

The Canadian Militia Gazette

THE POPULAR ORGAN OF THE ACTIVE FORCE OF THE DOMINION.

(Adopted as their official paper, by the Dominion Artillery Association, the Ontario Artillery Association, the Canadian Military Rifle League, and the Royal Military College Club.)

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FIXTURES.

National Rifle Assn. meeting opens (Bisley).....	July 13
C. M. R. League shoots.....	May 16, 30, July 11, 25, August 8
Inter-City Telegraphic Match.....	June 13
N. W. R. League shoots.	May 16, 30, June 13, 22, July 11, 25, [Aug. 8, 22, Sept. 19]

NOTE AND COMMENT.

The topic overshadowing all others in Canada this week is the death of the illustrious Premier, the Right Honourable Sir John A. Macdonald. His name has become a household word throughout the Dominion he was so largely instrumental in confederating, and in the conduct of many campaigns and the discharge of his public duties his kind face and striking figure have become familiar to the people of every province. No other event has so profoundly stirred the Dominion, as have his sudden illness and brave but hopeless eight days' struggle against the inexorable fate which pinned him to his bed a helpless and scarce-conscious victim. He was indeed a great commander, and his skill was never more conspicuously displayed than when in the general elections of March last he at the age of seventy-six years led his host to a signal victory, but at the tremendous cost of the loss of his own precious life. The North-West Mounted Police, the splendid semi-military organization built up and maintained under the direct personal care of Sir John Macdonald, should mourn his loss as that of their best friend.

A RESOLUTION is before Parliament providing for the issue of land or scrip, in reward for military service in suppression of the North-West Rebellion of 1885, to members of the Regina Volunteer Company; the Battleford Home Guards; and to eleven scouts named in the resolution. These not having been regularly enrolled military organizations did not share in the general grant made in 1886. In connection with that grant, the results of the scrip issue were not at all what was intended by the Government, for in the greater number of instances the scrip was sold at prices far below par by volunteers who desired to quickly realize on it, at immense profit to the purchasing brokers. The cost to the Government was just the same as if actual cash to the face value of the scrip had been paid to the volunteers, and we would suggest that cash be paid in place of any further scrip issue.

THE position of Brigade Major of the Third and Fourth Military Districts, vacated by the death of Lieut.-Col. Lewis, is not to be filled, the Department having determined to save the salary. Sir Adolphe Caron made this announcement in Parliament in answer to an inquiry, and he further stated an intention to make similar reductions in the District Staff whenever opportunity offered, as more value was obtained by the expenditure of the money on the rank and file. We think this course will meet with very general approval, as the usefulness of many of the District Staff Officers seems to have long since disappeared.

THE *Mercury*, a Halifax society paper, in its last issue contains an excellent portrait of the commandant of this year's Bisley team with this complimentary notice:—"Major Weston, who is a prominent member of the legal profession, is a man in the prime of life, and has been connected with the Halifax militia for the past quarter of a century. He joined the Nova Scotia militia in 1866, and afterwards served in the Scottish company of the 63rd Rifles, till 1873, when he became attached to the 66th Princess Louise Fusiliers. The following year he was appointed a lieutenant, in 1879 was promoted to a captaincy, in 1885 became adjutant, and his appointment as major dates from 1887. He served in the Riel rebellion in the North-West as captain of Company C of the Halifax Provisional Battalion. He was a member of the Wimbledon teams of 1878, 1881 and 1889, and was appointed adjutant of the same team in 1883. The news of the appointment of Major Weston as commandant of the Bisley team of 1891 was received with pleasure by his numerous friends in Halifax, among whom he is a great

favourite, and the selection is generally regarded as an excellent one. Commander Weston can always be depended upon to do himself and the Halifax militia credit, not only as an efficient officer, but as a crack marksman and a first-rate fellow all round.

A NEW system of musketry training has been in use in India, for more than a year, with highly successful results, according to the reports issued. An important feature of the course is thirty-five rounds of volley firing, of the usefulness of which Lieut.-Col. Hamilton, Assistant Adjutant-General for Musketry, thus speaks :

"To produce the best results from collective fire, it is necessary that aim should be taken quickly, and retained until the word 'Fire' is given, the reason being that it is outside the power of the individual to determine at what uncertain moment he may be called upon to release the trigger. For if at the word 'Fire' he has not yet settled his aim, or, having settled it, has lost it, or if through force of habit he has pulled the trigger without orders on first acquiring aim, a loss of power and effect will be the inevitable consequence. The last error is especially pernicious, as it has been conclusively proved in practice that the premature fire of one man will vitiate the general results in a degree altogether out of proportion to his own good or bad shooting. In fact, individual accuracy cannot compensate for a ragged volley, and in these collective practices, the importance of which is now being insisted on, exactitude of aim must always be subservient to punctuality in obedience to the word of command."

Referring to the above the *Army and Navy Gazette* says : "This means that the old system of careful aim and slow pressure of the trigger, which has hitherto been impressed on the men as the *sine qua non* of good shooting, will have to give way to the full low sight and the quick though steady pull at the trigger necessary for good volley-firing. Sir Frederick Roberts has earned a debt of gratitude from the Indian Army by the encouragement he has given to practical musketry. Every year shows more and more clearly that volley-firing is the secret of success in battle, and the more the troops practise this the better. It is only a matter of custom, and though individual shooting must be encouraged, the ultimate end of military musketry is best served by a well-directed volley."

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

(This paper does not necessarily share the views expressed in correspondence published in its columns, the use of which is freely granted to writers on topics of interest to the Militia.)

CANADIAN MILITARY RIFLE LEAGUE.

EDITOR MILITIA GAZETTE.—Sir: I have noticed several suggestions to change the League programme so as to bring a match into the month of June. I may state that it will be impossible to make any change in the programmes, as the various rifle associations in the different parts of the Dominion have arranged their programme so as not to interfere with the League. At any rate there is a match in June, viz., the "Inter-City" Martini.

W. R. PRINGLE, Secretary.

The easy quiet way in which T. A. SLOCUM'S OXYGENIZED Mulsion of Pure Cod Liver Oil has won its way into public favor speaks volumes for its merits. At the office of the company, Toronto, Ont., can be seen scores of valuable testimonials, while any druggist will tell you that for all pulmonary difficulties it stands unrivalled.

THE MILITARY-RIFLE LEAGUE.

The most noticeable feature of the second match in the series is the improvement in the scores; occasioned, no doubt, by the more favourable conditions of the weather combined with a greater amount of practice. The winners of the first places in last year's competitions are again at the top, having changed places with the 53rd Battalion, Sherbrooke. The ranges were 200, 500 and 600 yards, and the following are the scores, together with the positions the various teams now occupy :—

	1st Match.	2nd Match.	Total.
1. 54th Battalion, Windsor Mills	853	799	1652
2. 13th Battalion, Hamilton, 1st team	839	803	1642
3. 96th Battalion, Port Arthur	787	811	1598
4. 53rd Battalion, Sherbrooke	858	729	1587
5. C Company, I. S. C., Toronto	771	798	1569
6. Toronto Rifle Association	778	790	1568
7. 45th Battalion, Lindsay, 1st team	791	774	1565
8. 43rd Battalion, Ottawa, 1st team	754	801	1555
9. 62nd Battalion, St. John	786	758	1544
10. Queen's Own Rifles, Toronto, 1st team	742	796	1538
11. 21st Battalion, Essex Centre, 1st team	791	734	1525
12. 45th Battalion, Bowmanville, 3rd team	796	716	1512
13. 7th Fusiliers, London	726	782	1508
14. Halifax Garrison Artillery, 1st team	780	718	1498
15. 63rd Battalion, Halifax, 1st team	754	731	1485
16. 20th Battalion, Georgetown	716	761	1477
17. 43rd Battalion, 2nd team	701	750	1451
18. Prince Edward Island Garrison Artillery	706	743	1449
19. G. G. F. G., Ottawa, 1st team	713	736	1449
20. Ottawa Rifle Club	719	722	1441
21. Halifax Garrison Artillery, 2nd team	796	637	1433
22. 82nd Battalion, Charlottetown	731	696	1427
23. Montreal Garrison Artillery, 1st team	708	718	1426
24. 20th Battalion, Milton	710	715	1425
25. 13th Battalion, 2nd team	744	680	1424
26. 5th Royal Scots, Montreal, 1st team	687	734	1421
27. D Company, I. S. C., London	670	727	1397
28. 37th Battalion, Hagarville	684	712	1396
29. 59th Battalion, Cornwall	661	734	1395
30. 57th Battalion, Peterborough, 1st team	714	676	1390
31. Prescott Rifle Assn.	696	693	1389
32. 10th Royal Grenadiers, 1st team	679	700	1379
33. 93rd Battalion, Fort Lawrence	667	709	1376
34. Victoria Rifles, Montreal, 1st team	673	699	1372
35. 8th Battalion, Quebec, 1st team	743	627	1370
36. 6th Fusiliers, 1st team	667	702	1369
37. Queen's Own Rifles, 2nd team	688	681	1369
38. 43rd Battalion, 3rd team	678	684	1362
39. Royal Military College, Kingston	669	689	1358
40. 31st Battalion, Owen Sound	684	665	1349
41. 71st Battalion, St. Stephen	668	669	1337
42. 15th Battalion, Belleville	684	642	1326
43. Charlottetown Engineers	621	703	1324
44. 22nd Battalion, Woodstock	682	636	1318
45. St. John Rifle Co.	676	633	1309
46. 15th Battalion, Belleville	661	642	1303
47. 71st Battalion, Fredericton	625	672	1297
48. 26th Battalion, Vanneck	726	569	1295
49. 66th Battalion, Halifax	663	631	1294
50. Kentville Rifle Association	685	609	1294
51. 38th Battalion, Brantford	677	613	1290
52. 63rd Battalion, 2nd team	724	566	1290
53. 6th Fusiliers, 2nd team	644	625	1269
54. 49th Battalion, Belleville	661	604	1265
55. A Company, I. S. C., Fredericton	631	620	1251
56. 44th Battalion, Niagara Falls	584	664	1248
57. B Battery, Quebec, 1st team	662	578	1240
58. 14th Battalion, Kingston	595	640	1235
59. Toronto Rifle Assn., 2nd team	643	580	1223
60. 10th R. G., 2nd team	628	588	1216
61. Battleford Rifle Association	583	631	1214
62. Sackville Rifle Association	658	556	1214
63. A Battery, Reg. C. A., Kingston, 1st team	629	566	1195
64. 8th Royal Rifles, 2nd team	618	573	1191
65. 77th Battalion	641	548	1189
66. Montreal Rifle Association	556	624	1180
67. Queen's Own Rifles, 4th team	576	602	1178
68. 60th Battalion	566	609	1175
69. Halifax Rifle Association	656	518	1174
70. 49th Battalion, Madoc	600	562	1162
71. 50th Battalion, Huntingdon	556	583	1139

72. G. G. F. G., 2nd team	563	573	1136
73. 9th Battalion, Quebec	597	508	1105
74. Levis Rifle Association	572	531	1103
75. Queen's Own Rifles, 3rd team	601	498	1099
76. Montreal Garrison Artillery, 2nd team	520	575	1095
77. 10th Royal Grenadiers, 3rd team	548	544	1092
78. Halifax Garrison Artillery, 3rd team	563	515	1078
79. 43rd Battalion, 4th team	551	518	1069
80. 57th Battalion, Peterborough, 2nd team	539	525	1064
81. 3rd Vics, 2nd team	502	560	1062
82. Regina Rifle Association	517	544	1061
83. Governor-General's B. Guard, Toronto	557	504	1061
84. 95th Battalion, Brandon	596	454	1050
85. 10th Royal Grenadiers, 4th team	543	494	1037
86. Governor-General's Foot Guards, 3rd team	515	519	1034
87. 55th Battalion	487	515	1002
88. B Battery, R. C. A., 2nd team	510	457	967
89. 45th Battalion, Lindsay, 2nd team	462	484	946
90. 1st Prince of Wales Rifles, 1st team	498	414	912
91. Headquarters Staff, Ottawa	427	460	887
92. Governor-General's Foot Guards, 4th team	399	457	856
93. 21st Battalion, Windsor, 2nd team	360	464	824
94. 5th Royal Scots, 2nd team	400	421	821
95. B Company, I. S. C., St. Johns, Q.	432	384	816
96. A Battery, R. C. A., 2nd team	302	499	801
97. 65th Battalion, Montreal	412	346	758
98. Halifax Garrison Artillery, 4th team	382	282	664
99. 43rd Battalion, 5th team	229	405	634
100. 53rd Battalion, 2nd team	162	402	564
101. 1st Prince of Wales Rifles, 2nd team	203	130	333
102. Leicestershire Regt., Halifax, 1st team	758	605	1363
103. Leicestershire Regt., 2nd team	656	559	1215
104. Leicestershire Regt., 3rd team	619	...	619
105. 90th Battalion, Winnipeg	573	...	573

THE NORTH-WEST LEAGUE.

The first match of this new Rifle League was shot on the 16th ult., and as it was, in many cases, the first handling of the rifle this season, the scores, more especially of the Winnipeg contingent, were comparatively small, and as will be seen below, their North-West friends gave the Prairie City fellows "a real good licking."

The rivalry between the different associations inaugurated by the N. W. League will no doubt be productive of good results in the future, and may perhaps make its influence felt at the D. R. A. matches some time or other.

The scores were as follows, the lists being kindly furnished us by the Secretary, Mr. K. Graburn:—

SASKATCHEWAN RIFLE ASSOCIATION, PRINCE ALBERT.

	200	400	500	Total.
T. C. Baker	28	30	22	80
— Williamson	24	25	27	76
T. J. Agnew	26	28	21	75
John Stewart	23	24	26	73
Geo. McKay	25	20	19	64
	126	127	115	368
Battleford Rifle Association	132	115	118	365
Alberta Provincial Association, Calgary	134	116	114	364
Edmonton Rifle Association	129	135	100	364
95th Battalion, Portage la Prairie	130	125	92	347
N. W. Mounted Police, Prince Albert	114	128	104	346
A Co., 95th Battalion, Brandon	119	115	103	337
Assiniboia Rifle Association, Regina	124	128	77	329
Manitoba Rifle Association, Winnipeg	114	115	98	327
F Co., 90th Battalion, Winnipeg	124	123	77	324
Winnipeg Rifle Range Co.	110	122	90	322
Moosomin Rifle Association	107	115	79	301

THE MAIL CONTEST.

The interest taken in the *Mail's* military competition seems to be increasing, and the admirers of each corps are doing all they can to reach the top, which envied position still remains in the position of the Queen's Own Rifles, although it has been vigorously assailed by the gallant 13th Battalion, of Hamilton. The officer who at present heads the list is Major Delamere, Q.O.R., with the total of 7,248, a lead of 1,331 votes. The following was the order of the highest in both competitions up to Wednesday:—

1. Delamere, Major Q.O.R., Toronto	7,248
2. Jones, Lt.-Col. 38th Dufferin Rifles, Brantford	6,917
3. Brodie, Lt.-Col. 31st Grey, Owen Sound	6,786
4. Manley, Capt. 10th Grenadiers, Toronto	6,385
5. Vance, Lt. 22nd Oxford, Ingersoll	6,380
6. Pellatt, Capt. Q.O.R., Toronto	6,076
7. Henderson, Capt. 34th, Whitby	6,047
8. O'Brien, Lt.-Col. 35th, Barrie	5,952
9. Macdonald, Lt.-Col. Field Battery, Guelph	5,949
10. Tyrwhitt, Lt.-Col. 36th, Brampton	5,948
11. Todd, Capt. 33rd, Clinton	5,503
12. McLean, Major Durham Field Battery	5,306

1. 2nd Battalion, Queen's Own Rifles, Toronto	20,441
2. 13th Battalion, Hamilton Infantry	18,547
3. 38th Battalion, Dufferin Rifles, Brantford	11,766
4. 10th Battalion, Royal Grenadiers, Toronto	11,297
5. 12th Battalion, York Rangers, Toronto	9,232
6. 84th Battalion, Ontario Infantry	7,548
7. 31st Battalion, Grey Infantry	7,351
8. 83rd Battalion, Huron Infantry	6,952
9. 36th Battalion, Peel Infantry	5,776
10. 22nd Battalion, Oxford Rifles	5,718
11. Governor General's Foot Guards, Ottawa	5,611
12. 3rd Battalion, Victoria Rifles, Montreal	5,183

DISCIPLINE.

(By Colonel H. B. Hanna, late Commanding at Delhi.—From the *Broad Arrow*.)
V.—NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS.

"Non-commissioned officers, whether on or off duty, are not to permit any irregularity, neglect, or deviation from orders."—INDIAN ARMY REGULATIONS.

The efficient maintenance of discipline in a regiment depends almost more upon the non-commissioned officers than the officers themselves. The non-commissioned officer is in closer touch with the men, as he is responsible for the proper and punctual carrying out of the multitudinous orders which pass through him. He is a species of "middle-man," and very often, I fear, too much is left to him. As a matter of fact, his work should be more carefully supervised by the officers than is usually the case. Non-commissioned officers are expected to be always clean and neatly dressed, respectful to their superiors, and punctual and careful in the performance of their duties. They must necessarily be men of some education, and should display tact, firmness, and temper in their dealings with the men. In a word, they should be living examples of smartness, sobriety and discipline.

To understand how great for good or evil must be the influence of a non-commissioned officer on discipline, let us take a cursory glance at the duties which devolve upon him. A non-commissioned officer usually takes command of all guards and escorts; he has to post the sentries, and to see that they are alert; prisoners are made over to him for safe custody; regimental stores and ammunition are generally in his charge; a good deal of money at times passes through his hands, often far too much; he has to preserve good order in barracks, both by day and by night; he has the power to confine men, and to make prisoners of them at large; he has to superintend all punishment drills; he is responsible that the men turn out clean and punctually for all parades and other duties, and that they are properly equipped and dressed; he teaches and drills recruits; he has constantly to satisfy himself that the men's kits are complete and in good order; he is to some extent responsible that their documents are properly kept, and up to date; he is in charge of most of the regimental institutes; he has to see the men's rations served out, and to superintend the canteen issues; finally, all complaints must be preferred through him, and the company officer looks to him to bring all irregularities to his notice, and to at once report any serious breach of discipline. A non-commissioned officer who possessed all the qualifications I have indicated, and carried out without fail all the important duties I have enumerated, would be a perfect paragon of a soldier. Unfortunately, few even approach this high

standard of excellence. If a man be smart, sober, punctual, and respectful to his superiors, and has the necessary educational qualifications, he is very soon raised to lance rank, and further steps quickly follow.

But is the man so promoted always fitted for the post? I fear not, for want of experience and absence of tact render many of our soldiers quite unsuited to the responsible position of a non-commissioned officer. Young and inexperienced non-commissioned officers too often bully and ill-use the men, and to this conduct of theirs is due much of the insubordination and violence which disgrace our Army. Commanding officers are not always to blame for the unfitness of the men they select to exercise power over their former comrades. It is the short service system which is largely answerable for it. In long service days it was very different. Promotion then was much slower, and consequently commanding officers had time and opportunity to judge of a man's fitness for higher rank before raising him to it. I may, perhaps, be asked if, in the face of those facts, I would revert to long service, and, if not, what remedy I can propose to meet the evil I have indicated? My reply to the first part of the question is simply that we cannot revert altogether to long service, because as our large and scattered and ever-increasing foreign possessions make such heavy demands upon our Army, we must have a substantial reserve to fall back upon, in the event of invasion, or in case of European complications. A short service army only can furnish such a reserve, and therefore to abolish it would be a fatal error. What England needs, in my opinion, is conscription for its home Army, and a paid force for its foreign possessions; in the former, the men serving with the colours for even a shorter period than now; and in the latter, for not less than ten years. Respecting the second part of the question, as to how I would meet the evils resulting from young and inexperienced non-commissioned officers, my remedy for them would be to let the men select a certain proportion, say half, of the non-commissioned officers, provided always that the men so selected were, as regards character, education, and intelligence, fully fitted for the post. I feel sure that the introduction of the change I propose would have a most happy and beneficial effect on the discipline of the Army. The men would more readily obey non-commissioned officers of their own choice, while the two classes of non-commissioned officers, those chosen by the men themselves, and those appointed by superior authority, would favourably influence each other.

The system of selection is not foreign to our Army; the men have been called upon to select officers and comrades for the Victoria Cross, and commissions have been conferred in the same way. Who would presume to question the justice of such selections?

In large manufactories and workshops, where the foremen are often young men, insubordination and violence are scarcely known, though the foremen have no penal powers to support their authority; whereas in the Army, when a non-commissioned officer's powers are very great, the crimes just referred to are or frequent occurrence. How is it that this extraordinary difference exists between workmen and soldiers, as both spring from the same class? The reason to me is clear. The ordinary workman may be said voluntarily to select to serve under his foreman, whereas a soldier must *volens volens* serve under, and obey every little whim of the non-commissioned officers set over him. If the foreman is wanting in tact, and is generally disliked, great difficulty will be experienced in getting "hands," and his employers are likely to take the hint and exchange him for a better man. But soldiers have no way of showing their opinion of an incompetent, ill-tempered, or spiteful non-commissioned officer, except by rebelling against his authority, and so drawing down punishment on their own heads. As a matter of fact they often rebel, sometimes in cold blood, more oftener under the influence of liquor, and

in my opinion they will continue to do so, unless we can ensure that the men set over them shall, by temper, tact, and sense of responsibility, be worthy of the power entrusted to them, and I am convinced that the best way to ensure this is to leave the selection to the soldiers themselves. As a rule I believe their choice would fall on the most honest, the most manly, the best tempered; and if, in addition to these fine qualities, the candidate possessed a fair education, where could we find a better man, a man more likely to be a credit to his regiment and to uphold its discipline? Knowledge of his duties, drill, and smartness would quickly follow if he were taken in hand by a good adjutant. We should find too that the selection would frequently fall on a man of gentle birth. Soldiers infinitely prefer to serve under a man of this class, the charm of whose better manners and gentle ways they are quick to feel. We have many such men now serving in the ranks, and I am happy to think that their numbers, much to the advantage of the army at large, are daily increasing.

It may not unreasonably be asked, if insubordination, with its attendant crimes, is so largely due to the tyrannical and injudicious conduct of the non-commissioned officer, why are not steps taken to see that he shall exercise his authority under closer supervision? Something may well be done in this direction; as I have already said, too much is left to him which the officers had better look to themselves; but as regards the way in which he uses his authority that must be his, it is only expedient to interfere in glaring cases of tyranny or injustice. In the interests of discipline the non-commissioned officer, so long as he holds the position, must be supported, else the whole fabric would fall to pieces; but that is the very reason why it is so important that the best men should be promoted. The provision of good non-commissioned officers is one of the most important military questions of the day; it will have to be faced sooner or later, and the sooner the better, for it is quite possible that a soldier's time with the colours may be still further curtailed, which will increase the difficulty of choice?

But whether appointed or selected, non-commissioned officers should receive some theoretical training in their profession to meet the requirements of modern warfare; when they would probably be placed in more independent and responsible positions in action, than has been the case hitherto. Such training I would not leave to the regimental authorities; for though, in some regiments, it would be thoroughly carried out, in others, it would be slurred over or totally neglected. Nor do I advocate schools for this purpose on the lines of Hythe; but at the headquarters of district commands I would form classes, somewhat similar to garrison classes, for the instruction of all non-commissioned officers who have attained the rank of sergeant, in theoretical subjects. In India, the classes should be only formed during the hot season, and the time of attendance should be limited to three hours. The course should be elementary as regards surveying and fortification, while more attention should be paid to military history and tactics. Non-commissioned officers belonging to these classes should not be struck off duty, and those attending from out-stations should, for discipline, rations, and quarters, be attached to regiments at the headquarters of the districts. It would be quite unnecessary to hire rooms for the purpose, as, during the hot season, some spare barracks would always be available; as a matter of fact, the only expense that the scheme would entail would be a small staff salary for a competent officer, who should be relieved from all other duties, to enable him to devote the whole of his time to the work.

Probably no modern medicine has obtained wider notoriety, within a given time, than the really wonderful SLOCUM'S OXYGENIZED EMULSION OF PURE COD LIVER OIL. To sufferers from lung troubles we say: take no other. As all druggists sell it, it is easily obtained.

CAPT. STAIRS' HONOURS.

The *Broad Arrow* is very much exercised at the promotion recently conferred on the distinguished young Canadian, Capt. Stairs, and in the latest issue the following ill-natured paragraphs appear:—

A bad precedent is created in the case of Captain W. G. Stairs of the Welsh Regiment who, "having embarked to take up his appointment under the Government of the Congo State, will now be seconded." Without entertaining the least animus against Captain Stairs himself, we cannot, in the interests of regimental officers, allow the matter to drop. The personal qualities of Captain Stairs have nothing whatever to do with the professional questions involved in the official favouritism with which he has been treated. In the first instance the protracted absence of Lieut. Stairs, R.E., from his corps in connection with an expedition which had no military significance whatever, gave him no kind of claim to the unusual privilege of being transferred from a lieutenantancy in the Engineers to the command of a company in the Line. It is preposterous that a young Infantry captain—who has yet to learn duties which, though perhaps not so comprehensive as those of a Sapper, are distinctly important—is seconded to take service, forsooth, under the Government of the Congo Free State.

Now the Congo Free State is a creation of six years' standing, the central Government of which is at Brussels, the sovereign being the King of the Belgians, by whom the enterprise—one can hardly call it by any other name—is mainly supported. In other words, then, Captain Stairs has entered the service of the King of the Belgians, but by a kindly dispensation of the War Office will be allowed to return at some future date to take up the duties, possibly of a Major or a Lieutenant-Colonel, in an arm of our Service in which he has had absolutely no experience whatever. Is this common sense? Is it fair to regimental officers who stick to their regiments year after year, and do *not* gain their military experience in "exploration," or in the service of an infant "Free State?" The answer is emphatically No! and the sooner the War Office either cancels the transfer of Lieutenant Stairs, R.E., to the Line, or recalls him to his Line company, or gazettes him out of the Service, the better for that good feeling which ought to exist between Pall Mall and regimental officers. Their position is already sufficiently precarious without Stanleys and Free States having to be reckoned with.

LIEUT. GRANT "OF THOBAL."

(United Service Gazette.)

Promotion to Lieut. C. J. W. Grant, the hero of the attack upon and the defence of Thobal fort, is gazetted. He is to be captain in the Indian Staff Corps with the brevet rank of major. But more prized will be the Victoria Cross which everyone feels that Lieut. Grant has so deservedly won. The act of courage for which the Victoria Cross was recommended and granted by Her Majesty is thus described: "For the conspicuous bravery and devotion to his country displayed by him in having, upon hearing on March 27, 1891, of the disaster at Manipur, at once volunteered to attempt the relief of the British captives with eighty native soldiers, and having advanced with the greatest intrepidity, captured Thobal, near Manipur, and held it against a large force of the enemy. Lieut. Grant inspired his men with equal heroism by an ever-present example of personal daring and resource."

The story of Lieut. Grant's march to Thobal, and his brilliant repulse at that place of the Manipuri army, whom he held at bay with eighty men from March 31 to April 10, is told with much interesting detail in the Indian newspapers last to hand.

On march 28, before the full extent of the disaster at

Manipur was known, Lieut. Grant started from Tammu to the relief of Mr Quinton with fifty men of his own regiment, the 12th Burmah Infantry, mostly Punjabi Mussulmans with a few Pathans, and thirty rifles of the 43rd Goorkhas, the latter under the command of Jemadar Baldir, who, with thirty-four men of that corps, had just fought his way to Tammu from Langthobal, giving a good account of those Manipuris who had opposed him. Twenty of the relieving force were old soldiers, the remainder being recruits of less than a year's standing. The Goorkhas were armed with Martinis and carried fifty rounds, all that could be obtained, and the others had 160 rounds per man for their Sniders.

Fighting began early. The expedition had barely marched seven miles when they were fired upon from an ambushade by Chins, who were quickly dispersed. About mid-night a number of trees were found felled across the road in the course of the third stage from Tammu. The Manipuris were entrenched on the hill above the road, but in such a position that their fire was harmless. Lieut. Grant, with twenty men, rushed the trench from the flank, and its garrison of 150 fled, leaving guns and accoutrements. On the morning of the arrival of the force at Palel, Lieut. Grant learned from a prisoner that nine Sahibs had been killed at Manipur, and that the officer commanding the road from Tammu had been ordered to resist any troops moving on the capital. The lieutenant decided to send the news to Tammu and push on, leaving it to the authorities at headquarters to recall him if they thought fit.

By dawn on the 31st the detachment was among the villages four or five miles from Thobal. Driving the enemy before them, the troops advanced along the road, which ran through an open plain, and passed to the right of a line of walled compounds. Seeing a bridge burning, Lieut. Grant hurried his men up in order if possible to save it, and at the same time galloped on to reconnoitre. He reached the watercourse, and, then, without the least warning, fire was suddenly opened from the opposite side at a range of fifty yards. Seeing the enemy in force, Lieut. Grant galloped back, getting a bullet through his coat. His career was nearly ended, as the ball bruised his back, but the wound was luckily a trifling one. Now came the time to test his men in earnest. They were in fighting formation, twenty being in firing line, ten in support of each flank, and forty with the baggage. The order was given to advance, and, to use Grant's own words, "they behaved beautifully. It was like a page out of the drill-book. There was a volley from the right party, and a rush from the left, and *vice versa*. We lost only one man in the first rush. He was shot through the head. I thought for a moment he was hanging back, but on reaching him saw that he was dead. The enemy were firing through loopholes in walls hidden by hedges. We got to within 100 yards of them, but a watercourse was between us, and I could not tell their numbers. We lay down and fired for ten minutes, but made no impression. I went back to the supports on each flank and ordered them to creep up wide of the first firing line, but, like brave fellows as they are, they jumped up, rushed forward right to the edge of the stream and began firing. The fighting line fixed bayonets and joined them. There was a cry from the left that the enemy were running, and then we plunged pell-mell into the watercourse. It was rather deep, and one little Goorkha disappeared altogether. For a second I myself got fast in weeds, and was ignominiously hauled out by a jemadar, but we got across somehow. The Manipuris were seen in full flight, their white clothing making them excellent targets. On the enemy's left was a line of rifle pits, and in these numbers were caught like rats in a trap and bayoneted. On the right were the compound walls giving good shelter, but behind them lay a number of dead shot through the head. There were 800 Manipuris holding this position.

After this success Lieut. Grant occupied three of the compounds already referred to, which were beyond the watercourse. For purposes of defence he cleared away most of the houses within the walls, and cut down the trees so that the fallen trunks and branches should hinder as much as possible any rush made by his antagonists. Afterwards he constructed a covered way to the watercourse, to secure his water-supply. The ravine protected his rear, and on his right was perfectly open country. A quantity of provisions was found in the houses.

Next afternoon the enemy attacked in force. A wall in front of the camp was lined by Sepoys, who let them get within 600 yards before firing. On receiving a series of steady volleys the Manipuris retreated, and proceeded to shell the camp with two 7-pounders at 1,000 yards. The Martinis were equal to the occasion, however, and the gunners, finding themselves losing men, retreated to 1,500 yards, and continued to fire with only one gun. A later attack was repulsed. On the following morning, at 3 a.m., the little garrison started filling paddy-bags and mail-bags with earth for the ramparts. Telegraph wire which had been picked up was laid down as "entanglements," and other improvements were made in the position.

On April 3 negotiations were begun. Their course was fully indicated in the telegraphic despatches which have been published. By way of conveying to the Manipuri commander the contempt of the British force for their foes, Lieut. Grant added to one of his letters the postscript, "I am going to shoot some ducks. Don't be afraid." Thanks to his caution and insight into the character of those with whom he had to deal the attempts to get the better of him by diplomacy failed, and resort was had once more to force on the 6th, when, after an hour's artillery fire, the Manipuri infantry attacked at 7 a.m. Lieut. Grant kept his men on this occasion within the enclosure next the watercourse, and, as ammunition was running short, orders were given for them to reserve their fire until the enemy were within 200 yards. The Manipuris took cover, and about eight o'clock Lieut. Grant, deeming it desirable to relieve the pressure on his left front, crept along the watercourse with ten Goorkhas, enfiladed the walls, and in a few minutes cleared that side. At 11 a.m. no impression had been made on the camp, the Sepoys being so well protected that they could fire through the loopholes without exposing themselves. Lieut. Grant now determined to try and clear his front a little, taking six Goorkhas of the 43rd, with their havildar. He himself was armed with a double-barrelled sixteen-bore breech-loader and a revolver. The party crept up the ditch between the road and the compounds and enfiladed the wall which on previous days he had held, and behind which there were one hundred of the enemy, who ran at once; but facing the corner and cut off from it by a deep ditch full of water was a wall, five feet high, from which the Manipuris began firing. Luckily it was not loopholed, so that they had to expose themselves when aiming. The Goorkhas had some fine snap shots at the heads as they were raised on the wall, while their young commander was using his buckshot cartridges with effect. At last the Manipuris, finding the exposure was almost certain death, sneaked away from this hot corner, and his immediate front being clear, Lieut. Grant returned to his entrenchments. The havildar, Gambir Rai, who was with him, had the lower joint of his right thumb smashed by a bullet; but he never let go his rifle or complained of being wounded. After this there was a pause of about an hour in the fighting, during which Lieut. Grant sorrowfully emptied his last box of ammunition. After it had been served out the Sepoys of the 12th Burmah had fifty rounds per rifle, while thirty Goorkhas with Martinis had only 20 rounds each. Lieut. Grant speaks in the highest terms of the way in which all his men husbanded their ammunition throughout. There was no wild firing, and the discipline

was admirable. After the last reserve of ammunition had been served out, he issued orders stopping all firing. The enemy were to be allowed to approach to within 100 yards before being greeted with volleys. The men were ordered to lie down under cover, one in every six being left as a look-out. The Manipuris reopened fire, but their aim was as bad as ever. The look-out men showed supreme contempt for their enemy, and not a man winced, though the trees about them were constantly being struck by bullets. As the afternoon wore on Lieut. Grant told off his best shots at the loopholes to shoot steadily at such Manipuris as exposed themselves. In this way a considerable number were accounted for. It was a trying time; but the enemy, after the experience of the morning, never made an organized rush upon the entrenchments. They withdrew at sunset, and the firing was at an end. Lieut. Grant then counted up his losses, which were amazingly small; one man killed, two Sepoys and one muleteer wounded, two ponies killed, two wounded, and two elephants wounded. For fifteen hours his men had been under arms without a mouthful of food, and they had well earned the reward which they enjoyed of a good night's rest. About 8,000 rounds were fired at the camp during this day.

On the 9th he received his orders to fall back on Captain Presgrave. That evening there was a tremendous thunder-storm of the kind which comes when the monsoons break in this part of the country. Getting his men together, he set out in pouring rain at 7 p.m., the night being pitch dark. The movement was of the slowest, as the column had to wait for each flash of lightning to see their way. It took two hours to do the first half-mile, but the Sepoys toiled on, passing within a few yards of their sleeping enemies, who could not hear them in the storm. Not a shot was fired at them. Lieut. Grant's meeting with Capt. Presgrave was dramatic. The young soldier was stumbling along through the mud, almost dead beat and half asleep from fatigue, when a Sepoy immediately in front of him stopped and remarked in quite an ordinary tone of voice, "Guard aya, Sahel." Lieut. Grant asked what guard—that over the baggage, or what guard. "From Palel," was the response. Lieut. Grant looked up, and by a flash of lightning, saw Captain Presgrave standing before him. This was about 2 a.m., on the morning of April 10. The parties united and marched on to Palel. Such was the end of the brilliant exploits of Lieut. Grant and his eighty Sepoys.

The gallant officer was with General Graham's column in the fight some time later at Thobal. The enemy having hung out a flag of truce, he jumped up from his corner and ordered his men to cease firing. They had done so when a volley was fired from the Manipuris fort, and a bullet struck the lieutenant, passing through the muscles of his neck and knocking him over. The Sepoys immediately stormed the place, Lieut. Grant being among the first in, and sharing in the hand-to-hand fight until overcome by exhaustion.

FIELD ARTILLERY PROGRESS.

What is to be the next step in Field Artillery progress? We are in possession of a gun which is certainly inferior to none in Europe, if not weight for weight superior to the equivalent armament of most Continental artilleries. Our ammunition, though not, of course, faultless, fulfils in a fair degree the requirements of the guns with which it is employed. Range finders are this year very much on their trial. It is more than probable that Col. Watkins' improved instrument will emerge triumphant from the ordeal. Col. Scott's telescopic sights are beginning to be thoroughly appreciated, and a race of "trained layers," full of energy and intelligence, is springing up, needing only the encouragement of increased pay and due recognition of their status to acquire that permanency and stability which is so necessary. The handling of batteries when brought up into ac-

tion, the details of fire discipline, and the supply of ammunition have all been carefully considered. What then is to be the next step in progress? The question of affording cover, by light shields attached to the gun carriages, to protect the gun detachments from the effects of Infantry fire has met with frequent discussion, mainly non-official. Due investigation and experiment have not as yet been accorded to a matter of such grave importance. Seeing that a company or half-company of fair marksmen, placed under adequate cover 800 yards from a battery, could practically silence guns which had been making havoc amongst the main body, Artillery or Infantry, at 2000 yards or more, the importance of affording such protection as will enable gunners to stand to their guns under those conditions can hardly be questioned. The great exposure of guns, men, and horses, when unlimbered under fire, renders it highly desirable that greater facilities should exist for unlimbering under cover, just short, for instance, of the crest of a hill, and running guns up by hand into the firing position. This would probably prove a hard nut for the Royal Carriage Department to crack. The gun carriage has such vast requirements in the direction of strength, that lightness and mobility must of necessity remain within circumscribed limits. But is it not possible to so far modify the existing carriage that three, or at the most four, men, can run it up as much as 40 or 50 yards by hand! An automatic device on the principle of the "wheel purchase" attached to the wheels, and a point of support with a wheel or roller for the trail, should in some degree meet the case. If it is conceded that the necessity exists for such a change, doubtless the Carriage Department would rise above the difficulty with something more simple and practical than the above crude suggestion. Be this as it may, there is no doubt that in the carriages of field guns and their appurtenances there exists more scope for the inventor and improver than will be found in the department of the Gun Factory or of the Laboratory. The officials of the manufacturing departments will, it is hoped, prove themselves both anxious and competent to keep the standard of *matériel* on a par with the rapidly rising capabilities of the *personnel*.—*Broad Arrow*.

Militia General Orders (No. 8) of 29th May, 1891.

No. 1.—ARMY ACT, 1881.

It has been notified that the Imperial Army Act, 1881, has been renewed and will remain in force in America until the 31st July, 1892.

No. 2.—MOBILISATION.

The following changes in Company Headquarters are authorized: 36th Battalion of Infantry, O.—No. 2 Company, from "Grand Valley" to "Glencairn."

67th Battalion of Infantry, N.B.—No. 8 Company, from "East Florenceville" to "Centreville."

No. 3.—APPOINTMENTS AND PROMOTIONS.

PERMANENT CORPS.

COMPANY OF MOUNTED INFANTRY.—Lieutenant and Brevet Captain James Alexander Bremner, has been permitted to resign his commission.

INFANTRY SCHOOL CORPS.—Captain and Brevet Major Lawrence Buchan, of the Company of Mounted Infantry will proceed to Fredericton, N.B., and assume command of "A" Company, in the absence on duty of Captain and Brevet Major W. D. Gordon.

36TH "PEEL" BATTALION OF INFANTRY, O.—No. 2 Company, Glencairn.—To be Captain: 2nd Lieutenant Henry Charles Schomberg Elliot, R.S.I., from No. 7 Company, 35th Battalion, *vice* W. R. Scott, who retires from the service.

To be Lieutenant, provisionally: Marshall Neilly Stephens, Gentleman, *vice* Charles Byng-Hall, left limits.

96TH "DISTRICT OF ALGOMA" BATTALION OF RIFLES, O.—No. 6 Company, Sault Ste. Marie.—To be Lieutenant, provisionally: Sergeant John Absalom Wilde, Gentleman, *vice* Malcolm Green, left limits.

By command.

WALKER POWELL, Colonel,
Adjutant General of Militia,
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DATES OF BI-MONTHLY DRAWINGS IN 1891.

3 and 17 June	7 and 21 October
1 " 15 July	4 " 18 November
5 " 19 August	2 " 16 December
2 " 16 September	

**3,134 PRIZES
WORTH - \$52,740.00.**

**CAPITAL PRIZE,
WORTH - \$15,000.00.**

Ticket, - - - \$1.00.

11 Tickets for - \$10.00.

ASK FOR CIRCULARS.

LIST OF PRIZES.

1 Prize, worth \$15,000.00	\$15,000
1 " " 5,000.00	5,000
1 " " 2,500.00	2,500
1 " " 1,250.00	1,250
2 Prizes, " 500.00	1,000
5 " " 250.00	1,250
25 " " 50.00	1,250
100 " " 25.00	2,500
500 " " 15.00	7,500
500 " " 10.00	5,000

APPROXIMATION PRIZES.

100 Prizes, worth \$25.00	\$2,500
100 " " 15.00	1,500
100 " " 10.00	1,000
999 " " 5.00	4,995
999 " " 5.00	4,995

1134 Prizes, worth \$52,740.00
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Owing to the changes recently ordered to be made in the uniform of officers, non-commissioned officers, and men of the Royal Artillery, the following alteration will, sooner or later have to be made in the uniform of officers, n. c. o. and men of the Volunteer Artillery:—Officers: skirt, square in front open behind with a blue cloth flap on back of each skirt, flaps edged with round silver cord traced with Russain braid, Skirt lined with black, scarlet cloth edging down the front and at the opening behind. There will have to be nine buttons down the front, three on each flap behind, and two on the waist behind. The tunics of the non-commissioned officers and men will be as follows:—Skirt, square in front with blue flaps behind edged with scarlet cloth and three buttons on each flap. The piping round the button is discontinued, and the back of the skirt is to be opened and edged with scarlet cloth. The cord on the sleeve is to be carried all round and finished off at the back seam. It will come as a boon and a blessing to those concerned to be told that no pressure is to be put on them to cause expenses in connection with the alterations in their frippery. These are to be carried out when tunics are renewed.

The Morris tube has occasionally, and to a very small extent, been employed in England in conjunction with field guns, in order to verify the results of "laying" in the barrack square. The tube is of course inserted in the ordinary manner in a carbine, and the carbine is secured with its axis parallel to that of the gun by means of straps and metal clamping arrangements. Colonel Rodolphe, Director of the Artillery School of the 12th French Army Corps, has, however, made a far more extended use of the "Tir Reduit," applied by him to field guns on some modification of the principle above described. Practice has been carried out at 300 metres (328.2 yards) at a target about 1 foot 4 inches high by 8 inches wide. The target was stuck, the bullet (a specially prepared Hotchkiss shell, with a lead coating and percussion fuse, weighing 600 grammes with the fuse, or 350 without) striking the ground at 437 yards range. The bursting of shell is thus simulated, and men are taught "shooting" simultaneously with the service of the gun.

THE NEW MAGAZINE RIFLE.

A correspondent of the *United Service Gazette* thus writes of a trial of the new magazine rifle made lately:—

Last week I had the opportunity of trying the powers of the original issue (Mark I.), and venture to tell you of some of my experiences. I was on the sea-coast; I had a few rounds of ammunition; and I determined to try the weapon to my own satisfaction.

My first mark was a piece of wood, floating about 300 yards away in the sea. With the first shot I succeeded in hitting this wood (which was about 18 inches by 5), using the lowest sight, and sank it for a second or two. The most remarkable thing was the great speed of the bullet, and the barely appreciable period between the sound of the explosion and the submersion of the wood.

I then turned my attention to a large conical iron buoy, floating, as I thought, about 1,000 yards out to sea. With the sight for that distance, and using the Lewes foresight, I found my first shot ridiculously short; so I tried 1,400, and found I was still short. I then put the sight to 1,700 yards, and firing two or three rounds I found that in each case the bullets pitched very close to the mark, one bullet plunging into the sea just over the left shoulder of the buoy, as we saw through the glasses. There was a faint breeze from the right, which may have accounted for the slight divergence of the shot. Most noticeable to us was the loud thud of impact of the bullet, clearly distinguishable to our ears at a distance of practically one mile, and indicating a considerable store of "remaining energy."

Now, Sir, I do not profess to be a Bisley shot, though for some considerable number of years I have used rifles, both sporting and military, in India and this country, but I do think that if the new rifle (even taking the much-abused Mark I.) is such that an ordinary individual trying it for the first time can make such respectable shooting, it is not a weapon to lightly deride or readily set aside. Potential results in the shape of improved shooting, both from recruits and trained soldiers (every officer knows what a bugbear "recoil" has ever been) may be confidently anticipated.



MONEY ORDERS.

MONEY ORDERS may be obtained at any Money Order Office in Canada, payable in the Dominion and Newfoundland; also in the United States, the United Kingdom, France, Germany, Austria, Hungary, Italy, Belgium, Switzerland, Portugal, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, the Netherlands, India, Japan, the Australian Colonies generally.

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" 20, " " 30.....	30c.
" 30, " " 40.....	40c.
" 40, " " 50.....	50c.

For further information see OFFICIAL POSTAL GUIDE.

Post Office Department, Ottawa.
1st November, 1889.



North-West Mounted Police.

RECRUITS.

APPLICANTS must be between the ages of Twenty-two and Forty, active, able-bodied men of thoroughly sound constitution, and must produce certificates of exemplary character and sobriety.

They must understand the care and management of horses, and be able to ride well.

The minimum height is 5 feet 8 inches, the minimum chest measurement 35 inches, and the maximum weight 175 pounds.

The term of engagement is five years.
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Staff-Sergeants.....\$1.00 to \$1.50 per day
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	Service pay.	Good conduct pay.	Total.
1st year's service,	50c.	—	50c. per day
2nd " "	50	5c.	55 "
3rd " "	50	10	60 "
4th " "	50	15	65 "
5th " "	50	20	70 "

Extra pay is allowed to a limited number of blacksmiths, carpenters and other artisans.

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