

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.

With this issue the MILITIA GAZETTE completes the first year of its existence, and grievously disappoints the many Job's comforters who have kept predicting that no service paper in Canada could survive for a twelve-month. Looking back over our work we feel that we deserve congratulations for the measure of success we have achieved, and have to thank our friends for the expressions of confidence and hearty goodwill which we are continually receiving—expressions of opinion which, while entirely unsolicited, have greatly encouraged us to renewed efforts. At the same time we are quite aware of many shortcomings on the part of the GAZETTE, which we hope time and experience will help to remove. It is impossible that a young paper, with a limited field from which to draw subscriptions, could cover all the ground possible to one with an almost unlimited field, but we have endeavored to make the most of our limited space and opportunities by confining ourselves strictly to topics of immediate and special interest to the whole Canadian force. For the coming year we promise several improvements, including a heavier quality of paper, and we bespeak for the GAZETTE the good offices of all our present subscribers, and a persistent effort on the part of our friends to swell our subscription list.

In a week or two we will issue a title page and index to the first volume of the GAZETTE, which will be of value to those who have preserved their files for binding.

The promotion of the Deputy Minister of Militia and Defence to a full colonelcy on the active list will appear in Saturday's official *Gazette*, and will be learnt with pleasure by the force, whether it is looked upon as a reward for the extra exertions imposed upon the department by last year's rebellion, or as an acknowledgment of the ability which Colonel Panet has shown since he was made permanent head of the department eleven years ago. Previous to this Col. Panet had been in command of the 9th "Voltigeurs de Quebec" for some years; in 1874 he was made a senator, and the next year was appointed to his present post, when he was obliged to resign his active command. As deputy minister Colonel Panet has always been most popular, his practical military knowledge specially qualifying him to judge the requirements of the service, and we, in common with the whole force, congratulate him on his well deserved promotion.

We understand that Dr. Bergin, M.P., has also been given the same rank. This is no more than should accompany his appointment as surgeon-general, which in the English army would carry with it still higher rank. During the rebellion the surgeon-general showed a great talent for organization, and the efficiency of the medical service was matter of general surprise and congratulation.

"We fear that many commanding officers of militia are still indifferent to the shooting capabilities of their corps, and begrudge the time spent in musketry. Formerly the instructor of musketry was looked upon as an unmitigated nuisance and one who materially interfered with the smartness of the corps. So long as time is devoted to the march past—an obsolete standard of efficiency—so long will the shooting of the militia continue to go year by year from bad to worse." All this *might* have referred to our Canadian militia, but as a matter of fact it appears in the *United Service Gazette* in an article on the English militia, and if there is cause for complaint there, where each battalion has its instructors, and where the men are not restricted to a miserable twenty rounds in the years they go to camp, what must be the verdict on our system—or to speak truly, want of system—of musketry instruction. It is not too late to amend the regulations for the annual camps in this direction, and we sincerely hope prompt notice may be taken in the matter. The same article goes on to suggest that as the military element in the House of Commons has received a considerable infusion of new blood it is hoped that the remarks made may induce some officer of the service not only to call attention to the matter but to insist on the want of system under which the militia trainings are now conducted.

There is a feeling here that more might be done in our own House of Commons to advance the interests of our force; a feeling that has

found voice in the following squib, lately sent to us: "SEALED TENDERS addressed to the militia force of Canada, will be received from members of parliament, or even from one member, who will undertake, on behalf of the force, to defend and promote its interests at all times in parliament; who will be alive and attentive to its wants; in accord with its feelings; desirous and bold and determined enough to press to a settlement all legitimate demands and requests; who will insist upon the fulfilment of promises made on the floor of the House or elsewhere; and who will do all in his power towards increasing the efficiency of the force, and in rectifying many of the abuses which exist. Each tender must be accompanied by an accepted cheque for five hundred dollars, made payable to the order of the Treasurer of the Dominion Rifle Association, which will be forfeited and applied to the prize fund in event of the member or members selected failing to fulfil their share of the contract."

As we have received some communications respecting the question of providing range accommodation at or near Wimbledon for the team which will represent Canada this year, we may as well explain once more how things stand. The matter has seriously engaged the attention of the Executive Committee of the Dominion rifle association, which has, we think, fully considered every feasible proposition. It has been suggested that the team might, prior to going to Wimbledon, be sent from Liverpool to Scotland to engage in the matches of the new "National association," and thus obtain practice, but it has been ascertained that the matches will be completed about the time the team will leave Canada. Col. Ross, now in England, has been requested to see the officers of the North and South London rifle clubs, and ascertain if practice for the team can be had on either or both of the ranges used by these clubs—one at Park, which affords an opportunity for long range practice, and the other at Nunhead, over which only the Queen's ranges can be shot. It will not be possible to obtain practice at Wormwood Scrubs, as that range has been demoralized by the construction of a huge prison directly on the line of fire, and "all the king's horses and all the king's men"—and they have been trying hard enough and spending money galore—cannot make it a safe range to shoot over, at least not until Morris' shed is adopted. The range of the London Scottish at Wimbledon cannot be used by our team, and if the mission of Col. Ross proves to be fruitless, then the range at Altcar will be the *dernier resort*. Perhaps it may be as well if the team be sent there direct, even though the cry is that practice at Altcar is not of any use for shooting at Wimbledon. Be this as it may, there is plenty of target accommodation at Altcar, the Hightown hotel is adjacent to the range, and the team can get any quantity of solid shooting, and—as of old—can measure its strength with teams from the Liverpool Rifle Brigade.

Canada cannot be accused of having yet forgotten the stirring days of which the first anniversaries are now passing in rapid procession, and throughout the country we hear of church services, parades, dinners, or some other form of public assembly in remembrance of one or other of the chief events of the late campaign. The press, too, is full of references to that time, and it is but right to say that the tone is principally one of regret for those brave men who fell in defence of law and order rather than of triumph over the victories won. The anniversaries of Duck Lake and Fish Creek, Frenchman's Butte and Cut Knife Hill are already past, and from Halifax to Winnipeg something has been done to mark each of these with its bitter harvest of Canadians cut down in all the strength of their youth.

As many questions have been asked respecting the cost of refilling the coiled shell Snider cartridges, we have made enquiries, and are

authorized to state that the price for lead bullets, caps, anvils and powder to fill one thousand rounds of brass coiled shells will be eight dollars and fifty cents; and the price of a refilling apparatus, complete for refilling brass coiled Snider cases will be fifteen dollars, all delivered at the cartridge factory, Quebec. They can be obtained on application at headquarters, Ottawa, by sending a deposit receipt to the credit of Receiver General for the amount of the supplies ordered, as is now the course in procuring ammunition.

Referring again to our statements of last week respecting Snider ammunition, we are authorized to announce that Canadian made cartridges, filled with the recently imported Waltham Abbey powder, have now been supplied to all the district stores, where they can be procured in the usual way by militiamen and officers of rifle associations; also that there will be a sufficient supply to secure uniform ammunition for the whole season's shooting.

IN THE HOUSE.

On the 27th ult., when the House was in Committee of Supply on the Manitoba penitentiary item, Mr. Cameron (Middlesex) enquired if the warden was the same person who conducted the transport service in the recent rebellion and if he received his salary while in charge of the transport service, to which Sir Adolphe Caron replied that he no doubt was allowed his pay like all other officers in the same way that several officers joined the force in Ottawa and received the pay of their respective ranks and at the same time were not deprived of their official pay in the civil service.

Mr. Cameron followed by saying that it was a decided injustice to the active volunteer force that any one should be taken out of a position like Mr. Bedson's, and given a position on the staff over many experienced officers. Posts of this kind should not be given to civilians, but to men who take an active interest in the volunteer service.

Sir Adolphe Caron replied as follows: I do not see what our camps of instruction have to do with the transport which had to be organized in the North-west during the troubles. Mr. Bedson rendered most invaluable services. He was appointed transport officer by the major-general in command. His great knowledge of the country and his great knowledge of the resources of the country were brought into play and contributed possibly more than anything else to the success of the transport service which was organized at a moment, when it was very difficult to find, outside of that country, any man who could have possessed the intimate knowledge which he possessed of the country and its resources. He was employed and paid as a member of the force, and I take this opportunity of saying that the services rendered by Mr. Bedson were considered by the major-general and the other officers in command as being most valuable. The hon. gentleman seems to consider it was overlooking other members of the force in not appointing them to that position which was held by Mr. Bedson. It is quite a different thing from giving a military command or anything in that way to a man who is not a member of the force. It was considered indispensable to have in that country men suitable—and other men were appointed who belonged to the North-west—for that purpose of making use of all the available resources of the country; and none but those who lived there could have possessed that knowledge.

Mr. Cameron then closed by saying: The question I raised was primarily the propriety of engaging a man whose whole time was being paid for by the public in one particular service to perform the duties of another and a different one for which he was also paid. There will be another opportunity upon which the other question may be more deliberately debated, and we may take issue on that. My own view is that, wherever an opportunity offers, the active militia should have all the positions which they can fill, because their experience so gained will add to their knowledge and will be valuable in the future.

On the 28th ult. Mr. Mulock interrogated the government on the vexed powder question, as to the kind and quality imported, if sufficiently tested to prove it of proper quality and more suitable than the Canadian made powder, to which Sir Adolphe replied: 7,000 lbs. of rifle fine grain powder, Waltham Abbey, specially manufactured for Snider-Enfield ammunition, have been imported lately from England. This powder has been tested at the cartridge factory with satisfactory results. This course was taken in consequence of objections found to the quality

of the powder furnished by the Hamilton Powder Co. Cartridges are now being manufactured with this imported powder for the use of our rifle associations. It is thought that the quality of the powder contracted for this year by the Hamilton Powder Co. will give ample satisfaction.

OBITUARY.

Another esteemed and prominent citizen has gone to his long rest. Major George Grant was born of Scotch parents at St. Jean du Luz, in France, in the year 1814, and was consequently in the 73rd year of his age. He was educated at the Military Academy of the 74th Highlanders, in Scotland. In 1833 he left his native country with the 74th for service in the West Indies where he remained seven years, coming to Canada with the same regiment in 1841. He married in 1843 a French-Canadian lady in Montreal, Miss Matilda Barron, by whom he had eight children. When the 100th regiment was organized in 1858, the late deceased, ever ready at the call of duty, took service as quartermaster and proceeded with it to England, thence to Gibraltar. He subsequently retired from the regular service on half pay, and in 1868 accepted a position in the Militia Department of the Canadian Civil Service, having previously temporarily served in the Customs. For fifteen years he acted as quartermaster of the Governor General's Foot Guards. He retired from the Civil Service on superannuation allowance in September, 1884, and subsequently removed with his family to Scotland. Finding that the change of climate did not agree with his health, he returned again to the land of his adoption, only to find his last, long resting place where he has spent so many of the latter years of his useful life, which included thirty years in Her Majesty's regular service. The lamented gentleman has been in failing health of late years, having never fully recovered from the shock of the sudden and violent death of his son Albert. An expert swimmer as well as a keen sportsman, Major Grant in his younger days saved some seven or eight people from drowning, and was the proud recipient of a vote of thanks from the Royal Humane Society of England for chivalrously saving the life of Mr. J. H. Oakes, who fell through the ice at Kingston some thirty years ago, at the very imminent risk of his own. A true British soldier, an upright and honest Christian gentleman, a kind and generous father and friend, and a generally respected citizen, the late Major Grant will be long and sincerely regretted by all who had the advantage of his friendship or acquaintance.—*Ottawa Citizen.*

Mr. Josiah John Burrows, D.L.S., a member of the Surveyors' Scouts, died in Ottawa on Saturday night, of apoplexy, at the age of forty-one. The deceased was the eldest son of the late Henry Joel Burrows and grandson of the late Capt. John Burrows of the Royal Engineers, who over half a century ago had charge of the Rideau canal for the Imperial government. For years he was an enthusiastic volunteer in several of the militia corps of this city, serving in and from the ranks upwards, at the front during the threatened Fenian invasions. A first-class cadet from the infantry and artillery training schools of the time, he was from inclination, efficiency, pluck, discipline and endurance, a true British soldier. Owing to professional demands on his time he was not recently attached to any military corps, but last year when the North-west rebellion broke out he was amongst the first in organizing the Surveyors' Intelligence Corps for active service. He was under fire in an advanced position at Batoche alongside of his fellow-surveyor the lamented Kippen, from Perth, when the latter was shot; and with Mr. Denny, another companion-in-arms, he prepared the subsequently adopted plan of the battlefield, with the lines of defences and the rifle pits, etc., as afterwards published. He was a universal favorite, and his unexpected and sudden death has profoundly affected all who remembered his truthfulness, kindness and hearty appreciation of the enjoyments of life.

REVIEWS.

We have received a copy of the second edition of "The Piquet Commander's Notebook," compiled by Major E. W. Adderley, adjutant of the Central London rangers, which is published in neat pamphlet form at the small price of one penny. It is an admirable little compendium of all the thousand and one details that an officer on this important duty is expected to keep in mind, and which it would take him half a lifetime to cull from the several official authorities. It is not intended, however, to supplant these, for the short notes given presuppose a preliminary acquaintance with them, but merely to bring back the mind to them and keep them all under the eye at once, so that none may be overlooked. The principal headings of the notes are "Instructions," "Proceedings," "Maxims" and "Sentries." We commend the notebook to all combatant officers.

NOTIONS OF A NOODLE.—XIV.

MY DEAR MISTY,—To continue with the militia report, can you tell me why on page xxiii I find that sword bayonets are recommended for the infantry, and those with saw backs for the mounted men? What a mounted man is going to do with such a weapon I will not ask. But I must protest mildly against the 2½ lbs. of steel, when the light three-cornered prodger can fill the bill quite as effectually. If we must bear this cross of ours let it be as light as possible for the sake of the suffering soldier. Now, if we had an affair that could be utilized as a jack-knife, and at the same time fit on the muzzle of the rifle, just to please those who believe in such things, a useful addition to the kit might be the consequence. With the saw-sword-bayonet, there is nothing to stick, and little to saw, while the blade is far too dull to cut,—perhaps some correspondent will explain its use. We load a man with weapons, teaching him thoroughly the use of none, consequently, as happened the other day, an uneducated soldier in our eyes, opposed to all our modern accomplishments, held us in check with a broken down shot-gun, simply because he knew how to use it. Had the rebels been armed as we were, when would we have taken Batoche? Speaking of the use of cold steel in action, this includes officers and their swords, which they know how to use about as well as they do how to use drum sticks. In most cases they would use the weapon with as much assurance as a man with a cue in his hand for the first time would manipulate the billiard balls. Referring to these same swords, always blunt, and we don't carry grindstones, an eminent cavalry officer of the American service, who served with the greatest distinction throughout the civil war, says: "I am convinced that in nine cases out of ten, an officer of dismounted cavalry, fighting on foot, would do better to borrow a carbine from one of the horseholders than carry a sabre with him. The best officers on a skirmish line, I remember, always borrowed a carbine to use, and the men followed them. Sword-armed officers are too apt to get behind the line, and shout to the men to 'go on,' instead of being well up with them." I quote this partly because it agrees exactly with the ideas stated in some of my former notions. It will not suit those officers who advocate nothing but the blade, which they possibly handle as skilfully as they do the rifle. The plea of looking after the men is foolish, a skirmish line looks after itself, or should do so, if it were not for the cursed habit we have of drilling men to depend on an officer for every movement they make, which destroys that individual confidence now so necessary to ensure success. Cobden says the fault of our military system is that it robs us of the man and gives us a machine.

It is with pleasure, Misty dear, that I come to page xxiv, where the major-general takes up rifle shooting, and declares it is imperfect, a fact that we all agree in, and which gives me an opportunity again to spread myself. In order to strengthen the wise remarks of the general, and convince outsiders that we are not all there with the rifle, I will give you the result of the annual practice with Sniders last year, made by one of the regular corps, lately engaged in the North-west. They fired 20 rounds only; this was considered enough, and I don't wonder, after the wonderful score made. The ranges were the easiest distances now in vogue, viz., 200, 400 and 500 yards, 5 rounds at 200 and 500, and 10 at 400 yards. The score is that of the gunners or privates, and is a fair specimen of the standard of rifle shooting in all regular corps, which do not waste their time at such tomfoolery, when the more important duties of marching order parades and kit inspections require strict attention. Should any one feel inclined to inspect these scores I am willing to produce the sheets where the rows of "duck eggs" will most forcibly demonstrate the effect of the shooting irons on the targets. Eighty-eight men fired 20 rounds each, making 1,760 shots, at targets the biggest of which were six feet square, somewhat larger than two John L. Sullivans. Out of this number there were scored 1,024 misses. This looks well, and the general can safely say that rifle practice is not satisfactory. The above score gives an average of 27 points per man, out of a possible 100. Thirty-eight men made less than 20 points. The highest score made was 64 points. When we consider that the above creditable display was made calmly off their stomachs on a charming day in the autumn at, as I say, a target larger than two of the gigantic pugilists, painted white, and spotted with two-foot bulls'-eyes, we can ponder on the result of a battle with the untrained nomad of the western prairie, deprived of the customs of the British service as a means of instruction on the subject of war. After a calmer perusal of these scores, we smile now and then at the uproar in the House of Commons, made over the Canadian cartridges; it never strikes anybody that the Canadian man is to blame, or that Riel's followers laid us out with Hudson Bay Zulus,* loaded with chewed-up tea-lead.

*A five dollar gun sold by the Hudson's Bay Company.

How foolish we all are to be sure, when in our lucid moments we stop to reflect on these things. There may possibly be yet people who will maintain that the government cartridge factory is responsible for the above 1,024 misses. But the men who fired were candid enough to think otherwise. This system of ours carries with it the same horrible story if we look at the sword of the cavalry or the bayonet of the infantry. What becomes most astounding is the fact that no one thinks anything of the tale told by the score sheet of "duck eggs." From the C.O. down we all laugh at the affair as rather a good joke. But the man who breaks the line of a march past one quarter of an inch is a culprit of the most dangerous type, and a useless soldier. A man may never strike the six feet square of iron for years, nor care to do so, but still his promotion as an instructor goes on until he reaches the highest grade among the non-com. officers, but the ignorant wretch who fails in his examination to properly define—"what is the angle of departure?" "describe the angle of incidence?"—is looked upon as an impossible warrior in any capacity. I here must agree with the GAZETTE, which questions the statement of the major-general that any man with a quick hand and eye can pick up nearly as quickly as the artificially trained shot, as he terms it. The GAZETTE is right and the idea of the major-general, with all due respect to him, is about as correct as would be his theory applied to a man with a quick nerve, eye and leg, trying his first waltz with some artificially trained old stager. Apply it to anything else, "cricket," "base ball" or "racquets," and all will tell the same tale, the old hand will walk round the quickest eye and hand in the world till he has had sufficient practice to bring his accomplishments under control. Another warning I must humbly ask you to swallow, don't let your friends run off to the other extreme, about firing at "moving objects," it is not at all necessary, be satisfied up to 500 yards at the farthest to hit a stationary object. As far as moving objects in the North-west, at least, were concerned, we saw little of them, except our own men, because the rebels did not run much, and when they did we never saw them except in isolated cases. Let us train our men to fire at an object and a good solid one too, and if they can't get a sure pot shot keep the cartridge till they can. Our universal custom up west with the enemy, as expressed by most of the officers at the supreme moment was "Give it to 'em, boys. Give 'em h——. Let them have it" was most demoralizing to every one, and lowered us in the eyes of our foes far more than anyone can judge.

On this principle the faintest sight of a rebel or a fluttering blanket was the signal for a useless expenditure of barrels of ammunition. Whereas if these same men had been used to shooting and handling their weapons with the confident feeling of striking the object they would have known when it was impossible to make effective practice. But, poor fellows, they knew not such sensations, and, therefore, blindly they "Let 'em have it, boys." How different with the Indians. Few and far between came the puffs of smoke from the hostile bluffs, but mark the effect, a white man bit the dust, and a triumphant war whoop proclaimed the fact to the contending forces. In numerous cases I noted the difference in those men who were known good shots and experienced marksmen. They lay quietly waiting, smiling at the painful exhibition around them, they fired when they saw a chance and only then. The others blazed wildly on and then followed the shriek, "more ammunition," "more ammunition." The American officer quoted above goes on to say in his work relating to this subject: "I lay on the skirmish line at Cold Harbor in June, 1864, when infantry and cavalry attacked us for several hours. I knew well that during all that time I could not get rid of more than 20 shots aimed at anything certain, bullets were flying about but they were fired at random. A knot of cool hands lay on the ground near me, each by his little pile of rails, and a shot about once in a minute with a long steady aim at the puffs of the enemy's smoke was all that we could manage conscientiously. At the same time terrible firing was going on at our right, as if a corps of infantry were engaged, and then the first thing we knew were men falling back there 'out of ammunition.' He says again: "If a prize were offered to the man who should maintain his post in the skirmish line and bring out the largest number of cartridges the system would kill more enemies and be twice as much dreaded as under the random style of fighting."

How true are these maxims which will be fulfilled when we take the matter properly in hand and impress upon men the object of never shooting except to hit and affording them time and ammunition to carry it out.

NOODLE.

The Victoria *Warder* appeals to the citizens of Lindsay not to let their local band fall through for want of funds. A new bandmaster must be got; and it is suggested that the council should allow something towards his salary, and that the balance be raised by subscriptions. We wish the effort success.

THE NEW NORTH-WEST PASSAGE.

BY EDMUND CORNWALL LEGH, IN THE "BROAD ARROW."

To a nation like ours, whose commerce extends to every part of the globe, with possessions on nearly every shore, and with our flag flying on every sea, nothing is more important for our peace and security than safe and rapid transport. Yet notwithstanding that this fact is indisputable, we do not seem to attach sufficient weight to it. Let us consider for a moment what this transport is. In the abstract of course the word only means "carrying across," but as used in connection with the empire, it expresses the very keystone of our existence as a leading power. It is by means of transport that we carry on our commerce, in other words, that we make our money; without it what would be the use of our having naval dockyards and store-houses abroad and coaling depots at unproductive places? And were it not for facilities of transport, our army in India, and consequently our taxes, would have to be enormously increased. But are we justified in assuming that our means of rapidly sending troops to India on an emergency is secure? Up to a few months ago there were only two practicable routes open for troops, the long one round the Cape, of nearly forty days, and the comparatively short one of thirty-eight days, via the Suez Canal—the Brindisi route is of course out of the question. . . . No government would, while the canal was reported clear, send any transports out by the Cape, and although their route could be changed on making Gibraltar or even Malta, had it become blocked in the meantime, delay and uncertainty would necessarily be caused by the change. After calling attention to this national danger, it is satisfactory to be able to point out that we have now in our own hands the means of neutralising it. Our ancestors always believed that the nearest way to the east was by the west, and offered large sums for the discovery of such a route. The first attempt to find it was made about 400 years ago by a Portuguese named Corte Real, but the actual discovery was not made until over three centuries afterwards, by Sir John Franklin, and notwithstanding all the money and lives that have been expended in connection with it, *this* north-west passage can never be of the slightest practical value. It has been left to the Canadians of the present day to discover, or rather to create, the true one, and this they have accomplished by the construction of the Canadian Pacific railway. Well may Lord Harrowby, speaking in the House of Lords a short time ago, describe it as "one of the greatest and most marvellous works of our time." The company only received its charter in the spring of 1881, but in the short period which has since elapsed it has itself built no less than 2,140 miles of substantial railway, connecting the Pacific with the Atlantic by a continuous line lying entirely within British territory, and being in the hands of a single company. The importance to the empire of this undertaking cannot be over-rated. Apart from its commercial advantages, and the opening up of an enormous tract of British territory, and the consolidation so to speak of the dominion, it provides a new channel of communication with the east, unhampered by the necessity of entering foreign soil. To make the whole complete, we are asked, now that the railway has become an accomplished fact, to assist in crowning the enterprise, to quote Lord Harrowby again, by granting a subsidy for a certain number of years from the imperial funds to enable the company to construct a line of steamers to run between Vancouver and Japan and China. It is proposed to build them under admiralty supervision, and they are to be readily convertible into armed cruisers or troopships, the necessary guns, fittings, etc., for as many as it may be considered advisable to be able suddenly to utilize, could be stored, a certain number of complete outfits at Vancouver and the remainder at Hong Kong. The craft are to make an average of not less than 14 knots, but to be capable of running 17 to 18 knots, so that the passage from Vancouver to Hong Kong will occupy less than 12 days. Thus it will take:—

	Via C. P. Railway and its Steamers.	Now, via Suez.
England to Yokohama	24 to 26 days	against 43 to 46 days.
" Shanghai	28 " 30	" 39 " 42 "
" Hong Kong	29½ " 31½	" 34 " 37 "
		Brindisi. Cape.
" Calcutta	38 " 40	" 29 " 38 "
" Bombay	41 " 43	" 26 " 37 "

A well-known authority on international law, writing on the complications which may arise in connection with the Suez canal, says:—"England's position with regard to the eastern question has been greatly altered by the opening of the Canadian Pacific railway. . . . A free passage through the canal for our transports is by no means so essential to the defence of the empire as it was a short time ago;" and he points out that on receipt of a telegram from England the 1,500 to 2,000 soldiers stationed at Halifax could immediately proceed by rail across the continent to the Pacific, reaching the city of Vancouver in

five days, their places at Halifax being meanwhile supplied by Canadian militia until a new garrison should arrive from England. They could proceed at once for Calcutta, touching at Hong Kong and Singapore to pick up reinforcements, and land in twenty-three to twenty-five days. Thus a force of 3,000 or 4,000 men could reach India in about thirty days after the home government had telegraphed the order. The advance guard from Halifax might possibly be followed in a few days by the greater part of the Bermuda garrison, and a continuous stream of reinforcements kept up from England which would reach India at short and frequent intervals.

Looking at the scheme in question from a naval point of view, the existence in the Pacific of such a fleet of fast and powerful British steamers and their fittings, on the spot, ready to convert them instantly into armed cruisers, would be an inestimable advantage. The scare caused not long ago by the report of the concentration by the Russians of such a fleet at Vladivostock has not yet been forgotten; but here we should have one of our own permanently at hand, and that too after a few years without any expense to the country. As to manning the ships, there can be no doubt that great advantage would ensue from transferring to them the crews of some of the smaller or more effete men-of-war on the Pacific and China stations until either they were relieved or others sent out, beside which there would be volunteers from the original crews of the mail steamers, many of whom would serve rather than be landed with little chance of employment. The Queen has marred her appreciation of the value of this enterprise by conferring a baronetcy on Mr. George Stephen, the president, and parliament may well be asked to consider, independent of party feeling, the question of granting the subsidy asked for by the company. It should be borne in mind that by so doing, though nominally helping others, we are really helping ourselves, and that, without the loyalty and patriotism of Greater Britain, Great Britain would simply be "an insignificant little group of islands in the North Sea."

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE WIMBLEDON TEAM FROM AN ENGLISH POINT OF VIEW.

To the Editor of the Canadian Militia Gazette:

The Dominion of Canada rifle association and its able staff are to be congratulated upon the favorable report presented at the last meeting, which proves that notwithstanding the small list of membership it is steadily advancing. There are one or two points which from a distance I may be permitted to dilate upon. There is no doubt that our Canadian team to Wimbledon labors under many disadvantages: first, the long sea voyage immediately preceding the matches; second, the limited opportunity for practice before embarking; third, the weapon used by them. The two first cannot be avoided; with regard to the third, the suggestion made that the team should have some practice on this side prior to the work at Wimbledon is most important, more particularly if it could be done in conjunction with the south of Scotland or other matches. Over here a considerable amount of practice has already been done, and the coming representatives from the Channel Islands, which last year outshot our team, have begun practice, while Canada is yet under snow. Again we come to the weapon used. All these competitors are working with the Martini. Leaving aside contending opinions relative to the merits of the M. H. and S. rifles as weapons for warfare, I believe the former is the superior as regards range and accuracy of fire. Two years ago, when, upon their arrival at Wimbledon, our team were informed that they must discard the Snider and shoulder the Martini, it seemed impossible that success could follow the use of an arm with which they were imperfectly acquainted. Yet so handicapped Canada captured the coveted Kolapore prize. It is high time that the militia department placed our marksmen upon the same footing as other competitors at Wimbledon, and if there are not sufficient Martinis in store at Ottawa the want should be supplied. Our team cannot always win, but under favorable conditions coming teams can make a better show in the Kolapore match than did that of last year. Canada has shown an example worthy of imitation to many countries whose representatives have studied her policies, and in this small matter should not occupy an inferior position. Statistics prove that each year winning scores figure higher, but unless our Canadian representatives employ the most improved weapon and enjoy more extended practice, the pace must tell against them. Visitors at any of the match meetings who have tested the hospitable tendencies on this side can judge of how our team would be received wherever they may visit, and I do not hesitate to say, that if provincial associations here could hope to number our Canadians among their competitors they would strain a point to time their matches in order that such worthy foemen might meet them in a friendly trial of skill.

I do not propound these ideas as purely original, but being presented from a foreign point of view they may add strength to home sentiment, and what more worthy channel to obtain thorough ventilation of an important question is there than the Canadian MILITIA GAZETTE?—Yours,
London, England, 10th April, 1886.

"RELEGATED."

Lately a deputation of teamsters of the Alberta field force took the opportunity of Major-Gen. Strange being in Calgary, to wait on him at Mr. J. Carroll's residence and present him with an address and the handsome silver tea-service which has been on exhibition in McIntyre & Davidson's window for some time. The service consists of six pieces, viz.: Tea and coffee pots, slop-basin, cream-jug, ewer and waiter, and is engraved as follows: "Rebellion 1885, presented to Major-Gen. Strange by the teamsters of the Alberta field force."

QUERIES AND REPLIES.

Q. What grant do rifle associations with a membership of fifty and over receive, if any?—C. FOWLER.

A. The usual grant is \$75.00. To enable a rifle association to receive it, it is necessary to send the rules and regulations in duplicate to headquarters through the D. A. G. of the district; to send in before 5th December in each year an annual report of the prize meeting held, with particulars of expenditure; and to be recommended by the D. A. G. of the district for participation in the money granted in aid of rifle associations. If you comply at once with the first point, and hold your prize meeting in time for the D. A. G. to include your association in his report you would probably be considered entitled to a grant. If your matches came off later you would require to wait a year. The regulations will be found on page 109, R. & O. 1883.—ED.

Q. Please state authoritatively whether the captains of city regiments can legally administer the oath to men on their signing the roll, or must it be done by the Lieut.-Col. or commanding officer of the regiment?—W. G.

A. In a city battalion, the oath is to be administered by the commanding officer of the corps; in rural corps by the commanding officer of the troop, battery or company in which the non-commissioned officers or men are enrolled to serve. Vide R. & O. 1883, Par. 36.—ED.

THE TARGET.

(When not otherwise expressly stated, scores given in this column will be the result of seven shots each at 200, 500 and 600 yards with Sniders, without sighting shots—Wimbledon regulations. We will not publish scores which are not accompanied by full particulars as to conditions under which they were made).

SPENCERVILLE, ONT.—The annual meeting of the Lisgar rifle association was held on the 23rd April, Col. Campbell, 56th, in the chair. The following officers were elected: President, Major Carmichael; vice-president, Lieut. Drummond; secretary, Capt. Snyder, P.M.; treasurer, Capt. Stitt; executive committee, all the officers of the 56th Lisgar Rifles and of the Prescott Troop of Cavalry, and Sergt.-Major Tripp, Sergt. Carmichael, Sergt. Fenton, Sergt. Tripp, Sergt. Gladstone and Corp. Smail. It was decided that the association should meet at the range for practice every Thursday at 2 p.m., sharp.

The National rifle association of the island of Jersey, at a meeting last month, settled the date of their annual prize meeting for the 27th July and following days, and completed arrangements for the representation of the tight little island at Wimbledon and in their annual match with the neighboring island of Guernsey. The team to be sent to Wimbledon will be a purely representative one and subject to the approval of the executive. It will be well for us to remember that these teams were in full practice when our ranges were deep covered with snow, and to increase our exertions accordingly.

THE OTTAWA RIFLE CLUB.

The Ottawa rifle club have published the following arrangements for the season of 1886. It will be seen that they promise an interesting summer's work, and we think the programme is worthy of imitation by other clubs.

1. There will be eighteen (18) competitions for spoons during the season, nine (9) of which will be shot with Snider and nine (9) with Martini rifles. If the number of competitors present at any competition does not exceed twenty (20), there will be two prizes offered, a silver dessert spoon for the first, and a silver tea spoon for the second best score. If twenty-five competitors are present, then a third prize—a silver tea spoon—will be given to that member who has never won a prize and whose score is the highest of those who are non-winners, and for every five additional competitors a similar spoon will be provided. A silver dessert spoon will be awarded to any member who makes a "highest possible score" at any range.

2. The first of these competitions will take place on the range on Saturday afternoon, the 1st of May, and all dates fixed for future competitions will be adhered to irrespective of weather.

3. The whole of the Snider and six (6) of the Martini competitions will be fired at 200, 500 and 600 yards; 7 shots at each range. Three (3) of the Martini competitions will be shot at 800 and 900 yards, 7 shots at each range.

4. The club will affiliate with the D. R. A. and O. R. A., and the medals obtained will be given as grand aggregate prizes.

5. The Snider competitions will be held on the 1st, 15th and 29th of May, the 12th and 26th June, the 17th and 31st July, the 11th of September, and the 9th of October.

6. The Martini competitions at the Queen's ranges will be held on the 8th and 22nd of May, the 19th of June, the 10th of July, the 25th of September, and the 23rd of October.

7. The Martini competitions at 800 and 900 yards will be held on the 5th of June, and the 3rd and 24th of July.

8. The following aggregate prizes will be awarded:—For the five best scores in the Snider competitions, the four best scores in the Martini competitions at Queen's ranges, and the two best in the competitions at 800 and 900 yards, the D. R. A. medal, and for the next best the O. R. A. medal. For the five best scores in the Snider competitions, a prize presented by Mr. James Grant. For the four best scores in the Martini competitions at Queen's ranges, a prize presented by the president. For the two best scores in the competition at 800 and 900 yards, a prize presented by Captain Sherwood.

- 9. Entrance fee for each spoon competition, 25 cents.
- " " the grand aggregate, 50 "
- " " Snider " 25 "
- " " Martini " 25 "
- " " " " at 800 and 900, 25 "

10. Firing each day to commence at 2 p.m. sharp. The 200 yards range will remain open until 3 o'clock, and members are requested to attend promptly.

11. Except on the 17th and 31st July, the position at 200 yards will be either standing or kneeling. On the dates mentioned the position will be standing only. At 500, 600, 800 and 900 yards the position will be any, with head to target.

12. The rules and regulations of the D. R. A. for 1886 to govern.

13. The senior officer of the club will take charge.

14. The arrangement for the selection of teams to represent the club in the

D.R.A. and O.R.A. matches, will be settled at a future date. Teams will, however, pay their own entrance fees.

15. Each competitor shall only use the ammunition issued from the government stores in all Snider competitions, that is, *all* shall use the same issue, under penalty of disqualification from the match.

16. Members are requested to pay their annual subscription of \$2.00 on or before the 1st May, and all entrance fees for spoons must be paid before engaging in any competition therefor, and all fees for aggregates before engaging in the series.

By order Managing Committee,

OTTAWA, 22nd April, 1886.

A. HAMLYN TODD, *Hon. Sec.-Treas.*

Under this programme the first competition of the club and the opening of the Rideau range for the season took place on Saturday afternoon. The day was delightfully bright and warm, with a four o'clock wind, which was just unsteady enough to land some of the less observant competitors "off the left edge" at 600, but not bad enough to account for the general low scoring, which must be put down to the winter's enforced loss of practice. Armstrong made a strong bid for a h.p.s spoon at 500, and all the field watched Sutherland's last shot, as a bull's eye would have given him first spoon.

Mr. Chamberlin.....	30	30	24—24	Mr. Mailleue.....	29	26	12—67
Mr. Sutherland.....	31	31	21—83	Mr. Whitely.....	26	21	19—66
Mr. Short.....	30	26	24—80	Major Anderson....	28	23	15—66
Mr. Hutcheson.....	28	25	24—77	Major Macpherson..	25	16	23—64
Mr. Armstrong.....	28	34	15—77	Mr. Dawson.....	25	21	18—64
Captain Wright.....	29	27	19—75	Mr. Mason.....	31	16	17—64
Captain Sherwood....	29	24	21—74	Mr. Carrol.....	27	21	15—63
Mr. Jamieson.....	27	25	21—73	Mr. Taylor.....	25	16	21—62
Mr. Reardon.....	27	25	19—71	Mr. McJanet.....	24	23	14—60
Captain Perley.....	27	21	21—69	Mr. Fairweather....	29	22	9—60
Lieut. Gray.....	28	27	14—69	Mr. Slater.....	27	13	18—58

Col. Tyrwhitt, M.P., commandant of this year's Wimbledon team, was an interested spectator, and made good practice in a few shots he fired at 200.

HAMILTON.—Mr. Pain, secretary of the Victoria rifle club, writes us to say that his club engaged in no match on Good Friday, as reported in our last issue; but he failed to say who were the participants, and as his name appeared as one of the losing team, we were fairly nonplussed for a time. We have since learnt, however, that the match was between the Toronto and Hamilton rifle associations. The *Spectator* says:—"This is the fourth of the series of matches between these associations, two of them having been won by the Toronto team on the Hamilton ranges, and two by the Hamilton team on the Toronto ranges, which is rather a singular coincidence. Capt. T. Brown captained the Toronto team, and Pte. D. Mitchell the Hamilton team."

REGIMENTAL NOTES.

(We wish to publish information respecting all the doings of all corps. Will the officers interested, particularly at a distance, assist us by having news relating to their corps promptly forwarded?)

WINNIPEG.—The *Manitoban* of the 26th April says: Notwithstanding the gloomy weather of yesterday there was a good turn-out of volunteers at the church parade to St. John's. The 90th, the battery, the cavalry and the infantry school, were represented, the whole being under command of Col. Houghton and Col. Taylor, of the infantry school. The 90th band headed the procession, and the bugle band also occupied a place therein, while the infantry school headed the corps. The streets were crowded with spectators all along the line. The 90th band played to the measure which governs the time honored steps of the volunteers, while the infantry school band got in its work on the quick, short step, and the consequence was that there was more or less of a muddle, which might have been avoided on this particular occasion. On arriving at St. John's the troops marched into the cathedral, where Rev. Canon O'Meara preached an eloquent and appropriate sermon to the boys, taking for his sermon the text, "I have fought a good fight." The great majority of those present were compelled to remain outside during the service, and occupied themselves in viewing the graves of the dead volunteers in the churchyard. If regrets and wishes were of avail these graves would have opened, and the men of Fish Creek would have stepped forth and saluted those who had assembled to do them honor.

On the 23rd the 90th paraded for inspection in their new uniforms, which they afterwards aired by a march to Fort Range, headed by their band.

27TH BATT.—The band was out for parade on Good Friday and played some excellent marches. Mr. Donald Simpson acted as drum-major for the first time. The band turned out over forty strong and showed considerable improvement, compared with a year ago.

38TH BATT.—There is a steady improvement in attendance at the weekly drills of the Dufferin rifles, and the members are becoming enthusiastic over the coming excursion to Woodstock. A large number of recruits handed in their names last evening, and it is a foregone conclusion that there will be more applications than there is clothing and accoutrements to supply them with. The new bugles are an improvement, and there seems to be a disposition upon the part of the members to become as proficient as possible by the Queen's birthday.

45TH BATT.—The band concert at Lindsay has been indefatigably advertised, and if the press has any influence should be a grand success. The *Warder* reminds its readers, in recommending them to patronize this concert, that this is the band which, at the expense of the individual members, met the body of Col. Williams *en route* from the North-west, went to Toronto and met the Midlanders, and subsequently came to Lindsay with C Company Midlanders.

62ND ST. JOHN FUSILIERS.—The new regimental club rooms of this corps are now ready for occupation and will be opened by a conversazione on 4th May. The building was formerly used as a church, but would be hardly recognized as such since its transformation, as with all the military decorations and mottoes it is difficult to remember that the rooms were ever otherwise used. Entering by the south door the canteen is immediately on the left, and on the right is the stairway leading to the officers' apartments, while a door leads into the main room, 65x40 feet

which will be used by the men of the corps. Here will be found every convenience for a well appointed recreation room. One side is taken up with a shooting gallery where the Morris tubes will be used and every precaution has been taken to prevent accidents of any kind; at the head of the room is a billiard and pool table, and other tables are well supplied with cards, draughts, chess, dominoes and other games. Tables are also arranged on which the leading papers of the day will be found, single sticks, foils, boxing gloves, etc. are also supplied. Two rooms are set apart for the use of the sergeants, where military books and papers may also be found, and one of these rooms can be used as a stage for concerts, etc., by removing a partition. The decorations are tasteful and appropriate. At the head of the room is seen the motto "for our Queen and country," underneath which is the royal arms and a large oil painting of Her Majesty; on either side is the following: "to preserve peace be prepared for war," in scarlet letters. On the west wall is a picture of Major-General Sir Frederick Middleton, above which is the coat of arms and crest of the Fusiliers, carved in wood and painted in colors, and surmounting the whole "defence not defiance." Numerous flags of all kinds have been tastefully arranged round the windows and in other parts of the room, and on the walls are numerous heraldic shields and military pictures. The canteen is neatly fitted up and will be supplied with beer, cigars and all requirements at reduced prices. A wash room, etc., is also fitted up with every convenience. The officers' quarters are situated up stairs and are most handsomely arranged with pictures, trophies and other appropriate ornamentation, as well as book shelves and the nucleus of a military library. Every member of the regiment is entitled to all privileges of the club without any charge, and the opening of the rooms will supply a want long felt in St. John by the members of the Fusiliers.

MONTREAL.—The drill hall here has been lit by the electric light, the contract providing that it shall be lit for 72 nights. The volunteers who have been drilling in the hall complain very much of the state of the floor. It is made of loose ashes, and when the men march a cloud of fine dust is raised which is ruinous to the uniforms and distressing to the men.

The recent floods have done, as in past years, serious damage to the Point St. Charles rifle range, the loss being estimated at \$2,300; consequently a survey has been made and a range selected in the east end of the city. It was intended to have opened the range on Good Friday, but it is now doubtful if it will be opened before the 18th May. The delay is looked at very grudgingly by the anxious trigger-pullers. With the dates of the battalion, provincial and dominion matches two or three weeks earlier than previous years, it is quite natural to suppose they are thumbing their verniers nervously.

THE ROYAL SCOTS of Canada intend holding races and a tug of war on cleats on the 26th. A very keen competition is expected, as all the city corps have expressed their intention of entering one or more teams for the tug of war and are practising very hard. The services of the celebrated City band (with fifty-two pieces) have been secured, and they will render some new selections which they have had sent from England for them. Prizes to the amount of \$300 in medals and cups are to be given, as well as eight silver medals as the first prize for tug of war. Judging by the advance sale of tickets the sports bid fair to be a complete success. Appended is the programme:—Two mile run, drill order; one mile run, open; quarter mile run, heavy marching order; half mile run, 5th R. S.; quarter mile run, hurdle, open; 220 yds run, three-legged, military; wheel races; tug of war on cleats, open to teams of eight men from any regiment in the dominion or any body of men. Two prizes each event. Races open to amateurs only. Entrance fee to each event 25c.; tug of war teams, \$2.50. Entries to close 17th May. P.O. Box 1469.

11TH BATT.—The Argenteuil Rangers hold a grand military picnic at Barron's grove, Lachute, on the Queen's birthday, when the regiment will be presented with its colors and reviewed along with the St. Andrew's troop of cavalry. A programme has been got up and among the items is a rifle match, which, it is very probable, will be participated in by some of the shots of the city. Special excursion rates have been arranged from Montreal and neighborhood, and the 6th Fusiliers have been invited to attend.

OTTAWA.—We condense the following from the *Evening Journal*: The Sharpshooters on Saturday celebrated the first anniversary of the battle of Cut Knife Hill, where they received their baptism of fire, by holding a dinner at the Queen restaurant. The spacious private dining room was handsomely decorated for the occasion. Flags were displayed in every corner in graceful folds, while the regimental color, presented by the ladies on the occasion of the return of the victorious contingent, occupied a prominent position. Bayonets and swords, arranged in the shape of a star, and enclosing the regimental coat of arms adorned the walls, while the full length oil portrait of Lord Dufferin, surmounted by a cardboard bearing the words "Cut Knife Hill," was partially disclosed from view beneath two union jacks. The tables, groaning under the weight of many delicacies, contained a beautiful floral display. Major Todd occupied the chair, and on his right and left respectively was supported by Mayor McDougal, Major J. P. Macpherson, commanding G.G.F.G., Lieut.-Col. White, commanding 43rd Batt., and Major Stewart, commanding the Ottawa field battery. The vice-chair was occupied by Lieut. Gray, while the other guests of the company included Mr. W. R. Thistle, Capt. Gourdeau, of the P.L.D.G., Surg. Horsey, Asst.-Surg. Grant, Capt. Toller, Lieut. Shannon, G.G.F.G., and Mr. Harkin, of the *Journal*, late correspondent of the *Montreal Star* with Col. Otter's column. The attendance of the Sharpshooters was about thirty-five, all appearing in uniform.

After discussing a choice bill of fare the usual toasts were proposed and responded to, and after some songs the meeting dispersed happy.

The handsome menu card was a model of the engraver's art. It abounded in racy illustrations of several of the prominent features of the campaign, calculated to remind the old campaigners of the happy experiences of just one year ago.

St. Bartholomew's church, New Edinburgh, was crowded to the doors on Sunday afternoon at three o'clock, when the memorial service in connection with the dedication of a stained glass window to the memory of Pte. Osgood, of the sharpshooters, took place. The sharpshooters assembled in mufti at the corner of Rideau and Little Sussex streets at 2.30 p.m., and marched in a body to New Edinburgh. The streets were lined with spectators, many of whom accompanied the volunteers to the church. A detachment of the 43rd Batt., and the full band of twenty-three pieces, under the leadership of bandmaster John Greenfield, also attended. It is estimated that three or four hundred persons were unable to gain admittance to the church. The evening prayer of the Church of England was read, with appropriate

lessons and special prayers. Rev. Mr. Hannington preached an eloquent sermon, which was listened to with great attention, and special hymns, appropriate to the occasion, were sung, being rendered with orchestral accompaniment. The memorial window was greatly admired. It bears the inscription—"In loving memory of Wm. Brough Osgood, member of No. 1 company, 43rd batt., killed in action at Cut Knife Hill, May 2nd, 1885. Erected by general subscription, May 2nd, 1886."

At the conclusion of the service, the detachment re-formed, and headed by their fine brass band returned to the city. The playing of the band was admired all along the route.

The Sharpshooters, at the termination of the memorial service proceeded to Beechwood cemetery, where the graves of Privates Osgood and Rogers were decorated. Capt. Toller and Mr. W. R. Thistle were also present. Major Todd and each member of the company deposited a bouquet of cut flowers on the graves, all standing with uncovered heads during the proceedings. At the conclusion of the ceremony Major Todd delivered an address, in which he referred to the necessity of erecting a monument to the memory of their fallen comrades. In conclusion he intimated that a general meeting of the company would be held shortly with this object in view. Private Dan Matheson, lying ill in the Protestant hospital, was also visited, and presented with a handsome bouquet.—*Journal*.

THE G. G. F. G. SHARPSHOOTERS intend holding a meeting in the drill hall on May 6th to discuss and make arrangements respecting a monument to be erected to the memory of their comrades killed in action in the late Northwest campaign.

AMUSEMENTS.

(If the active organizers of regimental games, company clubs, and similar winter occupations for the militia will forward us accounts of their doings we will gladly publish them. This, we hope, will have the good result of encouraging the organization of similar clubs where there are none at present.)

TORONTO.—Gaiety reigned supreme in the pavilion, horticultural gardens, Wednesday night. The building was brilliantly illuminated, and the walls beautifully festooned with flags and bunting. On the floor were hundreds of dancers, the ladies richly attired, and the gentlemen chiefly in uniform. The occasion was a ball given by the officers and men of the Queen's Own. A few minutes after nine the opening quadrille was formed, and the following ladies and gentlemen composed the first set: His Honour the Lieut.-Governor and Mrs. R. B. Hamilton, Major Hamilton and Mrs. Forsyth Smith, Col. Otter and Miss Robinson, Lieut. Sears and Miss Boulton. After the first dance valse, polka, and lancers followed in rapid succession. The pavilion was delightfully cool. The conservatory was thrown open and those present had an opportunity for pleasant strolls between dances. Excellent music was supplied by Seager's orchestra. The challenge cups won by the regiment had been placed on a table upon the platform and were examined by many. The supper table was tastefully laid out. An ice swan and ice vase were greatly admired. Dancing was kept up till an early hour in the morning.

Among those present, besides Col. Miller and the officers and non-commissioned officers of the regiment, were:—His Honor the Lieut.-Governor and party, Col. Otter, Lieut.-Col. Gilmour, Rev. G. E. Lloyd, of Penetanguishene, chaplain of the Q. O. R., Major Dawson, Adj. Manly and Lieut. Hay, of the Royal Grenadiers, and Capt. Miles, of the Garrison Artillery. Capt. McGee was the floor manager. The following general committee had charge of the arrangements: Captains Delamere, Brown, McGee, Macdonald, Murray, Mutton and Lane; Lieutenants Blake, Brock, Morphy, Baird, Ross and Bennett; Sergt.-Major Crean; Color-Sergeants McLaren, Hewgill, McKell and Cooper; Sergeants Kennedy, Williams and Gorrie; Corporals Dunning and Dowell; Privates Langmuir, Despard, Rowland, Small, Donaldson, Lowell and Strowger; Lieut. Lee, hon. secretary.

The following were the lady patronesses of the ball: Mesdames Beverley Robinson, Fred. C. Denison, G. D. Dawson, W. B. McMurrich, Alex. Cameron, George Gooderham, G. W. Torrance, A. M. Cosby, J. W. Langmuir, J. K. Kerr, Otter, Miller, R. B. Hamilton, W. Hamilton Merritt, Lorratt Smith, W. J. Raines, John Leys, Albert Nordheimer, Pellatt, Thorburn, and Gunther.

The Grand Opera house was well filled on Thursday night by a fashionable audience, on the occasion of the performance of Robertson's comedy "Ours" by Charles Frohman's New York company, for the benefit of the battalion fund of the Royal Grenadiers. The presence of a large number of officers in uniform gave a brilliant appearance to the auditorium.

The cast was as follows:—Hugh Chalcote, Mr. Joseph Haworth; Angus McAllister, G. R. Parks; Sir Alex. Shenaryn, F. Height; Prince Perousky, W. Brigham; Sergt. Jones, R. Buckstone; Blanche Haye, Miss Louise Dillon; May Nalley, Mrs. O. Walcot; Lady Shendryn, Mrs. M. T. Hill.

The performance was a most brilliant success, the acting of the principals being thoroughly artistic and effective. The enthusiasm manifested was so great that the curtain had to be rung up again after the close of each act. The march past of the Grenadiers in the second act brought down the house in thunders of applause, and equal enthusiasm was manifested on the re-appearance of the redcoats in the third act. The performance concluded with the tableau, by members of the regiment, of the "Charge at Batoche." The grouping in the scene was very well arranged, and the final struggle between the soldiers and the half-breeds was presented with realistic semblance. The tableau caused quite a *furor*, and had to be repeated. It was arranged by Mr. Hemmel, the artist.

The second performance, by the Frohman comedy company, in aid of the Royal Grenadiers' fund, drew on Friday a larger audience than even that of the previous evening. The cast was as follows:—Cheviot Hill, Mr. Joseph Haworth; Belvawney, Mr. George R. Parks; Mr. Symperson, Mr. Fred. Height; Angus Macalister, Mr. Rowland Buckstone; Major McGillicuddy, Mr. Edward Farrell; Belinda Treherne, Mrs. Charles Walcot; Minnie, Miss Eloise Willis; Mrs. McFarlane, Miss Mary E. Hill; Maggie, Miss Louise Dillon; Parker, Miss Sadie Morris. The comedy was presented in a most finished and artistic manner, and Gilbert's delightful absurdities kept the audience convulsed with laughter during the whole performance. The prominent features were Mr. Joseph Haworth's droll representation of Cheviot Hill and Mrs. Walcot's clever conception of the role of Belinda. The play went without hitch of any kind, all the actors being well up in their parts. The military tableau, after the play, created the same enthusiasm as on Thursday night.

GLEANINGS.

About a month ago a basket was found one morning in the gateway of the barracks of the 19th Hussars, stationed at Windsor. The basket contained a pretty little girl a few weeks old, and a note, stating that the father belonged to the regiment, and that doubtless when he saw the forlorn condition of the little waif he would be impelled to come forward and claim her as his own. No one of the regiment, however, was willing to admit the soft impeachment, and finally, rather than send the pretty child to the Windsor poorhouse, Col. Hayes and his officers determined to adopt and bring her up at the cost of the regiment. Matters were inaugurated by the christening of the child in the presence of the whole regiment. Princess Beatrice kindly consented to act as godmother. A similar incident serves as the ground work of a very pretty little military story "Bootles' Baby."

Women who want to live long should marry American soldiers. On the United States pension roll are the names of 20,000 widows of the veterans of 1812. Every one of these ladies must be at least 90 years old, if she were married before the war.

OFFICER'S RIFLE BATTALION MESS SUIT

Height, 5 ft. 6½ in., to 5 ft. 7½ in.

FIELD OFFICER'S REGULATION SADDLERY,

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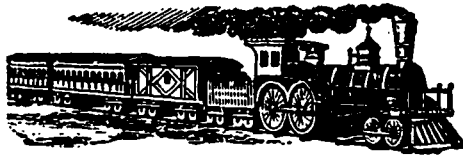
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In issuing this week an Index and Title Page for Vol. 1, would ask the indulgence of its patrons for allowing a lapsus to take place in the regular issue. If certain arrangements, now pending, are concluded satisfactorily, the management wish the GAZETTE to appear in a new dress and in a somewhat enlarged form for its second year, but this cannot be promised.

Under any circumstances we are forced most unwillingly to delay the issue of No. 53 at least one week, and we hope to receive, as we have said, the indulgence of our subscribers for the delay. In the interim, may we suggest that much encouragement will be given us if each subscriber will interest himself in procuring one or more new friends for our list, and see that their names and addresses, and their quota for the ensuing year, are forwarded without delay to

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June 1886