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THE HON. LIEUT.-COL. BOULTON.

Lieut.-Col. Boulton is a descendant of Judge Boulton, who came to Canada nearly a century ago and settled in Toronto, leaving that beautiful residence, "The Grange," as a monument to his memory. An interesting episode in connection with Judge Boulton's appointment to the young colony is worth recording here. On his way out to New York in the year 1799, the vessel was captured by a French man-of-war, and he, with the rest of the passengers and crew, were all taken to France and there incarcerated. At the end of nine months they were released by an exchange of prisoners, and in August, 1800, he landed in New York and joined his wife, who, unaware of his capture and imprisonment, had preceded him. Judge Boulton's eldest son married Miss Robinson, a sister of the late Sir John Beverly Robinson, Chief Justice of Upper Canada, and their son, Lieut.-Col. D'Arcy Boulton, who is now the senior Lt.-Col. on the Active Militia list of Canada, established himself in the practice of the law at Cobourg in 1837, where he still resides. He married in 1838 the daughter of Lieut.-Colonel Heath, a brigadier-general in the East India Company's service, who died on the field in India in the year 1820. Charles Arkall Boulton, their eldest son, was born in Cobourg in the year 1841, and was educated at Upper Canada College. At the age of 16 he obtained a commission in the 100th Royal Canadian Regiment, a regiment that was being raised for service in India during the Indian Mutiny. He went abroad with the regiment in 1858 and served in Gibraltar, Malta and other stations, returning with his regiment to Canada in 1866. In 1868 he



THE HON. LIEUT.-COL. BOULTON, Late H. M. 100th Regiment

left the service to remain in Canada instead of going abroad again with his regiment. In August, 1868, he was appointed major of the 40th Battalion under the late gallant Col. Williams. In June, 1869, he joined Col. Dennis' surveying party which went to the North-West for the purpose of laying the foundation of the future surveys of that country. The history of the stirring period that followed during the winter of 1869-70 is graphically told by him in his book entitled "Reminiscences of the North-West Rebellion." His capture and imprisonment, his being put in chains, the sentence of death passed upon him by Riel, his subsequent reprieve at the solicitation of Sir Donald A. Smith, the late Arch-

deacon McLean, and others, form an interesting episode in the history of the North-West, and identify him in a prominent way with the early development of that country. After thirty days' imprisonment he, with his fellow prisoners, was released upon the intervention of Archbishop Taché, and he shortly after returned to Ontario and engaged in lumbering in the village of Lakefield. After spending a couple of years in Ontario he determined once more to start afresh upon the broad prairies of the West, and in 1880, with a yoke of cattle and six months' provisions, he took his family and settled in the Shell River district, 350 miles north-west of Winnipeg, when his nearest neighbour was 30 miles distant. Since that time he has been closely identified with the development of that portion of the Province of Manitoba and its public life. He was the first Warden of the County of Russell, and held that position for three years, and was afterwards chairman of the Judicial Board of the Western Judicial district.

In 1885, when the rebellion broke out, he tendered his services to General Middleton to raise a corps of mounted men from his own neighbourhood, which were accepted, and he had the honour of serving through that memorable campaign at the head of a fine body of men. When the campaign was over, he added to his diversified experiences that of author and publisher, giving a personal narrative of the two rebellions, in which he had been an active participant, which will serve as a valuable book of reference in the future history of the country. He now fills the vacancy in the Senate consequent upon the appointment of the Hon. Dr. Schultz to the post of Lieutenant-Governor.

TORONTO.

The Governor-General's Body Guard have adopted a plan decidedly better than their old one of camping on the Garrison Commons. This year they will spend the time manœuvring between Toronto and Hamilton. There is considerable secrecy about the trip, but on Thursday night, 23rd instant, they paraded 4 Troops, 150 strong, under command of Lieut.-Col. G. T. Denison. Friday they started out on reconnaissance duties as far as Oakville, covering about six miles in width of the country; reaching there, camp will be formed for the night, and on Saturday they will push on to Hamilton, holding a parade in that city. They return to Toronto Wednesday night.

The officers are:—Lieut.-Col. G. T. Denison, Lieut.-Col. Dunn.

Captains Fleming, Button, Clarence Denison.

Lieuts. Peters, G. T. Denison, Elliott, Hagerman, Cockburn.

Surgeon Grasett.

Quartermaster Sloan.

A very successful entertainment was given at Temperance Hall on Thursday evening to ex-Sergt. Metcalf, F. Co. R.G., who is at present lying in the hospital from effects of the North-West rebellion. A good programme was provided and many of the members of the different regiments were present.

Major Delamere is heavily handicapped in his efforts at arriving at the state of the last two matches. On the 23rd inst. he had only received some of the score sheets of the first match. Certainly it rests with the committee to govern against such gross carelessness of Captains of teams for next season, and disqualification for failing to send score sheets after a certain date would go a long way to remedy the evil.

BREECH BLOCK.

QUEBEC.

QUEBEC, 25th June, 1892. —The officers of the 8th and 9th Battalions were examined in the general principles of drill and tactics on the evening of the 18th and 19th instant respectively, in their quarters, Drill Hall, by Lieut.-Col. T. J. Duchesnay, D.A.G., who was assisted by Lieut. Forrester, Canadian Dragoons. A printed form containing six questions for infantry, having been issued to the officers a short time previous to the examination, they were called upon to answer any two of the six questions. This completed the annual inspection of the corps in question.

The annual regimental rifle matches of the 8th Royal Rifles will be fired on the 29th inst., at the St. Joseph ranges.

At the beginning of the week the following officers and non-commissioned officers of the Canadian Dragoons proceeded to the undermentioned places on tours of inspection, etc.: Captain Lessard, St. Joseph; Lieut. Forester, Toronto; Staff-Sergt. Long, Kingston; Sergt. Widgery, Belleville; Corporal McCree, Richmond and Corporal Hunt, New Ireland.

On Friday, the 24th inst., the Legislative Assembly was prorogued at three o'clock by His Honour Lieut.-Governor Angers. The usual military display took place. The escort was furnished by the Canadian Dragoons and the guard of honour by the "B" Battery, R.C.A.

The workmen employed in the excavations for the new C.P.R. hotel site have found several relics of the olden times in the shape of bullets and canister shot, as well as an ancient looking bayonet.

TWO OLD GUNS.

Editor of CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE:

SIR, I read in a daily paper that the old cannons on Dufferin Terrace, Quebec, have been removed from their former position to make room for the foundation of a new hotel. May I ask if these are the Russian guns, according to the artillery register, "in civic charge?" If so, it is to be hoped in future they will no longer serve as mediums for the advertising of quack medicines, &c., and be better attended to. The "civic charge" in the past has been sadly neglected.

OLD QUEBEC.

PRINCE OF WALES RIFLES.

The twenty-first annual prize-meeting of this corps was held at the Cote St. Luc ranges, Montreal, on the 18th inst. There was a large attendance, and, for a wonder, the weather was fine.

The chief prize winners were as follows:

Maiden Stakes.	200 yards.	7 shots.	Points.
Pte. Geo. Smith.....			23
Pte. W. Hurd.....			21
Sergt. Johnson.....			19
Pte. D. McCallum.....			18

Battalion Match.	200, 500 and 600 yards.	Points.
Col.-Sergt. Watson.....		74
Corpl. Morrison.....		68
Pte. Humphreys.....		65
Corpl. Paquette.....		64

Citizen's Match.	200 and 400 yards.	Points.
Col.-Sergt. Bangs.....		42
Pte. Madden.....		41
Col.-Sergt. Watson.....		37
Corporal Morrison.....		39

The Walker Cup, shot for by teams

of five men from each company, in conjunction with the above match, was won by B Company with a score of 160 points.

Extra Series.	5 shots.	500 yards.	Points.
Col.-Sergt. Bangs, P.W.R.....			24
Sergt. Lavers, 6th.....			24
Sergt. Riddle, 6th.....			23
Pte. Keough, V.R.C.....			23

Open match, 500 and 600 yards. 7 shots at each:

Major Ibbotson, 5th.....	61
Sergt. Lavers, 6th.....	55
Lieut. Brown, 3rd.....	54
Sergt. Dalrymple, M.G.A.....	54

TEAMS.

6th Fusiliers.....	248
5th Royal Scots.....	243
3rd V.R.C.....	227

Aggregate prizes. Matches 2 and 3:

Col.-Sergt. Watson, D.R.A. medal and \$5.
Corpl. Morrison, P.Q.R.A. badge.

THE ARMY.

The editor of a monthly paper, published in the interests of a Toronto Accident Insurance Company, makes some very odd remarks on the present condition of the soldiers. What he says about the physique of the recruits, is unfortunately too true; but outside of this he gets beyond his depth. The Imperial soldier is not poorly fed, neither are opportunities for his improvement—mentally and morally—lacking in any way. On the contrary, the rations are infinitely better than the food used by thousands of wage-earners in cities, and the chances for mental improvement thanks to garrison libraries and reading-rooms incomparably ahead of those at the disposal of the average mechanic. As to the statements on saluting, and "the interior economy of the best corps in Her Majesty's Service," they are so far from the truth as to be absurd. Among certain papers in Canada there exists a fashion of always presenting in the worst possible light the condition of the British soldier. Before rushing so blindly into print, a little enquiry would teach them that whatever may be the demerits of the British military system, it is far ahead—in the liberty of the private soldier and the chances of his advancement—of that employed by any other civilized power in the world; its worst feature is the inadequate pay given. A comparison of the condition of a linesman with that of an average labourer in any of our cities, shows so markedly in favour of the former, that one wonders why so many allow themselves to drift into the semi-starved, broken-down life of the day labourer, when the Queen's shilling, and the well-fed, well-treated, and most honourable life that follows it are at his disposal.

MILITIA INSTRUCTION.

An able editorial in a recent number of the *Broad Arrow* deals with the folly and uselessness of parts of the system still in vogue in certain volunteer camps there. An extract from it may be of interest and use to Canadian officers. The whole pith of the matter of training a citizen soldiery is, we think, contained in the question asked in the concluding sentence.

The volunteers are not themselves to blame for the fact that things are as they are, but rather the distinguished line officers who "inspect" them. Inspecting officers have it in their power to dispense with or insist upon attempts at "show." If it were only made clear that the efficiency of a volunteer brigade would be estimated by its performance in battle formations and knowledge of outpost duty, rather than by the regularity of the eternal march-past, after a sort of fairy-tale sham-fight, there would be some chance of applying the week in camp to useful purposes. The present state of affairs is briefly this: A brigade goes into camp, and *ipso facto* the battalions composing it—speaking always of scattered country corps—have had no previous training except by companies. The general officer commanding the district announces that he will inspect the brigade, very likely on the third or fourth day after its assembly. It is well known that a sham-fight and march-past will be expected, and, therefore, the brigadier, in spite of himself, is compelled to commence with rehearsals of a set programme from the very beginning. What can be the advantage, during the limited time battalions are concentrated, of practising intricate and comparatively useless drill, to the exclusion of more essential training for the day when the volunteers may be required to do more than play at soldiers?

THE NEW ARMY RIFLE.

Two matches, which resolved themselves into contests between the Lee-Metford (Magazine) rifle and Martini-Henry rifles, were fired on 27th and 28th ult., on Hythe ranges, between teams (ten men each) of the Staff of the School of Musketry and representatives of the North and South London Rifle Clubs. It being the first occasion on which the teams have met under the above conditions, the match is of general importance. The result shows the great superiority of the Lee-Metford over the now rapidly-expiring Martini-Henry, still so fondly believed in by a large section of the Volunteer service. The School of Musketry, armed with the Lee-Metford averaged 88.20 and 88.90 in the two matches, while their opponents' figures were 81.50 and 84.00.

THE CANADIAN MILITARY COLLEGE

SIR FREDERICK MIDDLETON'S VIEWS.

(To the Editor of the Army and Navy Gazette.)

SIR,—I regret to see by an article in your last issue that the Canadians are thinking of giving up the Military College at Kingston. If they do so, in my humble opinion, they will be making a great mistake, which they will regret hereafter. If some of the members of the Canadian Parliament and Ministers complain that the Dominion does not receive a fair return for its expenditure on the institution, as you pertinently inquire, is it the fault of the College? I venture to say certainly not. I have had a great deal to do with the Kingston R. M. College, and with military education in the Imperial Army, and am fairly well acquainted with most of the foreign systems, and I do not hesitate to say that the Canadian Royal Military College can compare most favourably with the military colleges of the whole world. The commandant and most of the instructors are officers selected from the Royal Artillery and Royal Engineers of the Imperial Service, and the civilian instructors are men selected for their ability. The course extends over four years, so that there is no cramming necessary, and the work is thoroughly taught and digested; and as each cadet has to obtain class promotion after a stiff examination at the end of each year, it results that the successful cadets or graduates are the *crème de la crème*. The question then arises. Whose fault is it? I say the Dominion Government, who deliberately have ignored the original intention with which the College was instituted, or, what is the same thing, have allowed the Minister of Militia to do so. The College was intended not only for the benefit of the military service of the Dominion, but also for that of the Civil Service, as the education given in it embraces subjects qualifying those who graduate to hold mining, engineering, geological, astronomical, and other civil employments. Every year a certain number of men pass out of the College perfectly competent, and in most cases anxious to enter almost any branch of Government employ; and yet, as you observe, out of the 175 young men who have been educated at this College only about sixteen are engaged in the service of the Dominion. Then some of the graduates have drifted, and will continue to do so, to foreign countries for employment, which is not to be wondered at when we consider that they find, owing to the vicious system of political patronage which pervades the whole Dominion, they are unable in their own country to obtain employment, which they see given to men their inferiors in every respect except political interest. A certain number of graduates have joined

the British Army, which seems to trouble some Canadian politicians. With a sort of dog-in-the-manger feeling, they will not employ these men themselves, and yet they do not want the mother country to do so. Though I am sure we should deeply regret losing such excessively good men as we invariably do receive from the Canadian College, still those said political gentlemen should remember that it is from no want of candidates at home that the Imperial Government offers a few commissions in her Army yearly to her large colonies, but, I believe, simply from a wish to keep up a good feeling and connection with them. I myself have every reason to think well of graduates of the Kingston College, having had three of them as A.D.C.'s while in Canada, viz., Lieut. Wise, 1st Battalion Cameronians (now captain Derbyshire Regiment), who was a most intelligent, active officer in quarters, and a most plucky one in the field; Captain Freer, South Staffordshire Regiment, who succeeded Wise when he was wounded in the North-West Campaign, and who did excellent service; Lieut. E. Doucet, who joined me as extra A.D.C., and did good and gallant service until he was severely wounded. If the Dominion Government would determine to give the graduates of the Kingston R. M. College a fair amount of encouragement by giving them Government employment irrespective of political influence, I feel confident that before long the value of the institution to the Dominion would be generally recognized, as it now is partially by thinking Canadians; and if they would double the number of cadets admitted they would lessen the cost of the College, and this could be done without additional expense, as the educational staff is quite sufficient for the proposed increase.

FRED. MIDDLETON, Lieut.-Gen.

WHAT IS THE MATTER WITH CANADIAN HORSES.

In addition to the supply of horses from Australia, the Indian Government, it is now stated, are getting from Buenos Ayres 600 South American horses for the use of their cavalry men. Baron von Pollnitz, formerly a cavalry officer in the Austrian Army, but now established in Buenos Ayres, has contracted to supply the Government with the animals in question. The horses are to be mestizos, not less than fifteen and a half hands high, and not to include any piebald or cream-coloured animals. The average cost of the horses delivered at Calcutta is nearly £27. A Dutch steamer has been chartered to take the horses to Calcutta. *Army and Navy Gazette*.

THE CANADIAN TEAM FOR BISLEY.

Our representatives for this year's matches at Bisley met at Montreal on Friday, 24th inst., and paraded in the Drill Hall at 2.30 p.m.; with two exceptions they were in full-dress uniform, and presented a fine appearance. The commandant, Lieut.-Col. Massey, 6th Fusiliers, and the Adjutant, Major Macdonald, 48th Highlanders, were present; after the usual routine, the team was dismissed, and met again that evening on R.M.S. "Parisian," which was to sail early on the following morning.

Notwithstanding the rain and mud a large number of friends went down to the wharf to wish our men good-luck and a pleasant voyage; the life and drum band of the Sixth Fusiliers and a large detachment of that corps were on hand to say good-bye to their popular Colonel.

The personnel of the team is as follows:—

Commandant—Lieut.-Col. F. Massey, 6th Fusiliers.

Adjutant—Major W. C. Macdonald, 48th Highlanders.

MEMBERS.

	Previous years on Team.
Sgt. Rolston, 20th Batt.....	1885 89
Capt. McMicking, 44th Batt.....	1888 91
S. Sgt. D. Mitchell, 13th Batt.....	1876 77 81
S. Sgt. Ogg, 1st Brigade F. A.....	1879 80 81 87 89 90 91
Sergt. Marris, 13th Batt.....	1879 81 87 89 90 91
Sergt. Short, G.G.F.G.....	1885 88
Capt. Jamieson, 43rd.....	1885 89
S. Sgt. Armstrong, G.G.F.G.....	1884 86 89 91
Lieut. T. Mitchell, 10th R.G.....	1874 77 79 81 83 89-91
Pte. Windatt, 45th Batt.....	1890 91
S. Sgt. Simpson, 12th Batt.....	
Lieut. Revell, 22nd Batt.....	
Pte. Gamble, 46th Batt.....	1887
Capt. McRobie, 8th Cav.....	
S. Sgt. Dent, 10th R.G.....	
Lieut. Wilson, 33rd.....	1881 82 86 88
Lieut. Williamson, 45th.....	
Lieut. Macadam, 3rd Vics.....	
Capt. Smith, St. John Rifles.....	1882 87 88 90
Lieut. Horsey, 45th.....	1989 90 91

Lieut. Macadam is from Montreal, Capt. McRobie and Smith from St John; remainder all from Ontario.

THE BISLEY MEETING.

The National Rifle Association has issued the details of the re-arrangement of the shooting which has recently been decided upon for the next Bisley meeting. The feature of this year's meeting is that all the great Volunteer contests will take place in the second week. On the opening day, Tuesday, July 12th, the long-range match between the Regular and Volunteer officers and the University match will be the principal items; on Wednesday, the 13th, the United Service cup and the Secretary for War's prize will be shot for; on Thursday, the 14th, the Public Schools and Cadets' contests, and the Army and Navy, the General Eyre, Albert first stage and the Duke of Cambridge's will be taken; on Friday, the 15th, the Duke of Westminster's new cup for field firing and the Albert second stage; and on Saturday the 16th, the Elcho Shield, the Lords and Commons match, and the Mullens, Brinsmead, Mappin and Kolapore Cup. On Monday, the 18th, the Queen's at 200 yards will be the great feature, repeated at 500 yards the next day, with the Alexandra and Prince of Wales, the two latter also going on on

the Wednesday, when the Queen's first stage is to be completed at 600 yards. On Thursday, the 21st, the St. George's, Martin's, and China Cup for county teams will be the most important competitions on the list; on Friday, the 22nd, the Queen's second stage at 500 and 600 yards will be fired, also the Evelyn Wood for Regulars and the Yeomanry Cup; and on Saturday the 23rd, the meeting will close with the final shooting of the Queen's (800 and 900), the National Challenge Trophy, the Royal Cambridge Challenge Shield for Regular Cavalry, and the Lord Lindsay for Yeomanry, the Cyclists' contest, and the Belgian Volley Cup. — *Army and Navy Gazette*.

A CANADIAN OFFICER IN IMPERIAL POLITICS.

Lieutenant-General J. W. Laurie has come forward as a conservative candidate for a seat in the House of Commons at the approaching General Election. He is not altogether new to political life, as he sat for some years as a member of the Canadian Parliament. — *Army and Navy Gazette*.

NORTH-WEST RIFLE LEAGUE.

The second competition of the above League took place on the 11th inst. The weather in some parts of the Province and North-West Territories appears to have been most unfavourable to good shooting, and will account for some of the low figures in the scores, as seen below.

This, however, is but a small matter when it is considered that the League is the medium of training from seventy-five to one hundred men in the practical use of the military weapon, at present adopted by the Government of Canada.

The scores made were as follows:

	Points.
Portage La Prairie.....	390
Battleford.....	379
Prince Albert.....	343
Fort Saskatchewan, 1st team.....	313
Brandon.....	300
Edmonton.....	294
Regina.....	293
Macleod, 1st team.....	280
Moosomin.....	277
Calgary.....	244
Fort Saskatchewan, 2nd team.....	241
Macleod, 2nd team.....	194
Virden,	
Duck Lake,	No returns
90th Battalion, Winnipeg.	

CYCLING IN THE FRENCH ARMY.

The use of the cycle is at length adopted officially for the French Army. Admitted in principle in 1887, the employment of the machine was regulated by a letter of May 8, 1889, each infantry corps having four territorial or reservist cyclists, bringing their own machines, and employed in the personal discretion of the commanders of the army corps to which they belonged. Now, by a ministerial circular of April 2, each battalion or regiment embodied will have four cyclists, still drawn from the reserve or the territorial army, and mounted on machines supplied by the State. It may be estimated that every army corps will have from 100 to 110 cyclists, and the regulations show that military cycling is to be made a specialty, and will not be open to the ranks. Every cyclist will have to undergo an oral examination upon map-reading and other matters. It is certain, says the regulation, that, in the present state of the question, the principal role of the cyclists will be to transmit orders, instructions and communication of every kind. "Their utilisation as scouts or combatants should only be attempted by way of experiment, and it is necessary to guard against the exaggerations of daylight, which will give an importance to this service which it cannot at present claim." The Artillery have thought to create a special and absolute form of military cycle, and to manufacture it themselves, which, according to the *Avenir Militaire*, is a mania with them.

FIELD ARTILLERY FIRE.

BY CAPTAIN W. L. WHITE, R.A., SCHOOL OF GUNNERY, SHOEBOURNE.

(From Proceedings of the Royal Artillery Institution.)

FIRE DISCIPLINE.

In the days of smooth-bore weapons effective ranges were very short, and shooting was very inaccurate; with the musket of 1842 the percentage of hits on a target six feet high by 20 feet broad was:

At 100 yards.....	74.5
“ 200 “	42.5
“ 300 “	16
“ 400 “	4.5

Artillery was therefore used at what are, to us, very short ranges, from 400 to 600 yards, and even closer; guns were only sighted to 1,000 or 1,200 yards, and beyond 600 yards the effect of fire became very uncertain; at the range of 1,000 paces only one-third of the shot hit the target then in use, which was six feet high and 50 paces broad. The method of procedure was for the battery commanders, using their batteries as tactical units, to bring their commands in as close as possible to the enemy and open fire, having first ordered a rough approximation of the range to be given as elevation. In none of the old works on artillery fire do we find any mention of any subsequent proceedings for the purpose of rectifying the elevation, the reasons for which are very apparent:

(a) The smooth-bore might or might not respond to small alterations of elevation, and such were really of not very great importance since, round shot being used, the projectile, if it fell short, would generally ricochet on some part of the target.

(b) All subsequent corrections were made by the No. 1, for we find in all the older drill-books that “after giving the word ‘Ready’ No. 1 will step to that side of the piece from which he can best observe the effect of his round.” Indeed, this observation was easy, for the eye could follow the projectile over its short trajectory.

Again, in the older drill-books we do not find any stress laid upon the accurate pointing out of the target to the sectional officers and gun-layers; the reason for this is again obvious; at the short distance which separated the two opposing lines it was seldom possible that there could be much, if any, great choice of target to select from; it was like fighting in a crowd where it is only possible to hit out against the man immediately opposite. Thus, when a battery came into action, it is probable that the target and elevation were indicated only in the most sketchy manner, such as “Artillery in front, 400

yards;” the selection of the particular portion to fire at, and all subsequent corrections of elevations, fell to the section officers and No. 1. Indeed, most of us can remember the field days, the survival of the old procedure, when a battery seldom had an objective pointed out to it, sometimes even no elevation was given, and it was not unusual to hear the words “Blank cartridge, load! Fire one round from right to left and cease firing.” The joy of getting off a round before one’s neighbor being the reward for this, what is to-day an enigmatical proceeding.

With smooth bores then, the battery was the tactical unit, and the commander had to study and give his attention, to a great extent, to the tactical situation, while the gun, or at most the section, was the fighting unit.

Under the above conditions a system of fire discipline, as we now understand the term, did not exist, nor was there any necessity for it; but the close proximity of the enemy, and the consequent greater excitement of the men, made a most rigid system of drill discipline of paramount importance, in order that, in the turmoil of the fight, they might perform mechanically those functions which hours of laborious training on the drill-ground had taught them to carry out with the precision of a machine. In fact, what was desired was “Discipline under Fire.”

After the introduction of rifled arms it was found that the old method of procedure was no longer possible. The greater range at which it is now necessary and possible to fight gives a very large choice of target to the batteries and makes a careful pointing out of the objective necessary, and as it is no longer possible for gun-layers to observe the effect of their rounds, and thus correct their elevation (which, owing to the improvements in projectiles, has become of great importance), this duty of the observation of fire and the rectification of the elevation becomes the duty of the battery commander. In order to give him time to attend to these increased duties it is necessary to relieve him of all, or almost all, tactical considerations, which now devolve upon the officer commanding the brigade division.

Thus, the Brigade Division has become the tactical unit and the Battery the fighting unit. That is, with the officer commanding the Brigade Division rests the responsibility for

manœuvring of, and the position taken up by the batteries, and the tactical application of their fire under such orders as he may receive from the Divisional General, while with the Battery Commander lies the responsibility for the technical administration of the fire of his battery.

It is only necessary to recapitulate these onerous tactical duties to show how much they must have occupied the Battery Commander of former days to the almost total exclusion of technical affairs.

The duties of the tactical commander, the officer commanding the Brigade Division, are now as follows:

1. To consider the tactical situation not only of his own troops, but also that of the enemy.
2. To select and reconnoitre positions.
3. To point out the objective and divide it among the batteries under his command, changing it from time to time with the fluctuations and progress of the fight.
4. To control the rate of fire and thus nurse the expenditure of ammunition against the critical period of the battle, and to ensure the renewal of the supply, *i.e.*, beyond that in the immediate possession of the batteries.
5. To receive all orders from the commander of the troops and to keep him well informed.

Having been relieved from his tactical responsibilities the Battery Commander can now turn his full attention to the technical administration of his fire. It is a question of some moment to define precisely how far the commander of a Brigade Division may interfere in the technical working of a battery, but, it may be taken as a general rule that if he does so, he does it at the imminent risk of losing sight of the important and absorbing role that falls to his share. There are, no doubt, occasions when the interference of the Brigade Division Commander is warranted, but, except on the practice ground, it is a matter which involves a great possible danger, and should, therefore be strenuously avoided.

To enable a Battery Commander to fight his battery, a sound system of fire discipline is necessary.

The British has been the last artillery of the European powers to adopt a definite system of fire discipline, and this arises, perhaps, from the fact that we have never, since the introduction of rifled guns, been pitted against an enemy in the field who could take advantage of our lack of this quality. Against those with whom we have had to deal, the old “go in and win” system has been very efficacious, owing to the prestige attaching to it, and possibly on account of the indifference of the argument opposed to it.

Having during the last few years adopted a system based on those already in use by other powers, we have avoided many of the errors inseparable from the inception and development of new methods and our drill books presents a more or less complete scheme to our notice. That this scheme is perfect it is impossible to affirm, and many officers give their constant care and attention to its improvement, but the very fact of our having stepped into a full-blown scheme has deprived us of the experience to be gained in working it out, and thus many of the improvements that have been suggested are based upon principles that have already been tried and found wanting by those gunners abroad who initiated the modern system and have brought it to its present state.

It is my intention then in the following pages to deal generally with the principles upon which a system of fire-discipline should be based, to recount some of the attempts that have been made and the reasons for their failure, in order to place at the disposal of my brother officers materials for the perfection of our own system and to show them what exploded errors to avoid. The methods laid down in our own text books deal only with results and a study of them does not often reveal the principles upon which they are based, but this has been inseparable from the fact of our having taken advantage of the experience of others; at least, the principles could not have been enunciated without greatly exceeding the bulk of a "hand" book.

By fire-discipline must be understood the possession by the battery as a whole, of a combination of those qualities which enable its commander, in the shortest possible time, to turn fire, of any desired nature and rate, upon any portion of the field at will.

That is, the battery must be so trained that its fire may respond smoothly and quickly as a machine, to the slightest touch of the guiding hand. To attain this pitch of perfection something more than mere mechanical excellence, such as that induced by a strict drill discipline, is required; and yet a strict drill discipline is the first step towards it, for by it men are taught to perform certain of their duties pseudo-mechanically, even under the greatest stress of excitement. It is necessary to be able to direct the mechanical process called "drill" in such a manner that the same causes shall produce varying effects at will. In short, to produce good practice it is necessary to be able to command, and that is the point upon which this most important subject of fire-discipline hinges.

To explain more fully. Unless we know who to command it will be impossible to take advantage of the state of mechanical perfection to which the battery may have been trained. The laying and the service of the pieces may be perfect, but we must be able to immediately indicate the target and ensure, by good observation, that the fire is properly applied.

We must be able to change, with the utmost rapidity, from one target, or from one nature or rate of fire to another. All this is understood by the word fire-discipline.

The battery commander being, so to speak, the motive power, it is of the first importance that all his orders should be conveyed intact to those portions of the machine that he wishes to set in motion. For this purpose the experience of many years has led foreign artillerymen to formulate an axiom that: "All orders from the battery commander are to be repeated and not interpreted."

In the early days of the modern system of fire discipline many schemes were propounded, some of which will be noticed in due course, that depended for their successful carrying out on the correct interpretation by the sectional officers of their commanders' orders. Some of these schemes worked out in a satisfactory manner on paper and on the drill ground, some even partially survived the more searching ordeal of the ranges, but all have failed when tried by the standard of active service. Sooner or later one of the interpreters makes a mistake or is replaced by a less skilled one, and then the whole scheme falls to pieces, whereas when all orders from the battery commander are carefully repeated the mental strain upon the personnel is greatly reduced and the working of the battery remains most completely in the hands of its commander.

The better to enable these orders, as given by the battery commander and repeated by the sectional officers, to be heard by all concerned, a system of silent drill has been introduced (vide "instructions for practice, 1861") which, by the suppression of unnecessary noise has had the effect of greatly improving the service of the guns and the rapidity with which orders are grasped and carried out; the reason for this being that all recipients have to be much more on the alert to catch a signal than they had formerly to be when they might trust to having their faculties stimulated by the voice of the commander. Should it ever be necessary to send an order this applies especially to brigade practice—the best protection from mistakes is to send it in writing; but, as this is not always possible on service, it should be re-

sorted to as seldom as possible and the message sent verbally. It should be made a rule that every orderly, as well as every recipient of an order, should be educated to repeat the message "verbatim;" thus only can mistakes be avoided. This habit of repeating messages is a matter of education, and cannot be acquired on the spur of the moment. The correct delivery of the delivery can be best ensured if officers make it a rule only to send short messages, omitting all that is self-evident or best left to the discretion of the recipient.

It is perhaps needless to say that no system can succeed if orders, however correctly given and conveyed, are not punctually obeyed, and it was this point which produced some little friction when modern systems were first introduced into our service. It was hard to induce the old generation of gun-layers to give up what they considered their vested right, which was fostered by the late system of competitive practice, to observe the effect of the shooting and to modify sights and laying according to their own observation rather than submit unreservedly to the orders of the battery commander. It is impossible at service practice for the laying of each gun to be verified at every round by an officer on account of the delay that would ensue, and some of the range reports of not so very long ago show that gun-layers are in the habit, unless very carefully trained, of altering the sights or laying in accordance with their own judgement. The following is a case in point which occurred as lately as 1890. The battery was being ranged from one gun (which was wrong in itself).

Round.	Elevation.	Result	
		As judged by C.O.	As judged by Range Party.
1.	2,500		Target.
2.	2,700		Target.
3.	2,800		Target.
4.	2,750		Target.
5.	2,725		Target.

Here the battery commander, following his own observation, which was bad, proceeded perfectly correctly with the ranging process, but it is perfectly obvious also, that the gun-layer did not put up the elevation ordered, otherwise he could not have succeeded in hitting the target five times running with elevations differing as much as by 300 yards. It is most probable that what happened was that the gun-layer, who was perhaps brought up under the old regime, saw the effect of his first shot, and receiving orders to alter his elevation did not obey them, or, if he did, he must have layed off the target, which is an offence equally heinous.

To be continued.

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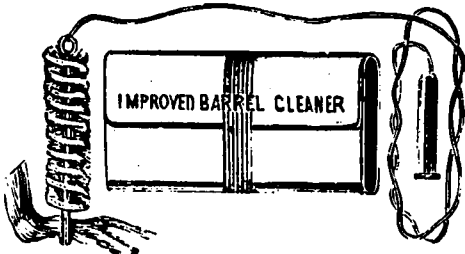
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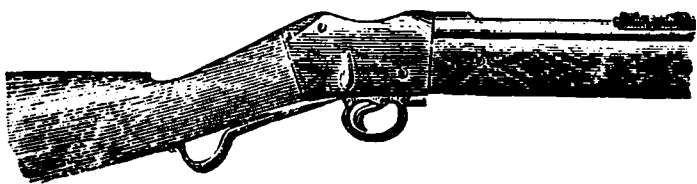
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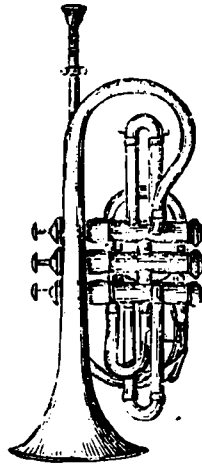
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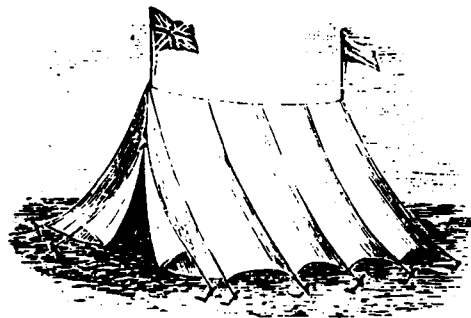
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