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THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE, P. O. Box 316, Ottawa, Ont.

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MILITIA GENERAL ORDERS, No. 11 of 5th September. (Concluded).

Note and Comment.

The Dominion Association competitions for garrison batteries took place last week at the Island of Orleans, Quebec; and this week those for the field artillery are in progress at Kingston. The weather appears to have been unfavourable at both places, and several of the garrison batteries were unable to do the shifting ordnance on account of the wet ground. As soon as the official returns are obtainable we will give a complete report of the two meetings.

A further plea for a change in the military school system appears in a recent issue of the Perth Expositor, edited by an experienced officer "Our young men," it says, "should be encouraged to go to military schools, whether officers or not. The great difficulty in getting officers to qualify is not want of willingness but that they cannot spare the three months time from their business. To meet this difficulty there should be a modification of the military school system, so that every university, law and medical student in the country, as well as a host of others, should be encouraged to attend the schools in their summer vacation. The present schools are going good work, but if we are to have a good supply of qualified officers there must be a modification of the system in this direction."

Sir Leonard Tilley as Minister of Finance had for many years a powerful control over the Dominion expenditures, and the reputation for shrewdness and ability he gained while occupying that high office gives weight to anything he may say on the subject now. We would therefore call special attention to his remarks at a recent military dinner at St. John, N.B., which he honoured with his presence. Confessing that at one time he thought our military organizations unnecessary, he said he had since quite changed his views; and he believed that not only should the militia expenditure be co-tinued but increased as circumstances demanded To the attention of those less experienced public men who cavil at the Dominion outlay for military purposes, we commend Sir Leonard's opinion.

The two officers of our permanent force whose return to Canada after successfully passing through a course at Hythe has been noted, appear to have acquitted themselves very well at that institution. Such,

indeed, was nothing more than expected, for none could be better qualified to creditably represent their corps anywhere than Captains Denison and Evans. A private letter recently received states that whilst both these officers stood high in their classes, Capt. Denison earned special distinction, developing into a first-class marksman in addition to acquir ing a thorough knowledge of the principles of musketry, which it is more particularly the business of the Hythe school to teach. There were too classes at the session they attended, these being known one as the right and the other as the left wing. Our officers were in the left wing, armed with the Martini; the arm of the other wing was the new magazine rifle. In the target practice Capt. Denison stood first in his wing, and there was only one higher aggregate in the right wing, so that he was second in the school. Returning before the great shooting meetings here, Capt. Denison competed in the Ontario and the Dominion matches, with signal success for a first year man, as will be realized when the fact is recalled that at Ottawa he secured a place in the hundred who shot in the Governor-General's match and for places on the Bisley team. It is to be hoped that Capt. Denison, who belongs to D school, London, and Capt. Evans, whose school is C, at Toronto, will be afforded opportunities for imparting to the militia in their districts some of the benefits of their Hythe course, which, by the way, was taken entirely at their own expense, the authorities here not contributing further than to grant leave of absence.

The corps in the upper provinces of the Dominion may well envy those of Halitax the advantages they enjoy through association with Her Majesty's regular troops at that station. A reference to our regimenta news columns will show that the Halifax Garrison Artillery were recently permitted to take part in the defence of the city from a supposed attack by two vessels of the fleet, thereby acquiring most valuable experience. This mimic engagement is, we are told, only a preliminary to a more extensive affair to take place upon the return of the Admiral's fleet.

A recent instance furnishes a good example of the whole-souled manner in which the moneyed men of Toronto contribute towards the encouragement of the militia. The Boomer Rifle Association, in connection with A company of the Grenadiers, being about to hold their annual matches, a couple of the officers made a tour of the business part of the city to collect for the prize fund. They were out only a few hours but in that short time secured upwards of \$500, which amount was duly fired for by the members of this lucky company. It was certainly a waste of money to "blow-in" so much on a company match, but the fact that it was forthcoming for the occasion shows what may be accomplished with fittle effort in a public-spirited community.

The offer made by the Militia Department early in the season to issue free an extra grant of twenty rounds of ammunition per man to all corps whose commanding officers would undertake that each member would fire under proper supervision the allowance drawn for him, has not been so generally availed of as might have been expected, consider

ing the clamour previously made about the insufficiency of the government issue of ammunition. The city corps, and those rural companies having ranges at their company headquarters, promptly made application for the ammunition and gave the necessary certificate that it would be properly expended, but rural corps not having company ranges have shown little disposition to turn out for practice. An endeavour has been made in several cases to obtain the ammunition on the guarantee, not that each man would fire his share, but that all issued would be fired by men of the corps receiving it. Such applications have very properly been refused, as the desire of the Department is not to give free ammunition to a few enthusiasts so that they may perfect themselves as target shots, but rather to encourage those unskilled in the use of the rifle to put in a little practice. Twenty rounds of ammunition free may seem a small inducement to a body of men to give up half a day or a day to the practice, but it should be remembered that the offer is made to volunteers, soldiering because they like to so occupy themselves, and not for what is to be made out of the business. It will be a pity if all entitled to the extra ammunition do not claim and fire it, because the future action of the Government with respect to the ammunition allowance is very apt to depend upon the outcome of this first step in the direction of an increase.

Dominion Rifle Honours.

The honours and emoluments of the Governor-General's match were very appropriately divided at the Dominion meeting this year. The Manitoba representatives attended under circumstances of peculiar difficulty, the provincial association having at the last moment repudiated their undertaking to send a team. The riflemen themselves then set to work, and by their own energy succeeded in raising the amount which the association was to have contributed towards the expenses of the trip, and, with the assistance of Lt.-Col. D. A. Macdonald, the representative of Manitoba on the Council of the D. R. A. at Ottawa, succeeded in obtaining a favourable rate from the C. P. R. As Staff-Sergt. Coulson Mitchell appears to have been the leading spirit in the riflemen's enterprise, it was fitting that if the chief prize of the Governor-General's match was to go to Manitoba he should be the winner; the team felt very proud of his achievement, and no doubt so did every member of his corps, the gallant 90th.

Capt. McMicking was no less deserving of the reward he secured in winning the second great prize. All season he had been engaged in coaching a green team in the League contests, sticking to his task with a determination which if emulated would soon produce a team of sharpshooters from every corps in the country.

The third prize, like the first, was taken by a zealous non-commissioned officer, Sergt. J. A. Waters, of the 6th Fusiliers. The Fusiliers are model soldiers. They are interested in everything pertaining to their duty, and their shooting men are as well up in their drill as they are in their knowledge of the rifle. That they were thoroughly drilled was evident to anyone who noticed the team parade at the formal presentation of prizes, when the Sixth were particularly noteworthy through being called up for a prize in nearly every team contest.

It is a matter for regret that the honours of the next Bisley team will not be so evenly divided geographizally. Of the first twenty places, Ontario has captured no less than thirteen. Quebec secured four, New Brunswick two and Manitoba one. Nova Scotia, whose riflemen showed their sterling merit by winning the London Merchants' Cup in the provincial team match, by singular misfortune did not succeed in placing a single man in the first twenty, and Prince Edward Island and British Columbia are also unrepresented there.

The Toronto Ranges.

Happily there has not been found of late any excuse for creating alarm in the public mind about the use of the Garrison Common ranges, so for the present another line of action is being followed by those who seek to profit by the dispossession of the riflemen. The large Toronto deputation at Ottawa recently in connection with the railway questions at issue, seem to have taken the opportunity to further urge upon the

Militia Department and the Government the advisability of giving up the Common for exhibition purposes, for although nothing about this part of their mission has been made public, telegrams sent this week by Mayor Clarke, one of the deputation, seem to indicate a recent discussion of the business. The first is to Sir Adolphe Caron, as follows:—

"The people of Toronto urge you most earnestly and respectfully to come up and see the exhibition grounds and the immense crowds in attendance. There is hardly standing room on the grounds, upwards of 70,000 being in attendance to-day. Come on Wednesday or Thursday at latest."

Then, lest the Minister of Militia's solicitude for the welfare of the Toronto riflemen, a very important body in the force he controls, should prompt a refusal to place himself in the way of further temptation to dispossess them of their range, Mayor Clarke solicited the influence of the Premier, as follows:—

"I have wired Sir Adolphe Caron to come up and see the exhibition and the crowded state of the grounds. Kindly use your good offices with him ro comply with my request. If you come yourself you will receive a royal welcome."

The "royal welcome" to the ministers was no doubt calculated to go a long way towards securing their consent to the appropriation of the range for exhibition purposes, and thus providing more than "standing room" for the holiday crowd. But were such consent given the effect upon the militia force of Toronto would be disastrous in the extreme, and its members look to the Government, and the Minister of Militia in particular, to continue their firm resistance to all attempts at interference with and the eventual closing of the range. With the exhibition association the question is one of money: they can obtain on the other side all the land they are willing to pay a fair price for; but to avoid outlay desire to obtain the use of the Common for a fraction of the immense value of the property.

In only one event should the Government ever consent to close this range, namely, when its use had unquestionably become a serious menace to human life. There is little or no danger at present. True, a life was lost a few years ago, by a stray bullet striking a lad who was boating where he had no necessity to be; but no range can be found anywhere so absolutely secluded that persons innocently wandering beyond the supposed limits of danger may not be struck by stray bullets. Casualties of this nature are of very rare occurrence, but inquiry of residents in the vicinity of any much used range will reveal the fact that bullets occasionally strike beyond the bounds from which the public are excluded, and sometimes uncomfortably close to men working in the fields. There is a certain amount of danger attendant upon rifle shooting which no precaution can avoid, and which must be risked in the interests of the general public for whose protection the riflemen are organized and trained. Careful inquiry will, we are convinced, demonstrate that in the case of a range such as that at Toronto, the danger necessarily attendant upon bullets occasionally straying beyond the proper bounds is much less than in the case of any inland range.

General Middleton's Two Mistakes.

General Middleton's parting address, which several weeks ago was published all over the country and has ever since been vigorously discussed in the press, was his second great mistake in connection with the unhappy business which led to his withdrawal from our service. His first was committed when he neglected to take the Government into his confidence at the time Bremner's champions first questioned his action. We have held and still hold that the Ge eral in declaring the furs con fiscated and appropriating a small portion of them did nothing of which any honourable man need be ashamed. He believed he had the power to confiscate, and having exercised that power he appropriated some of the forfeited property, giving his written order as a receipt and directing that a memo, of the transaction should be made. There was no attempt at concealment; everything was above board. But the facts of the case were not made known to the Government until the evidence was produced, by bitterly hostile witnesses, before the committee of inquiry. Had they been previously communicated by General Middleton, there would have been no occasion for a parliamentary committee and no unfavourable report from that body. Influenced by that report, the Government saw fit to accept the resignation which the General tendered. But he left with the sympathy of the great majority of the people both civil and military.

Simultaneously with his departure his ill-timed parting address appeared. It was interesting as an additional chapter of the campaign history, but had little bearing upon the cause of the General's troubles. The "souvenir" telegram he published, no doubt only for the purpose

of showing that the appropriation of rebel property was not regarded at the time as an improper act, has been seized upon by the press hostile to the Government and interpreted as a charge that the Ministers desired to share in his spoil; his recommendations for honours and rewards to a number of militia officers have been dissected, and all sorts of sinister reasons brought forward to account for the non-appearance of certain names on his honour list, and the refusal of the Government to make any invidious distinction between the officers by accepting the General's advice in this connection. How worldly wise the Government were has been demonstrated by the appearance of an "open letter" from no less a person than a Deputy-Adjutant General, who scorns the reward solicited for him as altogether incommensurate with the value of his services—declares it, indeed, "a gross insult" which would have been resented in some manner not now feasible if General Middleton had not escaped before the report was made public. In fact, the farewell letter has created quite a ferment; the Opposition press giving ample indication of their party's intention to "make the fur fly" at next session of Parliament and the Government organs dividing their attention between strengthening the administration's defence and abusing General Middleton for being even the innocent cause of making any defence necessary. The people are being rapidly divided into two hostile camps with the interpretations put upon his letter as an issue, and from the first feeling of sympathy with him the contending parties will no doubt eventually turn to join in an attack upon the author.

The Rifle.

The Toronto Rifle Association, whose matches took place the day after the Ontario Provincial matches finished, had this year a programme of more than usual interest, and as they extended a cordial invitation to all riflemen quite a number of the visitors to the Provincial gathering took part in the Toronto Association's open matches. In the first match, at 200 (standing), 500 and 600 yards, 7 shots, with the Snider, the chief of the twenty-five prizes offered were thus taken: \$20, T. Mitchell, 82; \$15, R. M. Dennistoun, 80; \$12, W. G. Fowler, 80. the next match, 7 shots at 200 yards standing, and 7 at 400, W. S. Duncan headed the list with 62 points, and T. Mitchell, A. Bell, W. G. Fowler, F. Kennedy and G. Thompson had 60 each. The medals were given for the aggregate scores in the above two matches: T. Mitchell won the Orchard gold medal with 142 points; W. G. Fowler the D. R. A. silver medal, 142, and R. McVittie the O. R. A. silver medal, 135. A novel feature of the programme was the "Jennings time match," fired at 200 yards, and one minute being allowed each competitor, to fire as many shots as he could. J. Wapyer won the first prize, making eleven hits, value 42 points, a remarkable performance for the antiquated and too-much despised Snider.

The Harston Rifle Association, in connection with E Company of the Grenadiers, held their annual prize meeting on the Toronto range on the 30th ult., in a gale of wind which prevented high scoring. The prize lists forwarded contain no particulars as to the conditions of shooting, distances, etc., and therefore cannot be published. The affiliation medals were offered as prizes in the aggregate, and were thus won: D.R.A. silver, Sergt. Brooks; O.R.A. silver, Pte. Irving; D.R.A. bronze, Pte. Sutherland.

At the annual meeting of F Company, 90th Battalion, on the 21st ult., the Watson trophy, fired for annually by teams of eight representing those who served with the company in 1885 and those who joined since that date, was won by the new-comers' team, captained by Lieut. F. H. Allardyce. Each member of the winning team receives a medal. The ranges were 200, 400 and 500 yards, seven shots, and the team scores were 577 and 525.

On Saturday last the Ottawa Rifle Club resumed their weekly spoon competitions after a long vacation. The shoot was with Martinis, at Queen's ranges, and there was a gale of right wind. The winners were: 1st class, Lt. Col. Anderson, 88, dessert spoon; J. A. Armstrong, 86, tea spoon; 2nd class, R. Moodie, 86; 3rd class, H. Piatt, 77.

PRINCE OF WALES RIFLES.

The annual prize meeting of the Prince of Wales regimental rifle association was held on the 6th inst. on the Cote St. Luc ranges. There was a good attendance, including these officers of the Association:—Lieut.-Col. Bond, Lieut.-Col. Butler, Captains Bradshaw, Bartlett, Howell and Lefebvre. The chief scores were:—

Maiden match, 300 yards, 7 shots, standing or kneeling—Pte. Donaldson 28, Pte. Paquette, Pte. Milloy, Sgt. Ward and Pte. Humphrey 18 each.

Battalion match, 200, 500 and 600 yards, 7 shots—Pte. Madden, with 79 points, won the Colonel's cup and \$10, Staff-Sergt. Ross, 75, \$8, and Sergt. Bangs, 67, \$5.

Citizens' match, 200 and 400 yards, 5 shots—Sergt.-Major Fergu son won the Chaplain's gold medal and \$5 with 42 points. Staff-Sergt Ross, with 41, was second. A match for company teams of five was shot concurrently with this, and resulted in a victory for E Company, who scored 147 points and won the W. S. Walker challenge cup.

An attack drill match was next on the programme, with these conditions "Open to all N.C.O. and men of the regiment. To be competed for by sections of four, men of any section to belong to the same company. Any position. Sections will, at each of the 500, 400 and 200 yard ranges, fire five volleys by word of command while the flags are down, and on the raising of the flags the sections will advance to the next range. From the 200 yards range they will advance 50 yds. and halting, fire five rounds independently. Targets will be examined and score taken at each range. Points will be allowed for correctness of volley firing, as well as score of hits." Four sections competed, and that from E company, with 256 points, won the prize of \$10.

In the open match, the first team prize, \$15, was taken by the 6th Fusiliers, with 261 points; 2nd \$10, Montreal Garrison Artillery, 257; 3rd, \$5, Montreal Rifle Association, 242. Seven teams competed. The individual prizes were thus taken:—

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$ Sergt. J. Riddle, 6th Fusiliers. 60
8 Sergt. J. Waters, 6th Fusiliers. 59
6 Capt. Patterson, 85th Batt. 57
5 Pte. McCowan, 5th Royal Scots. 56
4 Major Thomas, 54th Batt. 56
2 Gr. Sharpe, M.G.A. 54
5 Bomb. C. Gardiner, M.G.A. 53
5 Stf-Sgt. Cooper, M.G.A. 53
6 Stf-Sgt. Cooper, M.G.A. 53
6 Stf.-Sgt. Wilson, Vict. Rifles. 52
8 Bomb. Cooke, M.G.A. 51
1 Corp. Armstrong, 6th Fusiliers. 51
1 Sgt. Drysdale, M.G.A. 51
1 Stf.-Sgt. Wynne, 5th Royal Scots. 51
2 Pte. Miller, Vic. Rifles. 50
3 Brig.-Sgt-Major Dowker, M.G.A. 50
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THE GRAND TRUNK RIFLE ASSOCIATION.

The open match of this association, postponed from the 23rd August on account of rain, was fired on Saturday last, in changeable wind and light which resulted in low scoring. The firing was at 500 and 600 yards, seven shots, with Snider. The four prizes for association teams of five members each were thus taken: Grand Trunk Association, 241, \$15; Montreal Garrison Artillery, 228, \$10; 5th Royal Scots, 225, \$5; Victoria Rifles, 224, \$2.50. The individual prize list was as follows:—

\$10	ColSgt. Marks, 6th 56	\$3 Col. Sgt. R. Allan, 5th 45	
8	Sgt. Lavers, 6th 53	3 Pte. McMartin, 3rd Vics 45	
6	Bmbr. Gardiner, M.G.A 53	2 Sgt. Ward, 6th 45	
6	Sgt. Waters, 6th 53	2 Corp. Binmore, 3rd Viics 45	
5	StfSgt. Wynne, 5th 52	2 Sgt. Riddle, 6th 45	
5	Pte. Kough, Vics 52	2 Sgt. E. Pratt, 6th 44	
5	Pte. J. Scott, 6th 52	2 Pipe-Sgt. Clarke, 5th 44	
5	StfSgt. McAdam, Vics 52	2 Corp. McCiae, 3rd Vics 44	
4	Pte. D. Smith, 5th 52	2 Sgt. J. Currie, 5th 44	
4	Sgt: Bell, M.G.A 51	1 T. Dalrymple, G.T.R 43	
4	Capt. Busteed, 3rd Vics 49	I Sgt. Dowker, M.G.A 43	
4	Pte. T. Gardner, 5th 48	I Pte. Miller, 3rd Vics 43	
4	Pte. F. Green, 6th 48	I Capt. Chambers, 6th 42	
3	Pte. T. Scott, 6th 47	I Sgt. Drysdale, M.G.A 42	
3	Gr. Geo. Cooke, M.G.A 47	1 J. Pitt, G.T.R 39	
3	Capt. Ibbotson, 6th 46	1 Lieut. Pope, 3rd Vics 39	
3	J. Walton, G.T.R 46	I Pnr. Pratt, 6th 38	

Regimental and Other News.

Prince George of Wales has been right royally received at Montreal and Quebec, brilliant entertainments being organized at both places in his honour.

Lieut. McMahon, A.D.C. to the Governor-General, having resigned on account of his father's illness, will be succeeded by Hon. W. Walsh, Grenadier Guards, second son of Lord Ormswaithe.

The band of the Governor-General's Foot Guards on Monday evening presented to Bandmaster Carter a handsome gold Albert chain and locket, suitably inscribed. The band has made great progress since Mr Carter took the leadership last year.

The Army and Navy Gazette has the following: "Major F. Waldron, R.A., succeeds Lieut. Col. E. Gunter as Deputy Assistant-Adjutant-General at Halifax, N.S. Major Waldron joined the army April 29, 1873, and became Captain October 1, 1882. He passed from the Staff College in December, 1887."

The venerable Grand Master of the Knights Templar, Coloncl William James Bury McLeod Moore, of Prescott, passed away suddenly on Monday, 1st September, in his 82nd year, paralysis of the heart being ascribed as the cause. The deceased came to Canada in 1852, and was subsequently appointed by Lord Elgin, then Governor-General, to the command of the active militia at Ottawa. He was a graduate of Sandhurst Military College, and for 20 years served as an officer in the 69th regiment and saw service in many lands. He became connected

with the Masonic order at the age of 17, and has been a most active member, and to him is due the honour of the success of the Knights Templar of Canada, which he was instrumental in resurrecting in Kingston about 26 years ago.

Belleville.

Major T. C. Lazier arrived home from the old country last week after being absent two months. Having spent one month in London, the remainder of his time was occupied in travelling through England and Scotland. He visited several of the military institutions in England, chief amongst them being the arsenal at Woolwich.

Capts. W. N. Ponton and J. E. Halliwell are home again, having taken a special course at C and D Infantry Schools respectively. Both

these officers have received first-class certificates.

Dr. Cook, Assistant Surgeon of the 15th Battalion, returned home from Europe a couple of weeks ago, after a few months absence visiting some of the celebrated hospitals in England and on the Continent. The

Doctor is looking remarkably well after his sea voyage.

The Sergeants of the 15th are not going to let the fall of 1890 pass without offering to the citizens of Belleville a first-class military entertainment. Large posters all over the city announce that there is to be a grand Assault-at-Arms in the Opera House on Tuesday evening, September 23rd, for the benefit of the Sergeants' Mess, and from the programme which is announced thereon I doubt not that it will be the best military entertainment ever offered to the Belleville public. The Sergeants have been working hard and drilling almost nightly for the past few weeks so as to be fully prepared for the coming event. Sergt-Major McRae and Sergeants are indefatigable in their efforts to make the coming entertainment a success, and I predict for them a bumper house. Full particulars after the affair comes off.

W. H. Ponton, Registrar of the County of Hastings, died at his residence, Church Street, in this city, on Friday, 5th inst., at midnight. Deceased was born at Inverness, Scotland, in 1810, and was consequently eighty years of age. With his father, the late Dr. Mungo Ponton of the celebrated Cameron Highlanders, he came to this country when quite young. He had been a resident of Belleville for 60 years. For several years he was private secretary to the late Hon. Robt. Baldwin. He was twice Mayor of Belleville, the first time being when that office was given by appointment. As a volunteer Mr. Ponton served during the Fenian raid of 1866, being stationed at Prescott. He leaves a wife and four children to mourn the loss of a loving husband and a devoted father. He was twice married, his second wife being a daughter of Lt.-Gen. Hanwell of the Royal Artillery. His two sons are identified with the 15th Battalion, the eldest, William, being a corporal in "A" Co., while George, the youngest, is Bugle Major of the Battalion. Deceased was an uncle of Capt. W. N. Ponton of this city, and brother of the late Lt.-Col. Archibald Ponton, first Colonel of the 15th Battalion. Of a pleasing disposition, manly bearing, patriotic, kind, loving and gentle, he was held in the highest esteem by all, and his loss will be severely felt. The funeral took place on Tuesday afternoon, oth, and was very largely attended. He was buried under the auspices of the Masonic fraternity, of which he was a distinguished member, there being a large turnout of the craft. "Argyle,"

St. John, N.B.

The officers of the New Brunswick Brigade of Garrison Artillery had a regimental dinner at the Hotel Dufferin on the 29th ult. They were honoured with the presence of the Lieutenant-Governor, Sir Leonard Tilley, who sat to the right of the chairman, Lt.-Col. Armstrong. At the chairman's left sat Lieut.-Col. Irwin, Inspector fof Artillery. Paymoster Smith occupied the vice chair, and by him sat two other honoured guests, Mayor Lockhart and Lieut.-Col. Blaine of the 62nd Fusiliers. After the loyal toasts came one to the Lieutenant-Governor, proposed by the vice-chairman.

Sir Leonard Tilley in replying said that though owing to the condition of his health he had attended but two public dinners in six years past, he felt it not only a privilege but a duty to be present on this occasion. He briefly reviewed the military history of the country from the time when the boundary difficulty with Maine was troubling this country 50 years ago, when he had entered the service, first as a private, and was atterwards promoted to a captaincy, down to the present time. He touched upon the Fenian raids of 1866 and 1870, the withdrawal of the British garrisons from Fredericton, St. John and other points, which he thought a mistake, and invaluable services rendered by the militia forces at various times, and especially in quelling the Northwest rebellion. Recalling the report of Col. Jervis on the detence of the Dominion he reminded those present that the report indicated St. John and Esquimalt as vital points in the military front of the Dominion. This gave especial prominence to the artillery and rifle corps enrolled in this city. He thought the money annually voted for the militia was not too great, and deemed it of importance that it should be continued and increased if

necessary, which, he believed, would be cheerfully done when occasion required. His two sons had enrolled themselves with his entire approbation in two branches of the militial service, and he felt it a great pleasure to be present and lend his support to the military organizations of the country. Many felt that they were unnecessary, and he had at one time partially shared that sentiment, but he had been compelled to change his views. The present outlook indicated that the best security for peace would be found in preparation for a possible emergency. He complimented the artillery and militial forces, and believed they were equal man for man to those of any other country, and would be found more than equal should stern duty summon them to stand in rank for the defence of their homes.

The health of the Inspector of Artillery was proposed by Lt.-Col.

Armstrong, in a complimentary speech.

Lt. Col Irwin in responding said his pleasure in inspecting the St. John batteries had never been so great as this year, for he found the efficiency not only maintained but excelled. The five batteries in the firing competition this year had scored 471 poirts, an average of 94, as against 285 and an average of 57 points last year. This was very encouraging and showed an ambition to excel; and no small amount of labour in attaining this point. The corps, although not yet attaining first place in competition with the artillery of other provinces, had come very near to that point. He proceeded to remark upon the advantages of local corps to the places where they were maintained, and asked that employers of labour should not grudge a little of the time of value demployees to an occasional drill and parade. Drones and idlers were not wanted in the artillery. The result of the recent inspection was highly creditable to the St. John batteries.

Capt. Jones proposed the health of the District Staff, coupled with the name of Major Armstrong, who made a spirited and appropriate response. Sister Corps was proposed by Surgeon Daniel, who, in mentioning the name of Lt.-Col. Blaine, hoped that he might never grow old. Col. Blaine, Major McLean and Surgeon Walker successively responded in hearty soldierlike terms to the hollows so enthusiastically offered the sister corps.

Some important charges have been made in the 78th Highlanders, of Colchester, Hants and Pictou, consequent on the retirement of Lt.-Col. W. M. Blair, who retains his rank. Major Sutherland is promoted to the lieutenant-colonelcy; Capt. H. T. Laurence, Truro, to a majority, and Lieut. J. Suckling to the captaincy of No. 1. Bt.-Major McKenzie retires with his brevet rank. The Amherst Record says:—"The militia officers of the province will greatly regret the retirement from active service of so efficient and popular an officer as Col. Blair. During his 14 years command of the 78th he made it one of the leading rural corps in the province in appearance, equipment, and general efficiency. We have no doubt that he resigns regretfully, though with a sense of duty to his position as manager of the Experimental Farm, which requires his whole attention."

Halifax.

Monday, 8th September---As previously announced H. M. ships Comus and Buzzard proceeded to sea on Saturday afternoon for the purpose of returning suddenly and making a mimic attack on the city. The various forts had been manned by the men of the West Riding Regiment, the Royal Artillery, the H.G.A., and the torpedo and royal engineer corps were posted at their customary stations in such cases, On their return from sea the ships began the attack first and as soon as they had got within range of York Redoubt that battery opened fire with 18 ton guns, manned by the royal artillery, and the first battery of the H. G. A. under Capt. Botsford and Lieuts. Hart and Holmes. The firing from this battery was quickly followed by the new battery, recently constructed on McNab's Island, supposed to be armed with 6 and 10 inch breech-loading guns. The Comus and Buzzard immediately ans vered the fire from these forts and also defended themselves by machine guns from attack by torpedo boats, of which there were several sent out by the torpedo corps. The two war ships were running the gauntlet of the forts at a pretty lively speed, and forts Cambridge and Ogilvie, under command of Col. Noyes, R.A., and Col. Curren, H.G.A., opened fire on the attacking fleet at 4,000 yards range, as did also the fort at Ives' Point, on McNab's, at about the same range. It is claimed by those defending the forts that with the bright clear day and with trained men manning the guns in actual warfare there is no question that the two ships would have been blown completely out of the water, as almost every gun fired bore directly upon the attacking vessels; or at least that there is no question but that the firing would have resulted very seriously to the approaching ships. Col. Ryan, R.A., who was acting as umpire, expressed himself as perfectly satisfied with the good work performed by the men of the H.G.A. Capt. Anderson and Major Purcell were with the detachment at Ives' Point. Majors Garrison and Boggs, Capts. Maxwell and Stewart, and Lieut. Boulton were with the Point Pleasant batteries. The West Riding Regiment were detailed for duty in the several forts as sharpshooters and to oppose any attempt at landing by the sailors, but no such attempt was made and their services of course were not required. A number of guard boats had been sent out to notify the defending forts of the approach of the ships, but, the day being bright, their duties were not of as much necessity or importance as though the weather had been thick.

The exhibition was only a preliminary to a more important one to take place when the admiral's fleet returns from Quebec, and on that occasion the H.G.A. will agrin be called upon, as will also, it is expected, other portions of the local militia to do what may be termed actual service in the defence of Halifax harbour and city. It is aptly quoted, "In time of peace, prepare for war," and it must be a source of satisfaction to the local militiamen to know that they are prepared and able to do duty in the forts with modern guns, and employers should fully recognize the desirability of encouraging the men belonging to the militia, by granting them such leave from time to time as will enable them to answer to the call to duty in their respective corps.

The programme for the big review has not been settled, but it is rumou ed that the fleet will attack the city in the afternoon, and being then repulsed will return again after nightfall for a second attempt to take the place.

THE RECEPTION TO LIEUT, STAIRS.

Lieut, W. G. Stairs, who served with distinction with Stanley in Africa, received a royal welcome on the occasion of his arrival here recently to spend a brief leave of absence at home. Lt.-Col. Humphrey and the officers of the 66th Fusiliers, to which corps Lieut. Stairs at one time belonged, entertained him at Bedford, where several of the officers were camping for the provincial rifle meeting. After the mess dinner, Col. Humphrey proposed the toast of the evening--" Our guest." He referred to the pride he felt in commanding a regiment with which Lieut. Stairs was at one time connected, touching briefly upon his career in Africa with the great explorer. Lieut. Stairs responded in happy terms. He expressed his pleasure at being present with men with whom he had once been associated in arms. He was delighted beyond measure to get back again to his native heath—Chebucto. He would say nothing of Africa. The thought while there that the eyes of citizens of his native town and of Canadians in general were upon him, and that he felt that in a sense the reputation of his country was in his hands, was what stimulated him while exposed to hardship and danger in the dark continent. Stairs received a tremendous cheer and burst of applause upon concluding.

A great public demonstration was organized in honour of Lieut. Stairs, and all the craft in the Northwest Arm, and the residences overlooking it, were brilliantly illuminated for the occasion.

ROYAL BRITISH VETERANS.

The members of the Royal British Veteran Society, headed by the West Riding band, marched, on the 9th inst., to the cemetery at the corner of Spring Garden road and Pleasant street for the purpose of decorating the Welsford and Parker monument. Arriving at the burial ground the society and band stood in a circle round the monument. First Vice-President W. H. H. Jackson placed a silvered shield on the top step between the pillars, over which was placed a wreath of laurels. The shield bore the following inscription: "Royal British Veteran Society, sacred to the memory of our departed comrades, 1890." At the corners were placed British flags. While the decorating was in progress the band played Auld Lang Syne. The society reformed and marched through the principal streets, finally disbanding at the drill shed, where three cheers were given for the Queen, Col. Nesbit and the president of the society. The men were dressed in black clothes, and wore red, white and blue silk sashes, white gloves and bouquets, presenting a highly creditable appearance. Charles Putnam, who was chief marshal, had as assistants Thomas Rowe and J. Smart, all of whom were mounted on fine looking horses. There are 125 members in the society, 57 of whom turned out. At the conclusion of the march the band were treated to refreshments in one of the gun rooms of the drill shed. At night the veterans had a supper at their hall. It is the intention of the society to decorate next year - in addition to the Welsford and Parker monument the graves of veterans who have died since the formation of the society.

To prove that a cavalryman can cover the ground on foot as well as the better inured foot soldier, Lieut. Bru, of the 2nd Spahis, quartered at Sidi-bel-Assas (Algeria) wagered to walk in heavy marching order, from that town to Tlemeen, a distance of 57 miles within the 20 hours. Starting at midnight, the officer reached his destination in two hours less than the stipulated time, at an average rate of a fraction over three miles per hour, which is a very good performance considering the nature of the ground and climate.

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Militia General Orders (No. 11) of 5th September, 1890.

(Continued from last issue.)

				Percentage of marks obtained		
Rank, Name and Corps.	Class.	Course.	Grade.	Written.	Practical.	Aggregate Percentage.
Royal School of Cavaly,	į			:		
Lieut. A. H. King, 2nd Regt. 2nd Lieut. W. Forester, 5th Regt. Staff-Sergt. J. O'Hagan, 1st Regt. Pte. D. Anderson, Q.O.C. Hussars. Pte. G. McWilliam, Q.O.C. Hussars. Pte. J. Anderson, Q.O.C. Hussars. Pte. H. W. Bennett, Q.O.C. Hussars. Trmptr. L. Drum, Q.O.C. Hussars.	2 1	\$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$	A B B B B B	.80 .91 .57 .85 .76 .67	.74 .86 .51 .74 .67 .67 .71	.76 .87 .53 .77 .71 .70 .70
Royal School of Mounted Infantry, Lieut. V. A. S. Williams, Co. Mtd. Inf		$_{ m Lg}$	Α	89	.82	Qe.
Obtained at R. M. College				 : !		.85
Lieut. W. F. Godson, 90th Batt Obtained at R. M. College		Lg	. A	.83 	.63 	·73
Special mention in Military Administration function function and Lieut. W. H. Schneider, Winnipeg Troop of Cav. (Cavalry Qualification)	I	Sp	A	. 86	.Sı	.83
Royal Schools of Infantry Major F. Toller, G.G.F.G						0-
Captain T. E. Howell, 1st Bn. Obtained at R. M. College Special mention in Military Surveying	I I 	Sp Lg	$egin{array}{c} A \ A \ \dots \end{array}$.83 .83	. 78 . 78 	.So .So .74
Captain H. M. Pellatt, 2nd Bn. do W. N. Ponton, 15th do do F. J. Horrigan, 16th do do A. G. Henderson 34th do Lieut. A. G. Milloy, 1st do do E. P. Guy, 3rd do do J. D. Brosseau, 9th do do A. H. Macdonell 10th do Obtained at R. M. College Special mention in Reconnaissance and Military	1 1 1 2 1 2 1	\$\frac{2}{5}\frac{2}\frac{2}{5}\frac{2}{5}\frac{2}{5}\frac{2}{5}\frac{2}{5}\frac{2}{5}\frac{2}{5}\frac{2}{5}\frac{2}{5}\frac{2}{5}\frac{2}{5}\frac{2}{5}\frac{2}{5}\frac{2}{5}\frac{2}{5}\frac{2}{5}\frac{2}{5}\frac{2}\frac{2}{5}\frac{2}{5}\frac{2}{5}\frac{2}{5}\frac{2}{5}\frac	A A A A A A A	·73 ·79 .60	. 76 . 71 . 72 . 70 . 59 . 77 . 68 . 73	.74 .75 .73 .74 .59 .70 .61
Engineering Lieut. G. W. Bruce, 35th Bn do S. Rossell, 39th do do G. E. R. Wilson, 40th do do E. G. Piche 65th do Obtained at R. M. College. Special mention in Reconnaissance and Military	2 2 2	\$ \$\$\$ \$	A A A A	.68 .73 .69 .82	.60 .66 .67 84	.64 .69 .68 .83
Engineering 2nd Lieut. W. L. Bond, 1st Bn do G. Lewis, 1st do do G. A. Badgerow, 2nd do do E. L. Morton, 2nd do do V. E. Mitchell, 6th do do G. D. Fearman 13th do do W. H. Bruce, 13th do do W. H. Bruce, 13th do do C. D. Denechaud, 23rd do do C. F. Ward, 35th do do C. F. Ward, 35th do do C. W. F. Correll, 42nd do do G. A. Schofield, 57th do do J. M. A. Gravel, 52nd do do J. M. A. Gravel, 65th do do W. V. Wallace, 66th do do H. Taschereau, 85th do Sergt. Major J. L. Shaw, 24th do Sergt. E. P. Street, 6th do Sergt. E. P. Street, 53rd do Corp. J. W. Allen, 32nd do Lance Corp. J. Rýan, "B" Co , LS.C. Act. L. Corp. J. Hayes, do Bugler C. J. Groggett, 93rd Batt	1 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2	ភិភិភិជិលភិភិលជ៌សិលឆ្និលសលន≚លលលលល	A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A B	.74 50 .67 .68 .92 .69 .68 .55 .70 .60 .75 .47 .82 .41 .45 .45 .41 .50	.67 .60 .74 .63 .78 .59 .59 .61 .62 .71 .57 .82 .88 .63 .54 .55 .57 .62 .58 .57 .57 .62 .57 .57 .57 .57 .57 .57 .57 .57 .57 .57	.70 .55 .70 .65 .85 .64 .63 .58 .57 .70 .52 .72 .81 .59 .54 .85 .50 .59 .59 .59 .59 .59 .59 .59 .59 .59 .59

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Gleanings.

Four pelotons of the 3rd Horse Chasseurs, manœuvring between Abbeville and Amiens, and an equal body of the 5th Dragoons suddenly called upon to march from Compeigne to Beauvais, were combined to effect a feint reconnoissance. In eighteen hours the 8 half-troops had got over respectively 70 to 75 miles across country without leaving a man or horse behind. "This feat" remarks the Echo de Paris, "stands for evidence of the vigour of our horsemen and their steeds, and however largely beasted may be the riding exploits of Cossacks or Uhlans, our own cavaliers need not fear their comparison." But the journal seems to forget that the qualities of speed arrogated for the French cavalry have ever been shown to greater advantage in retreat rather than in advance, even before 1870-71.

The defective sanitary conditions of the majority of French barracks, especially with regard to the supply of pure drinking water, has been verified in startling form by the health statistics of the army recently submitted to M. de Freycinet. The tables are accompanied by a comparative statement of the different causes of sickness and death in other European military services, and under the heading of typhoid diseases, we find the annual loss to France to be as high as, 1,700 soldiers, corresponding to a sick list of 13,000 men from the same malady alone. The yearly mortality from typhus in Germany is set down at 378 men, whilst for Great Britain only 83 deaths are counted in the same kind of fever. Over 2,000 men, or a complete French regiment, daily fill the hospitals, out of a home force roughly estimated at 450,000 troops.

The idea of arming cuirassiers or heavy cavalry with the lance as well as the sword has been started in Germany, and just when the French military authorities have decisively condemned the "pig-sticker" for their light horsemen. Only one-half of the German cuirassier regiments will be armed with the additional weapon, and the revolver with which they had been provided by way of experiment, will be returned to store, and replaced by a short carbine of the '86 small-bore pattern, to be carried in a brown leather case, suspended by a shoulder strap from right to left, the sword remaining attached to the upper part of the saddle-flap. The carbine will hang parallel with the sword and not impede the movements of the lance arm. The breast and back plates hitherto worn by these new mounted arsenals of cuirassier, carabineer, and lancer conjointed, will be also discarded.

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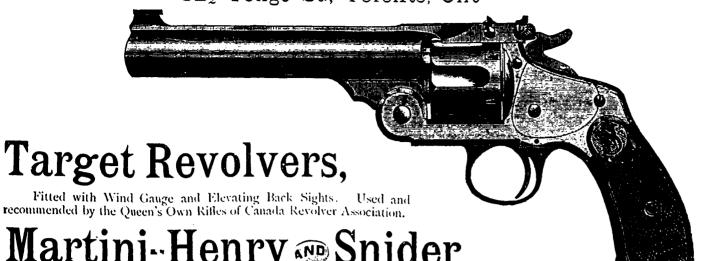
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	and "	50	5C.	55	"
i	ard	50	10	60	**
	4th	50	15	65	"
	rst year's service, and ard 4th 5th	50	20	70	"
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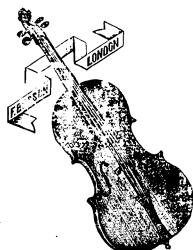
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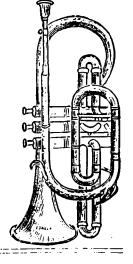
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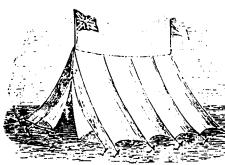
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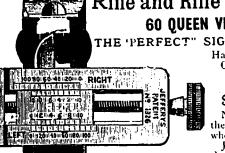
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	Back Sight Cover 25c, and 35	16	18. Jeffery's Improved Sight Definer 61	8
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•	er, in Pouch 70	12	20. A pair of Jeffery's "Imperial"	_
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