro-

To be Adjutant, Capt. F. W. Kittermaster, R.S.I., from No. 7 Co., vice W. Kelly, promoted.

31st Bn.—No. 4 Co.—To be 2nd Liéutenant, prov., William Andrew Machaffie, vice S. J. McGirr, promoted.

32nd Bn.-No. 6 Co.--To be Lieutenant, prov., Sergt. William James McRae, R.S.I., (2nd B.), vice C. A. Richards, who retires retaining rank.

No. 7 Co.—To be Lieutenant, prov., Sergt. Howard Lowry, R.S.I. (2nd B.), vice W. H. Lowry, lest limits.

34th Bn.—No. 1 Co.—To be Lieutenant, Lieut. T. A. McGillivray, R.S.I., from No. 5 Co., vice E. S Shrapnell, retired.
No. 3 Co.—To be 2nd Lieutenant, prov., Frederick Webb Brooks, vice J. A.

Carswell, who resigns.

35th Bn.-No. 8 Co.-To be 2nd Lieutenant, prov., Frederick John Crease, vice D. C. McIntosh, promoted.

36th Bn.-No. 2 Co.-To be Lieutenant, Charles Byng-Hall, R.S.I. (1st B.), vice A. Deans.

No. 3 Co.--To be Lieutenant, prov., Harry Rankin, vice J. A. Duff, promoted. 2nd Lieut. Isaac Pollock resigns.

No. 4 Co.- To be 2nd Lieutenant, prov., William Craven Vaux Chadwick, vice W. Kerr.

Lieut. Montagu Smythe having obtained a M.S. certificate, prior to his appointment, his rank is substantive, not provisional, as notified in General Orders (5) 9th

No. 6 Co.—To be 2nd Lieutenant, prov., Harvey Archelaus Willis, vice A. R. McLaren, promoted.

39th Bn.-No. 1 Co.-To be Captain, 2nd Lieut. G. A. Curtis, R.S.I., vice J. W. Ryerson, promoted.

To be 2nd Lieutenant, prov., Colour Sergeant George Frederick Cook, vice G. A. Curtis, promoted.

41st Bn.-No. 2 Co.-To be Captain, prov., George Newton Beaumont, vice G. H. Funnell, who retires with rank of Lieutenant.

62nd Bn. -2nd Lieut. H. P. Wetmore, R.S.I., is confirmed in his rank from 10th March, 1890.

63rd Bn.—2nd Lieut. E. B. Richardson, R.S.I., is confirmed in his rank from 8th March, 1890.

65th Bn.—The Christian names of 2nd Lieut. Roy are Arthur René Léon, and not as stated in General Orders (5) 9th May, 1890, wherein his confimation of rank is published.

66th Bn.—To be 2nd Lieutenant, prov., Patrick Breisni Ternan.

and Lieut. C. H. Stimpson, R.S.I., is confirmed in his rank from 10th March,

67th Bn.—Surgeon Charles Pitt Connell, M.D., to have the rank of Surgeon Major; from 22nd April, 1890.

and Lieut. A. N. Shireffs, R.S.I., No. 6 Co., is confirmed in his rank from 31st March, 1890.

and Lieut. C. W. Dickinson, R.S.I., No. 3 Co., is confirmed in his rank from 31st March, 1890.

68th Bn. -2nd Lieut. G. W. Newcomb, R.S.I., No. 6 Co., is confirmed in his from 31st March, 1890.

and Lieut. W. W. Tupper, R.S.I., No. 8 Co., is confirmed in his rank from 31st March. 1890

74th Bn.—Brevet.—To be Major, from 9th April, 1890, Capt. Bedford Harper, R.S.I., No. 6 Co.

75th Bn.—2nd Lieut. J. A. Langille, R.S.I., No. 5 Co., is confirmed in his rank from 31st March, 1890.

77th Bn.—No. 2 Co.—To be Lieutenant, prov., Walter Jefferson Cline, vice W. H. Ptolemy, promoted into No. 3 Co.

78th Bn.—The appointment of Lieutenant D. W. Sutherland is in No. 7 Company, and not as stated in General Orders (5) 9th May, 1890.

82nd Bn.-No. 1 Co.-To be 2nd Lieutenant, prov., Frank Robert Catford Beer, vice D. L. Hooper, promoted.

87th Bn.—Brebet.—To be Major, from 31st March, 1890, Capt. Louis Napoléon Laurin, R.S.I., No. 2 Co.

(No. 4 Certificates gazetted will appear next week.]

Attention is drawn to a shell which is used, apparently with very good effect, by the Swiss artillery. This shell is composed of an aggregation of rings, which are dispersed on the explosion of the bursting

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Canadian Military Rifle League.

NOTICE.

ON account of the Camps interfering, there will not be any League Match on the 28th June, but there will be one on Saturday, 2nd August, instead. The dates thus amended are 12th and 26th July, 2nd and 9th August.

W. R. PRINGLE,

Secretary.

Toronto, 14th June, 1890.

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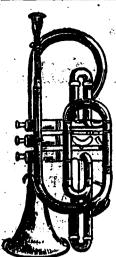
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