

# THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE

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MISCELLANEOUS.

## Topics of the Week.

Professor Goldwin Smith spoke before the Congregational Club of New York last week on "The Sympathy of Nations," and in the course of his remarks said:—"Commercial differences can, should, and undoubtedly will be settled by arbitration, but it would fail in a case where a nation's honour had been injured, where the controversy was one in which the people felt that their manhood had been insulted by an affront offered to their country. War has not been without its virtues. It has done more than anything else to elevate our standard of humanity. As a proof of this, witness the kindly treatment of the wounded and of prisoners in recent wars and compare that treatment with the horrible butcheries of wounded and prisoners in the earlier conflicts. The wars of America, and I speak as an Englishman, certainly have been necessary and resulted in incalculable good, which could only have been accomplished by strife.

The new magazine rifle for the British army has been adopted with complete unanimity, and will soon be turned out with great rapidity. The trials of the weapon in India have been in all respects satisfactory. A compressed powder is now used which gives good results, and with which the rifle (which is to be sighted for 2,800 yards) may be used up to 500 yards without raising the backsight. But a new powder is being experimented upon by which it is expected that the power of the rifle will be much increased.

The prize meeting of the National Rifle Association will, it is finally decided, take place once more on Wimbledon Common next July. The arrangements for the acquisition of the Brookwood, or Bisley Common site, for subsequent meetings are now virtually complete, and under these circumstances the Duke of Cambridge has consented to waive any objection to the use of Wimbledon Common for the meeting of the present year.

In his speech at the Brooklyn dinner in honour of Secretary Tracy lately ex-Mayor Low said: "When I was in England in 1886 I chanced to sit next to a gentleman who had been a midshipman in the British navy at the time when Farragut was in Europe in the flagship *Franklin*. One day, he told me, he commanded the boat which took the sturdy old admiral back to his own flagship from the flagship of the English admiral. As they broke away from the side of the heavily armed vessel Admiral Farragut said to me: 'Young gentleman, if you live you will see the armor come off the sides of ships just as it has come off the sides of men.'" This accords with the opinion we have always held. Admiral Farragut's remark was strictly in accord with the analogy of history. Armor for soldiers was rejected because the increase in the offensive power of weapons made it useless, and the present tendency in naval warfare is in the same direction.

## The Militia in Parliament.

When the estimates of Militia expenditure were being voted in the House of Commons on Friday evening, one interesting discussion occurred, from the Hansard report of which the following passages are extracted:

When the Militia estimates were being discussed in the House on Friday evening last, there was a very interesting discussion on a few important points, notably in connection with the schools. The discussion is reported pretty fully in this issue, so that our readers everywhere may note what has been done by the representatives in Parliament in the way of influencing the House on their behalf.

The school system came in for not a little criticism, and this by members supporting the government, and having therefore no political ends to serve by the course they followed. It was with pleasure we noted that the members who spoke on the school system were almost unanimous in support of changes time and again advocated in the MILITIA GAZETTE. Col. Dennison spoke strongly in favor of allowing other than officers to qualify for officers' certificates at the schools, and favored a return to the old cadet system. Mr. Barron, speaking from his experience of that system, advocated it also. The objection urged against such a change was that the discipline of the schools would suffer. We fancy however, that the military schools are as well able to maintain order as any other educational institutions; and while military discipline is rather more rigid than that governing universities and colleges, it would be more preferable that it should be relaxed a little if by such action we could have trained at these schools any considerable number of young men now excluded from them. Provided that young officers of the force are taught and know their drill, their own good sense will serve to enable them to maintain discipline in the ranks of their companies and to behave themselves while on duty.

It was pointed out by Lt.-Col. Kirkpatrick that a great number of officers of rural corps were prevented from attending at the schools by the expense attendant upon taking a course, this expense being largely augmented by the necessity for equipping themselves with a new dress to be worn when at the school mess. Now it is not absolutely necessary to have a new dress—a point urged whenever this objection has been raised—but all attached officers are required to join in the mess at the schools, and none of fine feelings would feel quite comfortable appearing at the feast daily without the festal garment; and thus parading their poverty or economy before their more affluent or more liberal fellow mess men. The remedy suggested was that such attached officers as so desired should be allowed to live out of barracks, and attend the schools only for the necessary instruction. There was no encouragement held out that any such change as this was possible, but if the officers for whom they were established are to be got to attend it will have to be made.

There were many other points touched upon in the discussion, as will be seen by a reference to the report, and a further debate on military affairs is promised when information asked for on votes not yet passed is brought down.

On the vote for brigade majors, salaries, transport expenses, &c., \$15,100, LT.-COL. KIRKPATRICK said:—This vote brings up a question in connection with the staff who are doing duty in Ontario, and I wish to call the attention of the Minister of Militia to the fact that he has recently amalgamated the 3rd and 4th military districts, and that in those districts there are only two staff officers, Col. Straubensee, the Deputy Adjutant General, and Col. Lewis, the Brigade Major. These districts extend from Bowmanville east to the Provincial line, and include about 6,000 volunteers, scattered over a very large tract of country. The Deputy Adjutant General is occupied most of the time at Kingston, where he is employed on boards, and on courts of enquiry and on courts-martial, and I believe he is unable to give that attention to the duties of the district which is necessary. Very much the same was the case with his predecessor, Col. Villiers. As a result of this the regiments in that district are not visited and inspected with that regularity and frequency which is expected, and, as a matter of fact, for years past there has not been the regular inspection of arms and clothing which is required by the orders and regulations. I submit to the hon. gentleman that he should appoint another staff officer for these two districts. At present there is practically only one staff officer who is available for the purpose in that extensive district, and I think another brigade major should be appointed there. When I state that the rifles and the arms and accoutrements in that district are not inspected as they should be and that there is Government property which is not looked after with the regularity which is required, I submit that the minister should look into the matter, and, should not, from any false motives of economy, say: "I will not appoint another staff officer there," because I believe the House would willingly vote the money in order to have the Government property, which should be under the care of Government officers, efficiently looked after. I know many cases where the arms are in such condition that they should be called in and repaired, and there is no use, as we all know, in putting in the hands of our volunteers arms in which the locks, when they are taken out to the butts, are so useless that the men cannot fire with them.

MAJOR GUILLET.—I endorse and corroborate everything which has been said by the hon. member for Frontenac (Mr. Kirkpatrick) as to the pressing necessity for another staff officer in these districts to look after the proper condition of the arms and accoutrements of the men. In all the other districts in the Dominion, there are two staff officers in each, while in this case there are only two for the two districts. I do not understand on what ground this can be justified. There are just as many men in the service in each of these districts as in the other districts of the country, and I do not understand how it can be expected that the work can be looked after by only two officers. The result is that the work is not done, and serious damages are resulting to the equipment of the different regiments. Pressing representations have been made to the Minister of Militia by every member representing those districts, and I am sure that a change is urgently needed; and, if it is of any importance at all to have the arms properly looked after, the change should be speedily made. I can assure the Minister of Militia that this matter requires his earnest consideration in order that he may find a remedy. The fact that the brigade major, upon whom this duty devolves, lives at Brockville, makes it necessary that when he does, once a year, or less frequently, visit the other district, he has to travel a long distance and at considerable expense. Therefore, on the score of economy, the work could be done much cheaper if another officer was appointed, or at least without much additional expense, as a large portion of the expenditure for travel would be saved. I hope the minister will take this matter into his favorable consideration and have the appointment made.

LT.-COL. KIRKPATRICK.—I would like to ask the Minister of Militia whether the Deputy Adjutant General at Kingston has requested the appointment of an assistant of the staff?

SIR ADOLPHE CARON.—Heretofore I have had difficulty to keep down the expenses of the staff. Hon. gentlemen who take an interest in militia matters have told me time and again that it was far better to reduce the staff and give the amount thus saved to the rank and file, and I have tried to comply with those suggestions. Now, as soon as the staff is reduced in one district, hon. gentlemen in Parliament who, no doubt, know the locality where they live, are subjected to pressure to have deserving officers appointed to those positions. Occasionally gentlemen come to me and asked that this staff be increased. We cannot properly admit that the service is not sufficiently carried out as it is. The Deputy Adjutant General at Kingston is one of the most efficient officers that we have in the service. I cannot tell the hon. gentleman if he has made any representation to that effect; if he has, he did so to the major and it has not come before me. But I cannot at all admit that the service is not efficiently carried out with the present staff in those districts. To-day the facilities for travelling from one place to another are very different to what they were a few years ago. There are railways in every direction, and it is much easier now than formerly for officers of the staff

to perform their duties. Until I am convinced that it is necessary to increase the staff, I cannot recommend any change.

#### CARE OF ARMS.

On the vote public armories and care of arms, including pay of storekeepers, caretakers, storemen and armorers, \$60,000, MR. BARRON said:—I do not think there is a weaker spot in the whole management of the Department than the care given to the arms throughout the country. My information comes from all quarters that the care and custody of the arms are such that rifles and guns, when taken out occasionally, are absolutely useless. I had occasion lately to see some gentlemen in Peterboro' who gave me the information that by reason of the policy pursued by the Minister of Militia in regard to the volunteers in that part of Ontario, no care whatever was taken of the arms. They complain that proper accommodation has not been given, and they lay the blame entirely upon the Department. Now it is perfectly nonsensical to my mind to go to an enormous expense in having a militia force and to find the arms insufficient when occasion may require to use them. I, therefore, think that more attention should be given to the care of the arms, and that the minister should see that throughout the country such care is taken of them as that they may be useful when occasion arises.

SIR ADOLPHE CARON.—I think the experience of the past has shown that when we required to use the arms, they were found to be in very serviceable order. Whenever we were called upon to draw upon the resources of the Department, we found the arms were in very good order. But I must admit frankly that all the arms which we have in the Dominion of Canada are not in perfect order; but I claim that for the amount of money which Parliament has put at the disposal of the Militia Department, everything possible has been done to keep the arms in proper order. Some complaints occasionally come in after a camp that certain stands of arms are not in as perfect a condition as they might be, but it must be remembered that we have the most experienced armorers all over the Dominion, men brought out from England and placed at large centres like Toronto, Quebec and Halifax, and the arms are at once sent to them to be repaired. Of course that takes some little time; but hon. gentlemen on considering the amount of money voted by Parliament, will, I am sure, be sufficiently fair to admit that with the amount voted it is impossible to do any better than has been done in the past and is being done now.

MR. CAMPBELL.—I called the Minister's attention to the fact that the armory in Chatham, belonging to the 24th Battalion, is in a very bad state. I have already called the Minister's attention to it, and he promised to look into it. I trust it will not be forgotten. I am told that had it not been for the caretaker removing the arms to another building, which he rented, they would have been rendered entirely useless. The account he had rendered for the rent of the building, however, has not yet been paid, and I should like to learn from the Minister why it has not yet been settled.

SIR ADOLPHE CARON.—I promised to look after the arms and the repairing of them, and I have given instructions accordingly. I made no promise, however, in regard to paying rent. The hon. gentleman knows that we pay a certain amount to companies for looking after the arms. Of course I will look into the matter. I cannot say whether it is a special case or not. If so, it will be treated as a special case, but, judging at first blush, I should imagine that the arms should have been taken care of by the captains of companies who received a certain amount for the purpose. I will ascertain how the matter stands.

MR. TROW.—I understood the Minister to say that the arms were everything that could be desired in regard to efficiency. Judging from our past experience I should doubt whether such is the case. If the arms is so satisfactory and the ammunition is unsatisfactory, surely the latter should be looked after as well as the arms themselves.

LT.-COL. KIRKPATRICK.—In justice to the Minister of Militia I should say that from all the accounts I have received, the ammunition made at the cartridge factory at Quebec is as perfect as it can be made. The riflemen of the Dominion support my statement that it is better than any ammunition imported from the old country. There were great complaints in respect to the ammunition turned out from the cartridge factory at first, but I have had some dealings with riflemen all over the Dominion, and from all sides I receive reports that the ammunition made this year has been as good as can be manufactured; in fact, that it has reached perfection.

LT.-COL. PRIOR.—I endorse what has been stated by the hon. member for Frontenac (Mr. Kirkpatrick). We have tried this ammunition in British Columbia lately, and we have found without doubt that the ammunition manufactured by the Canadian Government is far ahead of any we have ever had from Great Britain. No doubt there was a time when it was very bad, but I believe that at the present time it is as good as can possibly be made.

## IMPROVED ORDNANCE.

On the vote for "improved rifled ordnance, \$8,000," SIR RICHARD CARTWRIGHT asked how many guns is that intended to buy.

SIR ADOLPHE CARON—Not very many. I wish we could have a larger number brought out every year. It is intended to purchase two 64-pounder rifle guns with standing carriages to cost £800 sterling each, including freight and transport from England. These guns are intended for the armament of fortifications. Every year we are trying to get out a few of these guns, which are considered of the first importance in so far as arming the fortifications of the country is concerned.

SIR RICHARD CARTWRIGHT—I ask that question because I desire to know whether the Government has any scheme or plan for protecting our seaboard. It occurs to me that 64-pounder guns would be very little better than pop-guns as against an iron-clad squadron which might possibly bear down on our seaboard, either on the Pacific or the Atlantic. I am not very familiar with the power of penetration of the modern rifle ordnance, but I have seen some of those first-class iron clads, and I cannot conceive it possible that the 64-pounders could produce the smallest possible effect on them at any imaginable range that they might come within.

SIR ADOLPHE CARON—I must admit that they are not the most improved ordnance, which, as my hon. friend knows, are very expensive. The question of the defence of the country has been given to a commission, which will report to the Government, and when the report is made it will be easier to explain what the policy of the Government will be on that point. It would hardly be prudent for me to give any opinion until the report of the experts composing the commission is made to the Government.

SIR RICHARD CARTWRIGHT—I am quite aware that it is not within the power of the Government, on a vote of \$3,000, to obtain arms that would be of any effect against a hostile fleet. If that be the case, is it wise to expend our money on these 64-pounders?

SIR ADOLPHE CARON—The report of Col. Irwin, who is Inspector of Artillery, as well as the report of the General, agree that those guns are valuable for our purposes. It is considered that if we buy a few of those guns every year they will very much improve our defence.

LT.-COL. O'BRIEN—Might I ask the Minister of Militia what has been the result of the experiments carried on by Capt. Palliser with regard to the rifling of some of our old guns. Had those experiments been a success or not?

SIR ADOLPHE CARON—We entered into a contract for remodeling the guns, but it was not as satisfactory as we expected. The firm which we gave the contract to for the experiment got into difficulties and we could not carry out the experiments.

LT.-COL. O'BRIEN—Did the plan itself succeed?

SIR ADOLPHE CARON—The plan was reported as a good one by General Strange.

LT.-COL. O'BRIEN—If it is practicable to turn our old guns into modern ones it would be better than importing second-class guns from England.

## DRILL SHEDS.

On the vote, "Construction and repairs of drill sheds, &c., \$75,000," SIR RICHARD CARTWRIGHT asked where does the hon. gentleman propose to expend this \$75,000. I suppose it is for the construction of drill sheds.

SIR ADOLPHE CARON—Yes; and for repairs to military property. I can give the hon. gentleman the details of the amounts which is to be distributed over the Dominion. London, \$500; Toronto, \$1,700; Kingston, \$16,920; Ottawa, \$2,277; St. John, P. Q., and Montreal, \$3,970; Quebec, \$19,625; Fredericton, \$4,115; Halifax, \$385; Winnipeg, \$3,872; Victoria, \$650; Charlottetown, \$940.

MR. CAMPBELL—I notice in the list which the Minister of Militia has read that he has made no provision for the town of Chatham. I hope he has not forgotten that.

SIR ADOLPHE CARON—I promised the hon. gentleman to look after the drill shed at Chatham and I mean to do so. The amount needed for that purpose will be taken out of the vote of \$22,000 for drill sheds and rifle ranges.

LT.-COL. KIRKPATRICK—I would ask the hon. minister if he proposed to add an hospital to the Royal Military College at Kingston, because I believe that it is a very necessary building in the college. If we are to have young men there we ought to have proper provision made for them in case of illness, and we ought to take steps to see that they are properly taken care of.

SIR ADOLPHE CARON—Any amount for a building of that nature would have to be provided for in the estimates by my hon. friend the Minister of Public Works.

MR. McMULLEN—We have a company at Mount Forest in my constituency, but we have no drill shed. That company has been in existence a number of years, and I am rather induced to make an

application on its behalf after hearing the reply the minister made to my hon. friend from Kent (Mr. Campbell). I quite agree that in order to care for military stores it is necessary that there should be an armory. Some years ago we had something that answered the purpose, but it has not been in proper condition for a number of years, and a portion of the town hall has been used for that purpose, but it is not at all satisfactory, as there are not proper opportunities for drilling. That company has had a very good record, and I would like something to be done to secure it a drill shed.

SIR ADOLPHE CARON—We do not generally give a drill shed for one company, but there is an order-in-council applying to all such cases, in which it is stated that if the locality gives a lot and contributes a certain amount of money, the Government will contribute a certain portion of the expenditure. I shall be very glad to send the hon. gentleman a copy of that order-in-council, so that he can see if it is possible to apply it to the case he mentions, and we can then talk the matter over together.

MR. TROW—I hope when the Minister of Militia is considering the subject of drill sheds he will not forget the city of Stratford. Our drill shed is out of repair, and our volunteers have to go to other quarters to drill.

MR. BARRON—I hope when the minister sends the order-in-council to some gentlemen on this side of the House, he will not forget me, because in my riding there is a place which, though not celebrated as a railway centre, is celebrated as possessing a university of which the hon. gentleman has no doubt heard; I refer to the village of Coboconk; and I have no doubt that place is entitled to a drill shed as much as some other places to which the hon. gentleman has granted money for that purpose. But I just want to read the remarks of Colonel Straubenzie regarding Peterboro' in reference to the matter I spoke of a few months ago. He said:

"I found the rifles much out of repair and have ordered them to be sent to Kingston for repairs. This corps is also under great disadvantages in having very bad armouries. A plan for a new armoury has already been submitted and which I hope will meet with the approval and sanction of the Honourable the Minister. There is great *esprit de corps* in this regiment, and officers and men are deserving of encouragement in a substantial form."

That bears out the private information I received, and I think the Minister of Militia ought to give this particular item his constant attention.

## THE PERMANENT CORPS.

On the vote "Permanent Forces and Cavalry and Infantry Schools, \$484,000, Sir Richard Cartwright asked how is the hon. gentleman effecting this reduction of \$38,700?

SIR ADOLPHE CARON—If we establish a cavalry school in Toronto, we shall not require the whole amount this year, and there is a small amount remaining unexpended from last year. I hope to be able to keep within the reduced amount in the estimates.

LT.-COL. DENISON—I did not quite understand whether the Minister said that the reduction was on the cavalry school at Toronto or not; but if it is a reduction of the expenditure for permanent schools, I am rather pleased to see it, and I am in hopes that it may be transferred to the credit of the militia in general. The sum of \$38,000 would be sufficient to drill a great many more rural battalions which have in past years been neglected for want of funds. I think there is no expenditure in the country which would be more cheerfully granted than a sum to drill all the rural corps every year; and I hope the Minister of Militia, if he strikes this amount out of this item, will use it for general militia purposes. While on my feet I would like to say a word or two in reference to the schools. Under the present arrangement no person can enter one of these military schools without being either an officer of the force or a private. I think it would be in the interest of the militia of Canada if we reverted to the old system which we had in force some twenty years ago. Then it was possible for a gentleman to enter a school as a sort of cadet and get a certificate, and on his passing out he received the sum of \$50. This enabled him to pay for his board during the time he was in school, and on leaving he had quite as good a knowledge in almost every respect as a man leaving one of the existing schools. But what do we find now? If a young lad desires to get a certificate from the school, he has either to go to the expense of getting a uniform by commission, or else to put on a uniform and go into the barracks, where he will have to associate with those who belong to the permanent force. It is not always desirable—I need not point out why—for young lads to be thrown into a barrack room along with men older than themselves, who sometimes contract habits which are not very good. Under the old system numbers of young fellows went through the schools, got their certificates, and afterwards joined the militia as officers or otherwise; and even though they did not find their places in the militia, it was a great advantage to the country to have a large number of men who were drilled sufficiently to take command of troops in camp or barracks. At present there are only the two classes. If they go into the ranks they are taught the duties

of non-commissioned officers or privates. What we want is to have men with certificates in the country, so that in case of trouble in the land, they could be given commissions and could drill the yeoman of the country. I see that Col. Smith, who commands No. 1 district, has made some very practical remarks in this direction. He says:

"For many years to come our militia must be our main defence, and it should be placed on the best footing possible both as to efficiency and numbers, but numbers or corps rather than men. If we have a large number of well organized and expansive bodies, they can be rapidly filled up when the need arises, but it is a difficult task to organize the bodies in case of danger"

These remarks are somewhat in the line of the argument I made in this House last year in favour of our militia being increased. I then advocated an increase of 100,000, and I hope still the Government will see their way clear to have a considerable increase. I would like to have some opinion from the Minister of Militia as to what he considers can be done with reference to the idea I have thrown out, of allowing the men to obtain certificates in the schools without having to live in them as officers or privates.

LT.-COL. KIRKPATRICK—There is a great deal in what the hon. and gallant Col. from West Toronto states. The great difficulty at present is to get qualified officers for our rural battalions. If we have qualified officers and good non-commissioned officers, it is easy enough to get the men, as there is plenty martial spirit in the country, and in time of danger any number of volunteers can be got. But what we are deficient in is competent officers and non-commissioned officers, and it is to train these that the schools are established. Do the schools fulfil that duty? Well, the officers and non-commissioned officers who go through the schools are very well trained, but we have not a sufficient number going through. I have tried to find out why it is that the officers and men from the rural battalions hesitate to go to these schools, and I find the reason is the expense. First of all, they have to provide themselves with uniforms, and then they have to provide mess uniforms. It is not necessary under the regulations to provide the latter. I believe they can wear their tunics, but they do not as a rule care to go to mess in buttoned up tunics, and they like to have this mess uniform which costs a great deal of money. Then they join the mess, which adds to their expense, so that parents object to their sons going to these schools on both this account and on account of the danger the cadets run of contracting idle habits while living in barracks. I believe if the men attending the schools were allowed to board outside, and to attend their drills during drill hours, there would be a better attendance. It would be better if the compulsory attendance was done away with, and the officers could go to these schools without being compelled to remain in a barracks. Mothers do not want to send their young sons from 15 to 18 years of age, just when they feel this martial spirit and want to qualify for a commission to barrack life, but prefer to send them to board with friends where they might be looked after and to whom they could go home at night. If that system were adopted we would have a larger attendance in the schools and a more useful military force than at present, for if we can get plenty of competent officers and non-commissioned officers, we can get the men at any time.

SIR ADOLPHE CARON—It would not be practicable to carry out the scheme suggested by the hon. and gallant colonel from Toronto (Mr. Denison). The schools are not numerous enough, and we can only train men who go in for the long and the short course. There would be great difficulty in maintaining discipline if those attending the schools were not bound by the regulations of the militia force of Canada. As to what the hon. member from Frontenac (Mr. Kirkpatrick) has said about the expense of living in barracks, I do not see how it could be possible to give proper training to the militia men in the batteries and infantry schools if they were not obliged to live in barracks. One of the important branches of their studies is internal economy, and they can only learn that in the barracks. As to the uniform, there is no reason why there should be expense. A man wears the uniform of his corps, no matter to what branch of the service he belongs, so that really I do not see any very great expense incurred. As to the loss of time in barracks, judging by the reports we have, the men who follow the course are kept busy pretty near all the time. The hon. member for South Oxford has asked me the details of expenditure incurred in the different schools and batteries of the Dominion. First, there is a lieutenant colonel commanding, pay of \$4 a day; allowance, Inspector of Artillery, \$1.

SIR RICHARD CARTWRIGHT—I was asking in reference chiefly to the hon. gentleman's proposed reduction, and as he had taken a vote for \$522,700, I want to know the total expenditure incurred on those services last year.

SIR ADOLPHE CARON—Last year we expended \$431,983. A deduction of \$30,700 has been made in the amount of the total estimate for the forts. This, however, does not imply any proposed reduction in the numerical strength of the artillery, cavalry, and military schools as at present ordered,

LT.-COL. DENISON—I entirely disagree with the hon. the Minister of Militia in his remarks. I attended one of these schools some twenty years ago, and I know the discipline of the men while in the schools was just as good as it is in the schools to-day, the only difference being that instead of the cadets going to the barracks at night and sleeping there, they went to their homes or boarding houses. And during the days when they had their ordinary duties to perform and to learn the interior economy of their force, they went with their non-commissioned officers, and obtained a knowledge of that interior economy as they do now. The only difference was that, instead of sleeping in barracks each night, they slept in their own quarters, and I do not see why there should be any difficulty in regard to the numbers. At that time four or five non-commissioned officers were told off from the regular army, as they could now be told off from the schools, and they formed the staff of the school. They did the drilling, and that was all that was required. At that time they generally had in the Toronto school 200 or 300 at a time, while now I believe they never have more than 50 or 60.

MR. BARRON—I cannot speak of my own knowledge in regard to the discipline to-day, but I know from my own experience that the remarks of the hon. member for West Toronto (Mr. Denison), as to the past are correct. When I went through a military school I went to my own lodgings at night, and I know that during the day the military discipline was thoroughly carried out and no fault was ever found with it. The hon. member for Frontenac (Mr. Kirkpatrick) has referred to the necessity of having additional competent officers, and that seems to be the view of the Major-General, who says in his report: "One thing necessary is an increase of competent officers with a view to the discipline and efficiency of the force." I would ask the Minister of Militia whether he has taken any steps to carry out that recommendation. We import the major-general at great expense from the old country, though I think that is unnecessary, because we have just as competent men here, but if we have him here, we should carry out his recommendations.

SIR ADOLPHE CARON—We are carrying out every year the recommendations of the Major-General by training each year a larger number of competent officers in our schools. The Major-General does not attack the present system, but says that the number of competent officers should be increased, and we are doing the best we can through our schools to get a greater number of competent officers.

LT.-COL. PRIOR—Before this item passes I desire to say a few words as to "C" Battery which is placed in British Columbia. I am sorry to see that the Minister of Militia has not seen fit to place an amount in the estimates sufficient to complete the barracks for that battery.

SIR ADOLPHE CARON—That does not come under my estimates. That is under public work.

LT.-COL. PRIOR—We were promised the advent of that battery, but we had almost given up all hopes of seeing them when at last they arrived, and we were very glad to welcome our brothers in arms from the east. At that time there were no proper barracks for them and there are not yet. The only place which was at all fit to receive them was what is called the agricultural hall, which is not at all suited to the purpose for which it is now being used. It is simply a board shed, battened. When the weather is good, as every one knows it always is in British Columbia in the summer, it is all well enough, but in the winter it is altogether unfit for the purpose of barracks. The battery arrived in Victoria in October, 1887, and I think it was in December, 1887, that the Minister of Militia paid us a visit and inspected "C" Battery and the local militia. At a banquet which was given to him there, the hon. gentleman stated to those present that he had bought a site for the erection of the barracks, that a contract had been let, and that the barracks would be completed at once. No doubt the hon. gentleman meant what he said at the time, but his promise, like a good many more promises, has been broken, for up to the present time the only thing which has been done has been to erect three small huts for the gunners. There are no quarters for the officers, there is no cook house, there are no cells, there are no married sergeants' quarters, no married men's quarters, no parade ground, but simply three huts in the midst of a dense wood. I cannot blame the Minister of Militia, because there may be circumstances over which he has no control. Last year he told us he was in the hands of the Finance Minister. I trust the Finance Minister and the Minister of Militia will put their heads together and see if they cannot do more justice to these men, for it is an injustice to treat them—as fine a body of men as can be found in the world—in the manner in which they are being treated. In regard to the pay of these men, the officers particularly are labouring under great disadvantages in being stationed in British Columbia, because of the great difference in the cost of living between British Columbia and the east. I know that all Imperial officers who have been stationed in Victoria or Esquimalt have got an extra allowance on account of the extra cost of living there. I have a letter from a gentleman who has been for the last two years an Imperial army officer, in which he says:

"DEAR SIR,—With reference to your enquiry about my extra pay while on duty at the station, I have to say that I practically receive double the pay, over and above all allowances, when on ordinary pay. There are several precedents of this recognition by the Imperial authorities, that owing to the high price of everything in the province, some compensation should be made for the additional expenses, unavoidably incurred by officers on duty. I think I am correct in stating, that all the officers of the Imperial service, who have visited Esquimalt on duty, have invariably been granted extra pay."

Now, sir, this is from an Imperial officer who was on duty at Esquimalt for a long time. I may state that even the banks agree that their officers should have more. Here is a letter from the manager of the Bank of British North America, in Victoria:

"DEAR SIR,—In answer to your letter of the 1st instant, I would inform you that an allowance pay, \$500 per annum, is made to our clerks while serving the bank in Victoria, to compensate them for the additional cost of living here, as compared with Ontario and Quebec."

Now, when you take that into consideration, and also the fact that the post office officials who are in the pay of this Government at the present time in British Columbia, are allowed, I think, 25 per cent. extra for provisional allowances, and also taking into consideration the fact that the Government have agreed to give the gunners of "C" battery an extra 25 per cent. advance on their wages—their wages reaching the enormous sum of 50 cents a day—I think that when you look at all these facts, you must agree that if it is necessary for the gunners to have that increase, it must be far more necessary for the officers to have an increase. I may say that the officers find that the heavy expense of living is a great hardship at the present time, owing to their not having proper quarters. It must be remembered that they are brought into contact with officers in the Imperial service, and they have to keep up a certain appearance; and I do not think any hon. gentleman in this House would for a moment expect an officer of Canada to behave otherwise, or live differently, from any other officer of any other country. I will not take the time of the house in stating what buildings I think are necessary to be put up by the Minister of Militia, because I believe that after he has read the reports again he will do what is right. But I think he ought to give the men what exactly they are entitled to, nothing more and nothing less. I have asked him before, I am asking him now, and I shall continue to ask until he either gives me a very good reason why he should not give an extra allowance, or else yield to our reasonable request.

SIR ADOLPHE CARON—I think the only difficulty between my hon. friend and myself is that he fancies, possibly, that I may take a little more time than I should in carrying out my promises, but it is certainly my intention to carry out all the promises I have made to the hon. gentleman. With reference to the barracks, it is true that the quarters of the battery at present are not what I should like them to be. As the hon. gentleman stated, I went to Victoria and selected a site, and I gave orders to commence building the huts. The estimates which the Minister of Public Works will bring down will show that I never considered that what had been done was all that we intended to do so far as "C" battery is concerned. The hon. gentleman speaks of the expense of living being far greater in Victoria than in Ontario or Quebec. Well, that is an evil which is being cured with the completion of the Canadian Pacific Railway, by means of which communication is easily had with the east. The difference in the expenses are being reduced every day. I think it would be a very invidious distinction to make any difference in the pay between the batteries in the Dominion of Canada. The principle upon which all the military forces are organized is that the same pay shall be given to all members of the force of equal grade. The hon. gentleman states that we have made a difference in so far as the rank and file are concerned. We made this difference, that if they carried out their term of engagement for three years they should receive at the end of the period a bonus of 10 cents per head in addition to the ordinary payment, or 60 cents. At that time it was considered an inducement to get some members of the other batteries who enlisted in "C" battery, to go out to British Columbia. I was very glad indeed to see how well "C" battery was received by all the members of our military force in British Columbia. They were treated as comrades, and the good feeling shown them has increased ever since they have been serving with the ordinary militia in British Columbia. I think when the plan which is contemplated is carried out, the hon. gentleman will agree that we desire to treat "C" battery in Victoria fully as well as any other battery in Canada. I know very well that they have to put up with very many inconveniences, but the new barracks will be so perfect that I hope it will make them forget the little inconveniences which they have suffered. I am sure the hon. gentleman has shown a great deal of interest, he has spoken to me time and again about the matter, and I think he will find that what I have promised to do for "C" battery will be fully carried out.

LT.-COL. PRIOR—The Minister misunderstood me when he supposed that I said his promises had been broken. I said that his promises were made to be broken—there is a great deal of difference. In regard to the difference in the cost of living, I may state that although the hon.

gentleman says that the completion of the Canadian Pacific Railway brings down the prices, Mr. Smith, the Deputy Minister of Marine, told me, after he had taken a trip down the coast to San Francisco, that he had come to the conclusion that Victoria was one of the dearest places to live in on the whole Pacific coast. They are higher, and they will continue to be higher.

SIR ADOLPHE CARON—In regard to supplies, we find that the prices in the contracts for supplies in British Columbia are about the same as in other districts. I do not know whether the contractor was so anxious to supply "C" battery that he reduced his prices, but the contracts are at about the same prices as in other districts.

MR. CHISHOLM—I endorse everything that has been said by my colleague from British Columbia (Mr. Prior), in regard to the higher cost of living in British Columbia. I desire to enquire whether it is the intention of the government to do this year something towards fortifying the City of Vancouver, which is the terminus of the Canadian Pacific Railway and the port of landing of the Chinese steamers.

SIR ADOLPHE CARON—I can only answer the hon. gentleman, as I have already replied to another hon. gentleman, that the question of defence is now being studied by a commission that has been appointed, and the government of Canada and the Imperial government have been in communication in regard to the same question. I am not in a position to give the hon. gentleman any further information at present.

### Regimental News.

The Commandment of the Royal School of Infantry with his permanent and attached officers dined at Government House, Fredericton, on the 15th inst., and were received by His Honor Sir Leonard and Lady Tilley, and by their genial classmate, Lieut. Tilley of the Artillery. His Honor very pleasingly referred to his experience as a militia officer under the former system, contrasting the difficulties then to be met and overcome, with the advantages of the present day. The major of the 94th, when speaking for the attached officers and returning thanks for the honor, did not forget to draw attention to the necessity for a short course in this school for all officers of the Lower Provinces who intend to be useful in their battalions. He also spoke in very complimentary terms of the citizens of Fredericton for both he and his brother officers had received frequent tokens of friendship and hospitality.

#### The Allan Rifle Association.

The annual meeting of the Allan Rifle Association was held last Friday evening at the Clifton House. The secretary-treasurer's report being read was received and adopted, which showed the association with enough funds on hand to start this season's shooting on a solid basis, while the outlook for membership promises to far exceed any previous year. The officers who have kindly accepted positions in the association are men who take a deep interest in rifle shooting and are also workers when there is anything to be done. The association has decided to classify all its members as to their shooting qualities, which is bound to give more satisfaction than making every man shoot in the one class. The association will be glad to hear from sister associations in reference to telegraphic matches for the coming season; all communications addressed to the secretary, 77 Colborne street, will be promptly answered and booked in rotation as received.

The association will start practice at an early date, when scores will be duly published.

Following are the names of officers for the season of 1889: Honorary president, Lieut.-Col. Allan; president, Capt. W. Geo. Mutton; vice-president, Mr. John F. Crean; secretary-treasurer, Mr. G. M. Donnelly; committee, Messrs. Wm. Harp, A. D. Crooks and E. P. McNeil; auditor, Mr. John Knifton.

#### 66th Princess Louise Fusiliers.

The officers of the Fusiliers held their annual meeting last week and the following committees were appointed:

Regimental—Major Weston, Paymaster Spike and Lieut. Hale.

Band—Captains Kenny and Doull and Lieut. Ritchie.

Investigating—Captains Menger, Whitman and King.

Mess—Surgeon Tobin, Captains Chipman and Black and Lieut. Ritchie.

Rifle—Captains Brown, Chipman and Fishwick.

It was unanimously agreed that the whole of the officers' pay should go into the regimental funds, and provision was made for the different regimental services, including the band, and \$175 towards the Regimental Rifle Association.

Major Humphrey has assumed command and is actively engaged in re-enrolling the regiment.

Major Weston has a class for instruction of the officers in the new drill that meets each week, and the non. com. officers are being drilled two nights each week by the regimental instructor.

Capt. Kenny, who was adjutant of the Halifax Provisional Battalion, will be the new adjutant of the regiment in place of Capt. Menger, who will be appointed junior major.

Lieut.-Col. Macdonald addressed the officers and stated that much to his regret he found that his official duties were such that he could not spare the time necessary to continue in command, and he had therefore sent in his resignation and had handed over the command to Major Humphrey.

### The Shooting of the Volunteer Force.

(United Service Gazette.)

Lord Wolseley's remarks at the prize distribution of the Artists Corps, following on his recent utterances in the Midlands, will undoubtedly greatly strengthen the hands of officers commanding in getting their men to pay more attention to rifle shooting.

It is to be hoped, also, that when the National Rifle Association have fixed on a site for their new quarters we shall find evidence in the preparation of the prize list that weighty words such as Lord Wolseley's have not fallen upon heedless ears.

Following on the lines indicated by the Adjutant-General, we would suggest that every corps should not only be called upon annually to furnish the details of drill and points obtained in the third class, but that an actual summary should be prepared showing the number of men who have fired in and passed out of the third class; similar information as to the second and also as regards the first, showing at the same time the percentage who have not endeavoured to do more than perform their minimum rifle practice—viz., passing out of the third class.

We should then obtain actual data as to the shooting capacities of those who do shoot, and statistics as to the number who practically do not. From the first we should be able to calculate the respective classes, and from the latter we could say "Only exercised in the third class," and hence, having made no practice in the higher classes, no reliable information would be for the time forthcoming as to the shooting capacities of these untried men.

That this want of practice is not wholly the fault of the volunteers themselves is too self-evident to admit of discussion. It is, in effect, asking men to make bricks without straw.

Let the Government authorities give the volunteers accessible ranges, limited, if may be, to 300 yards, and built on the model of the Wormwood Scrubs ranges, and add to these ranges the advantage of night firing by the aid of artificial light, and there will be no want of forwardness on the part of volunteers to avail themselves of the chances of practice in the higher classes, for it is well understood that, by reducing the size of the targets, second and first-class shooting can be admirably carried out, even on a range limited in extent to 300 yards.

As the case stands, the ranges are far away and daylight shooting is *de rigueur*. Hence men must give up their business time to fire even their third class, and consequently, in the great majority of cases, content themselves from *force majeure*, by doing the very minimum of shooting.

Lord Wolseley most truly says that wars are won by "mass shooting," but unfortunately the opportunities for "mass shooting" are what are so conspicuously absent; whilst the crack-pot shot, whose time is often his own, can find plenty of time to gather up pots and trophies, his unskilled brother must plod along at his desk or occupation because his daylight hours are those in which his daily bread must be earned.

Mr. Herbert Miller disputes the contention of Lord Wolseley, and says that crack shots are of the greatest utility, owing to their splendid shooting at long ranges. Everyone will admit that if we could have all long-range marksmen, we must be infinitely better than having only men who can shoot well at short distances. Lord Wolseley's argument, however, is this: Don't waste all your energies in trying to make 10 per cent. of your corps long range marksmen, but rather devote your time to making the whole fair shots, if only at short ranges.

First let us get this done, and then we have to endeavour to lead our fair shots still further onward. These are important words of advice, which, as we have said, will be gladly followed by officers commanding; but to make them effective the Government must intervene and provide the necessary practice grounds, and afford facilities for shooting at such times as the volunteers can give.

The authorities do not hesitate to trust valuable arms to the possession of our volunteers. Why not make the matter appreciable by granting ranges also? The corps will willingly pay annual rent; but with their limited financial resources they cannot be expected to provide ranges suitable to prevent requirements, especially as, even if they did, any nervous neighbour can, at almost an hour's notice, get a range closed on the ground of its being supposed to be dangerous to some one near it.

The first of the 110-ton guns for the *Victoria* is now ready, it is reported, to be placed on board the ship at Chatham.

### Gleanings.

Major-General Gildea, C.B., in the course of a recent address, said: "The drill of the army has been changed many times in my memory, and now a new drill book has been issued; but in whatever form it is taught to the recruit, the benefits he derives from it are far reaching. It teaches him punctuality; it teaches him to give his entire attention to his instructor; it teaches him to work with other men; it teaches him implicit obedience to all orders without remark or argument; it teaches him cleanliness, for he has not only to appear at every parade perfectly clean in his person and clothes, but also in his arms and accoutrements; and it gives him a desire to excel and be the smartest and best dressed man of his squad, and to pass into the ranks of his regiment amongst his trained comrades, where he sees good and smart soldiers, and those who do their duty, respected by all ranks, and he soon learns to respect them and himself at the same time. In the regiments in which discipline is the most strict *esprit de corps* is strongest, and these regiments are the best. Soldiering in such regiments is far easier and happier than where discipline is slack, and a recruit soon finds this out and falls into the *regime* going on around him."

The *United Service Gazette* makes clear the distinction between machine and quick-firing guns, which, it appears, are sometimes confounded together. The machine gun is loaded automatically, and will fire until the reservoir is exhausted. The cartridges of the quick-firing gun must be inserted by hand, as those of an ordinary fowling piece are. These latter are often made of large calibre, while none of the former as yet in service exceed 1 inch in calibre, and usually have the same calibre as the infantry rifle. Some of the gun making firms have produced quick-firing guns as large as 70 pounders, and some even larger are contemplated. The largest quick-firing gun in the British service at present, however, is the 2.24 Hotchkiss gun for naval use. The cartridges for quick-firing guns are made of metal, and in general appearance are very like huge revolver or rifle ammunition, and the empty cartridge cases are extracted automatically.



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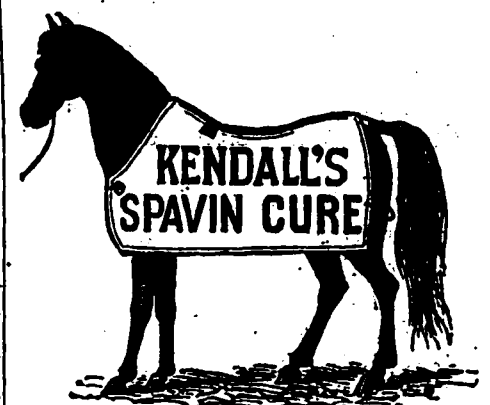
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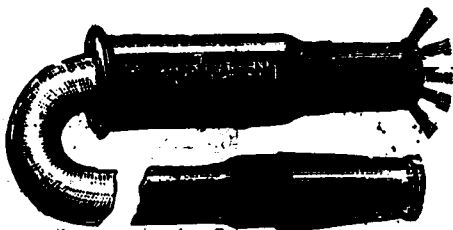
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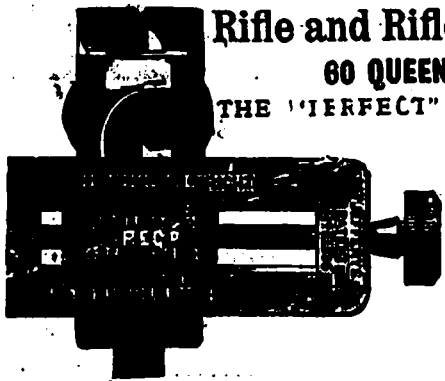
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