

THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE

A WEEKLY JOURNAL DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF THE ACTIVE FORCE OF THE DOMINION.

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CORRESPONDENCE.

The MILITIA GAZETTE aims at being the recognized medium of instruction and information for Canadian militiamen and rifle shots. Communications on the subjects to which its pages are devoted are respectfully invited. Anonymous communications will not be regarded. No name will be published, except with the writer's consent. The editors will not be responsible for the views of correspondents.

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COMMENT AND CRITICISM.

"After a storm comes a calm"—since the exciting news of last week's fighting at Batoche, followed by the announcement of Riel's capture, we have heard little of interest, and in fact little of any kind, from our actual service contingent, with the one exception of Poundmaker seeking terms of surrender. General Middleton's column has reached Prince Albert, and the 7th Fusiliers and two more companies of the Midland battalion have reached Clarke's Crossing and gone into camp there. Col. Otter has sent a strong escort to bring in fresh supplies, but no change has occurred in the strength of his detachment. Nothing definite has been heard from General Strange since he left Edmonton. He has under his command, stretching from Edmonton presumably to Fort Pitt, 77 police, 88 scouts and 475 infantry. There are besides 90 volunteers at Edmonton, but unless the General brought them arms they were very poorly provided. The M. G. A. reached Winnipeg on the 20th and went into garrison there; while the last three battalions called out have gone into camp near their respective headquarters—the 32nd at Southampton, the 1st P.W.R. on the Montreal Exhibition Grounds, and the N.B. Provisional Battalion, to their intense disappointment, at Sussex.

We must confess to a feeling of agreeable surprise as well as thankfulness at the news of Poundmaker's action in sending in to Bat-

tleford the captured teamsters and asking for terms of surrender. We feared that the fight with Col. Otter's force would have made him more confident of ultimate success as well as desirous of revenge for the loss he then sustained, and the fact that it has had a different effect means one of two things—either that he imagines that there is more to be gained by submission, or that he does not desire a repetition of the treatment he received from Col. Otter's flying column. If the report be true that General Middleton's answer was "unconditional surrender or immediate action," we prophesy that Poundmaker's chances of gain by submission will be cut short by a hempen halter; but in any case the fact of his asking for terms is a most happy augury of the early complete submission of the Indian tribes. It is but two months to-day since the Duck Lake fight occurred, and a serious insurrection has been in the interval entirely subdued. Under the circumstances we feel that we are entitled to the praise given us by an American paper and reprinted in this issue.

The correspondent of the *London Daily Telegraph* who accompanied the British advance towards Khartoum makes grave charges regarding the quality of the bayonets and Martini cartridges used by the troops; though it is but fair to premise that these were denied in the House of Commons. He says the triangular bayonet oftentimes bent and twisted, but on the whole stood the test better than the sword bayonet, though inferior to that weapon in two respects. The wound it makes is slight, so that a fanatical savage requires several thrusts before he can be prevented from running amuck among civilized troops; in the second place when thrust violently it goes too far and there is great difficulty in freeing it. At Tamai a stalwart soldier hooked his opponent in such a manner that he had to drag the body twenty yards, as he was retreating, before liberating his weapon. The correspondent reports seeing blue-jackets' cutlass-sword-bayonets bend into semi-circles and remain in that shape, while many a soldier at Abou Klea saw with dismay his sword-bayonet rendered useless when there was no chance to load his rifle, and after the battle strong men might have been seen straightening their bayonets across the knee or under foot.

Respecting the jamming of Martini cartridges (*Forest and Stream* was mistaken in the article in last week's issue in attributing this difficulty to those of the new weapon, which has not yet been issued) he states that the scenes at Abou Klea are not likely to be effaced from the memories of those who witnessed them. When the Arabs charged the square the left face, upon which the rush came, poured in a comparatively ineffective fire, and it was found that twenty to thirty per cent. of the rifles were jammed. The improved mode of freeing the block from a jammed cartridge was to endeavour to throw the lever up and down smartly two or three times. If that plan did not work, then there was nothing for it but to hit the lever a sharp blow with a stick or stone or use the ramrod to eject the empty case or shell. Amid the hubbub and excitement of the conflict there were officers who went about with sticks, with which, taking the jammed rifles from the men's hands, they

struck the levers and ejected the cartridges. The blame for all this the correspondent puts upon the "complex, ill-shapen Boxer cartridge," and in this opinion the authorities must be inclined to agree, for Mr. Brand, replying to a question in the English house of commons announced that it was inferior in some respects to the solid drawn cartridge, and that this last pattern was in course of manufacture.

The day of novelties in military tactics and military inventions has not yet passed away, as is evidenced by the trial of Major Larmour's rifle screen, alluded to in another column, but chiefly by the description that reaches us from England of the employment of bicycles for scouting purposes. During the Easter manoeuvres one regiment sent out a reconnoitring party of this kind, which did good service, communicating information that could not otherwise have been obtained, and although eventually they were taken prisoners of war by the simple expedient of stretching a rope across the road, they proved the usefulness of such a method of communication in a country with roads as good and numerous as England. They could not be used to such advantage on our rough Canadian roads, unless the Indians could be persuaded to believe they were something supernatural.

We have been shown photographs of a portable rifleman's screen designed by Major Larmour, Retired list, superintendent of the G.T.R. at Stratford, to protect skirmishers while in motion or while firing. It consists of a plate of steel of 13 gauge five feet high by three feet wide, weighing forty pounds, folded down the middle into V shape, perforated near the top with a couple of eye-holes and farther down with an aperture through which the rifle can be fired by a kneeling man. It is proposed that these portable rifle-pits, as their inventor calls them, shall be carried on waggons, and when skirmishers are deployed that each shall take a screen and sling it on his left shoulder by a strap provided for the purpose. There is no doubt that such shields would deflect bullets striking the plates at an acute angle from the front, but it is questionable whether they would not impede the skirmishers so seriously as to counterbalance this advantage. There are so many considerations to be taken into account in judging of them that they would at least require the test of practical use before being pronounced either a success or the reverse.

We have to thank many Canadian journals as well as most of the prominent members of the Militia force for the very kind manner and encouraging words with which they have received our initial numbers, and to assure them that this cordial reception will incite us to renewed exertions to increase the merit of the GAZETTE. The only thing we should like to ask is a more ready response to our request for information from outside corps as to their doings at drill shed or rifle range, for insertion under the heading "Doings at Headquarters" or "The Target," as the case may be. It is impossible that such information can be compiled by our own staff from exchanges, and the only way to get full particulars is to have an official deputed from each corps and from each rifle association who will attend to the matter. May we ask the senior officers in each case to see to this point? In one or two instances the objection has been made that no names are published as connected with this journal. We may here state that arrangements have been completed for continuing its publication until it has been proved whether there is enough *esprit de corps* in the Canadian Militia to decently support an organ, and that it will be carried through at least one whole year independently of financial considerations; and, although we consider that the appearance, tone and contents of our journal should carry with them a sufficient recommendation, we beg to refer anyone distrustful of our standing to the militia staff or commanding officers in this city, to all of whom our personnel is known. Finally we may say that

although the increased interest in militia matters caused by the rebellion furnished a good occasion for the inception of our venture, it was never intended that the paper should either mainly occupy itself with the doings in the North-West or cease when that campaign came to an end. It is proposed that it shall be a permanent institution, and to that end we once more bespeak the hearty support of the force.

DEFENCES OF BRITISH COLUMBIA.

Our western province is the most undefended at the present time of all the provinces of the Dominion, and in the event of hostilities between Great Britain and Russia is in about as unenviable a position as can possibly be conceived. Victoria, the capital, is pretty nearly mid-way between Montreal and Petropoloski—being 2,800 miles from the former and 2,900 miles from the latter place, so that in less than ten days after declaration of war (and in the absence of any of H. M. ships) a very small hostile fleet could easily pounce upon that fair city. Moreover, there are other places belonging to the United States in still closer proximity to the shores of the Pacific Province, viz.:—San Juan Island, some 13 miles off only; Port Townsend, in Washington Territory, within 38 miles, and San Francisco, 750 miles. Some people may say that a rupture between Great Britain and the United States is not a factor of consideration at all, as such a contingency is never likely to arise, still to be "forewarned is to be forearmed," which motto applies with ample force in view of the recent impending war cloud, now temporarily vanishing, but which most surely will burst in the not distant future. At the present time the established strength of the militia does not exceed 322 officers and men in the whole province, or about an ordinary Ontario battalion, viz.: Garrison artillery (4 batteries) numbering 187, and rifles, 135. Of these 230 were last year authorized to drill, and the following performed their drill at company headquarters:—

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The Nanaimo Rifle Company, not turning out, have since been disbanded, and possibly a battery of garrison artillery may be opened at this important point, where there are extensive and valuable coal beds. The formation of a battery of garrison artillery at Granville (Burrard Inlet) is also contemplated, and even in the interior, in the Okanagan district, a corps of mounted rifles may yet be formed, and at Chilliwack a movement is said to be on foot to form a rifle company. So much for the "personnel" of the present and near future.

There are three earthwork fortifications, Beacon Hill, Macauley Point, and Brother's Island, two of which (unless recently repaired) are unserviceable. The artillery armament consists of

- One 8-inch 9-ton M. L. R. gun,
- Three 7-inch 6½-ton M. L. R. guns,
- Six 64-pounders of 64 and 71 cwt., M. L. R. guns,

in all ten guns, mounted on naval carriages and slides, for the defence of Victoria and Esquimalt, and supplied with ammunition equal to about 100 rounds per gun. There are also two obsolete 24-pounder howitzers at New Westminster, the carriages and limbers of which have rotted and fallen to pieces. Nanaimo has no defences at all, so that practically the three principal cities of our western Province have only the barest semblance of what is generally known as means of defence. There are many old-fashioned and obsolete rifled guns lying idle in the old country, and not long ago rumors were rife, when the

Russian war cloud was lowering, that some twelve 40-pounder Armstrongs and six 9-pounder field pieces were going to be sent out at once. At least four of these 40-pounder rifled guns on travelling siege carriages would be most useful as a means of preventing an enemy landing at many places around Victoria which the guns at present mounted could not reach.

When the present fortifications are put in serviceable condition, when "C" Battery and school of gunnery are in practical, instead of theoretical existence, when the garrison artillery and rifles are kept to their authorized strength at all three ports, the siege guns and field pieces on the spot ready for use, a corps of mounted home guards equipped, a small torpedo corps established, and the presence of at least two of H. M. ships in the straits made continuous, then, and then only, will the Pacific interests be safely guarded.

CORRESPONDENCE.

A FURTHER LETTER FROM THE MIDLAND BATTALION.

MAPLE CREEK, 2nd May.

On receipt of orders last night at ten to move west, we struck tents at five this morning and left per C.P.R., reaching this place at noon. The cause of our sudden removal was that Capt. McIlree, of the Mounted Police, came in to report that having only 25 men at his disposal at Maple Creek, they were liable to be raided and looted by Indians and half-breeds at any moment, and that they must have assistance. As a consequence Col. Deacon was ordered, with companies "G" and "H," to move to this point at once. We were not sorry to leave, though we should have preferred to go north, but that was simply impossible. As I write our battalion is still separated, companies "A" "B" "C" and "D" being at Clark's Crossing, or rather, on their way there, having been stuck in the mud on the *Northcote* for the last six days. "E" and "F" are at the Saskatchewan Ferry, 32 miles north of Swift Current. In the meantime a train of timber and carpenters reached Swift Current this morning, and the building of barges to aid in the transport service will be commenced at once. I expect it will be another week or ten days before we move towards the Saskatchewan, unless we are sent across country from this point, which is a shorter route. Should we go northwards from here we will be tolerably certain to fall in with the enemy; it is also believed that if they retreat they will make for this point to augment their supplies. We are under canvas about two miles south of Maple Creek, a village containing about twenty houses and stores, and having the police barracks (25 men), about 500 yards distant on our right. We left the Halifax battalion and the 7th Fusiliers behind us at Swift Current, the 9th having been sent to Calgary. It is almost startling to think what the cost of this campaign will be to the country, it must be enormous, our company's pay sheet alone amounts to over \$1,000 for the month. We are all in the best of health and spirits and getting fat on North-west air and rations. I send you some more flowers which we have been having since the 15th April. Weather waru as in June.

NOTES FROM QUEBEC.

The first installation of the Edison electric light in Quebec city is now in practical operation at the cartridge factory in the old artillery barracks, near St. John's gate, where a plant of seventy-five incandescent lamps supplies light for the whole factory. The lamps used are of 16-candle power each; and the current is generated by a dynamo machine, driven by the engine which supplies power to the other machinery. Over the lamps are placed nicked shades which reflect the light downwards upon the work exactly where required, and switches are provided in each room to throw on or off the lights therein, whilst on the sockets of such lamps as are not always required to be alight keys are provided to turn them on or off independently of the others. Safely cut-outs are placed at the junction of branch wires with the mains. These consist of attachments to the wire, into which are screwed plugs consisting of short lengths of fusible wire which melts in case of the accidental crossing of the wires and so prevents any danger of fire arising. At the Laboratory on the Cove Fields a plant of 26 lights is also installed, and here special precautions had to be taken to avoid danger from fire on account of the quantity of gunpowder used and stored there. Each lamp, therefore, is provided with an outer glass covering and the cut-outs are protected by wooden boxes. The lamps, sockets and machinery are manufactured wholly in Canada by the Edison Electric Light Company, whose headquarters are at Hamilton, Ont., and the installations were made under the supervision of Mr. Lawson, the manager of the company's Canadian business. Since the factory has been thus lighted, it has run night and day, turning out daily 25,000 rounds snider ammunition, which is packed in small handy boxes of 250 rounds each.

A large quantity of Martini-Henry ammunition, and also twelve M.L.R. 9-pr. field guns, with wagons complete, have arrived in Quebec from England during the past week. These guns, &c., brought out in two different steamships, have been taken to the Citadel by the officers, men and horses of the Quebec Field Battery, Major Lindsay in command.

A rocket battery with a good supply of rockets would be an acquisition in the North-west. As there are none in Dominion stores, they ought to be obtained from H. M. Fleet, at Halifax, with a few Jack Tars to operate them as instructors.

The rifle match at Levis on Ascension day was the opening of the 8th Royal Rifles' Association, and not the Stadacona, as stated.

RIFLES AND RIFLE SHOOTING.—II.

BY CAPTAIN HENRY F. PERLEY, HEADQUARTERS STAFF.

About the year 200 B.C. every Roman between 17 and 47 was held liable to serve as a soldier, but the younger men were preferred, and they had to undergo a severe course of drill and discipline, to fit them for marching, fighting, camping, carrying, working and other active duties. The Roman legion in its day had many excellent qualities, as for instance, great facility of movement, a power of preserving order-of-battle unimpaired, a quick rallying power when forced to give way, a readiness to adapt itself to varying circumstances in the field, formidable impetuosity of attack, and power of fighting on a retreat. The heavy infantry were armed with javelins, heavy darts, pikes and swords; the lighter troops with bows and arrows and light javelins; whilst the defensive armor comprised shields, cuirasses, helmets and greaves.

The downfall of the Roman Empire marked the dividing line between ancient and mediæval times in military matters, and from that time until the introduction of gunpowder in the middle ages it may be said that no nation possessed any regular or defined army.

During feudal times kings could not maintain a standing army, because the barons and feudal chieftains were jealous of allowing them too much power. Each baron had a small band composed of his own retainers, or hired men-at-arms, and was always ready for a fight at the shortest notice, either with his king or his neighbor. But these had to give away, and in 1470 Charles VII. of France gradually converted his ill-governed force into a well disciplined army, and since that time each nation has maintained its army and has engaged in bloody and destructive wars.

Before the days of gunpowder the "battering ram" was the instrument used in attacking a walled town or castle for the purpose of effecting a breach through which the besiegers could enter. It consisted of a beam of wood varying from 60 to 120 feet in length, with a heavy mass of bronze or iron resembling the head of a ram on one end. In its simplest form it was borne by soldiers or suspended in a frame. The "ram" sometimes weighed a ton, and when a hundred men or more were employed in putting the weighted beam in motion and concentrating the blows hardly any wall could withstand its effects. In connection with the ram a tower on wheels, called a "beauffroy"—whence we have our word "belfry"—was pressed against the walls of the besieged city or castle, and being several stories or stages in height, the topmost one overlooked the walls, and having a flapped bridge to let down on them a passage for troops was thus afforded. In the lower or ground floor the battering ram was placed and the floors above were filled with troops, principally archers.

The invention of machines for casting stones and heavy missiles is a very early one in the history of the world, for in II Chron. xxvi., 15, we read that Uzziah (1,000 B.C.) "made in Jerusalem engines invented by cunning men, to be on the towers and on the bulwarks, to shoot arrows and great stones withal." The ballista, catapult, scorpion and orager propelled heavy missiles, chiefly through the reaction of a tightly twisted rope of flax, hemp, cat-gut, sinews of animals, or hair, or else by the violent movement of a system of levers. The ballista threw stones; the catapult heavy darts or arrows, and it took two men to manage each. The makers of these machines were very particular in the choice of the hair of a woman, the sinews from the neck of a bull and the tendons of a deer, out of which to fashion their cords. Early chroniclers tell us of catapults that would throw an arrow half a mile, or hurl it across the Danube; and of a ballista which threw a stone weighing 360 lbs.

Numerous other weapons of an analogous character were known and used in the middle ages, such as the *mangonel*, *trebucket*, and *petray*, which threw large stones; the *triole*, which hurled large quarrels, or square-headed arrows; the *mate-griffon*, a slinging-machine; the *springel*, throwing heavy darts; and the *war-wolf*, another style of stone-propelling machine. These engines were sometimes used to discharge other substances besides stones and darts. At the siege of Jerusalem, A.D. 70, the dead bodies of men and horses were thrown by them into the city, to inspire the inhabitants with terror. When the Duke of Normandy, in 1370, besieged the Castle Thure l'Evêque he discharged the putrid carcasses of horses and other animals over the walls, which greatly distressed the garrison, the more especially as the weather was extremely hot.

(To be continued.)

SOUVENIR OF LOVE AND BATTLE.

INSCRIBED TO THE SOLDIERS' AID SOCIETY.

"The brave die never; being deathless they but change their country's arms for more—their country's heart."—*Festus*.

It has come—and a parcel of trifles,
A housewife and home-knit socks,
But a link in the chain of affection
That death now forever locks.

Yes, it came with the letters and papers,
Messages, loving and kind,
For a lad in the ranks with his fellows
Whom the courier seeks to find.

They had marched in the misty dawning,
And fought until sunny noon,
When the baffled and savage red foemen
Were daunted—but none too soon;

For they had battled with odds against them,
Where hideous Indian yells
Through the tangled ravines and ridges
Met screams of the shrapnel shells.

They return'd as the lengthening shadows
Creep out from the Eagle Hills,
And the haze of a northern sunset
Baskatchewan's valley fills.

But the silence of sadness was on them
For wounded and early dead,
For the blood of the sons and the brothers
By savages' bullets shed.

On a slope by the bright Battle River,
Where the prairie roses bloom,
Where crocuses and white anemones
Dispel every thought of gloom;

They buried the fallen heroes,
'Neath halo of tearful pride,
Wreathing flowers on a priceless token
That lay by *His* pierced side.

And they fired the requiem volley,
That tells how the patriots brave
Ever live in the life of their country,
Though laid in a far-off grave.

W. F. WHITCHER.

RIDEAU BANK.

OTTAWA, 10th May, 1885.

[Ottawa ladies sent a housewife to each member of the contingent from their city, but before the arrival at Battlesford of these kind gifts poor Rogers and Osgoode had met their deaths in the fight on Poundmaker's reserve.—Ed.]

HEAVY GUN PRACTICE.

BY MAJOR D. D. T. O'CALLAGHAN, R.A.

(Published in the Proceedings of the Royal Artillery Institution.)

Practice, unless conducted with the utmost forethought and care, soon degenerates into shooting at a mark. It should be the endeavor of every commanding officer to guard against such a state of things.

In the instructions at the commencement of practice reports (Army Form B 80) we are told that "the main object of practice is the instruction of officers, non-commissioned officers and men." Now, without taking direct exception to this statement, it may be contended that the annual expenditure of ammunition has a far higher value than this phrase implies.

Practice should be the outcome of all instruction that has gone before, the coping-stone, in fact, of the structure which should have been carefully built up, course by course, the foundation being the elementary teaching that the recruit received in the working of the gun he is now permitted for the first time to fire.

An officer in command of a district, fort, or battery should have two main objects always in view, viz.: the efficiency of his men and the efficiency of his guns. The latter is entirely dependent on the former.

The improved heavy and siege artillery, now known as new type guns, have necessarily added to the importance of the garrison gunner, and the establishment of a practice camp at Dungeness, for which

the batteries are prepared by a course of instruction in siege operations at Chatham, has acted as a powerful stimulus to this branch of the regiment, and has given to its members a zest for, and a pride in their work, which, it must be confessed, was somewhat lacking before.

With such encouragement, with the knowledge that the worth of their arm is acknowledged, individual officers will vie with each other in making the men under them good and skilful gunners.

As regards preliminary instruction. It will be admitted by all who have tried it that nothing is so irksome both to instructor and pupil as the miserable system of trying to din into the apathetic or frightened recruit, cumbrous definitions, clothed in language which is Greek to him, but which, by a painful effort, he at last learns to repeat like a parrot, without having the foggiest idea of their meaning.

Merely let the instructor *translate* the definitions, and show his pupil the *why* of them, and he will see the apathy vanish, and find that nine out of ten men are both willing and anxious to learn. Let him illustrate his instructions with homely similes, and he will find that his class not only understand his teachings, but remember them.

It is quite possible to teach men the general principles of gunnery without frightening them at the onset with such words as "trajectory," "parabola," or even "intersection;" but such high-flown expressions slip easily from the tongue of the smart corporal, who has acquired their sound with perhaps but vague ideas of their actual meaning. Above all things, avoid that terrible phrase, the pride of the assistant instructor, "vis inertiae." "Weight" is shorter and simpler, and means practically the same thing.

There is no royal road to "gunner-making," so standing gun drill, though monotonous, is necessary in order to smarten the men and make them quick and precise in their movements. But even this may be made more or less attractive by conversational instruction during the "stand easy" periods; not dwelling too long on what particular *order* of lever is involved in traversing, elevating, or what not, but telling the number applying his handspike why he is told to use it in one particular way, and what he gains by so doing.

As a general rule, the gun proper and the theories pertaining to it should be avoided in these short discursive lectures; they are subjects better handled in the barrack room, when the instructor can have the aid of a black-board,—a graphical representation, no matter how rough, is worth all the talking in the world,—but the carriage and simpler parts of its fittings, such as the elevating gear, the tackles employed for running back or traversing, wheel-purchases, etc., all these afford ample materials for these brief intervals.

Let the instructor try to teach men the great mechanical principles involved in these appliances in simple, terse language, ask frequent questions during the explanations, passing from man to man like a form at school when the answer is not forthcoming, and he will soon be able to gauge the value of his own teaching, and will, moreover, get up a very wholesome spirit of emulation among his men.

In the more serious classes of instruction held in the barrack-room, the men should be taught by the use of plain, simple language, the theory of the explosive force of gunpowder, its effect on the shell, the path of the latter, the objects of gas-checks, the necessity for giving elevation and deflection, and the cause and force of recoil; this last named subject is important, as it involves the consideration of hydraulic buffers and other expedients of a like nature.

Ammunition should also be dealt with, its construction explained and illustrated by diagrams, the various effects of common, shrapnel and Palliser shell, and the suitability of each to the peculiar work assigned to it; the general principles of fuzes, both time and percussion, *without going too deeply into manufacturing details*.

Laying should be a subject for instruction in the barrack-room and on the drill-ground, and the officers should remember that while they have probably been in the habit of using guns and rifles from their boyhood, the chances are that the recruit has not, and should be proportionately patient.

First lessons cannot be too elementary; it is better to suppose even that the expression "getting three points into line" is unintelligible to the recruit, and indeed in many cases the assumption will be literally correct. Lay the gun for him; he will see that its general direction is towards the target; throw it out of line and he will appreciate the change. Re-lay the gun, show him that now the foresight, seen through the notch in the hindsight covers the centre of the target, and he will understand what has been done, although from natural slowness and nervousness he will be unable at first to do it for himself. Remember that now, for the first time perhaps, he is called upon to think and act for himself, and this before an officer, a sergeant and his own comrades, and it will be easy to realize and make allowances for his timidity.

As the recruit gets used to this novel use of his eyesight, he will begin to be interested in all things connected with the sighting of the gun, and then,—and not till then,—teach him, with the minimum amount of mathematics and the maximum amount of patience, the meaning of degrees and the use of the various graduations on the tangent-bar. The deflection-leaf should be the subject of *carefully thought-over* explanation.

There is one point which cannot be too firmly insisted upon, and that is the necessity, apart from its being an order, for using a full sight.

The expression "imaginary line" should be avoided, but let the recruit move his head from right to left and from left to right when looking over a gun laid with a full sight, and he will see that the point of the foresight travels along a line joining the top corners of the notch.

A large diagram on the black-board will much assist him in understanding this. As an additional reason for insisting on a full sight, it should now be impressed upon him, and shown by actual experiment, that by this, and by no other method, can two or more men lay precisely alike;—a point of the utmost importance.

The instructional target recently introduced is of great assistance to the instructor, and the men should be frequently practised with it, until they can lay a gun rapidly and accurately.

Before carrying out practice, the men should be instructed in preparing ammunition, every man having a hand in making up a cartridge and filling a shell, and before commencing firing the nature of the projectile and its particular sphere of usefulness should again be described.

The practice itself should be carried out as much as possible under service conditions. Tackles should be properly rigged in powder and shell lifts, and as much attention betowed on the numbers manning them as on those round the gun.

Should the target be only a barrel at sea (the most uninstructional form of practice), as much as possible should be made of it. Its range should be carefully ascertained by the means at the disposal of the officer in command, and its position thus found, verified by the practice. The N.-C. officers and men should be shown that the yard-scale on their tangent-bars is only an approximation, and that the shooting will vary with the brand of powder, the force and direction of wind, and the state of the atmosphere. When firing shrapnel shell, it should be explained why it is desirable to burst the shells at such-and-such a distance short of the target and at so many feet above the plane; if the practice is over water the men will see for themselves the range and spread of the bullets.

Men should be *encouraged* to estimate the distances of bursts or grazes from the target, and not held up to ridicule when they make, as nine men out of ten will, a very bad guess.

To sum up, one great principle should underlie all practice. Its object should be to familiarize the men with their weapon, rather than to destroy the target, and this can only be attained by careful previous training.

That target practice will develop good shots for active service notwithstanding its manifest imperfections, is shown by the prominent notice taken of the skill of the Mitchell brothers at Batoche. In the fight of Sunday we read that Colston, the youngest of the brothers, who belongs to the 90th Rifles, dropped a rebel off the roof of the church, which he had chosen as a point of vantage, while the Winnipeg *Sun* correspondent recounts that Thomas, a staff-sergeant in the 10th Grenadiers, silenced a rifle pit across the river, making splendid long range shots.

AMERICAN OPINION.

It seems that the first serious reverse has knocked the bottom out of Riel's rebellion, which at first promised to develop into formidable proportions. This result will not only attract settlers to the fertile region where the Dominion has thus manifested its power, but it will enormously enhance the prestige and credit of the Dominion itself in the eyes of the world. The feat which the Canadian troops have performed is one of which the army of any power on earth might be proud. These few boys gathered from the shops and offices and farms of Quebec and Ontario, have traversed an incredible distance, and have penetrated a country much more difficult than that which the British would have been compelled to cover between Pisheen and Herat. They have met and conquered an enemy, too, not so numerous indeed, but braver and better armed than the Afghans and Turcomans. It is a great feather in the cap of our neighbour, and may indeed be called the 'baptism of blood' of the young nation which is growing up on our border, for it is the first warfare of which the Dominion Government had supreme control. Canadians will hold their heads higher hereafter. *Detroit Evening News.*

There are two things for the Dominion government to do. It can engage in the tedious and ungrateful work of hunting the scattered rebels down one by one, and bringing them to justice, or it can suspend military operations, assume that the war is closed with the disappearance of organized resistance, and proceed to a settlement of the troubles that led to the war. The fact that the half-breeds had substantial and genuine grievances has been recognized and confessed. Now that the government has maintained its dignity by defeating them in the field, it should display justice and generosity by redressing their grievances. The first step should be a proclamation of amnesty, with perhaps the usual exceptions of the ringleaders, and an invitation to all the half-breeds in arms to come in and surrender, with a pledge that their persons shall be protected and their righteous grievances redressed. This will prevent the costly and vexatious guerrilla warfare which might otherwise follow, even under circumstances so unfavorable to it as those which exist in Saskatchewan, and it would probably extinguish the last danger of an Indian revolt. The next thing to do, of course, would be to set the half-breed commission at work, and grant the settlers the justice they should have had years ago. If the government is wise, it will take such temperate and generous measures as these.—*St. Paul Pioneer Press.*

DOINGS OF CORPS AT THEIR HEADQUARTERS.

OTTAWA.—All the corps in the city combined to form a brigade church parade on Sunday afternoon to celebrate the Queen's birthday. The following corps turned out:—Princess Louise Dragoon Guards, 28 men, under Captain Gourdeau; Ottawa Field Battery, 30 men, under Major Stewart; the Governor-General's Foot Guards, with staff and brass and bugle bands, 218 men, under Major Tilton, Lieut.-Col. Ross acting as brigadier; and Nos. 1 and 2 companies, staff and band of the 43rd Ottawa and Carleton Rifles, 93 men, under Lieut.-Col. White. One man of the Queen's Own, who had his uniform in town, and who, with the usual vim of his regiment, fell in with the 43rd, must not be forgotten. The parade looked exceedingly brilliant, the cavalry especially, with their plumed helmets, commanding attention. The route followed was to Christ Church by Elgin and Sparks and return by Wellington and Nicholas streets. An appropriate sermon was preached by the Rev. Archdeacon Lauder. The weather was excessively hot and the streets dusty, and the men suffered considerably in their close tunics and heavy full dress headgear.

ST. HYACINTHE.—We are sorry to learn that Lieut.-Col. Bruce Campbell, of St. Hilaire, the popular commander of the 84th St. Hya-

cinthe battalion, had his leg severely bruised by a fall from his horse while drilling his battalion last week.

QUEBEC.—Colonel J. Bell Forsyth, Queen's Own Canadian Hussars, has returned by the Parisian from England. The corps during his absence was under the command of Lt.-Col. F. Wood Gray, and has been going through the usual annual drill for some weeks.

OUR EXCHANGES.

The English volunteer weeklies for the 2nd and 9th May are at hand, but contain little of interest to the Canadian militia. Taking them in order of seniority the *Volunteer Service Gazette* of the earlier date publishes an interesting discussion on General Sir E. Hawley's paper in the *Nineteenth Century* on "the volunteers in time of need," in which many distinguished officers participated, the feeling being very favorable to this arm of the service. A competition for places on the English twenty is recorded where the paralyzing score of 101 heads the list. In the later issue is an article on "Browning made easy," which might naturally be supposed to refer to the coloring of parts of rifles but is in reality a review of a hand-book to the works of the celebrated poet of that name. In both numbers reference to Canadian matters is conspicuous by its absence, though there is interesting correspondence from Australia. The chief features of the *Volunteer Service Review* are a column on "the National Aid Society and the medical staff corps," the prize list and regulations for the royal military tournament, and, as referring to us, some extracts from Halifax newspapers respecting the calling out of the Nova Scotia provisional battalion. The chatty little *Volunteer Record* gives part of the Wimbledon prize list in its issue of the 2nd, being rather belated, probably in consequence of its smaller size, but has no article of imposing length or of special importance to us, though it is extremely readable throughout.

THE MEDICAL SERVICE.

AMBULANCE CORPS.

Up to the present time, fortunately, the Canadian Militia has not stood much in need of an ambulance organization such as exists now in a greater or less degree of development in the military systems of all civilized nations, but it would seem as if the time had at last arrived when some scheme for equipping each battalion with its own ambulance corps, suitable to our militia system, should engage the attention of those in authority.

It is quite improbable that our forces will ever have another such experience as they have recently had in defending their fellow-citizens against foes from within, and there is nothing to show that we are in any danger of being attacked from without; still organization is organization and our system is incomplete without some sort of ambulance corps being arranged for, that would be in readiness to accompany its battalion when duty called "to the front."

It need not be equipped upon an extensive scale, nor be in any way a costly addition to our militia system, but could well be done efficiently in an inexpensive way so that an organization would exist in each battalion that would serve as a nucleus in time of need upon which to build as extensive an ambulance department as the necessities of the case demanded.

UNITED STATES SOLDIERS' AID ASSOCIATION.

In connection with the various soldiers' relief associations which have been formed all over the Dominion to supplement the supplies afforded by Government to our volunteers, the following synopsis of the proceedings of the United States Sanitary Commission during the late civil war in that country may prove of interest, and is communicated by a gentleman who assisted in its organization and subsequent working.

This association or commission was in the first place organized "from humane and patriotic motives, its labors to be its own reward." Its general object was through advisory suggestions to the Medical bureau of the War department to bring the ripest teachings of sanitary science in its application to military life to bear upon the health, comfort and morale of the troops.

Finding in many instances a great lack of anything beyond the actual necessities of life amongst regiments in the field, and especially after an engagement, a relief branch was affiliated to the commission, which subsequently became the main object of its work. Its duties were to inquire into the nature and sufficiency of hospital supplies; to determine the precise regulations and routine through which the services of the patriotic women of the country could be made available as nurses; the method of obtaining and regulating all other extra and donated supplies; the question of ambulance and field service and of extra medical aid, and whatever else related to the care, relief, or cure of the sick and wounded.

Three committees were appointed, one to communicate the commission's counsels to the Government; another to maintain direct relations with army officers, surgeons, camps and hospitals, to ensure the carrying out of the sanitary orders of the medical bureau of the War department, and a third to be in constant communication with the various States' governments and public benevolent associations interested in the army. As paid employees were absolutely necessary, money was needed, and a number of associate members were elected who gave their services in raising means for the operations of the commission, and ladies' associations in all parts of the country prepared clothing, bandages and supplies of all sorts, and forwarded them to depots centrally established.

The services of agents of the commission on the field immediately after, or when practicable, during the progress of important engagements, were found to be a necessity. The early difficulties of securing transportation for its supplies to the field soon necessitated the commission's own independent transport service both by land and water, and eventually by attaching to each army corps a superintendent of relief, with his assistants, waggons, ambulances, and supplies to remain constantly with his corps, and minister to the needs of the suffering. A large ship, the *St. Mark*, was chartered in New York, loaded with supplies, ballasted with hogsheads of fresh water, and was towed down to Fortress Monroe and Yorktown, where she was, after discharging her cargo, employed in the transport of wounded men and convalescents. Fresh vegetables especially, and anti-scorbutics promptly sent by the commission, are known in one instance to have stopped incipient scurvy in a whole regiment, raw onions having been asked for. Under the necessary slow movements of government these supplies could not have been furnished for weeks.

The general supplies of food, clothing, bedding, delicacies for the sick, stimulants for the wounded on the field and for the sick and wounded in camp, field or hospital, came from the branches of the commission, of which there were twelve, distributed through as many large cities or centres of population. Each branch had its own distinct field from which it drew its supplies, and had its auxiliary aid societies in towns, villages and church congregations. The stores collected by the branch were received at its depot, *opened, assorted each kind by itself*, repacked, and reports of the number, kind and amount of supplies thus accumulated were sent weekly to the principal office of the Commission or to the Associate Secretary of the eastern or western division (as the case might be) and shipped as ordered to the depots of distribution. The supplies furnished are acknowledged to have saved many valuable lives.

Women of every station volunteered as nurses, and when required were accepted. Medical men from all parts volunteered their services

for one, two or three months, and in addition to the duties of nursing, the women materially aided the sick by writing letters, reading, talking, and in supplying stationery, magazines, and books.

Subscriptions in cash before the close of the commission amounted to some \$3,000,000, and in contributions of articles of food, delicacies, bedding, &c., &c., to upwards of \$8,000,000. The heaviest expenditure was for chartering vessels, steamboats, railway cars, mule and other transport.

Started with the smallest beginnings by a few benevolent persons, the commission assumed dimensions never thought of, and became historically one of the noblest efforts of humanity for the relief of the suffering.

THE TARGET.

THE WIMBLEDON PROGRAMME.

The regulations for the Wimbledon meeting this year, recently published, are much the same as those of last year, the following being the principal changes:—Dolay in making a protest may prevent it from being entertained; any competitor disqualified or excluded shall, in addition to other penalties, forfeit every prize won by him since the incident involving his punishment; scores for aggregate prizes must be entered in ink; and the fine for blowing of illegally is extended to cases of snapping caps. The pool bull's eye at 500 yards is made 24 inches, like that at 600 yards, and that of the running man 6 inches, the same as that of the running deer. The snider disappears entirely from the programme, and the pull of the M.B.L. and the "Any Rifle" are made equal, viz:—5 lbs. With the M.B.L. a spirit level may be used. No shade may be used, nor slip of paper or other substance capable of being shifted placed upon the back sight in the rifles in class 1 military rifles. There are also some slight changes respecting the settlement of ties. In the "preliminary" prize list, which has been published, the great change was that the silver medal in the Queen's prize, with its accompaniments, was to be a second prize for the whole competition, instead of an independent prize in the first stage, but it has since been decided to adhere to the old system. This, the most important match of the meeting, will be fired in three stages, the first being over the traditional "Queen's ranges." The first 300 in the first stage fire in the second stage, ten shots at 500 and fifteen at 600, the best aggregate securing the silver medal, &c. The first sixty aggregates of the forty-six shots will fire for the gold medal and Queen's £250, at 800 and 900 yards, fifteen shots at each. The prize list in this match has been increased nearly £300. In other matches the changes are unimportant, some of the small matches disappearing and others taking their place; notably, one at a disappearing target, the idea being apparently borrowed from our D.R.A. military targets. The two highest grand aggregate winners are in future to be distinguished by the letters G.C. and S.C. respectively after their names, similar to the Queen's medalists.

OTTAWA.—The second snider spoon competition of the Ottawa Rifle Club was held on Saturday afternoon, 23rd inst. Queen's ranges, one sighter at each range, Dominion ammunition. Weather hot, light changeable, very light wind varying from 11 to 1 o'clock.

*Mr. A. Pink.....	31	30	24	85	Mr. T. McJanet...	20	27	18	65
†Mr. A. F. Cotton..	28	27	26	81	Mr. W. H. Whitely	27	23	14	64
Mr. H. Walters.....	29	28	23	80	Mr. I. N. Deslau-				
Capt. Perley.....	25	25	28	78	riers	26	23	14	63
Lieut. Sherwood...	27	23	25	75	Major Anderson...	26	23	12	61
Mr. N. Morrison....	28	21	24	73	Mr. J. A. Arm-				
Mr. R. Tiok.....	28	24	21	73	strong.....	26	15	19	60
Mr. R. Reardon....	26	24	22	72	Mr. J. B. Lynch...	22	23	14	59
Lieut. J. C. Cham-					Mr. R. N. Slater...	29	26	0	55
berlin.....	27	27	17	71	Mr. W. Short	19	19	16	54
Mr. T. Carroil.....	24	20	23	67	Mr. J. Hutchison.	25	16	8	49
Mr. F. W. Dawson	26	19	21	66	Mr. J. Grant.....	27	19	0	46

*First Spoon. †Second Spoon.

The first drawing of pairs for the club tournament will be made on Thursday afternoon next, before which time all entries must be made to Capt. Perley or Major Anderson. Entries will be notified of their pairs on Friday, and may shoot them off at any time mutually agreed upon up to the end of the next snider spoon competition. Prize—a plated solitaire breakfast cruet. Entrance fee, 25 cents.

It will have been noticed that by error the second prize in the first spoon competition was credited to Mr. Short instead of to Mr. Morrison, who really won it.

A meeting of the council of the D.R.A. is called for Saturday, 30th inst., at 2 p.m., to discuss important business.

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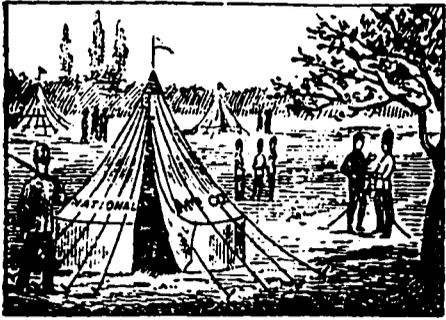
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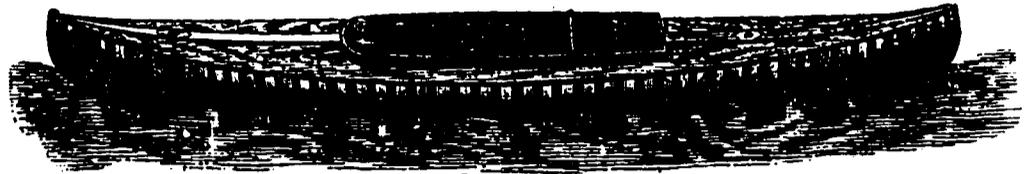
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