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(SUCCESSOR TO THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE.)

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NOTE AND COMMENT.

It has often been a source of regret to Canadian shots that more is not done in the way of encouraging shooting with more elaborate and accurate weapons than the ordinary service arm. The question of encouraging the use of rifles with telescopic sights is now being discussed in England. A leading service paper recently said on this subject: "It is pretty generally agreed that the time has come for a reconsideration by the National Rifle Association of the conditions governing the competitions at Bisley with the "military breech-loader," and it is trusted that the correspondence on the subject, started in the Times by Captain Dutton Hunt, will lead to some practical result. Some of the suggestions made by Mr. Frederike Lowe—the well-known shot and chairman of the South London Rifle Club—in the course of

his long letter are considered somewhat startling, more particularly the one that a small percentage of the marksmen in every regiment in the service and all mounted infantry should be armed with a rifle or carbine fitted with a telescopic sight for special service; but the facts adduced by him should cause our military authorities to carefully consider the matter though they have hitherto, Mr. Lowe asserts, declined to entertain it. If so long ago as the American Civil war rifles with telescopic sights were used on both sides, and if a certain officer in the Indian Army has found that with a second-rate American sporting rifle fitted with a telescopic sight he has been able to do most effective service against the Dacoits in Burmah, what, it is asked, should hinder our authorities from making a limited experiment with such sights, more particularly as they can be readily detached from the rifle and carried, in a similar manner to a bayonet, in a leather case, and the weapon itself used in the ordinary manner?

by the way, where in the world did the editor of the Quebec Chronicle hear that "appointments to posts in the Imperial Army are denied to those of our Canadian young men who study at Kingston." This will be news to people who have any knowledge at all of militia matters, for of course, commissions in the army have been for years open to competition among the officers of the militia. True, officers have to show their qualifications by passing sufficiently exacting examinations; but for nothing. But the army is open nevertheless, and several good officers have graduated into the Army from the Militia and political influence and personal favor

The Toronto and Hamilton militia corps deserve all credit for their splendid demonstration of practical soldiering on Thanksgiving Day. These annual

field days must do a great deal of good to the Toronto militia themselves; but they also tend to do a great deal of good to the whole service, as the newspaper accounts of those really interesting and exciting events must prompt other corps throughout the country to go and do likewise. It is for this reason that we devote so much of the space of this number to one of the best popular reports of the day's proceedings. Already there is talk of trying to arrange for manoeuvres for the Montreal brigade next Queen's Birthday.

When the great practical value of field work is considered it is hard to account for the Government's refusal to bear at least a portion of the cost of field manoeuvres in the vicinity of every large militia centre every year. Nothing is better calculated to interest the men in militia work, and of course the training of our city corps cannot be, by any stretch of imagination, considered perfect without it. A double necessity then exists for this field work and the Toronto and Hamilton corps deserve every credit for demonstrating what can be done in one day at comparatively little expense.

The first portion of General Middleton's article in the United Service Magazine on the suppression of the Northwest Rebellion will be read with great interest by members of the militia force. Our old general has evidently started to give a thoroughly impartial review of the campaign, and his completed article will doubtless be a valuable contribution to Canadian history, for no narrative of the campaign so far published has been worthy of consideration as a history. Sir Sir Fred's ill-treatment by the politician of this Canada of ours does not appear to have had any effect of turning him against the country's institutions,

and from his flattering reference to the militia in his opening chapter it is evident that they will receive all the credit they deserve, even if criticism should be necessary in the interest of truth.

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The assumption of English writers that the tactical methods adopted by the Germans in 1870—particularly their use of skirmishers and small columns—were the result of deliberate conviction, is controverted by the Army and Navy Gazette. It traces the bias towards these methods back to the French armies of the Revolution, which, owing to a want of drill and discipline, failed to fight in line according to the system of Frederic the Great, whose fundamental principle had been to place the weight of the attack in the first line; to march his line as close in to the enemy as possible, and then to overwhelm him by “the greatest development of infantry fire under the most careful supervision and control.” The French lines, plentiful in number and enthusiasm, but half trained, could not be brought up, according to our contemporary, to the infantry duel in line at short ranges, and so fell back upon endeavoring to wear out their antagonists by a skirmishing fire fed constantly from the rear. By years of practice the French became adepts at this style of fighting, which may be called that of attrition, while the Prussians, in a long period of inaction, became wooden and unwieldy in their own chosen method of line fighting.

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Auerstadt, for example, with a good superiority of numbers available, they refused to use their reserve to aid their hard pressed forces in front, lest it might be needed to cover a retreat. “As a consequence of this misfortune, this idea of retaining the third line or reserve to protect a possible retreat has been since given up by every other army but our own: the world, it being generally felt that it is a wiser application of force to ensure success rather than to protect a retreat which in all probability would not take place but for the retention of the very battalions whose action might turn the scale. Besides, it is also held that the guns that remain in position until the success of the attack is secure from a better screen to rally behind in the event of failure. The idea that a third line can overtake and pursue a beaten enemy who has already, from the nature of things, secured a two mile start at least, is puerile. Line tactics having apparently broken down, the Prussians went over to skirmishers and small columns with more zeal than discretion, and definitely adopted the method of ‘attrition’ in prefer-

ence to Frederic’s idea of a blow. Even Clausewitz failed to perceive the distinction and during the long peace the conception of ‘attrition’ became fairly stereotyped.” But our contemporary holds that line tactics really did not break down they being really rather only improperly applied. This misapplication was manifest at Jena, and yet the line system itself was held to be at fault.

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Germany, therefore, as our contemporary argues, had acquired simply a bias for skirmishing and line formations in 1870, and the advent of the breech-loader had increased it. But some years after the war, we are assured, a reaction took place among the younger officers. “Recognizing that there had been war before Napoleon, and feeling that something was wanting in the claim of justification of existing forms, they disinterred the old Frederician principles both for cavalry and infantry. With the former they were successful within a few years, but with the latter they are only now beginning to make progress, and hardly yet see the goal to which they will inevitably be led. Briefly, that principle is, and for us it is of extreme importance in the probable absence of numerical superiority on our side, that in fighting it is the first blow depends on the delivery of the fire of the maximum possible number of rifles in the minimum of time at the shortest range, and this result can be attained by line formations alone.” Perhaps this view is worth consideration among the criticisms of our Drill Regulations which are now rife.

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.

Address,
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P.O. Box 387, Montreal, Que.

TORONTO.

At the annual carbine practice of the G.G.B.G., held during last camp, the following made the highest scores in their respective troops, and won the crossed carbines, viz., “A” Troop, Sergeant-Major Flint; “B” Troop, Trumpeter Hawkes; “C” Troop, Trumpet-Major Belcher; “D” Troop, Trooper Button.

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Troop Sergeant Major Bacon of “D” Troop, G.G.B.G., contemplates taking a course at the cavalry school.

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The many friends of Staff Sergeant Somers will be pleased to learn that he has entirely recovered and is able to be around again.

Lt.-Col. G. T. Denison has issued a regimental order regarding the dress of the non-commissioned officers of the Body Guard.

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The annual meeting of Body Guard Trumpeters’ mess was held in their rooms on Wednesday evening, Nov. 1st, when the following officers were elected for 1894: President, Trumpeter Warner; Sec. Tres. Trumpeter F. P. Belcher; Committee, Trumpet-Corporal Duncan, Trumpeter Smith and Trumpeter Cameron.

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Lt.-Col. Quinn of the Body Guard is at present in the Northwest, but is expected home shortly.

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The following members of the G.G.B.G. are article to the cavalry school for short courses of instruction: Corporal Hines and Trooper Mulholland “A” Troop, Trooper Baitson “C” Troop, and Trooper Barnard “D” Troop.

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The Governor-General’s Body Guard furnished an escort of one troop, under command of Major Denison and Lieuts. Denison and Peters, for His Excellency the Governor-General on the occasion of his reception in the Parliament buildings on Saturday, Oct. 28th. The regiment has furnished a number of escorts during the past, but never before have they turned out as good a lot of men and horses. His Excellency complimented the regiment very highly.

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Captain Thompson, paymaster of the Body Guard, is acting as president of the band committee during Lt.-Col. Dunn’s absence.

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The officers of the 48th Highlanders will in future wear a different mess uniform. Hitherto the order for mess was the red mess jacket and vest with trowsers. In future the officers will wear the real mess jacket and vest, with dress shoes, dirk, skene, dhu, sporran, kilt, plaid, etc. The change will be a great improvement.

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The Grenadiers turned out 575 strong on the night of the 16th for the annual roll call by the deputy adjutant-general, Lieut.-Col. Otter, and for the presentation of shooting prizes by Messdames, Mason, Bruce and Harston. The bulk of the prizes seemed to go to A and I companies and the drum and ambulance corps. After the parade the officers entertained their friends in the anteroom, while the band, under bandmaster Waldron, discoursed sweet music on the floor of the shed.

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The 48th Highlanders mustered on the night of Nov. 17 at the Armory over four hundred strong, under the command of Lt.-Col. Davidson. Lieut.-Col. Graveley, district paymaster, and Captain Macdougall were present, and called the rolls, while the regiment passed man by man before them. The regiment was about fifty over strength.

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The talk of the month, of course, has been the Thanksgiving Day sham fight. It is

getting to be an old story with the Toronto people, but I should think in view of the interest taken in the corps engaged by the force generally a pretty full report of the event should be interesting. I will cut down The Globe's account of it.

It was Parkdale that was threatened with the dire extremities of storm and sack from the force that wore "England's cruel red," as the Irish members of the Queen's Own put it. And it was the same Queen's Own who, in the extreme south part of High Park, made their final stand and stood off the embattled thousands of the scarlet brigade. Lieut.-Col. Hamilton's brigade orders issued to his officers put the situation concisely:—

"From information received," these confidential instructions run, "it is believed that a column of the enemy is moving eastward from Lambton for the purpose of trying to force an entrance into Toronto. On account of natural and other obstacles it is impossible for them to carry out this design except by entering at the junction of Roncesvalles avenue and Queen street." And accordingly it was in the fastness of High Park that the green-coated battalion prepared to meet the assault, and it was from Lambton and by the south of Toronto Junction that No. 2 Company, R. C. R., the Grenadiers, the 13th of Hamilton and the 48th Highlanders, headed by the Dragoons, took up their march. It was along a line a mile and a quarter long, away up around Bloor street, that the two armies came into conflict, it was southward through the ravines and roads of the park that the tide of battle rolled, and it was near the lake shore road that the Queen's Own made their final and successful stand.

Honors are pretty equal. The attacking force can boast of the celerity with which they drove the outpost lines down a mile and a half, and of the attack they made at the south of Grenadier Pond, driving right at the base of the defenders' position; and the defence can remind their late opponents that their numbers were exactly half those of the assailants, that their final position was almost impregnable, and that on the right they cleverly led on the assailants, inducing them to waste much ammunition and tricked them into blundering against a strong and entrenched position, filled with fresh troops, who wiped off in short order four companies who were ruled out by the umpires as having been exposed to a fire which, in real warfare, would have annihilated them. At all events, no hard feelings were exhibited at the garrison dinner in the evening, except towards Webb's good fare, for which a day of tramping on very light lunches had been a marvelously good preparation. The sham battle, the review and the evening festivities passed off excellently and have taught the citizen soldiery some drill and have given many spectators an enjoyable outing.

It was a drawn battle, said Gen. Herbert at the close of the day. But if it was drawn, Parkdale was protected, and so the defending force can rest satisfied. Summarized, the General's criticisms of the movements, delivered after the garrison dinner, were to the effect that the battle was undecided. Faults were committed

on both sides, he said. The Queen's Own attempted too much for 607 men, and held at first a position a mile and a quarter long and a mile and a half deep. They were thus too scattered and could not concentrate a sufficient force at any one point where strength might be necessary. The attacking force, on the other hand, delivered its attacks in a disconnected and desultory fashion. There were three columns of them, corresponding to the three regiments, and their march was not timed so as to strike the enemy simultaneously, nor was there any good connection between the attacks, which were practically independent. Instead of assailing all at the same moment, the 13th in the centre, divided into two columns, delivered the first attack and were at first repulsed by the defenders. On the right, the Highlanders' column attacked at the lake shore road and had the first half battalion repulsed by three companies of the Queen's Own; then the second half battalion assailed and were repulsed by the three companies. On the left the Grenadiers and No. 2 company R. C. R. had another independent fight. The lesson of the whole, he said, was greater concentration in fighting.

Such being the strategic outline of the field day, it only remains to say in preface that the turnout was excellent, the total force being 1,945, composed of Royal Canadian Dragoons, 26; Governor-General's Body Guards, 18; No. 2 company Royal Canadian Regiment of Infantry, 62; Queen's Own, 607; 10th Royal Grenadiers, 455; 13th Battalion, 440, and the 48th Highlanders, 337. The weather was excellent for field work, being clear and chilly with a strong wind blowing from the west. It was all right for men on the move, but turned decidedly colder in the afternoon and the review at the Exhibition grounds was conducted in slight snow flurries, to the accompaniment of a piercing wind off the lake and chattering teeth. The crowds were very large and interfered very much with the progress of the manoeuvres, at once confusing the scouts and advertising the presence of every picket. When active hostilities began they swarmed in great numbers about the men, and often a hot fire would be poured into a thin line of men, around whom were ten times their number of spectators, who were everywhere around them except immediately in front of the muzzles of their rifles. There must have been several thousands of them, and they enjoyed their portion of the battle more than did the military. The whole affair was enjoyable to all concerned and remarkably instructive in the art of outpost war.

Major-General Herbert acted as umpire-in-chief. Lieut.-Col. Otter accompanying him as D. A. G. The other umpires were Lieut.-Col. Turnbull, R.C.D.; Lieut.-Col. F. C. Denison, G.G.B.G.; Lieut.-Col. Munro, 22nd; Lieut.-Col. Funn, G.G.B.G.; Lt.-Col. Wayling, 12; Lieut.-Col. King, Welland Field Battery; Lieut.-Col. Starke, 3rd Victoria Rifles; Lieut.-Col. Strathy, 5th Royal Scots; Major Sims, 3rd Victoria Rifles; Major Mead, T.F.B.; Capt. Macdougall, R. C. R.; Captain Hendrie, Hamilton Field Battery.

The ground on which the battle was fought was one well calculated in many

ways to test the mettle of the volunteers. A succession of ravines and streets running in different directions without any apparent object, of which even the policeman on duty did not know the names, or where they came from, or where they eventually led to, is the great feature of High Park topography. Marshes were not absent, and more than one detachment of men got their boots, and, for that matter, their trousers too, pretty well dampened in them. The hill, covered with trees, and sometimes with almost perpendicular sides, were tiresome to navigate, as many a civilian who tried to find new and original short cuts realized to his cost when he persistently turned up at the spot he left to follow the firing. The complicated nature of the scenery and its entire want of organization of any kind known to modern surveying rendered it difficult in the extreme to keep up communication between the different arms of the attack. The defence, being more compact in their formation, did not experience the same difficulty.

The crowd interfered with the centre and right more than with the left of the attack. They swarmed around the right especially so that it was sometimes difficult for the men to keep from shooting off an occasional head. The Grenadiers were much more fortunate in this respect than the 13th and Highlanders, as the heavy firing which occurred at the centre before the left attacked attracted the people in that direction, and left the Bloor street end fairly free.

It was 7.55 o'clock when the Queen's Own fell in at the Armory and began the preliminary work of proving companies, numbering off, and dividing into half companies and sections—preliminary precautions peculiarly necessary for such work as was on hand. The work was hurried though, and at 8.30 precisely the regiment moved off, marching along King street directly to the junction of King and Queen streets at Roncesvalles avenue. The march was chilly and long, and it was 9.45 when the objective corner was reached. There were two battalions of them, and the battalion commanders were in charge of them. Consequently Col. Hamilton did not feel obliged to accompany them along this preliminary march. Thus it was that at 9.30 a trusty trolley car bore him swiftly along Queen street to the rendezvous. Proudly he dismounted and ascended the horse which some menial had brought out for him; and then impatiently did he wait for his brigade of defenders. At 9.20 the cycle corps came wheeling up, headed by Color-Sergt. Langton. They drew up in line by the hotel, piled their machines, and stood easy, fingering the murderous "British Bulldog" revolvers which they wore. Soon after Gen. Herbert, accompanied by Capt. Streatfeild, A.D.C.; Lieut.-Col. Otter and Lt. Col. Turnbull rode by. Then came the Body Guards, sixteen rank and file, under Capt. Fleming and Lieut. Peters. Among them were three or four U.C.C. boys. Next came the body of the Queen's Own. As they drew up ready for action they were of the following strength:—

Field officers, 4; staff officers, 3; captains, 9; subalterns, 14; staff-sergeants, 12; sergeants, 38; ambulance corps, 21; signal

corps, 11; pioneers, 9; bicycle corps, 22; musicians, 73; rank and file, A Company, 38; B Company, 44; C Company, 30; D Company, 44; E Company, 30; F Company, 48; G Company, 32; H Company, 51; I Company 39; K Company, 33; total, 607 men and eight horses. There were two battalions of six companies each, the bands being treated as companies. No. 1 battalion was under Major Delamere, with Capt. Thompson as major, and Lieut. Crean as adjutant, and Dr. Leslie as surgeon. It was to act as a reserve. No. 2 battalion was under Major Sankey, with Major Pellatt acting as major, Capt. Mercer as adjutant, and Dr. Natrass as surgeon. They were to constitute the outpost line.

The regiment lost no time but plunged into High Park by the eastern and western gates. The reserve was told off to occupy the grounds which ultimately became the final line of defence. The chosen six companies of No. 2 battalion pushed on, and by 10.30, the hour specified, had taken up their outpost line and posted their pickets and supports.

As the line then extended it was about a mile and a quarter long. It began on the right at the junction of Bloor and Dundas streets, where F Co. was stationed, pushing its pickets and sentries forward in a north-westerly direction, slightly curling forward. Some few hundred yards to their rear, at the corner of High Park avenue and the Indian road, was I Co., snugly ensconced behind a rather singular mound, which makes a natural fortress, and which afterwards gave the Grenadiers and No. 2 Co. much trouble. Over to the left, across a gully, and on the shoulder of a little bluff, was No. 3 picket, comprised of E Co. Right across yet another valley was H Co., the main body in rear of Bloor street, but detached sentries and guards thrown out to the north. Inclining off sharply to the left, the line was completed by D Co., which in several detachments guarded the very difficult ground rising over the north of Grenadier Pond, and the ravine and creek extending northward from that lake. After 10.30 Capt. Mason took a good portion of his command over the ravine, and established an extreme advanced post on the high ground on the other side. This advance guard ultimately proved of great service. To the rear of this, G Co. was in support. It was not intended to hold this line against a serious attack, the two companies on the right being directed to retire upon a post in rear of their positions, and about midway between Indian road and Roncesvalles avenue. The other four companies had a rallying point about two-thirds of the way up Grenadier Pond, and not far from it. Meanwhile the reserve was preparing a third position yet more in the rear.

The Grenadiers mustered at their armory and embarked on a special train of ten coaches at the City Hall Station. It was just 9.50 when the train steamed out with her warlike load, who kept a sharp lookout for the enemy, but, as the only enemy that appeared was contained in an occasional bottle, it was easily despatched. The journey to Lambton was uneventful, and though there was a concourse of six people at Parkdale Station who looked in sullen silence at the enemy going out to

come back and attack the city, no hostile demonstration was made. The Grenadiers were the last battalion to arrive at Lambton, and disembarking quickly, they stormed a wire fence and formed up, the parade state being:—

Col. Dawson in command, Majors Mason and Hay, Adj. McLean.

A Co., Lieut. Smith, Lieut. Beck (34th), three sergeants, 36 men.

B Co., Capt. Cameron, Lieut. Boyd, four sergeants, 24 men.

C Co., Capt. Gaston, three sergeants, 40 men.

D Co., Capt. Gibson, Lieut. Stinson, four sergeants, 26 men.

E Co., Capt. Gosling, Lieut. Lehman, two sergeants, 24 men.

F Co., Lieut. Swatman, three sergeants, 32 men.

G Co., Capt. McKay, Lieut. Wills, two sergeants, 22 men.

H Co., Capt. Trotter, Capt. Hunter (U. C. C.), four sergeants, 40 men.

I Co., Capt. Harston, Lieut. Bain, three sergeants, 18 men.

K Co., Lieut. Chadwick, four sergeants, 26 men.

1 Ambulance and signal corps, Assistant Surgeon King, one sergeant, 15 men.

Pioneers, one sergeant, 15 men.

Brigade-Sergeant-Major Cummings, Staff sergeants, seven.

The band, under Bandmaster Waldron, turned out 33 strong and the bugle band, under Drum-Major Farmer, numbered 38.

Total strength, 445.

The Highlanders mustered at their headquarters at old Upper Canada College and marched to their special train, which got off promptly—not with "military promptness," which in a case of this kind generally means a couple of hours late, but with genuine railway promptness. They arrived at Lambton without accidents, and were disembarked by the time the Grenadiers' train pulled in. The total turn-out of the regiment was 337, with Col. Davidson in command and Major McDonald second. There were four staff officers and eleven staff-sergeants. Surgeon-Major Stewart was in command of the ambulance corps, consisting of one sergeant and seven men. The strength of the companies and their officers were:—

A Co., Capt. Robertson, Lieut. Ramsay, 35 men.

B Co., Capt. Donald, Lieut. McLean, 34 men.

C Co., Lieut. Campbell, 27 men.

D Co., Capt. Michie, 33 men.

E Co., Capt. Cassels, 28 men.

F Co., Capt. Hendrie, Lieut. Orchard, 32 men.

G Co., Lieut. Mitchell, 29 men.

H Co., Brevet-Major Henderson, Lieut. Perry, 36 men.

The bugle and bass bands contained in all 46 men, and were separated by the pipers, to the number of twelve.

The commissariat was in charge of Quarter-Master Adams and Sergt. Mathew.

The pioneer corps comprised three men.

The Hamilton contingent of the attacking force paraded in Hamilton at 7.45 a.m., and left at 8.40 on a special train of twelve cars, run in two sections of six each. A good run brought them to the rendezvous of the attack in good time.

The total strength of the regiment's turn out was 440, under command of Lieut.-Col. Moore, with Major McLaren and Major Stewart. The staff-sergeants were—Sergt.-Major Huggins, Staff-Sgt. Clarke, Quarter-Master-Sergt. Bernard, Orderly

Room Clerk Sergt. Mills, Pioneer Sergt. Bismarck, Bugle-Major Filkin, Staff-Sergt. Miller, and Staff-Sergt. Omand. Chaplain Forneret and Surgeon-Major Griffin and Assistant Surgeon Rennie were also with the regiment. The strength by companies and the officers were as follows:—

A Co., Capl. Stoneman, Lieuts. Herring and Marshal, 44 men.

B Co., Capt. Bonville, Lieuts. Powis and Ross, 41 men.

C Co., Capt. Zealand, Lieuts. Lester and Barker, 33 men.

D Co., Capt. Ross, Lieut. Fearman, 47 men.

E Co., Capt. Osborn, Lieuts. Whitten and Labatt, 44 men.

F Co., Capt. Tiddville, Lieut. Laidlaw, 37 men.

G Co., Capt. Mewburn, Lieuts. King and Bertram, 46 men.

H Co., Capt. Moore, Capt. Thairs, attached from the 19th Batt., Lieut. Barker, 43 men.

The band numbered 35 pieces.

The Royal Canadian Dragoons turned out 23 strong, non-commissioned officers and men, under command of Capt. Lessard, Lieut. Forrester and Veterinary Surgeon Hall. They looked well in their handsome uniforms, and exhibited their skill as horsemen to the admiring crowds of non-military spectators. Throughout the day they were generally allowed by onlookers of sporting proclivities to have "the best of the game," because, being mounted, they were not compelled to waste their muscular energy in climbing the steep hills.

No. 2 Company, R. C. I., left the New Fort and marched to Lambton, Lieut. Lawrie, in command, with 61 men. They had an arduous task to perform, as they were on foot all day and came in for a good deal of skirmishing. Their position on the extreme left of the advance guard required steady, careful and rapid work, and the fact that they had to signal for reinforcements from the Grenadiers early in the day shows that they encountered the enemy in greater force than was expected.

It was cold work for the men after disembarkation to stand round and shiver by sections and subdivisions. Some of the Highlanders and 13th were put through a little skirmishing practice, and this warmed them up a little, but the Grenadiers stood still and stamped their feet and swung their arms to keep up the circulation. The bandmen, with the assistance of the small boy, who even at this early stage of the day's proceedings was becoming epidemic, built fires of leaves and sticks, which afforded a grateful warmth to the musicians.

At Elizabeth street the Grenadiers separated from the main body of the attack and proceeded along this street for some distance. Near Clendenan avenue they took to the fields, and their advance guard was strengthened and extended by Companies A and B so as to be in touch with No. 2 Co., R. C. I., on the extreme left, and with the 13th on the right. Capt. Harston, who commanded the advance guard, boldly entered the ravine, and, in co-operation with No. 2 Co., drove in the advanced pickets of the Q.O.R., whom they found where the ravine crosses Keelo street. The old burnt house on the east side of the ravine was captured after a

sharp skirmish, the attack being carried on by No. 2, who, having found the enemy in greater force than was expected, had signalled for reinforcements from the Grenadiers, a request which was promptly answered, Capt. Gosling's company being sent to assist the men from the fort. This strikingly illustrated the usefulness of the signal corps, the message being sent almost instantaneously from under the brow of the hill on which the skirmish was taking place to the main body of the Grenadiers, who were on the opposite side of the ravine. The civilians who saw the two members of the signal corps waving their flags rapidly from side to side thought it a very interesting feature of the skirmishing, but did not realize that on the message so conveyed depended the lives of 61 men.

The Grenadiers kept on advancing steadily, throwing out companies in skirmishing order in advance from time to time, so that the greater part of the battalion came into action not with shouts, cheers and wild rushes and that sort of thing, but with steady, quiet work. The enemy were forced by the left wing to retire, with occasional stands southward towards the entrenched position, where the final struggle was to take place. Towards the end of the fighting the men in the last three companies of the Grenadiers began to fear that they were not to get any share in the fighting, as they had not yet come into action. However, they were sent to the front to take the place of companies who had used up their ammunition and blazed away at the entrenched position of the enemy, and, from an exposed position, did great execution.

The attack on the left wing was not always in touch with either the centre or with No. 2 Co., who sometimes got out of communication with the advance guard of the Grenadiers. A squad of Grenadiers on the extreme right of the wing were seen who did not even know what regiment was nearest to them on the right, and were suddenly surprised by seeing the Queen's Own scouts right under them as the defenders retired before the Thirteenth.

The Grenadiers complain of the treatment they received at the hands of the umpires in at least one case. They say that a Co. of the Q.O.R. were covered on three sides by the Grenadier companies commanded by Captains Cameron, Gosling and Harston. No umpire was on hand at the time, and the companies stood at ease until an umpire appeared. When one arrived he declared the three companies of the Grenadiers out of action, as being practically dead, while they say that the Q.O.R. companies were in such a position that they were completely annihilated, and that, instead of retiring to the rifle pit to fight, they should have laid down and died.

In accordance with the arrangements the Royal Canadian Dragoons, separating into small scouting parties, scattered themselves over a considerable extent of territory from the place of rendezvous, with the intention of thrashing out the district thoroughly in quest of scouting parties of the enemy. It was understood that, after covering the country, their paths should converge towards a common

centre, where they would be in a position to render whatever services the Brigadier might assign them. As the Dragoons were despatched a considerable time before the main body got under way, good results came, quicker than might have been expected. Near the corner of Elizabeth and Dundas streets two Q. O. R. scouts on bicycles who had ventured into too close proximity to the lines of the attacking force, paid for their temerity with the loss of their liberty. They were George Friend of H Co. and Harry Pearson of I Co. Several companions not far in their rear came near sharing the same fate, but their efficiency as wheelmen saved them.

At 11.30 the Brigadier gave the order to form in line of march, and quietly and in good order the whole force moved off, the Grenadiers leading, the 13th following, and the 48th Highlanders bringing up the rear. At Jane street the knowledge as to the location of the main body of the army of defence was secured, with full information as to the position of the outposts. It was learned that the headquarters of the Q.O.R. were in High Park, almost on the line of the proposed extension of Keele street. This position was secured by a line of outposts covering the district extending from the head of Grenadier Pond to the junction of Bloor and Dundas streets, with here and there entrenched positions throughout the park at points of vantage. A halt was at once called, and a brief council held, at which the plan of attack was promptly decided upon. It was resolved that the attack should be made from three points simultaneously. The Grenadiers, under Col. Dawson, formed the left wing; the Highlanders, commanded by Col. Davidson, the right, while the Brigadier and Major Buchan remained with the centre division. The march was then continued along Dundas street until Elizabeth was reached, at which point the Grenadiers separated from the main body and worked down by way of Keele street towards Roncesvalles avenue, to drive in the outposts there, and then make as rapid a march as possible on the enemy's centre. The main body pushed rapidly along Elizabeth street to its point of convergence with Annette street. Here the Highlanders took the route west to Jane street, where they wheeled south and marched to Bloor street, which they crossed, and pushed down into the ravine at Grenadier Pond. The 13th, at Annette street, threw out an advance guard, under Col. Dawson, which still continued along Elizabeth in front of the main body. At the same time two parties, one of four and the other of three men, were directed to skirmish on both side of Lakeview Pond, and bring in intelligence of the enemy's whereabouts. Before reaching Bloor street the regiment again divided, and three companies under command of Major Stewart pushed their way into the ravines leading to the south and east, while the other five companies continued towards Bloor street, and secured possession of Grenadier Height, due north of the pond. This point is not only sheltered from the enemy's fire by a protecting wood, but to those in possession of it it affords a commanding view of the whole

valley and of the ravines on either side.

The positions of the attacking forces were now as follows: The 13th Battalion occupied the central ground, and the Kilties and the Grenadiers the extreme points of an imaginary arc which would stretch over about two miles, the Highlanders being on the right and in the valley, while the Grenadiers were on the left, and all were bearing down on the main body of the defending force with intention of enclosing it. From the position of advantage which the 13th had just secured they could see on the sides of the opposite bluff a straggling body of blue-coats, who were climbing the hill. It was seen, too, that they had secured a prisoner, his red coat showing brightly in contrast to the uniform of his captors. One company was left in command of the heights, and a charge was made on the opposite bluff, which was secured without a shot being fired in its defence. Reforming the scattered companies, the attacking party began advancing on a wooded knoll, in which it was supposed a party of the enemy might be lurking. The suspicion proved correct, and the red coats were met with such a well directed and sustained discharge of artillery that they paused in their advance. Reinforcements coming to their assistance, however, the disputed position was carried, the defenders retiring quietly and in good order. From this time out the engagements took less and less the appearance of skirmishes between outposts, and more the appearance of a regular fight, the scattered bodies of the attackers gradually massing together, and at the same time slowly but surely driving the defenders south through High Park to the point near the lake shore, at which they had resolved on making their final and determined stand. The superior numbers of the attacking party forced the retirement of the blue coats wherever they presented themselves, but their retreat in every instance was well made, and only after the impossibility of any longer holding out in the face of vastly superior force. On several occasions the umpires ordered the attacking party to cease firing, owing to the impossibility of cutting off the retreat or of destroying a detachment of the Q. O. R., thus recognizing the cleverness of the blue-coated rifles. After a half hour's continuance of this state of affairs firing to the south and east indicated that the Grenadiers were engaged in that direction, and had pushed in the defenders' outposts almost to the temporary headquarters of the blue coats. At the same moment, nearly, Col. Davidson came over the brow of the hill, and appeared on the plateau with four companies of the 48th Highlanders; and the three companies of the 13th Battalion, which had separated from the main body at Annette street, again joined it. Col. Davidson drew his men into column, but did not interfere with the progress of the battle, as the 13th seemed to have everything in their own hands. He advanced, however, to render what assistance might be needed.

The most stubborn resistance which was made by the defending force took place at the public shelters in the park. Here they had a fair, open field in front of

them, behind a most satisfactory means of retreat, and they were covered fairly well from the fire of their assailants. Volley after volley was exchanged until the besiegers became so numerous that resistance was no longer possible, and the blue-coats retired to a wooded knoll some distance in the rear, where another stand was made. After this position had been captured the defenders were forced steadily back all along the line. Here and there, where a clump of trees afforded a halting place, some sharp firing took place, but, with the concentration of the red-coats, which had been rapidly taking place, opposition to superior numbers grew gradually weaker. At length the High Park roadway was reached, the Q. O. R. retiring along the eastern ridge. The hills on the other side of the roadway at the point the opposite embankment had defended it might have offered a serious difficulty to the party of attack. It had been secured, however, by a party of the Dragoons, and the passage across of the Highlanders with Col. Davidson, was attended with no greater danger than the possibility of broken limbs in climbing down the declivity, which had been rendered exceedingly slippery by the litter of oak leaves. The descent, however, was accomplished without accident, although several of the kilties furnished amusement by involuntary tumbles from the top to the bottom.

During the time that the 13th had been securing Grenadier Heights and forcing their way into High Park the Highlanders were struggling with natural difficulties in Grenadier ravine. The regiment, after reaching a point south of Morningside Church, divided into two sections. It was decided that Col. Davidson, with one party, should scale the heights into High Park and join the 13th in driving the Q. O. R. to the Lake Shore road, while Major Macdonald, with the other four companies, should pass around by the lower end of Grenadier Pond and attack the army of the defence on the flank.

The progress of Col. Davidson's detachment was stopped by Grenadier Creek, and a bridge had to be constructed for the purpose of overcoming this obstacle. This work occupied about half an hour, but the achievement was a credit, not only to the industry of the men, but to the mechanical skill of the commander. The delay proved disastrous, however, to the ardent enthusiasm of the warriors, and they arrived on the field of battle too late to be of assistance to their victorious comrades. The other detachment of the regiment obtained a yet more ambiguous renown. They, indeed, accomplished the journey about the pond with a celerity which testified to their desire to engage the enemy, but their zealous valor was not directed by the dictates of prudence, and they fell into an ambush, from which they retreated with the loss, it is estimated, of the great majority of their soldiery. The idea which Major Macdonald attempted to carry into execution was one which would have shed lustre on his name as a military tactician had the execution of the design been rewarded with success. Had he made good the march to the point he proposed

the victory would no longer have been doubtful. It would have meant the capture of the base of the defence's position, and also of the rifle pits of the Queen's Own, by the rear. The defenders' position here at the rifle pits was impregnable, except by a rear attack. Accordingly in the defeat of Major Macdonald's move, the defenders saved themselves from an overthrow which nothing could have retrieved.

'I have spent my life in trying to find out what was on the other side of the hill,' the Duke of Wellington said once; and, once posted, the green-coats realized some of the truth of this remark for the next two hours. The 'cyclists were scattered along the line, as were the mounted scouts. Several of the 'cyclists in front of H Company penetrated to within a short distance of Lambton, heard the buglers sounding the "fall in," and kept sight of the advance. They proved themselves remarkably efficient and useful. It was 11.20 a. m. when the first shots were heard. They came from Capt. Mason's sentries on the hill beyond the ravine, and they had brushed up against the 13th. The party hurriedly retired; in the ravine, however, the wily captain halted and coolly destroyed the bridge, doing excellent service thereby, and, as it proved, throwing a large portion of the kilties out of action. Then he fell back and took up his position on the brow of the heights.

Then fully an hour elapsed before the red-coats were ready to develop their assault. Finally on they came in masses. On the right F and I Companies offered a stout resistance, retiring very slowly and disputing every inch. On the left, when once the enemy were across the ravines, they charged down fiercely and made rapid progress. Down south of the pond a three-company detachment met and checked the flanking move of the Highlanders from an excellent position they took upon the bluffs overhanging the road. When the second attack was being made this detachment was opportunely reinforced by some of the outpost line driven in, and the second attack was repelled.

The attack, now developed in force, drove the whole outpost line in, and about a quarter to 1 o'clock the whole of the Queen's Own were safely in their third position, towards which they had been aiming all the time. It was very strong. The Indian road cut it, about one-third of it being to the west of that street. That portion of the position was bounded on the west by the western road into High Park, the bank affording capital cover to the extreme left. The line continued along a line of knolls to the road. Across it, it ran past two or three houses to a very sharp conical hill, which was held, and then led on to the strongest part of the position; a very steep, though not very high, height ran along for some distance and had been formidably strengthened by rifle-pits and shelter trenches by B and C Companies and the buglers, a cordwood redoubt held by B Company forming the extreme right. A shallow valley filled with shrubby undergrowth was in front; and the approaches were so difficult, the hill so steep, and the defensive properties

so strong, that it was really impregnable. Against this rock the enemy's left stumbled, after almost exhausting their ammunition, and the rencontre did them no good. The Queen's Own had taken their ground here, and shown their determination to stake all by its defence, when the "Cease fire" was sounded, and the men fired off rapidly all their remaining ammunition. In all the defence had used about 24 rounds apiece. Then the regiments, attack and defence, massed in Indian road, ready to proceed to the Exhibition grounds.

From their rendezvous in the Indian road the regiments moved off in any order to the Exhibition grounds. They marched, the cavalry first, then the Highlanders, then the 13th, next the Queen's Own and then the 10th. They marched along King street to Close street, down it to the back entrance to the grounds of the Home for Incurables, and turned in, marching by the whole side of the home. The stricken inmates turned out in fullest force to see the soldiers march by, and if faces can be any sign there were gladdened hearts in the home, caused by the treat given the old people by an act of kind thoughtfulness. Some of the regiments marched by at attention. The Grenadiers were marching at ease, and saluted the old people and the Union Jacks they waved by a lusty chorus of "Three Cheers for the Red, White and Blue." The little deviation was the idea of Mrs. Hamilton, wife of Lt. Col. Hamilton, and Lt. Col. Otter made it possible by kindly giving his consent.

When the troops arrived at the grounds the expectation was that the men would be given until 3.30 p. m. in which to eat their lunch, as they were famished, it being then after 3 p. m., and the great majority having had nothing to eat since the very early breakfast. However, it was decided to hurry on the review, and in a bitter wind the regiments lined up in order of precedence, the Dragoons being on the extreme right, the Body Guards next, and then No. 2 Company, in line. The other regiments were in quarter column, and in the order of their numbering, except that the Queen's Own, their dark ranks looking peculiarly sombre and threatening, were on the left.

The proceedings were brief. First the Gen. and his staff rode along the line, received by the regulation air on the bands. Then the march past came. The Dragoons and Guards walked their horses past, and the infantry marched past in quarter column distance, rifles at the shoulder. The movement was repeated, the cavalry going by at the trot, the Dragoons' line being capital, and the Body Guards doing astonishingly well for indifferently mounted men with few opportunities of drill. The regiments then marched by in close column, with rifles at the trail. The marching was steady and accurate. After that the corps took up their positions again, advanced to the front, gave the royal salute and retired. General Herbert called the officers to the front, and briefly but warmly thanked them for the excellent turn out, professing himself highly pleased with the numbers and the zeal and spirit manifested. His criticisms, he said he would defer, and with

that the review terminated. It was 3.50 o'clock.

MONTREAL.

It looks as though military work for the season for the season was over, if we except the big gundrill of the Garrison Artillery and a couple of adjutant's classes. All idea of holding field manoeuvres appears to have been abandoned. It has been a hard year financially for all of the regiments, and it is not to be wondered at that there should be some hesitancy about contracting further expenses now, particularly as every one concedes that the expense of field manoeuvres should be borne by the Militia Department and not by the regiments themselves. There can be no doubt that such field works as that referred to would be of great value to the militia, and public money devoted to it would be well spent.

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The members of the Vic's maxim gun squad, read the report of the terrible execution of the machine guns upon the border of Metabeles with some sort of grim satisfaction. Not that these young gentlemen had anything in particular against the warlike Africans, or that they have an abnormally developed thirst for gore on general principles, but they regard the slaughter in Africa as ample justification for machine guns in general, and their own gun in particular. They are right enough too, but whoever doubted the utility of the modern machine gun?

LONDON.

The annual inspection and muster parade of the Seventh Fusiliers took place on Thanksgiving day. The Deputy Adj.-Gen., Lt.-Col. Smith, being the inspecting officer. There had previously been an inspection of the armories, which were found to be in excellent order, officers, non-com. officers and men having spent considerable time and money in getting everything in as good order as could possibly be done. No. 2. Company carried off the honor, a prize given by Col. Payne for the best kept armory, but were so closely pushed by No. 1. Company that some thought this company should have obtained the prize. The officers were examined in their questions and

it did well; they were, however, slightly handicapped owing to the non-attendance of Major Beattie and Captain Brookes. The Battalion was formed up on inspection day in the drill shed by Lt.-Col. Payne, but as it was evidently too small to drill even half the Battalion in they were moved out to Victoria Park and drawn up in line. Ranks opened and at 10 o'clock sharp the Deputy Adj.-Gen. approached the line and was received with the usual general salute. From that time until half-past two o'clock the inspection was kept up. Lieut.-Col. Payne and Major Harper putting the Battalion through a number of battalion movement with detail. Every officer present was also called to the front of his company and detailed company drill, firing exercises and so on. Section commanders also came in for their share of drill, the inspection being quite rigorous. Everything went off in good style, officers, non-

com. officers and men showing themselves fairly well up in their drill. The absence of Major Beattie and Captain Brookes will however, somewhat detract from the Battalion's percentage and was the subject of comment by both officers and men of the Battalion, who feel annoyed at their non-attendance. The Deputy Adj.-Gen. was pleased at the general showing of the Battalion.

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The annual inspection of the armories of the Seventh Battalion was made yesterday afternoon by Lt.-Col. Smith, P.A.G. at the Drill Shed in the presence of Lt.-Col. Payne, of the Seventh Batt., and the officers. The inspection was a most satisfactory one to the D. A. G., everything being found in splendid condition, so far as lay in the power of officers and men. At personal expenses the officers had made the dingy little armories to look quite inviting, and the arms and accoutrements gave evidence of proper care. In the evening the usual inspection of the officers was made by Lt.-Col. Smith.—Free Press, Nov. 18.

QUEBEC.

It is said that the two modern rifled guns for the Citadel will be the only really modern part of the armament. One of them is a nine-inch B. L. rifle, about the same size as the largest of H. M. S. Blake's engines of destruction, her two fore and aft guns. It is one of the most serviceable guns manufactured. The other is one of the new high angle firing six-inch guns, and is about the latest out. Both will be fully equipped with good carriages and all necessaries. They will give our artillerymen an opportunity of becoming fully acquainted with modern artillery and it is as much for this purpose as for any other that they are being brought out. The heaviest gun at present in the Citadel is the 8-inch breech-loading rifle, which looms up over the southwest end of the Citadel but the weight of the metal thrown by it is much inferior to that of the shell hurled from the mouth of the expected 9-inch baby, while in point of accuracy and penetration, the two cannot be compared. The 7-inch muzzle loading gun commanding the St. Lawrence towards the Island of Orleans comes next in point of size to the 8-inch gun, to which it is also much inferior and which commands the river towards Montreal as well as all the ground composing the scene of the first battle of the Plains of Abraham. With such a machine at their disposal the French under Montcalm in 1769 might have bothered the invaders very considerably.

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Thursday, Nov. 9, at one o'clock, Lieut. Joseph A. Benyon, R.C.A., was married to Miss Marie Blanche Thibaudeau, daughter of the U. Thibaudeau, Esq., of the firm of Thibaudeau Bros. & Co., at the St. Louis Chapel, the Rev. Father Fagny performing the ceremony. Both of the high contracting parties belong to the highest circles of society in Quebec. Mr. Benyon is a young officer of distinction, the son of Capt. Benyon, of Montreal, and the grandson of Andrew Allan, Esq., the head

of the Allan Line. The bride is a young lady whose amiability and kindness of manners have endeared her to the hearts of all who have the pleasure of her acquaintance. Her popularity was amply proved by the long list of splendid presents which her friends in every walk of life, literally showered upon her. Few are the brides who have fared so well as she. The ceremony was strictly private, owing to the recent death of the bride's uncle, the Hon. Isidore Thibaudeau. Mr. Benyon was attended by Mr. William Dobell. Miss Thibaudeau was given away by her stepfather, Urie Tessier, Esq., assisted by Alfred Thibaudeau, Esq., of Montreal. The only relations present, besides the above named, were Capt. and Mrs. Benyon, father and mother of the groom, and Mr. and Mrs. William Rae. Mr. R. R. Dobell sent his carriage to convey the bride from her residence to the chapel. The happy pair left immediately by the Quebec Central Railway, for the United States, where the honeymoon will be spent, followed by the hearty congratulations and good wishes of their many friends.

Naval and Military News.

The Navy is represented in Matabeleland. With the column from Fort Victoria, which was in the skirmish the other day, is Lt. E. C. Tyndale-Briscoe, who retired from the Navy in September, 1889. He was a midshipman of the Euryalus during the Egyptian war of 1882, and in 1884, when landed with the Naval Brigade in the Soudan, distinguished himself at the battle of Tamai. He was selected to convey a banner taken from the sheikhs on that occasion to the Lords of the Admiralty, and was specially mentioned in despatches for coolness and gallantry. He wears the Egyptian medal with Suakin and Tamai clasps, the Khedive's bronze star, and the Medjidie of the 5th class. He commanded the machine guns of the pioneer force in the advance to Fort Salisbury, where he first hoisted the British ensign, and now he has the command of the Maxim guns of the northern column of the Chartered Company's force advancing upon Bulawayo.

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The annual Balaclava banquet, to commemorate the thirty-ninth anniversary of the memorable charges by Lord Cardigan's gallant "Six Hundred" and Sir James Scarlett's heavy brigade, was held on Wednesday night, Oct. 25, at the Cavalry Club, London, when amongst the surviving officers there were present: The Earl of Lucan, Lord Hylton, Lord Tredegar, Generals Sir C. Shute, K.C.B., G. C. Clarke, C.B., W. C. Forrest, C.B.; Major Generals Alexander Elliot, C.B., R. T. Godman, and W. Musnellen; Surg. Gen. J. Monat, C.B., V.C.; Colonels Lennox-Prembergast and Swilen; Lt. Colonel John Glas Sandeman; Major M. C. Theobald, M.C., Clowes, Everard-Hutton, and Phillips, together with Captains Catterbeck, Halford, E. R. Fisher-Rowe, Leevan, Hefferon and Sutherland. The toast of "Our Comrades who Fell" was honoured in solemn silence. Some of the survivors of those that fought in the rank also dined together the same evening at the St. James' Hall restaurant.

The Cape papers contain an account of the capture of an Arab dhow by one of the Raleigh's boats. Notice was given to the officers of the presence of the dhow in Zanzibar waters by an interpreter, and the first cutter, under Lt. Wemyss, was despatched in pursuit of her. When the dhow was sighted it was a calm, so the dhow, which was flying the French flag, could not get away. As soon as he got within hailing distance, the lieutenant commanded the Arab captain to lower his sails, but without waiting the cutter pulled alongside. The Arabs resisted the efforts of the bluejackets to search their vessel, but they were overpowered. Five slaves were found in the hold, two boys and three girls. A prize crew was placed on board, and the cutter lay by during the night, the weather becoming thick and squally. The captain of the dhow and another Arab jumped overboard with the intention of swimming ashore, and whether they succeeded or not nothing more was heard of them. The prize was handed over to the French Consul, and the children to the French Mission.

The unfortunate French triple-screw cruiser Dupuy de Lome (6,292 tons), from which so much is expected, has broken down seriously at her trials. The terrible disaster which occurred on board this ship will be remembered. Her motor apparatus has since been altered and overhauled, and she has been under trial for some weeks back, with success. She attained a speed of 19 knots with 10,000 horse power. Shocks were certainly detected in the working of her engines, but these were not thought to affect their stability. The crowns of her furnaces have, however, now given way, so that steam has had to be reduced and the middle engine stopped. She will therefore once more need considerable repairs.

Colonel C. F. Clery, C.B., lately commandant of the Staff College, is likely to receive the offer of a district command in India.

Major General Tulloch, commandant of the military forces of Victoria, has declined the offer made by the officers of the Bendigo Militia to furnish 100 men for service against the Matabele. The commandant declares that Australian aid is not required in South Africa. At the same time he thanks the officers for their patriotism, which goes to prove that the federation of the Colonies of the Empire already exists. In concluding his reply the general says: "I advise the men to reserve their strength to protect Australia or to give their assistance for preserving the Empire of India, which will probably be necessary when the inevitable war breaks out between the powers."

There is a disposition among members of the Imperial Parli. interested in naval affairs to raise the question in the House of the alleged backwardness of the Admiralty in supplying the deficiencies in the Navy caused by recent losses, especially in view of the

progress made by foreign navies. It is expected that the question will be discussed by the London Chamber of Commerce at its meeting next week. Questions will be put in the House on the subject, and if the Ministerial replies are unsatisfactory, it is not unlikely that there will be an attempt to raise a discussion.

Colonel J. Goldie, half-pay, the Carabiniers, who was last employed as Assistant Adjutant-General in Canada, attained the age of fifty-seven on the 5th inst., and has been placed on retired pay. The gallant officer served throughout the Indian Mutiny campaign, being present at all the principal engagements, including Cawnpore and Lucknow.

The subject of the increased cost entailed by the reinforcement of the British Army of Occupation in January last has been under discussion between the British and Egyptian Governments. Nothing has yet been settled on the point.

The standard height for the enlistment of recruits into the Foot Guards has been raised from 5 feet 8 inches to 5 feet 9 inches.

Lt. Col T. P. Shannon, Army Service Corps, has been selected for the post of Deputy-Assistant Adjutant-General of the North-Western District, in the place of Lt. Col L. A. Clutterbuck, who has been transferred to the Staff in Canada.

Colonel H. M. Bengough, C.B., has been granted the temporary rank of major-general on taking over the command of the troops at Jamaica. The gallant officer is well up the list, and will probably receive substantive rank at an early date.

The Admiralty have ordered the *Barfleur*, battleship, which is being fitted for sea at Chatham Dockyard, to be completed as early as possible.

We are glad to learn says an English service paper that further experiments recently carried out in India with cordite for the magazine rifle seem to confirm the hope that by the new method of loading cartridges the erosion of the barrel may be got over.

The London Graphic publishes an interview with Admiral Frederick B. P. Seymour (Baron Alcester) upon the state of the navy. He says that the condition of the navy is most serious. Twenty million pounds, he declares, ought to be expended to build quickly ten first-class men-of-war, and as many cruisers as possible. He condemns the practice of building vessels with unar-

moured ends, and advocates the use of a complete belt at the water line, on account of the great strength which would thus be given to the rams, which he says, would be the chief offensive weapon in future naval warfare. He complains of the lack of a sufficient number of trained seamen, and says the Mediterranean fleet ought to be largely increased, and Gibraltar retained at all cost.

The captain and crew of the French dhow captured with sixty-seven slaves on board in Zanzibar Harbour by the *Philomel* have been acquitted by the Reunion Court. The decision has produced a profound sensation in view of the immunities for slave-running thus secured by the French flag.

The majority of the Russian troops are stated now to be armed with the magazine rifle made in France, though some months back it was rumoured that these weapons were unserviceable. As a matter of fact they are quite good. The remainder of the Russian forces are to be provided with the new rifle by next autumn. The Czar's Army would then be ready for war, but that does not mean that the Czar is likely thereupon to abandon his present policy of inactivity.

All ranks of the 8th Hussars have been much distressed since the cutting of certain saddles of the regiment. They have used every exertion to discover the delinquent. A man of the name of Gallagher, who was strongly suspected, has now given himself up as deserter from the Royal Artillery, and as having been discharged from the 5th Dragoon Guards with ignominy. This is a great relief to the regiment, as no doubt to this scoundrel the deed was due which recently brought so much discredit on a distinguished regiment.

Military Books and Magazines.

The Canadian Military Institute, Toronto, is deserving of much more support than it receives from the members of the militia force outside of the Toronto district. Its publications of papers and discussions on questions of interest to the force are really most valuable, and considering what the Institute has already accomplished, it is impossible to avoid regretting that the hands of its management have not been strengthened by a very much increased membership. The last publication of the Institute is one which it is a pity could not be put into the hands of every Canadian militiaman really interested in the force. The following list of contents gives a good idea of the wide range of subjects discussed:

Lectures, The Fundamental Principles Underlying the Battle Tactics of the different Arms, Major C. B. Mayo; The Administrative System of a British Regiment (Infantry) and the Adaptation of the Princi-

ples of that System to the Active Militia of Canada, Lt.-Col. W. D. Otter; Fire Discipline, Lt.-Col. A. H. Macdonald; The Afghan War, With the Khyber Column under Sir S. J. Browne, Surgeon-Major W. N. Keefer; The Strategic Value of Canadian Railways, Lt.-Col. T. C. Seoble; The Best Mode of Enlisting and Training a City Corps, (Infantry) of the Active Militia under Existing Conditions, Lt.-Col. H. Smith. Reprints The Military Geography of Canada, Capt. A. L. Wanger, 6th U. S. Infantry; Fire Discipline; its Necessity in a Battery of Horse or Field Artillery, and the Best Means of Securing it, Major A. M. Murray, R.A.; The Art of Marching, Colonel E. T. Hutton, A.D.C.; The Encouragement of Useful Rifle-Shooting, Capt. M. Bayly, 2nd N. S.W. Infantry; Abstract of Annual General Meeting; List of Members.

The reprint of the Captain Wager's lecture is one of the most interesting things in the book. It is really a paper on the best method of invading Canada from the American point of view. It is a reprint of a lecture on "The Military History of Canada," delivered before the Infantry and Cavalry School, Fort Leavenworth, by Captain Wager, Instructor in the Art of War. The lecturer has this to say about the mobilization of the Canadian militia:—"If the Canadians were to accomplish feats of organization and mobilization equal to those of the Germans, and were to call out all the four classes of the militia, they may produce an army of 800 000 men. But such results are obtained only when popular clamor absolutely demands war; when each man feels that his religion, his well being, or his personal liberty is in jeopardy; or when from some great cause, his combativeness has been roused to the greatest degree. The presence of people in Canada favorably disposed to the United States, of those actually hostile to Great Britain, of internal difficulties owing to racial antipathies, and of many other conditions, must be ignored if we imagine this aggregate possible. It is more probable that the first call would bring out about 40 000 Canadian militia. New England, the middle States, Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, Wisconsin and Illinois, could at once oppose them with a fully 60 000 organized militia; and there is no reason to believe that an Anglo-Saxon militiaman, reared on the banks of the St. Lawrence, is in any way superior to an Anglo-Saxon militiaman born and bred on the banks of the Hudson or the Illinois. The Canadian militia has doubtless improved since the day when the "Queen's Own" of Toronto ran away from the Fenians; the American militia is certainly better than it was when it led from the field of Bladensburg. The Canadian active militia would doubtless be increased more or less from the reserve. Under the stimulus of victory it might even grow into a formidable army; but under the depressing influence of defeat it would suffer the disintegration of all militia armies in adversity."

Any one reading the above will be at once struck with the unfairness of underestimating the available strength of the Canadian Militia on account of the American sympathizers supposed to be in the Dominion, and making no corresponding reduction from the strength of the United

States border militia. Of course every one knows that for every American sympathizer we have in Canada there are twenty British loyalists in the United States. Has the author not heard of the large numbers of Canadians and Britishers who rushed to the assistance of Canada from the United States, some of them from as far as Chicago, at the time of the Fenian raids. Still it must be admitted that the author is pretty impartial for an American. He explains that the seventy thousand regular troops with which Britain would back up Canada would be "the best in Europe," and he goes on to say "our ultimate preponderance in military strength cannot be doubted; but I do not share the views of those who think the military conquest of Canada would be a military promenade for the American army."

In concluding his lecture, Captain Wager expresses the belief that without the United States had at its disposal a superior fleet to that of Great Britain it could not effect a permanent conquest of Canada.

Military Pictures.

There is an inspiration for any body with a heart in his bosom in a good military picture; but soldiers should be able to appreciate military art better than anybody else and they doubtless do. Be it said to the credit of the militia that some really fine collections of military pictures can be found in the ante-rooms and orderly rooms of our forts. Most enthusiastic militiamen have more or less elaborate collections of military pictures, and such collections would be more complete and more general if their owners had but known where they could safely apply for the requisite works of art. For the benefit of such we would merely like to convey the intimation that we now have in Montreal a firm which will supply all the standard military pictures required, and to give militiamen an idea of the standing of the firm it is but necessary to say that Lt. Col. John Hood is at the head of it. The Hood Company, it should be said at the start, is the sole agent for Canada of Goupil Company, of Paris; the Fine Arts Society, of London, and Thomas Agnew & Sons, of London, three of the best known firms of art engravers in the world. The pictures the Hood Company keep in stock include such well known military subjects as "Rorkes Drift," etching by Fleming from the celebrated painting by De Nerville; "Tel-el-Kehir," photogravure; "Kassassin," by R. Canton Woodville; Lady Butler's "The Remnants of an Army," engraved by Chant; "The Roll Call," "Quatre Bras," "Balaclava," "Inkerman," the new picture by Lady Butler, engraved by Davy; "Scotland for Ever;" Robert Gibbs' two pictures, "The Thin Red Line," and "The Alma," or "Forward the 42nd;" "Saving the Guns at Maiwand," by G. B. Gibbs; "The Scots Guards on Rotten Row," "Guard Mounting," the late Duke of Clarence as major of the 10th Hussars, by Mathews, etc. etc.

The firm's military pictures also include the whole series by De Neuville and Detaille, and reproductions of all

the standard illustrations of the Franco-Prussian war. Prices run as high as \$150 for artists' proofs and as low as \$6 for prints.

A Very Pretty Idea.

"One touch of nature makes the whole world kin;" and it is thought to be a very pretty idea started by the Canadian Military Gazette to obtain the consent of the commanding officer of the old 100th Regiment, the Royal Canadians as they are now called, in remembrance of their Canadian origin, to the men's wearing the maple leaf next Dominion Day; and if permission is granted to their so doing with the assistance of the journal's subscribers, to forward the necessary leaves to the regiment in India. Canadian ladies are asked to collect some of the finest autumn leaves they can find, it being properly thought that the men in India would wear their maple leaves all the prouder on Dominion Day if they know that they were the very best procurable in all the broad Dominion, and picked out and selected by Canada's fairest daughters.

The happy thought arose from a suggestion made by a correspondent to the Maple Leaf, the regimental journal of the Leinster regiment (Royal Canadians) that by keeping Dominion Day the old 100th should emphasise the interesting fact that they alone in the whole British Army bear the unique distinction of a colonial title. Every justification has it is noted, been given to the correspondent's anticipation, that as the loyal people of Canada take a very great interest in, and are as proud as ever of the "Royal Canadians" of the British Line, the compliment of keeping up Dominion Day in the regiment would be keenly appreciated by our Canadian brethren, and more particularly the members of the Canadian militia. Sentiment is yet a power in this world, and such little circumstances at these raise the hopes of those who look forward to an eventful federation of the British Empire.—The Naval and Military Record.

Shifting Ordnance Competition.

Annexed is the result of the shifting ordnance competition at Halifax, N. S. It has not been published before:

Shifting Ordnance Competition. The following were the details for the "A" shift as set forth in the programme: A 64-pr. R. M. I. gun a standing carriage to be dismounted by throwing it over the front on to the ground clear of the platform. The gun to be then taken by means of plank of rollers round the platform and re-mounted by long skids with rollers. Strength of detachment, 19 numbers. Stores allowed:

Drag ropes, heavy	- - - - -	2
Handspikes, 6 feet	- - - - -	8
Handspikes, 7 feet	- - - - -	2
Lashings, 1½ inch, 3 fathoms	- - - - -	2
Luff tackles	- - - - -	2
Planks, oak, 4in. x 12in. x 3in.	- - - - -	2
Planks, fir, 10in. x 17in. x 3in.	- - - - -	2
Planks, fir, 6in. x 12in. x 3in.	- - - - -	2
Scotches of sorts	- - - - -	12
Rollers, 14in. x 5in.	- - - - -	1
Rollers, 24in. x 5in.	- - - - -	2

Rollers, ground, 6in. x 3in. - - -	3
Skids, fir, 14in. x 8in. x 8in. - - -	2
Skids, oak, 3in. x 6in. x 9in. - - -	2
Skids, oak, 3in. x 6in. x 6in. - - -	2
Skids, oak, 3in. x 4in. x 4in. - - -	3
Salvages - - - - -	2

Fifteen minutes allowed for the above operation. Detachments taking a longer time will be disqualified.

For dismounting - - - - -	50
For operation on rollers - - - - -	75
For mounting - - - - -	100

Points may be deducted by umpire for mistakes at drill, careless or awkward handling of stores or other irregularities.

Result—No. 1 Det., No. 1 Co., Halifax Batt., commander Lt. Marshall, 18 min. disqualified; No. 1 Det., No. 3 Co., Halifax Batt., commander Sgt. Macdonald, 11 18 sec., points 45, 70, 95; No. 2 Det., No. 3 Co., Halifax Batt., commandant Corp. Cunningham, 30 min., disqualified; No. 1 Det., No. 4 Co., Halifax Batt., commandant Sgt. Maj. Gibbs, 9 min. 21 1-5 points 50, 70, 95; No. 1 Det., Montreal Batt., commandant Sgt. Maj. Benton, 23 min 10 sec., disqualified; No. 1 Det., P. E. Island Batt., commandant Lt. Dover, 14 min. 25 sec., points 50, 75, 100.

Prizes—1st, No. 1 Det. P. E. Island Batt., \$40; 2nd, No. 1 Det. No. 4 Co. Halifax Batt., \$30; 3rd, No. 1 Det. No. 3 Co. Halifax Batt., \$15.

B' shift—Gun to be dismounted on to the ground clear of the left side of the platform, by throwing it over the side, taken round to the other side of the platform and remounted by parbuckling by means of two skids. Carriage to be left in the centre of the platform. Stores available, same as for "A" shift, with addition of two parbuckle ropes and two long skids.

Result—No. 1 Det., No. 1 Co. Halifax Batt., Lt. Marshall, 12 min. 48 sec., \$40; No. 1 Det., P. E. Island Batt., Lt. Dover, 12 min. 55 sec., \$30; No. 3 Co. Halifax Batt., Maj. Maxwell, 13 min. 47 2-5 sec., \$15; No. 1 Det., No. 4 Co. Halifax Batt., Sgt. Maj. Gibbs, 15 min. 36 3-5 sec.; No. Det., No. 3 Co., Halifax Batt., Sgt. Macdonald, 16 min. 9 4-5 sec.

Fortieth Battalion Rifle Match.

The first annual match of the 40th Battalion Rifle Association was held at the rifle range in Campbellford on Friday, Nov. 3. Shooting commenced at 8.30 a.m. and continued until 4.30 p.m. Although the weather was fine for the season, yet the conditions of light and wind were not favorable for high scores, especially at the lower ranges. As this match was open to all members of the Association, considerable interest was manifested, and a goodly number of marksmen from Hastings, Birdsalls, as well as from Campbellford and vicinity competed keenly for the various prizes.

The committee of management thank most sincerely the citizens of Campbellford who responded so generously to the appeal for aid. With scarcely an exception, our professional and business men contributed liberally and with good grace, thus making it easy to arrange two very creditable series of prizes.

Association Match—200 yards and 500 yards.

1 Capt. Hamilton - - - - -	\$4.00
2 C. O'Neill - - - - -	3.00

3 Sergt. William Blue - - - - -	2.75
4 Lieut. W. Floyd - - - - -	2.25
5 Thomas H. Mills - - - - -	2.00
6 Michael Callaghan - - - - -	2.00
7 Dr. Kerr - - - - -	2.00
8 James Robinson - - - - -	1.75
9 Lieut. John Given - - - - -	1.75
10 J. L. Richmond - - - - -	1.50
11 M. Scott - - - - -	1.50
12 James Norris - - - - -	1.25
13 B. Carnahan - - - - -	1.25
14 Lieut. Jas. Fowlds - - - - -	1.25
15 Thos. G. Gillespie - - - - -	1.25
16 E. W. Gaudrie - - - - -	1.25
17 A. M. Shields - - - - -	1.00
18 Wm. G. Neill - - - - -	1.00
19 John W. Johnston - - - - -	1.00
20 Capt. Birdsall - - - - -	.75
21 W. E. Mills - - - - -	.75

Citizens' Match—400 and 600 yards.

1 Sergt. Wm. Blue - - - - -	\$4.00
2 Michael Callaghan - - - - -	3.00
3 C. O'Neill - - - - -	2.75
4 Capt. W. J. Hamilton - - - - -	2.25
5 Lieut. Wm. Floyd - - - - -	2.00
6 James Robinson - - - - -	2.00
7 John W. Johnston - - - - -	2.00
8 Capt. Birdsall - - - - -	1.75
9 Lieut. Jas Fowlds - - - - -	1.75
10 T. G. Gillespie - - - - -	1.50
11 M. Scott - - - - -	1.50
12 Wm. G. Neill - - - - -	1.25
13 J. L. Richmond - - - - -	1.25
14 J. Norris - - - - -	1.25
15 Lieut. John Given - - - - -	1.25
16 T. H. Mills - - - - -	1.25
17 A. M. Shields - - - - -	1.00
18 Dr. Kerr - - - - -	1.00
19 B. Carnahan - - - - -	1.00
20 W. E. Mills - - - - -	.75
21 E. W. Gaudrie - - - - -	.75

R. M. C. Graduates and the Permanent Force.

The following letter appeared in the Quebec Chronicle on the 11th:

Dear Sir,—With respect to your editorial which appeared in your issue of the 4th inst., I beg leave to point out certain inaccuracies which appeared therein, and which, if not corrected, will certainly serve to mislead the general public, or at least that part who are not fully conversant with the subject which you undertook to touch upon, and further, in justice to the graduates of the Royal Military College of Canada, who have never been given that consideration which they are justified in expecting, in view of the Regulations of the Militia and those under which they entered the College.

If you will carefully study the figures given in the statement herewith, you will no doubt readily admit that the graduates have reason to complain that they have not been given anything like a fair proportion of the appointments in the Permanent Corps of Canada.

The Royal Canadian Dragoons, officers establishment 10; no graduate; the Royal Canadian Artillery, 23 establishment officers, 6 graduates; the Royal Regiment Canadian Infantry, 24 establishment officers, 1 graduate.

Perhaps it would be as well for me to quote that part of the regulations of the Militia of Canada, which refers directly to the appointments in the Permanent Corps, which reads as follows:

So soon as there are a sufficient number of eligible graduates, appointments to Permanent Military corps will be made solely from this list; and after sufficient length of service and rank has been obtained by graduates, permanent Militia offices will be filled therefrom."

In view of the existence of the above regulation and to the number of commissions held by the 184 graduates, can it be wondered that exception is taken to the recent appointments.

No other construction can be placed as a reason for the appointments in question, other than they were made in consideration of the gentlemen having had special influence to work on their behalf, and of such a nature as to have made it compulsory on the part of the Minister of Militia and Defence to make the appointments in direct opposition to the views of the general officer commanding, or at least to the assurance given in a general way by the knowledge that he (the G. O. C.) was determined to materially benefit the Militia of Canada by a judicious selection in the case of officers for the Schools of Instruction.

As to your reference that you had been credibly informed that no R. M. C. cadet (graduate you no doubt refer to) applied for the vacancy or one of the vacancies which existed at that time, and which would appear to be mentioned as an excuse for the appointments made, permit me to remove the false impression thus created, by informing you that a gentleman who graduated in 1890 and whose name I can give you, should you desire to know it, was an applicant for a commission.

As to your assertion that gentlemen appointed to the permanent corps must show that they have the requisite knowledge demanded, I have but to refer you to the numerous cases of "Provisionally" appointed officers. I think it hardly necessary to point out that the meaning of the word "Provisionally" as used in this sense is directly opposed to "Qualification." What reason can be given in defence of this system, which has prevailed for too long a period, other than that it was "political" influence, regardless of qualification, and these so-called judicious appointments were made at a time when the Military College of Canada had put forth its specially trained graduates for that purpose.

Permit me to correct another error in your editorial, namely that the graduates of the college in question are the only ones that are given an opportunity of securing a commission in the Imperial Army. Four commissions only are given to graduates annually and six to the Militia.

The reason that so many of the graduates find their way to the neighboring Republic is entirely due to the action of our Government, who refuse to make use of the services of the gentlemen who are educated at Kingston for the Public Service and who would prefer remaining in their own country, could they obtain employment on the Public Works of Canada.

We require in the Permanent Corps the "finished article" and not the "raw material," so that militia officers proceeding to the schools of instruction may meet their superiors and not inferiors in military knowledge.

It but remains for me to point out that the system now in force of making "Professional Soldiers" by general order, is not consistent with the requirements of the service.

Trusting that this may in a measure remove the incorrect impression conveyed by your editorial.

I have the honor to be, Sir, Your obedient servant,

ERNEST F. WURTELE,

Hon. Secretary Treasurer, Royal Military College Club of Canada.

Quebec, Nov. 10th, 1893.

The Mail published the following editorial the same day:

General Cameron, the Commandant of the Royal Military College at Kingston, expresses the hope, in his last report, that the time is not far distant when the Government will feel itself justified in giving effect to the policy it announced in 1882 of appointing to the permanent corps graduates of the institution over which he presides. He added that if untrained gentlemen are better qualified than the technically trained military graduates of the college, then, for military purposes, the school is at present superfluous. It is a fact that the Government did at one time propose to officer the little regular army with men from the college, and equally true is it that of the 47 officers in the service, only seven are graduates. Whether the proposed policy is to be carried into operation we have yet to learn; but meanwhile it may be said that were it not for the commissions awarded by the Imperial Government to the Canadian Military College graduates, much of the labour involved in educating these gentlemen would be entirely lost, unless, indeed, they should take service under a foreign flag.

It is interesting to know what has become of some of the young men who have been trained under Canadian auspices, and at the expense of the Dominion, in the military science. Now and then we hear of one who has acquired especial prominence, as, for example, Lt. Stairs, of Nova Scotia. This officer passed into the Royal Engineers, and temporarily withdrew from that service to accompany Stanley across Africa. Stairs was a fine specimen of Canadian manhood, and it was with sorrow that the world learned of his death, while leading an expedition in the Dark Continent. Lt. William Robinson, of New Brunswick, like Stairs, laid down his life in that distant and desolate region, and in the same year. He was killed in action at Tambi. Lt. H. B. Mackay, of Montreal, had preceded Robinson to his long home. Mackay received a position in the War Office, and was journeying in 1891 from the west coast of Africa, where he had held an important military post, to India when he died and was buried at sea. But there are other Canadians abroad, Kingston graduates, of whom little information is gleaned from the ordinary news sources. Indeed, all the British possessions are reminded of Canada by the presence there of officers who claim the Dominion as their home. Africa, for instance, still has in Sierra Leone, on the west coast, Lt. H. Stoggett, of Prince Edward Island, who succeeded Lt. Robinson, and now commands the Royal Engineers in that colony. On the same coast is Lt. J. F. Laing, of Ontario, engaged in railway construction and in the building of defensive works.

The east coast has had for some time Lt. P. G. Twining, who has been the assistant engineer of the Mombasa railway, a road under the direction of the African Company, with which Sir Francis de Winton, formerly A.D.C., to the Marquis of Lorne in Canada, is connected. Lt. Twining, it is understood, is returning to Canada, to take the position of lecturer on fortification at Kingston. Turning to India, a batch of Canadian military graduates is to be found. In Scinde Lt. W. F. Tille, is conducting the engineering works requisite to the irrigation of that district. Engaged in a similar duty is Lt. A. C. Joly, a son of Mr. Joly de Lotbiniere, formerly Premier of Quebec. Lt. Herbert T. Nanton, of Toronto, is in the same work. This officer took part in the Burmah expedition, and was detailed to assist in the management of water works in the large cantonments. A second Lt. Joly, also a son of the ex-Premier, is assistant engineer on the northeast frontier of India, or in the Pamir. Another French Canadian who is doing important work in the Indian service is Lt. P. H. Casgrain, a son of the former member for l'Islet, and a brother of the Attorney General of Quebec. He is now the engineer in charge of Barrackpore, an important garrison town. Engaged in submarine mining at Calcutta is Lt. N. G. Hugel, son of Baron Hugel, of Port Hope. Mr. Hugel was at one time executive engineer at Lucknow. With him in his present work is Lt. Bremner, also a Kingston graduate. Lt. George M. Duff, of Kingston is engineer in charge of the defences at Rangoon, while Lt. G. S. Cartwright, son of Rev. Mr. Cartwright, of Kingston, and a nephew of Sir Richard, is executive engineer at Jubbulpore. Lt. W. J. McElhinney, of Brockville, is executive engineer of Indian railways in the Punjab, and Lt. Adams is personal assistant to the general manager of the Burmah State railways. Rangoon canal works have also engaged the attention of Canadians in India. Lt. A. E. Panet, son of the Deputy Minister of Militia, and Lt. C. B. Farewell are engaged on the Government canals in the Punjab. In the direct military service of India we have Capt. Fred Skinner, of the 2nd Royal Sussex, who has passed the Staff College; and Capt. A. T. Taylor, a Montrealer, now contingent. Leaving India, we have Lt. S. S. Worsley, who is with the Hyderabad contingent; Lt. W. B. Leslie, submarine mining in Ceylon; D. H. Ridout, commanding the engineers at Singapore; T. C. Skinner, on the Royal Engineers staff at Malta; J. W. Sears, adjutant of a volunteer battalion at Birmingham; W. Straubenzie, instructor in surveying at Sandhurst; G. M. Kirkpatrick, a son of the Lt. Governor of Ontario, A. D. C., to the general officer commanding the Thames district; C. R. Hodgins and W. Smith, in line regiments; H. E. Wiser, A. D. C. to the Viceroy of India, and E. P. C. Girouard, of Montreal, traffic superintendent of the Woolwich Arsenal railway.

These names do not include the Kingston men who hold military qualification certificates; they are the names of graduates whom Canada has trained and sent

out to enter the Imperial service. It is a source of gratification to know that Canada's sons should, owing to their sturdiness and energy, hold responsible positions in the army or in departments connected with it; but at the same time it is rather unpleasant to have to confess that the principal outlet for our talent is abroad.

CORRESPONDENCES.

A Rejoinder by Oxford.

To the Editor Canadian Military Gazette.

Dear Sir:—

I have just read a communication in the Gazette signed "Cambridge," which purports to be in answer to my communication in your number of the 15th. September last, signed "Oxford."

The idea I intended to convey in my article of the 15th. Sept. last was simply, that with the officers, instructed as they are now at the schools of instruction. It would be a great help to the militia, (especially the rural corps) if drill at company and battalion headquarters were ordered instead of the present system of brigade camps. Even "Cambridge" admits in the beginning of his article that it would be better if rural corps were drilled with better if rural corps were drilled with less. I think it can safely be said that under the present regulations and with the inspections now ordered, it would be impossible for companies to get off with the kind of inspection, which is described by "Cambridge" in his letter.

In my letter of the 15th. Sept. I wrote as follows: "It is certainly a fact that numbers of officers of rural corps are hardly able to instruct their corps in the formation of 'fours' and in the turnings" and further I say, "and though there are a number of good officers in the country corps, they are unable to improve their battalions under the present regulations for drill." "Cambridge" must have noticed that there were numbers of typographical errors in the printing of the letter and I am sorry that the printer made no use of the words quoted in the letter of "Cambridge," who is quite right in saying there are a number of good officers belonging to the country corps.

As to the other matters mentioned in the letter of "Cambridge" and as to the statements made, I can only leave them to be weighed by those who know what the condition at present of the Country corps is and what the position was twenty-five years ago and I believe the majority of those who read my letter will agree with me that the statements in it are not exaggerated.

I should not have answered the letter of "Cambridge" had it not been for the misprint above referred to and which I thought required some explanation, as it is quite clear to me that he 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 the

militia for a number of years.

In concluding without wishing to adopt the superior and sarcastic tone of argument of "Cambridge" I would like to say in answer to the last paragraph of his letter, that in my experience in the militia, those who join (either in rural or city corps) between the ages of eighteen and twenty-one make the best militia men, are more enthusiastic and remain longer with their regiments than those who join at a later period in life. I think the best officers of the militia will agree with me as to this statement. OXFORD.

The Pell-Mell Firing-Line.

To the Editor of the "Army and Navy Gazette."

Sir,—The question has recently been raised as to whether our present method of teaching fire-discipline is sufficient to meet the requirements of the battle-conditions of to-day. The subject is of such vital importance involving as it does in the decisive close fire-fight, that it should not be allowed to drop until the question has been thoroughly settled one way or the other. Hitherto our system of fire-discipline has gone no further than training our men to fight in distinct fire-units, so as to attain "the greatest development of Infantry-fire under the most careful supervision and control." The contention now is that this system of keeping the fire-units distinct as long as possible is all very well as far as it goes, but that it does not go far enough, in that it does not provide for the time when the "as long as possible" will have been reached. The contention is that, opposite those important points of the enemy's position selected for assault, as line after line of men is brought up into the firing line at the close ranges, the original fire-units must become mixed, and a pell-mell mixture of firers must be the result; the contention is, further, that such being the case, it is the management of such a pell-mell firing line, in the restoration of order and the control of its fire, that the task of fire-discipline really lies. Such is the conclusion to which the practical soldiers of Germany, after 23 years of reflection on the experiences of 1870, have come, and such is the task which they set their fire-discipline to achieve. The practice of the pell-mell may be seen constantly in Germany, as described in a former letter, with the result that, when the fire-units become mixed, no confusion or disorder is apparent, but the whole mixed firing line is at once subdivided again into new units, which admit of the same direction and control of fire as the original units. The reason why our system of fire-discipline has hitherto gone no further than the elementary principle of keeping the original fire-units distinct as long as possible, appears to be as follows. Since the introduction of extended order as the fighting formation of Infantry, we

have had no experience of European warfare; we have only practised it on the parade ground, on peaceful field days, and against barbarians. Consequently it has not been brought home to us what must happen when the firing line is checked, perhaps for hours, as frequently happened in 1870. In peacetime, when the second line arrives at the firing line, as there is no hail of bullets to stop its further progress, it can at once advance to the assault, or the "cease fire" sounds, consequently we have not had to fight for hours with the first and second lines intermingled. But suppose an action against European troops armed with smokeless low trajectory magazine rifles. Suppose that as the second line arrives, reinforcements also arrive for the enemy, whose consequently increased fire-resistance beats back any attempt to gain further ground for the present, and forces the first and second lines to fight on intermingled as one firing line. Can anyone, after reading the records of 1870, assert that such will not often be the case. Suppose that further reinforcements reached the intermingled firing-line, which enables further ground to be gained indeed, but still does not enable the enemy's fire-resistance to be broken down sufficiently for the position to be assaulted. Many instances could be quoted from 1870, to show that this also was often the case. And what was the case in 1870 must also be the case in the coming war, for improved rifles have not made the attack across the last 500 yards any easier. Must we not therefore prepare for the consequences of the firing-line being brought to a standstill for a considerable time, for experience proves that it frequently will be brought to a standstill. We cannot suppose that we shall be able to carry out an attack in battle as we carry one out on a parade ground, without checks. After we have arrived at the "first parallel," further progress will be the slow outcome of a protracted fire-fight, during which such reinforcements as arrive, unable yet to advance further, must necessarily be intermingled with the troops already in the firing-line. What else can happen? Let anyone who doubts think it out for himself. Let him imagine a firing-line checked; let him imagine himself coming up with reinforcements and finding the ground in front swept by so hot a fire that an attempt to advance further is beaten back—what can he do but double up his men with the troops already there; let him imagine further reinforcements being sent up, in order to break down this fire-resistance; what can they do but rush up and throw themselves down intermingled pell-mell with those already there. How are we to reduce such a pell-mell to order, for reduced to order it must be, if the further attack is to have any force. Manifestly we can only learn how to reduce it to order by having learnt how to

do so through previous training in peacetime. We officers therefore want plenty of practice in the pell-mell so that we may be able to reduce it to order with the ease of habit; and our men want plenty of practice, so that they may not be astounded by the confusion around, but may know exactly what to do and what commands to expect. The object of this letter is not, however, to enter into the details of practising the pell-mell, which have been already pointed out in a former letter, but merely to show that its practice is necessary; that the reason why we have not practised it hitherto is because, in our peaceful exercises, our firing-line has never yet been checked, and our second line has never yet been unable to pass on to the assault; and that therefore the necessity of practising the first and second lines in fighting on intermingled together has never yet been strongly brought home to us. Our system of fire-discipline is excellent so far as it goes, that is to say, for the first advance as far as the "first parallel;" but it is incomplete, in that it makes no provision for the firing-line being brought to a standstill for a considerable time somewhere about the "first parallel," and for the reduction to order and control of the pell-mell firing-line, which must form the fighting formation thence and onwards.

STEWART MURRAY Lieut.

1st Bata. Gordon Highlanders.

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

By General Sir Fred. Middleton.
Reprint from the United Service Magazine.
The short campaign in the North-West Territories of Canada in 1885 against the rebel French half-breeds and Indians under Riel was remarkable as having been carried out solely by colonial militia, who had never seen a shot fired in anger, without the presence of any of the regulars of the mother country, except the General Officer commanding, his Aide-de-camp, and a few others. It is true a small part of the force employed consisted of some of what is called the "Permanent Militia"—regularly enlisted men, who can compare favorably with our regulars—but the main part of the force consisted of the ordinary militia of the country, men who had some of them undergone the usual militia training, some of them having not even had that. These men had all been suddenly called from the desk, the store, the plough, and other civil avocations, to take up arms against a far distant enemy, who bore the character of being wily and brave, perfect bush-fighters, and good shots. That these sons of Canada did their duty when thus called upon will, I trust, be made clear in the following short account of the campaign.

I do not propose entering into the causes of the rising, and though the movements of the different columns were all made under my directions and orders, I shall confine myself principally to the relation of the movements and actions of the column

which was under my immediate personal command, and which chanced to be called upon to take the most prominent action in putting down the rising, only referring to the others when necessary for the perspicuity of my narrative.

On the 23rd of March, at 2 p.m., I was informed by the Minister of Militia and Defence, Mr. (now Sir Adolph) Caron, that the French half-breeds under Riel—the well-known rebel who had been driven out of Manitoba by Lord Wolseley in 1870—were causing such trouble in the North-West Territories as would probably necessitate military action, and that the Premier, Sir J. Macdonald, wished me to start as soon as possible for Winnipeg. Mr. Caron gave me no specific directions, but I understood that on my arrival in Manitoba I was to be governed by circumstances, and if necessary take the field against the insurgents in the North-West. The Canadian Pacific Railway at that time was not quite finished, and as it was considered necessary that I should lose no time, I had to take the American train through Chicago and St. Paul from Toronto, for which place I left that evening, with my Aide-de-camp, Captain E. Wise, then of the Cameronians, now of the Derbyshire Regiment.

We arrived at Winnipeg at 7 a.m. on the 27th, after three days' and three nights' continuous travelling. I drove at once to Government House, where I learned that reliable news had arrived from the West of the defeat, with the loss of eleven killed, of a party of North-West Mounted Police and Volunteers near Fort Carlton, a stockade mounted police station not far from Batoche, Riel's head-quarters. After conferring with His Honor, Mr. Aikin, the Lieutenant-Governor, I resolved to proceed at once to the North-West, taking with me the Winnipeg Militia, which had already been called out in anticipation, and which consisted of a battery of artillery of two nine-pounders M. L., three officers, fifty-nine non-commissioned officers and men, commanded by Major Jervis, a small troop of cavalry, thirty-five strong, commanded by Captain Knight, and the 90th Battalion of Rifles, 290 strong, with twenty-four officers, commanded by Major MacKeand. I inspected these troops at once, and found them in fairly good order and full of fight, and I gave orders that the Rifle Regiment should be prepared to start with me that night for Qu'Appelle, whither a detachment of thirty men and three officers had already been sent; the battery, which was not complete in horses, to follow the next day with the infantry reserve ammunition, and the cavalry to remain behind at Winnipeg.

The weather was very cold, with a good deal of snow on the ground, and each man was supplied with three blankets and a waterproof sheet, being already in possession of fur gloves and caps, mufflers and high snow boots.

During my short stay of a few hours at Winnipeg I was lucky enough to obtain the services of two men who were to prove of great assistance to me. One was an old friend, Major Boulton, the other a Captain Bedson, the Warden of the Government Gaol, at Stoney Mountain, near Winnipeg. Boulton had served at Gibraltar with our 100th Regiment in 1860, when I was Aide-de-camp to the General commanding the

brigade there. He soon after left our service, and being Canadian born, returned to Canada, and eventually settled down near the Shell river. He had been made prisoner by Riel in his first rising in 1869, and barely escaped being shot by him as a poor settler called Scott was. Boulton heard of my arrival, found me out, and offered to raise a small body of mounted scouts and join my force. I at once accepted, and I may add here that he joined me on the 15th of April, seventeen days after he had received authority from Ottawa to raise them, with sixty men horsed, equipped, armed with repeating Winchester rifles, with transport complete; and right good yeoman service did he and his men perform during the campaign. Bedson had served in our 16th Regiment, and his services were simply invaluable to me during the whole campaign. He is dead, I regret to say, after attaining the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel in the Canadian Militia.

I left Winnipeg at 6 p.m. of the day of my arrival there with the 90th Rifles, 260 strong, having with me, besides my Aide-de-camp, Lt.-Col. Houghton, Deputy-Adjutant-General of the District, Captain Bedson, Mr. Secretan, a friend of Bedson's, and a Mr. Macdowall, a gentleman in the lumbering trade at Prince Albert, both of whom were also of great use to me afterwards. We arrived the next morning at about 9 a.m. at Troy, which is, or was, the name given to the Canadian Pacific Railway station at Qu'Appelle. Here we detrained, and as the weather was very cold, and a great deal of snow on the ground, I put the troops into the emigration sheds instead of encamping them in their bell-tents. My reason for selecting Qu'Appelle as the primary base was that it was the nearest spot on the Canadian Pacific Railway line to Winnipeg—which may be said to have been my real basis—from whence there was a direct trail to Batoche, Riel's head-quarters.

I was met here by His Honor Mr. Dewdney, Lieutenant-Governor of the North-West Provinces, with whom we proceeded to the so-called hotel of the small town of Qu'Appelle, no very luxurious establishment, but which I made my headquarters during my stay there. I passed the most of the day with my Aide-de-camp in sending and receiving telegrams, mostly in cipher, which made it very tedious work. In the evening, before he left for Regina, I had a long conference with Mr. Dewdney, who, I may mention here, assisted me to the full extent of his power in every way during the whole campaign. I found from him that Battleford and Prince Albert were the two most important settlements supposed to be in danger. They are both situated on the north branch of the Saskatchewan river, about 100 miles apart by land and about 280 and 170 miles respectively from Qu'Appelle. Batoche, the rebel head-quarters on the south branch of the Saskatchewan, is about thirty-eight miles south of Prince Albert and about eighty miles east of Battleford.

We were still in telegraphic communication with Battleford by Clark's Crossing, but Riel had cut the wire passing by Batoche to Prince Albert, which latter place, therefore, communicated with us by mounted messengers to Battleford or Humboldt.

Mr. Dewdney considered that Prince Albert was comparatively safe, as Lieutenant-Colonel Irvine, commanding the North-West Mounted Police, was there with a force consisting of 180 mounted police, ninety volunteers, and a mountain gun, with plenty of ammunition and food for a month; but Battleford was supposed to be in a more ticklish position, being in dangerous proximity to a large band of Indians under a somewhat famous chief called Poundmaker, who was known to be discontented and in communication with Riel. However, it was garrisoned by a party of forty-seven mounted police, with a volunteer company of some thirty-five settlers, who, with the women and children, were all living in the so-called fort or stockade, with clear ground about it, the rest of the settlement having been abandoned. There was also an important Hudson Bay post at Fort Pitt, a stockade on the North Saskatchewan, some ninety miles to the north of Battleford, which was then being held by a detachment of twenty-four mounted policemen under Inspector Dickens, son of the late Charles Dickens. They were also in danger, being in close proximity to another large body of unfriendly Indians under a chief known as Big Bear.

The Indians still further to the west about Calgary, and Fort Macleod and Edmonton, were known to be discontented, but were kept in check by mounted police, and near Gleichen there was a large reserve of Blackfoot Indians, under an important chief called Crawfoot, but whom Mr. Dewdney thought likely to remain quiet. Indeed, he suggested that I should have a small party of them attached as scouts to my force, but that I declined, not thinking it advisable.

Up to this time the Red Indians had not joined Riel in any numbers, but were what is called "sitting on the fence," awaiting events, and it was generally feared that there might be a general rising of them if the Government troops met with any serious reverse.

It was known that Riel was doing all he could to induce them to join him at once, sending his messengers far and wide loaded with false statements. Among other lies, he informed them that England was engaged in a war with Russia, and could not spare a man of her army to help the Canadian Government, whose own soldiers were no use, and could not fight or move in the prairies, and that a large body of Fenians and Indians from the United States with artillery were coming to join him, &c. He even tried to work the old "eclipse of the sun" dodge. He ascertained from an almanack that there was soon to be an eclipse of the sun, he informed the Indians that on that day the sun would be darkened, and that as soon as they saw that, they were to consider it a warning from the "Manitou" for them to rise at once against the whites and join him, after plundering the settlements near them.

On the whole, Mr. Dewdney was of opinion that affairs were in a very critical state, and that if we were defeated, the consequences would be most disastrous to the country, as there would probably be a general rising of the Indians.

He further informed me that Lieut.-Col.

Irvine had telegraphed to him to warn me that the rebels were good shots, and that I should not start without at least 1,500 men. I told him that I could not afford to wait for that number, as it might be weeks before I could get them, and that I should advance as soon as possible with what troops I could muster, and trust to getting reinforcements later on, and I telegraphed to that effect to the minister at Ottawa, at the same time writing to him to explain my proposed plan of operation, which was as follows:—

To move the principal column under my own command direct to Clarke's Crossing, a telegraph station and ferry on the South Saskatchewan about forty miles by trail from Batoche. A second column under Lt.-Colonel Otter, a capable officer belonging to the Permanent Militia, who was coming up with the reinforcements, to meet me there from Swift Current, a Canadian Pacific Railway station some 150 miles to the westward of Troy and a few miles from the south branch of the Saskatchewan, which I was recommended to use eventually as a line of communication, making Swift Current my main base. I was given to understand by an old scout that I might fall in with the enemy at or near Clarke's Crossing, and it seemed somewhat probable, but, if not, the two columns would then move, one on each side of the river, and attack Batoche, which I understood had houses and Indian camps on both sides of the river, with a large ferry-boat to connect them. After the capture, one column, if not savvy, might march to Prince Albert, the other pushing on to Battleford, whither I proposed sending at once a reinforcement of mounted police under Lieut.-Col. W. Herchmer from Regina, the mounted police having been put under my command. A third column I proposed forming at Calgary, giving the command of Major-General Strange, late R.A., who had placed his services at the disposal of the Government. This column, after over-awing the Indians in that district, would move on to Edmonton, and proceed down the North Saskatchewan to Fort Pitt, where I hoped to meet them after having disposed of Poundmaker and his band. We should then together follow up and dispose of Big Bear, which would pretty well break the neck of the rebellion.

I also would shortly have two small bodies of mounted scouts patrolling east and west of the Cypress Hills between the line of the Canadian Pacific Railway and the American frontier, not only to watch any Fenian or Indian advance from the United States that might chance to take place, but also, if possible, to bar the most probable line of retreat to the States of the defeated rebels.

I soon came to the conclusion that I could not, at least at first, spare troops to keep my communications open, but that did not trouble me much, as, from what I could gather, I made up my mind that the rebels would not wander far afield, but would remain in or close to Batoche. Moreover, while my reinforcements were coming up, my communications would be kept open, and lastly, it was evidently necessary that I should make a forward movement without delay, with as great a show of force as I could muster.

The next day, the 28th, I set to work

to make arrangements for the immediate advance of the troops I had with me. I appointed Capt. Bedson chief transport officer, with Mr. Seretan as his assistant, and Capt. Swinford of the 90th, chief commissariat officer, and with their able assistance was able to extemporize a good working system of transport and commissariat. Afterwards our transport and stores, &c., were nearly all supplied through the Hudson Bay Company; Mr. Wrigley, their chief commissioner, being most indefatigable and successful in his endeavors to make things go smoothly.

(To be Continued.)

THE SLAPPING SAL.

A Story of the Seas Long Ago.

It was in the days when France's power was already broken upon the seas, and when more of her three-deckers lay rotting in the Medway than were to be found in Brest Harbor. But her frigates and corvettes still scoured the ocean, closely followed ever by those of her rival. At the uttermost ends of the earth these dainty vessels with sweet names of girls or of flowers, mangled or shattered each other for the honor of the four yards of hunting that flapped from the gaffs.

It had blown hard in the night, but the wind had dropped with the dawning, and now the rising sun tinted the fringe of the storm wreck as it dwindled into the west, and glistened on the endless crests of the long green waves. To north and south and west lay a skyline which was unbroken save by the spout of foam when two of the great Atlantic seas dashed each other into spray. To the east was a rocky island jutting out into craggy points, with a few scattered clumps of palm trees and a pennant of mist streaming out from the bare conical hill which capped it. A heavy surf beat upon the shore, and at a safe distance from it the British thirty-two gun frigate Leda, Capt. A. P. Johnson, raised her black, glistening side upon the crest of a wave, or swooped down into an emerald valley, dipping away to the north under easy sail. On her snow-white quarter deck stood a stiff little brown-faced man, who swept the horizon with his glass.

"Mr. Wharton," he cried, with a voice like a rusty hinge.

A thin, knock-kneed officer shambled across the poop to him.

"Yes, sir."

"I've opened the sealed orders, Mr. Wharton."

A glimmer of curiosity shone upon the meagre features of the first lieutenant. The Leda had sailed with her consort, the Dido, from Antigua, the week before, and the admiral's orders had been contained in a sealed envelope.

"We were to open them on reaching the deserted island of Sombriero, lying in north latitude 18 degrees, 36 minutes, west longitude 63 degrees, 28 minutes. Sombriero bore four miles to the east from our port bow when the gale cleared, Mr. Wharton."

The lieutenant bowed stiffly. He and the captain had been bosom friends from childhood. They had gone to school together, joined the navy together and married into each other's families, but as long as their feet were on the poop the iron discipline of the service struck all that was human out of them and left only the superior and the subordinate. Capt. Johnson took a blue paper from his pocket which crackled as he unfolded it:

"The thirty-two gun frigates Leda

and Dido (Capt. A. P. Johnson and James Munroe) are to cruise from the point at which these instructions are read to the mouth of the Caribbean sea in the hope of encountering the French frigate La Gloire (48), which has recently harassed our merchant ships in that quarter. H.M. frigates are also directed to hunt down the piratical craft known sometimes as the 'Slapping Sal' and sometimes as the 'Hairy Hudson,' which has plundered the British ships as per margin, inflicting barbarities upon their crews. She is a small brig carrying ten light guns, with one twenty-four-pound carronade forward. She was last seen on the 23d ultimo to the northeast of the island of Sombriero.

"(Signed), James Montgomery,
"Rear Admiral.

"H. M. S. Colossus, Antigua."

"We appear to have lost our consort," said Capt. Johnson, folding up his instructions again and sweeping the horizon with his glass. "She drew away after she reefed down. It would be a pity if we met this heavy Frenchman without the Dido, Mr. Wharton—eh?"

The lieutenant twinkled and smiled.

"She has eighteen-pounders on the main and twelves on the poop, sir," said the captain. "She carries four hundred to our two hundred and thirty-one. Capt. de Milon is the smartest man in the French service. Oh, Bobby boy, I'd give my hopes of my flag to rub my side up against her." He turned on his heel, ashamed of his momentary lapse. "Mr. Wharton," said he, looking back sternly over his shoulder, "get those square sails shaken on and bear away a point more to the west."

"A brig on the port bow," said the lieutenant.

The captain sprang up on the bulwarks and held on to the mizzen shrouds, a strange little figure with flying skirts and puckered eyes. The lean lieutenant craned his neck and whispered to Smeaton, the second, while officers and men came popping up from below and clustering along the weather rail, shading their eyes with their hands, for the tropical sun was already clear of the palm trees. The strange brig lay at anchor in the throat of a curving estuary, and it was already obvious that she could not get out without passing under the guns of the frigate. A long rocky point to the north of her held her in.

"Keep her as she goes, Mr. Wharton," said the captain. "Hardly worth while clearing for action, Mr. Smeaton, but the men can stand by the guns in case she tries to pass us. Cast loose the bowchasers and send the small-arm men on to the forecastle."

A British crew went to its quarters in those days with the quiet serenity of men on their daily routine. In a few minutes, without fuss or sound, the sailors were knotted around their guns, the marines were drawn up and leaning on their muskets, and the frigate's bowsprit pointed straight for her little victim.

"Is it the Slapping Sal, sir?"

"I have no doubt of it, Mr. Wharton."

"They don't seem to like the look of us, sir. They've cut their cable and are clapping on sail."

It was evident that the brig meant to struggle for her freedom. One little patch of canvas fluttered out above another and her people could be seen working like madmen in the rigging. She made no attempt to pass her antagonist but headed up the estuary. The captain rubbed his hands.

"She's making for shoal water, Mr.

Wharton, and we shall have to cut her out, sir. She's a footy little brig, but I should have thought a fore-and-after would have been more handy."

"It was a mutiny, sir."

"Ah, indeed?"

"Yes, sir, I heard of it at Manila—a bad business, sir. Captain and two mates murdered. This Hulton, or Hairy Hudson, as they call him, led the mutiny. He's a Londoner, sir, but as cruel a villain as ever walked."

"That's Hairy Hudson on the after rail, sir."

"The low, impertinent blackguard! He'll play some other antics before we are done with him. Could you reach him with the long eighteen, Mr. Smeaton?"

"Another cable length will do it, sir."

The brig yawed as they spoke, and as she came round a spurt of smoke whiffed out from her quarter. It was a pure piece of bravado, for the gun could scarcely carry half way. Then with a jaunty swing the little ship came into the wind again and shot round a fresh curve of the winding channel.

"The water's shoaling rapidly, sir," reported the second lieutenant.

"There's six fathoms by the chart."

"Four by the lead, sir."

"When we clear this point we shall see how we lie. Ha! I thought as much! Lay her to Mr. Wharton. Now we have got her at our mercy."

The frigate was quite out of sight still to pass out to sea was out to river-like estuary. As she came around the curve, the two shoals were seen to converge at a point about a mile distant. In the angle, as near shore as she could get, the brig was lying with her broadside towards her pursuer and a wisp of black cloth streaming from her mizzen. The lean lieutenant, who had reappeared upon deck with a cutlass strapped to his side and two pistols rammed into his belt, peered curiously at the ensign.

"Is it the Jolly Rogers, sir?" he asked. But the captain was furious. "He may hang where his breeches are hanging before I have done with him," said he. "What boats will you want Mr. Wharton?"

"We should do with the launch and the jolly boat."

"Take four and make a clean job of it. Pipe away the crews at once and I'll work her in and help you with the long eighteens."

With a rattle of ropes and a creaking of blocks the four boats splashed into the water. Their crews clustered thickly into them, barefooted sailors, stolid marines, laughing middies, and in the sheets of each the senior officers with their stern schoolmaster faces. The captain, his elbows on the binnacle, still watched the distant brig. Her crew were tricing up the boarding netting, dragging round the starboard guns, knocking new portholes for them, and making every other preparation for a desperate resistance. In the thick of it all a huge man, bearded to the eyes, with a red nightcap upon his head, was straining and stooping and hauling. The captain watched him with a sour smile and then, snapping up his glass, he turned upon his heel. For an instant he stood staring.

"Call back the boats!" he cried, in his thin, creaking voice. "Clear away for action there! Cast loose those main-deck guns. Brace back the yards, Mr. Smeaton, and stand by to go about when she has weigh enough."

Round the curve of the estuary was coming a huge vessel. The great yellow bowsprit and white-winged figure-head were jutting out from the cluster

of palm trees, white high above them towered three immense masts with the tri-color flag floating superbly from the mizzen. Round she came, the deep blue water creaming under her fore-foot, until her long, curving black side, her line of shining copper beneath and of snow-white hammocks above, and the thick clusters of men who peered over her bulwarks, were all in full view. Her lower yards were stung, her ports were triced up and her guns run out all ready for action. Lying behind one of the promontories of the island the lookout men of the Gloire upon the shore had seen the cul-de-sac into which the British frigate had headed, so that Captain de Milon had served the Leda as Captain Johnson had the Slapping Sal.

But the splendid discipline of the British service was at its best in such a crisis. The boats flew back, their crews clustered aboard, they were swung up at the davits, and the fall ropes made fast. Hammocks were brought up and stowed, bulkheads sent down, ports and magazines opened, the fires put out in the galley and the drums beat to quarters. Swarms of men set the headsails and brought the frigate round, while the gun crews threw off their jackets and shirts, tightened their belts and ran out their eighteen-pounders, peering through the open portholes at the stately Frenchman. The wind was very light. Hardly a ripple showed itself upon the clear blue water, but the sails blew gently out as the breeze came over the wooded banks. The Frenchmen had gone about also and both ships were now heading slowly for the sea under fore-and-aft canvas, the Gloire one hundred yards in advance. She luffed up to cross the Leda's bows, but the British ship came around also and the two rippled slowly on in such a silence that the ringing of the ramrods as the French marines drove home their charges clanged quite loudly upon the ear.

"Not much sea-room, Mr. Wharton," remarked the captain.

"I have fought action in less, sir."

"We must keep our distance and trust to our gunnery. She is very heavily manned and if she gets alongside we might find ourselves in trouble."

"I see the shakoos of soldiers aboard of her."

"Two companies of light Infantry from Martinique. Now we have her. Hard a port, and let her have it as we cross her stern."

The keen eyes of the little commander had seen the surface ripple, which told of a passing breeze. He had used it to dart across behind the big Frenchman and to rake her with every gun as he passed. But once past her the Leda had to come back in the wind to keep out of shoal water. The manoeuvre brought her on to the starboard side of the Frenchman, and the trim little frigate seemed to heel right over under the crashing broadside, which burst from the gaping ports. A moment later her topmen were swarming aloft to set her topsails and royals and she strove to cross the Gloire's bows and rake her again. The French captain, however, brought his frigate's head round, and the two rode side by side within easy pistol shot, pouring broadsides into each other in one of those murderous duels which, could they all be recorded, would mottle our charts with blood.

In that heavy tropical air with so faint a breeze, the smoke formed a thick bank round the two vessels, from which the topmasts only protruded. Neither could see anything of the enemy

save the throbs of fire in the darkness, and the guns were sponged and trained and fired into a dense wall of vapor. On the poop and the fore-castle the marines, in two little red lines, were pouring in their volleys, but neither they nor the seamen gunners could see what effect their fire was having. Nor indeed could they tell how far they were suffering themselves, for standing at a gun one could but hazily see that upon the right and the left. But above the roar of the cannon came the sharper sound of the piping shot, the crashing of riven planks and the occasional heavy thud as spar or block came hurtling on the deck. The lieutenants paced up and down behind the line of guns, while Capt. Johnson fanned the smoke away with his cocked hat and peered eagerly out.

"This is rare, Bobby," said he as the lieutenant joined him. Then suddenly restraining himself he said: "What have we lost, Mr. Wharton?" "Our maintopsail yard and our gaff, sir."

"Where's the flag?"

"Gone overboard, sir."

"They'll think we have struck. Lash a boat's ensign on the starboard arm of the mizzen cross jack yard."

"Yes, sir."

A round shot dashed the binnacle to pieces between them. A second knocked two marines into a bloody, palpitating mass. For a moment the smoke rose and the English captain saw that his adversary's heavier metal was producing a horrible effect. The Leda was a shattered wreck. Her deck was strewn with corpses. Several of her portholes were knocked into one, and one of her eighteen-pounder guns had been thrown right back on her breech and pointed straight up to the sky. The thin line of marines still loaded and fired, but half the guns were silent and their crews were piled thickly round them.

"Stand by to repel boarders!" yelled the captain.

"Cutlasses, lads! cutlasses!" roared Wharton.

"Hold your volley till they touch!" cried the captain of marines.

The huge loom of the Frenchman was seen bursting through the smoke. Thick clusters of boarders hung upon her sides and shrouds. A final broadside leaped from her ports, and the mainmast of the Leda snapping short off a few feet above deck spun into the air and crashed down upon the port guns, killing ten men and putting the whole battery out of action. An instant later the two ships scraped together and the starboard bower anchor of the Gloire caught the mizzen chain of the Leda upon the port side. With a yell the black swarm of boarders steadied themselves for a spring.

But their feet were never to reach that blood-stained deck. From somewhere there came a well-aimed whiff of grape, and another, and another. The English marines and seamen, waiting with cutlass and musket behind the silent guns, saw with amazement the dark masses thinning and shredding away. At the same time the port boarders of the Frenchmen burst into a roar.

"Clear away the wreck," roared the captain. "What the devil are they firing at?"

"Get the guns clear!" panted the lieutenant. "We'll do them yet, boys!"

"They're running! They're running! they're running!"

And it was true. The Frenchman had ceased to fire, and was intent only upon clapping on every sail that she could carry.

But that shouting hundred could not

claim it all as their own. As the smoke cleared it was not difficult to see the reason. The ships had gained the mouth of the estuary during the fight, and there about four miles out to sea was the Leda's consort bearing down under full sail to the sound of the guns. Capt. de Milon had done his part for one day and presently the Gloire was drawing off swiftly to the north, while the Dido was bowling along at her skirts rattling away with her bow-chasers, until a headland hid them from view.

The Leda lay sorely stricken with her mainmast gone, her bulwarks shattered, her mizzenmast and gaff shot away, her sails like a beggar's rags and a hundred of her crew dead and wounded. Close beside her a mass of wreckage floated upon the waves. It was the stern-post of a mangled vessel and across it in white letters on a black ground was printed "The Slapping Sal."

"By the Lord, it was the brig that saved us!" cried Mr. Wharton. "Hudson drew her into action with the Frenchman and was blown out of the water by a broadside."

The two officers looked down at the sinister name and at the stump of wreckage which floated in the discolored water. Something black washed to and fro beside a splintered gaff and a tangle of halliards. It was the outrageous ensign and near it a scarlet cap was floating.

"He was a villain, but he was a Briton," said the captain at last. "He lived like a dog, but he died like a man."—A. Conan Doyle, in the *Atlanta Constitution*.



ROYAL MILITARY COLLEGE CLUB.

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

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.

OUR FLAG.

On Hiawatha's Banner.

Should you ask me, whence this banner?
Whence this multifarious mixture,
This superb, heraldic streamer,
With the colors of the rainbow,
With the forms of things fantastic,
Things with frequent repetitions,
Conformations isomorphous,
And their weird and wild appearance?

To you I would give this answer:
From the plains beyond the forests,
From the ever-rolling deep sea,
From the ships that sail upon it,
From the fish that swim within it,
From the lands beyond the ocean,
From the flags of other nations.

Long ago (the date forgotten),
The great Genius of Construction
Made a banner for the people,
Made a banner more than glorious
In its shape, and size, and color!
Thus he gave unto the nation,
That which baffled comprehension,
That which never would be remembered.

On the red field of the banner
There he placed a great escutcheon,
Leaves of oak and maple round it,
And a crown of gold upon it.

In the shield's emblazoned glory
There were many curious figures,
Quaintly strange, this wondrous fabric,
There were lions, prowling lions,
Yellow lions on a red ground,
Beasts of prey from Africa's desert;
And a white fish from the blue sea;
And a bison from the prairie.
On the water was a great ship,
Antique galleys of the ancients,
Sailing in the yellow sunlight,
Fleurs-des-lis from French gonfalon;
Thistle-tops from Scottish borders;
Maple leaves from out the forest;
Crosses twain, of ruddy color.

This, the banner of our country,
This, the model composition,
Which for years has been our emblem!
Yet with all this gleam of color,
And these quaint and curious figures,
We would fain seek out another
Symbol to replace the "totem"
On the flag of our Dominion.

Not the grim, heraldic lion,
Not the flower-de-luce, nor bison,
Neither fish, nor vessel olden,
Nor the stiff, repellant thistle;
But the old, beloved emblems,
These: the Maple Leaf and Beaver
On the grand old British Ensign.
Galt, Nov. 10. ST. GEORGE.

Soldier Stories.

Doing The Best.—When the 1st (King's) Dragoon Guards were ordered for duty during the recent coal riots, the men left their plumes behind them, as they always do when going on active service. So the colonel, wishing to let the men show themselves off, telegraphed to his adjutant for 100. A telegraphist, thinking plums were wanted, sent the telegram asking for "plums" instead of plumes. The adjutant replied "Am sending 100 greengages, the best I can do"—*United Service Gazette*.

The Canadian Flag.

What is the National Flag of Canada? Who can describe it accurately? How many of our readers know what flag our ships can fly upon the seas and why if they hoisted a blue or a white flag with the Union Jack in the corner they could be overhauled by a man-of-war and the flag pulled down? These and many other interesting questions are answered in an article which will appear in the *Canadian Almanac* for 1894, to be published next month. The *Canadian Almanac* is a standard publication and goes everywhere. More than one million copies have been sold since it was first published.

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 prize 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 may 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. Boyer, 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. Boussois, 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 your officers and men would be glad to get for your regimental matches, a prize worth fully \$12 at practically no cost to themselves?