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Note and Comment.

The service papers in England have so far made little comment on the recently issued order respecting the wearing of medals and decorations. The *Army and Navy Gazette* just to hand, however, has this to say: "The amendments to those clauses of the Queen's Regulations which deal with decorations and medals have been issued none too soon. They introduce uniformity where great divergence of practice has hitherto been the rule. At the mess-table in particular, officers have very generally appeared incapable of arriving at an agreement about a detail which, however small in itself, is one which catches the eye of any stranger coming amongst them. Although, however, this want of an established service custom has been the immediate cause of the intervention of the authorities, we must in justice remember that it is to the use of the ambiguous phrase "may be worn," in the old text of the orders on the subject, that we owe all shortcomings. Further, we are by no means certain that the present edict against "miniatures" with the shell-jacket is a satisfactory solution of a difficulty which need never have arisen. Ribbons "sewn plain on" are certainly not ornamental. The plan can hardly be considered convenient, either; for experience teaches us that the necessarily frequent renewing is good for no one but the tailors. Another point. The so-called regulation miniatures are unfitted for ordinary evening-dress. The smaller size, as generally worn on the continent, is quite large enough, and it will, we suspect, soon come to be usual with us also."

The *Volunteer Service Gazette* last to hand devotes a flattering editorial note to the lecture on Infantry Fire Tactics recently delivered at the Canadian Military Institute, Toronto, by Major Mayne, R. E., of the Royal Military College. Major Mayne is recognized as one of the best authorities on this subject.

Concerning the question of the use of the pistol at Bisley next year, a correspondent thus writes to the *Volunteer Service Gazette*: "I think the use of the pistol would take well at Bisley, and be highly remunerative to the N. R. A. Why not adopt the same rules as in America for pistol and revolver competitions? The required 'pull off' (4 lbs.) at Bisley is too heavy for really good work. In America 3 lbs. is the minimum; and if we have contests at fifty yards, a heavy pull is fatal to fine shooting, and by the N. R. A. enforcing a 4 lb. pull, the weaker, or rather nervous competitors, are very seriously handicapped. I wish the N. R. A. would sanction single pistols at next year's meeting

—it would be pleasant recreation for hundreds, and at a reasonable cost. They are an immense success in America and France—and why should England wait?" The correspondent further remarks on the fine shooting powers of Colt's revolvers, stating that he has one that will strike a penny nineteen times out of twenty, at nearly twenty yards, off-hand.

Belleville shows an example of activity in military matters which might well be emulated in some of the other and larger cities. Without any special advantages, and with many drawbacks to contend against, the officers of the Fifteenth Battalion have raised their corps to a high standard of excellence, and a well directed effort is made to keep up the interest in all ranks. A synopsis of a lecture on Discipline recently delivered by the commanding officer appears in this issue; and a perusal of it will lead to the conviction that Col. Lazier's sentiments are those best calculated to ensure success in dealing with his corps.

The Gatling gun has recently been fitted with an electric motor which has proved an unqualified success. It has been necessary, heretofore, in operating these guns, to have the services of two men, the gunner, whose duty it is to train the gun and drop the shot where they will do the most execution, and also a man to operate the crank which sets in motion the mechanism which causes the balls to hail down upon the enemy. The adaptation of the Crocker-Wheeler motor not only does away with the services of the latter, but enables the gunner to train and operate the gun at will by touching an electric button. So

completely is the Gatling under control of the gunner, that he is enabled to fire either a single shot, or to pour them out at the rate of 1,200 per minute. The motor is attached to the breech of the gun, and moves with in every direction. It is so arranged that it may be disconnected from the gun mechanism instantly; by means of a specially defined clutch, should the motor be damaged by shot or otherwise, when the crank referred to may be used. It is expected that a gunner will be able to do more execution when not disconcerted by the man at the crank, as the power is applied more steadily, and because of the absence of wobbling, which is unavoidable when the crank is operated by a man.

A novel expedient has been adopted by Sir Frederick Roberts to improve the shooting of the men under his command in India. For every bullseye made by a soldier in his regulation practice at the butts an anna is given from the public funds, the amount being payable at the close of the firing. The innovation is very popular with Tommy Atkins, to whom a few stray annas are not an unimportant consideration, but it is doubtful if much practical good is to be accomplished by a system of rewards such as this whereby a chance "bullseye" would earn more for one careless soldier than a whole series of carefully fired "inners" would bring in to his really more skilful comrade.

It is denied at the War Office that there is any intention of withdrawing the magazine rifle. Looking at the matter from a purely trade point of view, such a step would be felt severely in Birmingham, where

the manufacture of a new service gun means steady employment, directly or indirectly, for some 2,000 or 3,000 people over a period of perhaps five or six years. "Already," *Iron* says, "about a thousand persons are engaged on the magazine rifle at the Birmingham Small-Arms Factory and at the Government establishments in the same locality; while perhaps as many more are connected with the preparation of the barrels, materials, machinery, and ammunition. A considerable number of operatives also are employed in the manufacture of this gun at the Government factory at Enfield and at the works of the London Small-Arms Company. At the factory of the Birmingham Small-Arms Company alone, 500 finished magazine rifles a week are being turned out, and the number will probably soon be increased to 1,000. Probably twice as many more are being produced at the Government factories at Enfield and Sparkbrook, and if to this is added the output of the London Small-Arms Factory, the combined production means about 2,000 rifles a week, which would represent an expenditure of some £45,000 or £50,000 a month. Moreover, in some of these cases contracts have been entered into extending over several years. Under the foregoing circumstances, the manufacturers hold it to be satisfactory that up to the present they have received no official confirmation of the rumours."

The *Army and Navy Gazette* quotes approvingly, as an argument which should strengthen the loyalty of the Colonies to the Mother-country, that recently put forward by Major G. S. Clarke, R.E., in the *United Service Magazine*, in a reply to Dr. Bakewell's recent "Dialogue" in the *Nineteenth Century*: "Major Clarke rightly says that the rising generation in Australia knows little of the Mother-country, her history, or her place among the nations, and many Colonists vaguely dream, as apparently Dr. Bakewell does, that their safety and self-interest lie in independence of her. Yet, though the trade of England with her Australian Colonies forms a small portion of the vast total of her commerce, it is the very life-blood of those Colonies. So long as they are part of the Empire, the whole strength of the Navy, actual or potential, will be put forth to shield their trade and guard their lines of communication. Those lines, as Major Clarke acutely adds, are the only lines on which they can be effectively assailed; but, if our enemy should find a distant enterprise practicable, then our squadrons will pursue, as Nelson pursued Villeneuve to the West Indies. It is a dangerous fallacy to hold that the safety of the Colonies necessarily calls for strong British squadrons to patrol their coasts. Rather it is on the Channel Squadron, the Cape Squadron, the China Squadron, and even the Indian Squadron, that the security of the Australian coasts, territory, and trade depends."

We gladly insert "Nap's" explanatory letter, but must protest against his suspicion that we put a construction it would not bear upon his former one. "Nap" asked for the H. Q. Staff "an officer who knows not only the wants but the shortcomings of the Militia"; and from this the ill-informed would be led to believe that the Staff were now without an officer possessing such knowledge. Of course "Nap" did not intend a slight to anyone, but we think if he were writing his letter over again he would express himself in different words.

The experiment about to be tried, with the approval of the Commander-in-Chief, of arming cavalry regiments partly with the lance and partly with the sword is exciting much interest. It is proposed that the front rank of each troop shall carry lance and carbine, only the rear rank bearing sword and carbine as heretofore. Should the initial trial, which is to be made by the 5th Dragoon Guards at Aldershot, with the aid of lance instructors supplied by the 12th Lancers, be successful, it is believed an experiment on a much larger scale will be made. The German cavalry are, it is said, about to be turned into lancers, and the Austrian Emperor, it is supposed, would like to follow suit, but hesitates to re-establish the lance after having discarded it but some six years ago.

Correspondence.

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

THE EXTRA AIDE FOR THE G. O. C.

EDITOR MILITIA GAZETTE.—As my *nom de plume* is perhaps known to many, I must ask you to insert this letter in answer to your comments on mine, concerning an extra A.D.C., in your last issue.

It appears to me that you have gone out of your way to suggest that I intended a slight on the Adjutant General, for whom I, in common with the whole force, have the most sincere respect.

The extra officer proposed would be naturally junior to all the H. Q. Staff, and my letter expressly states that the more he knew the more assistance he would be to the H. Q. Staff. Yet your remarks almost make it appear as if I was aiming at superseding the chief and most useful officer any military organization can have.

I must confess that I am somewhat hurt at the tone of your comment, and beg that you will kindly insert this, and thereby free me from the entirely undeserved imputation of having forgotten how much we have owed and still owe to the Adjutant General. Yours obediently,
"NAP."

THE MINIATURE MEDAL REGULATIONS.

EDITOR MILITIA GAZETTE.—I have read the letter of Snap-Cap on the regulations respecting miniature medals. He talks about it being a "new fad" of Sir R. Buller, and the old regulations being found good. Allow me to point out that this is not a *new* order, but simply the old state of things enforced. Miniature medals were never regulation in uniform.

I am not by any means an admirer of Sir Redver Buller, after the vindictive way he treated me personally, all because the "Duke" sat on him in my presence, but "give the devil his due."

Yours, etc., C. GREVILLE HARSTON.

Toronto, 12th November, 1890.

Artillery Rapid Firing.

(From the London Times.)

Some important experiments were carried out last week at the artillery range of Sir W. G. Armstrong, Mitchell & Co. The principal object of trial was a 6-inch quick-firing gun of 40 calibres of length on a mounting of new design, specially arranged to be suitable for either the upper decks or the between deck batteries of our new cruisers. Another feature of this trial was the use of cordite, the new smokeless gunpowder, which has been the subject of extensive trial during the last twelve months and seems likely to make a complete revolution in artillery warfare. The proof of this gun was carried out by the Woolwich authorities at Silloth, when the remarkable velocity of 2,609 f. s. was obtained with a charge of cordite powder.

The programme began by firing five rounds with a charge of E X E powder and service projectile for rapidity. The total time of firing these five rounds was 61 seconds. The same experiment was then carried out with a charge of cordite, but after three rounds the firing was stopped for a few minutes to remove a burr in the threads of the breech action, caused by sand getting into the gun. The first three rounds of this series were fired in 24 seconds, and the second two in 15 seconds. Five rounds were then fired with E X E powder (non-smokeless) and service projectile at a target which consisted of two casks lashed together, with a flag above them, at 900 yards range. There being no wind, the smoke hung a great deal, and the firing was therefore directed by an observer who stood clear of the smoke. The five rounds were fired in 61 seconds, the target being struck twice, the other three shots just missing.

To show the advantages of cordite over the E X E powder, five rounds were then fired with the former at the same target, the flag and staff of which still remained upright, as, the tide being low, the target rested on sand. It was found quite feasible to fire with the utmost rapidity, and yet, on account of the smokeless quality of the powder, to aim each shot deliberately. The result was that out of five shots the target was actually struck four times (which completely destroyed the casks and perforated the flag several times), and the last shot was only five yards short; and these five rounds with the above remarkable accuracy, were got off in the surprisingly short time of 55 seconds. Five rounds with E X E were now tried, changing from one target to another, three targets being placed at ranges 900, 1,400 and 1,800 yards, and spread out so that the gun had to be traversed through a considerable arc of training in going from one to the other. The results

were as follows: 1, 900 yards, hit target; 2, 900 yards, hit target; 3, 1,400 yards, fifty yards over; 4, 1,400 yards, hit target; 5, 1,800 yards hit target, cutting flagstaff.

The total time of these five rounds was 3 minutes and 43 seconds, but a few seconds delay was occasioned by the cap of a cartridge case, which was only temporarily secured for these experiments, falling off in the gun during loading, which necessitated reloading. Five rounds of cordite, under similar conditions to the last series, were now fired at the 900 and 1,400 yards target, the 1,800 yards one being no longer visible. The results were as follows: 1, 900 yards, hit target; 2, 900 yards, hit target, cutting flagstaff; 3, 1,400 yards, ten yards over; 4, 1,400 yards, five yards over; 5, 1,400 yards, twenty yards over. The total time for these five rounds was 1 minute, 37 seconds.

The gun was then fired with 5°, 10°, 12°, 15° and 20° elevation, with charges of E X E and cordite, to test the mounting, and, except for a little difficulty in running out when at 20° elevation, everything went perfectly.

The Future of the Cavalry.

(Army and Navy Gazette.)

It is a curious thing, and one which must strike every impartial observer, even of the ordinary field-day, that, in spite of the assertion so boldly made by all drill and text books, the infantryman has nothing to fear from even several horsemen; no sooner do the cavalry make their appearance than the solid, unshaken infantry of the drill-ground bolt, like rabbits to their burrows, into rallying squares. And the same phenomena may also be witnessed in the fields of literature. No sooner does any one venture to say a good word for the mounted service than the infantry fairly bristle with goose-quills in their own defence. The latest champion of the foot-soldier is Captain Altham, of the Royal Scots, who is seriously concerned lest the spirit of our infantry may be weakened by the doctrines of the revivalists. The writer's fear is quite uncalled for. It is surely not proposed by any party that British cavalry should ride over British infantry. All that has been attempted in England is to question the teachings of infantry umpires, and to show that British cavalry, properly handled, may still play a very important part on the modern battle-field. And this is all that has been asserted for the mounted arm on the Continent. Each nation thinks only of the part its own cavalry might be able to play against its enemies' infantry. Such a controversy ought not to be used as a means for the creation of army jealousies, and such jealousies ought to be deprecated. Captain Altham's paper in the current number of the *United Service Magazine* is interesting reading, and would be instructive if it were not based on several fallacies, one of which is that Napoleon's mounted men were good cavalry, which they certainly were not. Captain Altham must know that cavalry do not charge infantry at the trot. Another fallacy is that the Prussian official is a species of new revelation. The interpretation, too, put on the views of the author of "The Cavalry Division on the Battle-field" is by no means accurate. The writer of that pamphlet was himself an infantryman, and was actually charged over by the 1st Guard Dragoons as he lay wounded on the ground at Mars-la-Tour. He never claimed for that particular charge decisive results. What he did say was that, had the French cavalry been able to charge the *debris* of the 30th Brigade, not a man of them could have escaped. All students of the art of war must agree with Captain Altham that good infantry have nothing to fear from cavalry, although the cavalry revivalists maintain that the condition of dismounted men varies in the course of an action, and that what may have been excellent infantry, say, at 9 a.m., may prove to be very inferior indeed at, say, 3 in the afternoon. The picture the writer draws of the fire which awaits the charging cavalry is very graphic and true; but he forgets that the same ordeal lies before every single infantry unit that is destined to reach the fighting-line. Herein he shows that he has completely missed the point on which the cavalry revivalists base their case. Their contention is, briefly, that the number of hits on a given target will vary directly with the area of the target and the time of exposure. The area of the cavalry target may be taken as double that of the infantry one; but it takes them only three minutes to cover the 1,500 yards limit he assumes, and it would take the infantry at least fifteen minutes to cover the same distance. The hits, therefore—assuming all other conditions equal—should be as one to five in favour of the cavalry. But all other conditions are not equal. On the contrary, several are altogether on the side of the cavalry. The chief point in their favour is their relative freshness. Every body of infantry within 2,000 yards of the fighting-line has been steadily losing both men and nerves during the whole duration of the struggle. Except in very rare circumstances, there can be no such thing as an unshaken reserve of infantry on the battle-field. Only the cavalry, thanks to their mobility, can be kept so far to the rear as to be out of actual danger. The infantry are dropping with physical

fatigue: the cavalry, however tired their horses may be, escape themselves from the depressing effect of absolute weariness, and in the few moments of the excitement of the charge are mentally stimulated and not depressed by their forward motion. Finally, they cover the ground so rapidly that it is almost impossible for either infantry or artillery to keep their sights adjusted to the proper range to check their advance once they are well in motion. These are facts which tell tremendously in favour of the trooper, and the Germans lay great stress upon them in their estimate of the *pro's* and *con's*. Thanks to our comparatively long service, it will be entirely our own fault if our infantry do not give as good an account of themselves on the battle-fields of the future as they did in the past. All must be thankful that British cavalry will never be called on to ride against them. But we as a nation, horse-lovers as we have ever been, ought to decline absolutely to accept the verdict of those who maintain that the short-service infantry of any other nation in Europe will face unmoved the rush which such squadrons as ours ought to ride home with. Those who seek to depreciate the possible utility of our troopers are doing bad service not only to the army as a whole, but to their own arm; for properly handled and understood, thanks to the long-range weapons of the present day, cavalry have become what formerly the bayonet was—viz., the last threat of the cold steel which turns the scale. And, just as with the bayonet, no one ever proposed to use the latter without previously having obtained the moral superiority by fire. So with cavalry: they would only be brought into play when they could be employed with advantage. Those who say that their days are numbered show at once that they have failed entirely to keep pace with the discussions which have been going on for some time past in Germany, and which have had the effect of making converts of fully nine-tenths of the thinking soldiers of the German army.

The U. S. System of Rifle Firing.

(N. Y. Army and Navy Journal.)

It is one of the hackneyed themes of writers on military subjects to say "that it takes a ton of lead (in the shape of bullets) to kill a single man. It has been generally supposed, however, that the great improvement which has been attained in shooting would much reduce this average, particularly in the United States army, where more care is expended upon teaching the men the principles of rifle practice, and where they are allowed more ammunition than in any other army. In addition to this, the ordinary life of the United States regular in most of our western posts is dull, and the detachments are so small as to practically debar anything but the simplest military instruction, leaving competition in shooting almost the only thing they can turn to with interest. Consequently our army has prided itself upon its accurate shooting, particularly in skirmishing. Yet the occurrence at the Cheyenne Agency communicated to the *Army and Navy Journal* of September 27th, by a special correspondent (apparently an army officer) would seem to show that in practical field work but little better result can be expected to be obtained from our troops from a given expenditure of ammunition than under the ancient regime.

It appears that two young Cheyennes having been outlawed for murdering a white man, and knowing that their capture was inevitable, notified the troops guarding the agency that they would attack them at a given time, passing up through a certain valley. At the time designated they appeared on a neighbouring hill and proceeded to attire themselves in the full regalia of Indian war. A troop of the 1st Cavalry was dismounted and deployed to meet them, and another was sent out on the flank—allowing 30 men to the troop this would give 60 men, all armed with Springfield breechloading carbines, a very accurate weapon. The two Indians were forced from the hill and charged on the other two troops, one of them being on horseback the other on foot (his horse having been killed) under a heavy fire from their opponents. According to all theories they ought to have been riddled with bullets before they had gone a hundred yards, yet the mounted one actually rode through Pitcher's troop, killing three horses before he was killed, being then hit with seven bullets. The other, "while his clothing was cut and himself wounded by the fire," was not so hurt but that he was enabled to retire to a cut in the valley from which he conducted a spirited fight until he was killed.

This is a matter which deserves serious consideration from the officers charged with the instruction in small arms practice. To the ordinary mind it shows that something must be wrong with the system of instruction pursued. It has been questioned by many high authorities whether the idea is not erroneous that a soldier in the excitement of action will be able to control himself sufficiently to manipulate the sights of his rifle so as to insure accurate firing as he is taught to do in our present system of skirmishing; that if he sets them in the first instance at a high elevation to fire at a distant object, he will be very unlikely under the excitement of action to lower them, as his enemy

approaches, and that consequently his bullets will pass over him. This was exemplified in the British in their defeats in South Africa, where the large majority of rifles picked up after the battles were found to be sighted for 400 yards range, and therefore useless in firing at the enemy when they had crept up, as they did, to within 50 yards, the result being the demoralization of the British. Thus at Majuba Hill 600 British regulars were routed by a force of 450 Boers with a loss of 92 killed, 132 wounded, and 59 prisoners, with a Boer loss of one killed and five wounded. It is contended that this would be largely avoided if the soldier was taught to set his sight for all distances under 500 yards at point blank range, and to obtain the desired elevation by aiming over the object he desires to hit and to lower his aim as it approaches, as at the worst he would shoot low and get a ricochet shot.

The *Journal* of Oct. 17, 1885, editorially called attention to the statements of Lieut. C. B. Mayne, R. E., in his work on Infantry Fire Tactics, that it was a mistake to adjust military rifles so that a fine sight is required to be taken, on the ground that a soldier in action will always take a full sight, that the German system of a full sight is much the best, and that men should be taught to aim at the feet of their enemy.

It would seem from this affair at the Cheyenne Agency that both these views are likely to be correct. It certainly shows the necessity of careful training in "fire discipline," by which the elevation to be used will be designated by the officers, and the usefulness of individual uncontrolled fire.

Discipline.

(Belleville Intelligencer, 8th November.)

A very interesting and instructive lecture was delivered last night in the Sergeants' Mess Rooms to the non-commissioned officers of our City Battalion, by Col. Lazier. A fairly representative number of the "non-coms" were in attendance, and from the interest evinced by those present these lectures will evidently be very popular. The lecture was on "Discipline," and was full of good wholesome advice to young men, both in a civil and military sense.

To make an efficient and well disciplined soldier, said the lecturer, all orders should be implicitly obeyed, not only to the letter but in the spirit. There are few of us situated so independently in this world that we have no orders to obey or duties imposed upon us by some one else to carry out; and upon the readiness and promptitude with which we carry out what is our duty to do, depends to a large extent our success in life. The Governor-General of this great Dominion, the Judge upon the Bench, the clerk, the artisan and the labourer have all their respective duties to perform, and their success depends upon the fidelity with which they perform those duties and in their readiness and alacrity to obey the orders of those in authority over them. An important element is the cheerfulness with which such duties are performed and the courtesy and civility exhibited in their performance. This element is most essential to any young man's success in life, and there is no place, occupation or amusement where these can be better learned than by a term of service in the volunteer force of this great Dominion. The volunteer not only learns those habits which are to be of much benefit to him in fighting the battle of life, but it improves him physically, sets him up, gives him a carriage and bearing he can acquire in no other way. "What is worth doing at all is worth doing well." Too many, in almost everything they do, perform their duties in a perfunctory manner, sort of machine like. No one will succeed like the man who discharges his duties not only to the letter but also in the spirit, who infuses into his work an individuality and shows in his every action a desire to perform it to the best of his ability, drawing attention to himself as capable of better things, and should the opportunity occur, he is prepared to fill the advanced position with credit to himself. One stepping stone to another till the goal of his ambition is reached. Anything you have to do, whether in the way of business or pleasure, do it with all your might, and strive to be first in everything.

The object of the volunteer force is a double one—one to assist the civil authorities when necessary in maintaining and putting down internal dissensions when they are likely to interfere with the peace of the community at large; the other to assist in the defence of our country, our homes and our firesides against any outside or attacking foes. The welfare of our country thus depends upon the efficiency with which we discharge our duties as citizen soldiers. The best disciplined soldier is he who most implicitly obeys all orders of his superior officers. Nothing has so much tended to establish the invincibility of the British soldier and make his name a terror to his enemies as his implicit obedience to orders. The most brilliant sample possible in the record of the world's history of this fact is the ever memorable charge of the glorious "Six Hundred" at Balaclava. Who can read or even think, without feeling the blood course more quickly through his veins, of that band of gallant

soldiers riding to certain death in obedience to orders, although they knew

"Some one had blundered
"Theirs not to reason why;
"Theirs but to do and die."

An efficient soldier is obedient to orders, respectful to his superior officers, attentive to his drill, silent when in the ranks, clean and tidy in appearance, with arms and accoutrements in good order.

The success of any regiment of the volunteer force depends largely upon the non-commissioned officers. They are the part of the organization that is in immediate touch with the men; and the success and efficiency of any company depends more upon the exertions of the "non-coms" than upon the officers themselves. For our own credit and for the reputation of our city, let no exertion be spared to make our Regiment as our motto designates us to be, "*Nulli secundus*," Second to none.

Offences by our Regulars.

(The Empire, 12th November.)

The maintenance of the discipline of the permanent corps is an addition to the duties of the officer commanding the militia, and like every other interest in the country, is growing in magnitude. The force although small in number, requires as much work in connection with its discipline as a large one would, and supplies examples of almost all the infractions of military law, which are tried by court martial. The force is under imperial military law for discipline, and as the Army Act prescribes severe punishment for infractions of its provisions, the life of the officer commanding at headquarters is not in all respects a pleasant one. In the discharge of his duty, he orders all district court martials for the trial of offenders, investigates the proceedings, and confirms, mitigates, etc., all sentences of these courts. In every case of conviction the punishment is by imprisonment during periods lasting from two months to two years. The officer commanding, or the adjutant-general, at headquarters, have therefore to perform what appears to be judicial duties of an onerous and sometimes of an unpleasant nature. Instances of desertion are not uncommon. They are frequent enough under ordinary circumstances, but when the demand for labour is beyond the ordinary requirements the pay of men increases and desertions are more numerous, notwithstanding that any man may buy his discharge for \$2 a month of the unexpired portion of his engagement. It is difficult to determine the reasons for desertion after enlistment, more particularly as the penalties are severe if the man is arrested and tried. For instance, a soldier forfeits the whole of his prior service on conviction by court martial of desertion or fraudulent enlistment, or, upon his trial being dispensed with, on confession of either one of these offences; and he is liable to serve for the term of his original enlistment, renewed from the date of conviction or of the order dispensing with his trial. When convicted by a court martial a soldier in the Canadian permanent force forfeits his pay for the days he was absent before conviction. If the punishment is by imprisonment, then also for the day, he is under sentence of a civil court, or court-martial, or by his commanding officer. He also forfeits his pay for every day he is in hospital on account of sickness caused by an offence, under the Imperial Army Act, 1881, committed by him. One would suppose that a man would not desert or commit a military offence, rendering himself liable to such punishment, but many do desert and some who do so and go to the United States cannot return to Canada without rendering themselves liable to be arrested, tried and punished. Many remain there under disability fearing to return and undergo punishment. There are, however, some whose love of country is so great that they return to Canada, give themselves up, and confess desertion in order that they may be punished, and be re-invested with the rights and duties of citizenship, and the privilege of residing in the country. Some men who enlist do so under false names, and cases have occurred where men who have deserted from one corps go to another and enlist under another name different from the first, but these cases are exceptions.

The foregoing remarks are the outcome of a conversation which *The Empire* had recently with Col. Powell, adjutant-general. The veteran officer had just been attaching his signature in confirmation of a sentence of six months' imprisonment with hard labour, passed on a private in the permanent corps for stealing, and the question as to how the man's term of service would be affected by his imprisonment led to the foregoing interesting explanation.

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.

Regimental and Other News.

A Belleville correspondent writes: "With the stimulus and advantage of this year's matches, it is likely that the Belleville men will be fully represented in the League and at the Ontario and Dominion matches next year."

A false report of the death of Pte. Thos. McJanet, of the 43rd Battalion, was in circulation in Ottawa on Sunday last, and was published in one of the Ottawa papers as well as in those of Montreal, Toronto and elsewhere. It was with much relief that his friends heard the contradiction, for Pte. McJanet is one of the most popular members of the local militia. Being a prominent shooting man he will have acquaintances in all parts of the Dominion, who will be glad to read the contradiction of the report. Pte. McJanet is, however, dangerously ill, of a very severe combination of pneumonia and typhoid; hope of his recovery was almost given up on Saturday last, but his condition has since improved considerably.

Toronto.

The Q. O. R. Sergeants' Mess is being painted and papered throughout, which promises to completely transform the old quarters. Everything will be in readiness for the next smoking concert, which has been fixed for the 26th inst. On account of the increasing audience each month, it has been found necessary to issue tickets to the Sergeants for their friends.

But for the Bugle Band coming to our assistance, this last week would have been extremely dull, none of us having as yet settled down to civilian life. I was one of the fortunate ones to receive an invitation to be present on the occasion of the presentation of prizes and the opening of their new rooms, south-west corner of Colborne and Church Streets, which took place last Saturday evening, and as I had in past years partaken of the hospitality of this crack corps prospects of a very pleasant evening came to my mind. The rooms were tastefully decorated, drums, bugles and swords forming the main features. The main room or practice room has seating capacity for about 300 persons. This is provided with a very cosy little anteroom. On the other side of the hall the boys have a handsomely arranged parlour, while upstairs two large rooms are to be used, one as a refreshment room and the other either as a card or billiard room. Among the many present I noticed Lt.-Col. Miller, Major Delamere, Capts. Macdonald, Mason, Heakes and Bennett; Lieuts. Lee and Knifton; Sergt.-Major McKell; Staff-Sergts. Macdonald, Burns, Harp, Walker; Col.-Sergts. Cooper, Domelle, World, George, Owen, Ritchie, McMaster; Sergts. Burns, Pearson, Duncan, Cauldwell, Harcourt, Bailey, Mingay, Crichton, Austin and Argles; Mr. Cotterell and Mr. Simpson.

Lt.-Col. Miller presented the prizes won in the annual match, the highest being as follows:—

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>GENERAL MATCH.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bugle-Sergt. Wood. 2. Bugler Libby. 3. " Jenkins. 4. " Scott. 5. Bugle-Major Swift. | <p>NURSERY MATCH.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bugler Libby. 2. " Cuthbert. 3. " Meade. 4. " Simons. |
|--|---|

Booby Prize--Bugler McKim.

Letters of regret were read from Lt.-Col. Otter, D.A.G., and from Lt.-Col. Hamilton. The feature of the presentation was the prize given to the competitor who obtained the lowest score, which consisted of a wooden gun and a target labelled No. 16, this being the one on which eighteen successive bulls-eye were made during the regimental match. The target was about three feet square and was nearly all bulls-eye.

Bugle-Major Swift, in response to the compliments paid him and the band by Col. Miller, thanked the members of the regiment, as well as outside friends, for the generous support they gave to the match. In spite of the high encomiums paid by Col. Otter and Col. Miller he deeply regretted that on account of their inability to obtain better uniforms the band headed the regiment clad in rags. It was no use, he said, disguising the fact, but a close inspection of the uniforms now worn would result in the whole outfit being condemned. The band is almost self-supporting, the members all contributing even to the rent of a suitable practice room. The Bugle-Major stated that unless a new issue was granted at once the only way they could keep up the present standard was to get a complete and thorough equipment at their own expense. This band are enthusiastic enough, if it has to be done, to clothe themselves at their expense and even risk incurring the same displeasure the men of the regiment incurred when they sent to the old country for clothing. In closing Bugle-Major Swift conveyed the thanks of the band to the gentlemen who had kindly consented to help them with the programme which they were about to start, and extended a hearty invitation to one and all to call upon them at any time when he was sure they would be made to feel at home. The following programme was then gone

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through, after which refreshments were served, and the 'witching hour of midnight came too soon to end the festivities of the evening:—

1. Piano Solo.....Prof. Monk.
2. Bugler Davis.....Old Brigade.
(Encore).....Jack's Wedding Morn.
3. W. E. Ramsay....."Now we come to think of it."
(Encore)....."Its a different colour now."
4. Bone Solo.....Color-Sergt. G. E. Cooper.
5. Bugle-Major Swift.....Q. O. R. Regimental Song.
6. Sergt. A. M. Burns—Recitation....."Kelly at the bat."
7. G. A. Parr....."Slumber Sweet."
8. H. Stevens....."Rocked in the cradle of the deep."
(Encore)....."In the cellar cool."
9. J. Winters....."Warrior Bold."
(Encore)....."Skipper."
10. Bugle-Sergt. Woods.....Parody on Pork, Beans, &c., bringing in hits on many
of the members of the regiment.
God Save the Queen.

A benefit will be tendered to Col.-Sergt. Cooper, at Victoria Hall, on the 28th, and, no doubt, upon that occasion Dame Fortune will relax her severity upon the genial Col.-Sergt.

It has been suggested that now when the Buglers have obtained possession of such handsome quarters, a series of smoking concerts would be much appreciated by the many friends who see the talent of the band displayed only too seldom.

Think it over boys, and that they would prove beneficial in every way is the firm conviction of

BREECH BLOCK.

Gleanings.

A lively correspondence is being carried on in the English service papers anent the old grievance of slights said to be put upon Volunteer and Militia Officers by those of the Regular Army, or of "Her Majesty's mercenary troops," as one irritated writer styles them, in a letter in which he holds up to admiration the achievements of the Volunteer Robert Clive, in carving out the now splendid Empire of India.

Says the *Broad Arrow*: "The regulation for artillery officers, by which a field-glass has been substituted for the useless pouch hitherto used, was without doubt an excellent one. It would be a grand thing if the War Office would extend this regulation to the officers of the other branches of the service who wear pouch-belts (cavalry and rifles). No one can dispute the great use a field-glass would be to all officers at any time, and more especially to those of rifle regiments, in skirmishing where smokeless powder is used. The present pouch is a most useless article. A neat field-glass case, with the pouch ornaments at present used, would be quite as handsome and a great deal more serviceable."

Dogs as auxiliaries of the sentinel are coming to the fore, says our Paris correspondent. It appears that a kind has been discovered in Tonquin which has been converted into a vigilant and ferocious sentinel. It is tall and powerfully built. The way it is trained may be expected to elicit the protests of that "Animal's Guardian" of which we announced the other day the forthcoming issue. When these dogs are wanted for military service they are tied up, and natives are engaged to beat and otherwise ill-use them. The French soldier's duty, on the other hand, is to feed and pet them. If then at night they are fastened to a sentry box, they naturally give the alarm directly an Annamite or Tonquinoise approaches. They can distinguish the native from the European by the scent, though either should lie concealed. About this method of training there seems to be a good deal of unnecessary and cruel ingenuity. Our English dog fanciers would probably be willing to undertake the training of sentinel dogs on terms much easier for the dogs themselves.—*London Standard*.

There was a meeting of commanding officers lately at the Royal United Service Institution to discuss matters connected with the future of the British Volunteer force. Nearly 100 officers were present. The representation included the far distant counties, and especially Scotland. The conference, over which Major-Gen. Philip Smith, commanding the Home District, presided, lasted three hours. The proceedings were private, but expression was given to the opinion that, in view of the difficulties which many regiments have to submit to in defraying their expenses, the capitation grant should be payable at a more reasonable time than had previously been the case. The question of rules of corps, it was decided, should be submitted to a general meeting of the committee appointed for the purpose. The question of the relief of Volunteer officers from serving on juries was likewise discussed. The third point referred to the subject of camp allowances; and after these and other matters had been thoroughly discussed, a committee was appointed to investigate the whole matter thoroughly and report to a subsequent meeting.

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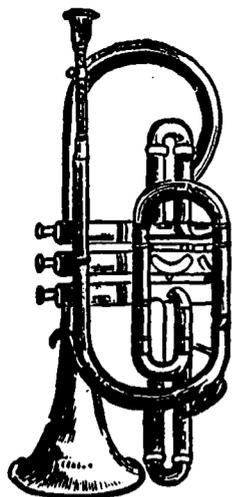
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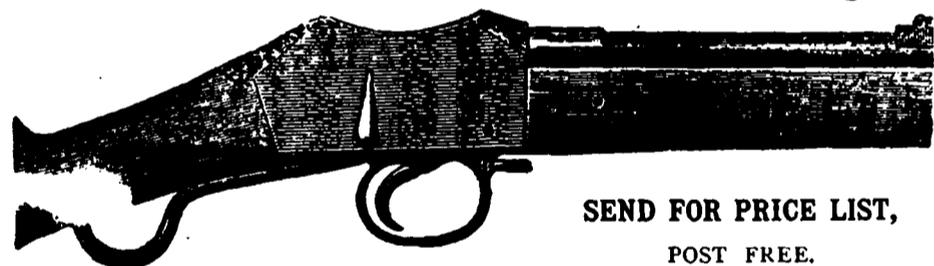
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