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Topics of the Week.

Lord Stanley has notified the secretary of the Dominion Artillery Association that he has great pleasure in accepting the office of Patron of that association, held in the past by the Governors General who have preceded him in Canada.

If Lord Wolseley pays the expected visit to Australia this summer, it is stated to be not improbable that he will return by way of San Francisco, in which case no doubt the General will visit the scenes of his early campaigning in Canada. He is expected to start from England in September. He goes by invitation to inspect and advise upon the Australian defences.

The unexpected refusal of the Duke of Cambridge to inspect the Canadian team at Wimbledon was the means of providing a pleasure equally unexpected—the visit of the Princess Louise and Lord Lorne. No other Governor-General of Canada has ever taken such an active personal interest in the Dominion Rifle Association as did the Marquis of Lorne during his term of office; and the influence he exerted on its behalf, notably in inaugurating the series of bankers and manufacturers' prizes, contributed very materially to bring about the unprecedented prosperity which the association has enjoyed of late years.

Rideau range is being put in order for the Quebec provincial rifle matches, to be fired on the 7th, 8th and 9th August. Twenty targets are being supplied for the regular matches and five for the extra series, so that there will be no lack of accommodation even if the hopes of an increased attendance are realized. These are based upon inquiries received from Toronto and several other places east and west in Ontario, concerning the particulars of the meeting. The printed programmes have now been issued, together with a circular calling attention to new features. They include the substitution of the Martini for the Snider at the 600 yards range of the Association match, and the offer of a Martini aggregate prize, this being a first-class Martini-Henry rifle presented by Messrs. John Martin & Co. It is announced that the team to represent the province in the match for the London Merchants cup at the D. R. A. meeting in September, shall be chosen as follows: the first five from the highest M.-H. aggregates during the provincial matches, and the other three by the first five from the M.-H. shooting at the D. R. A. meeting.

Interest in the Indian trouble on the Skeena River has been intensified by the spread of the rumour that General Middleton was about to proceed to British Columbia to take command of the militia called out to restore order. The rumour, however, was not well founded, the General's return at this time from his holiday trip in New Brunswick having no connection with the trouble, with which the provincial government, not the Dominion authorities, will deal, the militia being called out merely to assist the civil power.

Several handsome designs have been received for the Lansdowne challenge cup, to the purchase of which the D. R. A. will apply the parting gift of Lord Lansdowne, and which will be offered annually as first prize in a team aggregate competition, a new and interesting feature of the matches to be introduced for the first time this year. The cup will be worth between four and five hundred dollars. With it will be offered five cash prizes, amounting to \$150. The competition is for teams of five men representative of any affiliated association, and the scores included are those of all grand aggregate matches not restricted to militiamen.

A militia officer, Lieut. E. J. Chambers, not yet gazetted out of the 6th Fusiliers, Montreal, now conducts the *Herald*, of Calgary, N. W. T. Finding his military occupation gone, in a recent issue he thus sighs for its restoration: "A splendid regiment could be maintained in each of the four electoral divisions, if not more, and the men would be of the right sort. Alberta could contribute a regiment of mounted rifles composed of superb riders and crack shots, as Calgary's contingent with Gen. Strange's force in '85 showed. If there is any part of Canada where the moral effect of a militia would be particularly efficacious it is the North-West, and any force raised here would be a credit to the Dominion."

Nepotism having been alleged as the main reason for the choice of Major-General D. R. Cameron—a son-in-law of Sir Charles Tupper—as Commandant of the Royal Military College, Kingston, the *Toronto Empire*, the government's official organ, thus states that officer's qualifications: "The propriety of Major-General Cameron's appointment does not rest upon his relations to Sir Charles Tupper. He has been appointed because he was eminently qualified for the position. Like his immediate predecessor he is a distinguished officer of the Royal Artillery, and as such, before his retirement from active service, he commanded the Royal Artillery in Ireland. Because of his scientific attainments he was appointed the British commissioner to lay down the international boundary between Canada and the United States in the North-West Territories—a duty that was discharged with satisfaction to her Majesty's government. In performing this service his attention was called to the important question of the boundary between Alaska and British Columbia, and in consequence of his thorough mastery of this subject he was employed by the Imperial government to make a confidential report thereon, which report is now in the hands of the Imperial and Canadian governments. As it was supposed that the Alaska bound-

ary question was to be discussed at Washington during the late negotiations, Major-General Cameron, from his knowledge of the subject, was specially selected to act as secretary to the Canadian delegation. As regards his standing at the Horse Guards, it is such that when one of the Australian colonies requested the Commander-in-Chief to select an officer to organize and command its militia, the Duke of Cambridge at once recommended General Cameron. This appointment, however, for family reasons, he was unable to accept. It will be seen, therefore, that whether we consider Major-General Cameron's appointment in the light of fitness or expediency it will stand the test of investigation. As an officer of distinction, as one acquainted with Canadian affairs, and as having ties which bind him strongly to the Canadian people, he will be welcomed to the Dominion with no ordinary welcome."

The Volksraad of the South African Republic has unanimously and enthusiastically agreed to a union with the Transvaal. *Broad Arrow* describes it as the larger and more fertile half of Cetewayo's territory, acquired by the filibustering Boers from Dinizulu in 1884, as a reward for helping to defeat Usibepu, and the present unfortunate state of affairs, it says, may be traced, without difficulty, to the recognition by the English Colonial Office in 1866 of the said Boer Republic. The union of the two States it regards as the first step towards a South African Federation or Afrikandur Bund, including the junction of the Transvaal with the Orange Free State. Meanwhile, by a treaty recently signed between Her Majesty's government and the Chief of the Matabele nation, Lo Bengula, England has established a protectorate over an area of territory considerably greater than the Transvaal, and extending northward from that State and Bechuanaland to the banks of the Zambesi.

It appears probable that there will be no war in Zululand after all, the British Government, according to cable advices from London, having countermanded the order for sending reinforcements to the Cape of Good Hope. It is supposed that Dinizulu, the son of Cetewayo, has resolved to submit to the British proclamation annexing the Zulu country to Natal, or that he has been granted a substantial concession in return for his submission.

Respecting a recent inquiry by the *Broad Arrow*, a correspondent of that paper writes as follows: "Referring to a paragraph in your last issue relative to the recent alterations in the Field Exercise, and more particularly to formations from column into line, I wish to point out what appears to be an excellent method, and one that has been adopted by many corps, though perhaps not strictly on the lines of the Drill Book. A column is advancing. If it is desired to form line to the left at the halt, the word of command will be, "At the halt. Left form into line." If it is desired to advance immediately the line is formed, the word of command will be simply, "Left form into line," upon which the left-hand man of the front rank of each company turns to his left and "marks time," the remainder turn half-left and take up the "mark time" when they get to their places in line. When the whole are formed, the word "Forward" is given. This manœuvre can be performed more rapidly than the old "Left wheel into line." In "breaking into column to the right," the same method can be adopted, the words of command being, "Break into column to the right," "Right form," "Quick march," the men marking time in succession, and when the last man has formed, "No. —, halt front, dress," as formerly. I think the abolition of wheeling was distinctly a move in the right direction, but it should go further, and be cut out of the Drill Book altogether for manœuvring, and only hold good for marching-past purposes."

The Honour School for Riflemen.

(Volunteer Service Gazette.)

By the time these lines are in our readers' hands the competitors will have begun to assemble for the twenty-ninth, and unfortunately

for the last, time on that beautiful plateau which has been the scene of the successes of the National Rifle Association year by year ever since 1860, in which year Her Majesty fired the first shot at the first meeting. There have been vicissitudes, but on the whole the Council has been most successful in its arduous task. Grumbling there has been—the V. S. G. in particular spent several years in grumbling at what its conductors held to have been the mistaken views of the Council on certain points. But the necessary changes were soon introduced, and the Council has for a very great many years kept itself thoroughly in touch with the rifle-shooting world, whether volunteers, regulars, or mere civilians. But of the last-named class there have never been many at Wimbledon. Almost all the "cracks," even with the match rifle, and still more with the M. B. L., have generally been members or ex-members of some one of the military services. The Council, we reiterate, has kept its touch with its constituents, as is proved by the utter failure of the few attempts which have been made to inaugurate anything like a radical change of policy. Wimbledon has been made attractive in a variety of ways. But this attractiveness has cost a good deal of money, and there have not been wanting persons who have said, reasonably enough, perhaps, from their point of view, that it would be better to increase the prize money and diminish the festive element. It is quite clear, however, that those chiefly interested have not been of this opinion, for they have gone on from year to year entering for "Wimbledon" in almost inconveniently large numbers, and receiving the percentage that the Association can afford to return them in the shape of prizes out of their entrance-fees with the utmost cheerfulness. Whatever a small minority may think, the festive Wimbledon has always been popular with the great majority of the competitors.

But this is comparatively a small matter. If the prize money given had not been sufficient in the eyes of the competitors, the entrances would have fallen off and the Council would have been obliged to alter their policy. Even if they had been obliged to do so, which never was in the smallest degree likely, they would still have been able to say, as they can say now with justifiable pride, that they have made this nation a nation of riflemen. We have not the least hesitation in affirming that had it not been for that meeting at Spencer House, very nearly twenty-nine years ago, which was presided over by Lord Spencer, and from which the National Rifle Association sprung, rifle shooting would have remained, as it now remains in all European countries, except perhaps Switzerland, the Tyrol, and Upper Austria, a mere matter of military drill. It would have been now as distasteful to the Regular Army as it undoubtedly was thirty—even twenty years ago; and the Volunteer Force, for want of the stimulus of competitive rifle shooting, would in all probability have succumbed altogether to the attacks of its numerous enemies eighteen years ago. It should never be forgotten that it is to the National Rifle Association, and to the annual meetings at Wimbledon, that we unquestionably owe the existence, in almost every regular battalion, of a rifle club—that the "Army Rifle Association" meeting, organized entirely on the Wimbledon lines, is now going on successfully at Aldershot, and that there is hardly a British colony or dependency which has not its rifle association, and which does not look forward to sending, when possible, a team of riflemen to shoot at Wimbledon itself. The National Rifle Association has established itself as the great examining body—the great honour-school for all riflemen. Any British infantry officer or soldier, whether he belongs to the regulars, the militia, the yeomanry, or the volunteers, deems it the highest honour to be selected to represent his corps at Wimbledon. The great Association gives the law on all points of rifle-shooting, not only to the volunteers, but to the regular army. It has shown that competitive rifle-shooting can be made most attractive and eminently fair. A good many people say that the British regulars shoot ill, and the British volunteers worse. This may be the fact, but it is perfectly appalling to think of what the state of military marksmanship would have now been in this country if the National Rifle Association had never come into existence, and the regulars and volunteers had alike been confined to the Hythe class-firing.

However, we are now told by Colonel Howard Vincent and some few other volunteer officers, to say nothing of a number of anonymous and irresponsible writers, that the whole thing has been a mistake, and that the N. R. A. will never do any good till it takes its departure to some desolate spot, well removed from villadom and gentilities, where military discipline can be maintained, and the so-called "pic-nic" element wholly eliminated. The experiment may have to be tried, though it will be a dangerous one. * * * But, under any circumstances, the exclusion from its home of twenty-nine years is a heavy blow and a great discouragement to the National Rifle Association. We must only hope that it may not also result in any serious decadence of the art of competitive rifle shooting throughout the British Empire, without which the mere military practice will never come to anything like a healthy growth.

THE RIFLEMEN'S IMPERIAL FEDERATION

DETAILS OF THE TWENTY-NINTH GREAT GATHERING AT WIMBLEDON.

Unusually High Scoring Prevails—But Canada's Representatives Come Well to the Front—The Personnel of the Team, and its past Wimbledon attendance—Honour List for this year.

Since last issue the Wimbledon meeting has terminated, the distribution of prizes taking place last Saturday, and the riflemen have regretfully bid farewell to that famous common. The Canadian team were to have been inspected on Thursday last by the Duke of Cambridge, President of the N. R. A., but at the last moment he wrote to say that he was "unavoidably detained"—the detention being caused, it is said, by shamefacedness at the prospect of meeting with the riflemen whom he has selfishly dispossessed of their favourite meeting place. Col. Bond then hastily arranged with Lord Wantage, chairman of the council, and Col. Eaton, commander of the camp, to perform the function, and the Princess Louise and Marquis of Lorne also promised their attendance. In connection with the ceremony an "at home" was held—a brilliant affair, at which many Canadians were present by invitation, including Mr., Mrs., and Miss Bunting and Mrs. Procter, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Riordon and Mrs. Douglas, Mr. and Mrs. Cattnach, Mr. and Mrs. James Ross, Mr. Donald MacMaster, Q.C., Mrs. Dawson, Mr. McIntyre, Q.C., Ottawa; Mr. MacMaster, Montreal; Mr. McLeod Stewart, Mayor of Ottawa; Capt. Harston, Mr. W. P. Atkinson, Senator Dickey, Dr. Sterling Ryerson, Mr. Donald Robertson, and others. Sir Charles Tupper also attended. The Princess Louise, who was dressed in deep black, was received by Lord Wantage, and on entering the enclosure she welcomed all whom she knew. The Marquis of Lorne also shook hands with his Canadian friends, and chatted with them about the Dominion.

The team having been inspected by Colonel Eaton and Lord Wantage, the latter, in addressing them, and speaking for the English volunteers; expressed his delight in seeing them in Old England. Wimbledon common, he said, had cemented their friendship, and he hoped some other place would be found where the British volunteers could meet their Canadian brethren. The Marquis of Lorne said it was a great happiness to meet Canadians once more at Wimbledon, and in the name of the Princess he congratulated them on their feats of arms, although they had lost the Kolapore Cup by 13 points. All those who had held office in Canada wished to be regarded as her good friends. The number of ex-Governors was becoming very large, and he hoped that when Lord Stanley returned they might have an ex-Governors' meeting, which ought to be a very pleasant gathering. Colonel Eaton congratulated the team on their appearance, and remarked that Lord Stanley's son, now present, would convey to the Governor-General the good wishes expressed. He congratulated them on their shooting ability and good camp behaviour.

Colonel Bond, in replying for the team, expressed their hearty gratitude for their reception and treatment. All those returning to Canada had warm recollections of the kindness and welcome extended them. As long, he said, as the meeting of the association was held in England where all could meet on a common and equal ground, they would find a team from Canada endeavouring to do their best to beat the finest shots in the world.

CANADA'S REPRESENTATIVES.

Before proceeding to narrate the achievements of the Canadian team of 1888, we will give its composition and a few interesting details concerning the members of this the seventeenth representative Dominion team to visit Wimbledon:

In command—Lieut.-Col. Frank Bond, 1st P.W.R.
Adjutant—Capt. Joshua Wright, 43rd Rifles.

No on list.	Name and rank.	On team before in
1	Lieut. E. A. Smith, St. John Rifles	1882-87.
2	Sergt. S. Case, Halifax Garrison Artillery	
3	Lieut. H. C. Chamberlin, 43rd Rifles	1882-83.
4	Staff-Sergt. W. Achall, Q. O. R.	1883-85.
5	Lieut. C. K. Fiske, 63rd Rifles	
6	Lieut. J. Dover, 78th Highlanders	
7	Pte. W. S. Duncan, Q. O. R.	
10	Lieut. H. H. Gray, G. G. F. G.	1879.
11	Staff-Sergt. A. Wilson, 33rd Infantry	1881-82-86.

12	Sergt.-W. A. Adams, 62nd Fusiliers	
14	Sergt. W. Short, G. G. F. G.	1885.
15	Sergt. J. W. Marks, 6th Fusiliers	1882.
17	Gunner Campbell, Halifax Garrison Artillery	
18	Pte. R. McAfee, 1st P. W.R.	
19	Capt. G. A. McMicking, 44th Infantry	
20	Sergt. H. Miner, 71st Infantry	1885.
22	Pte. J. H. Morris, 45th Infantry	
23	Gunner A. Wilson, Halifax Garrison Artillery	1884.
24	Lieut. F. S. Vaughan, 5th Royal Scots	1877.
27	Capt. E. G. Zealand, 13th Infantry	

The meeting opened on Monday the 9th, and for the two weeks of its continuance the weather is described, by papers to hand by the last mail, as emphatically detestable for spectators and competitors, except for shooting purposes, for which latter it was on the whole exceptionally good, and scores ruled high above the average.

OPENING OF THE QUEEN'S.

In the first stage of Queen's, 7 shots at 200, 500 and 600 yards, the leading score was a good steady 96—30, 33, 33; nine 95's followed, including one with a "possible" at 500 and only 28 at the last range; then there were nine 94's, one with a possible at 500 and 26 only at the succeeding range; eight 93's followed, and in these again there was a possible at 500, with a 29 on each side; next on the list were thirteen 92's and seventeen scores of 91, notable amongst the latter being one in which an unlucky 26 at 500 was sandwiched in between 33 and 32. There were thirty scores of 90 and forty-one of 89, in the latter being included the only "possible" at 600 yards made by the 300 who passed into the second stage. Next come forty-nine 88's and sixty-two 87's. In the unverified list published by the *Volunteer Service Gazette*, Sergt. Miner of the 71st Bn., the only one of the Canadians to get into the second stage of the Queens' appears amongst these 87's, being 232nd on the whole list, the range totals with which he is credited, being 29, 32 and 26; the cable despatches gave his score as 91, but this was wrong. There were seventy-seven scores of 86, but of these only sixty-one were included in the 300, the last one being 28, 32, 26. Sergt. Short of the G.G.F.G., the second Canadian, was amongst those thus counted out, he being 309th with 31, 31, 24. In the fourth hundred, who in dropping out of the match at the first stage get £2 prizes to console them, there were sixteen 86's; seventy-nine 85's and five 84's, seventy-seven others of the last value being counted out. In the 400 the following was

THE CANADIAN HONOUR LIST.

232nd, Sergt. Miner, 71st	Second Stage	29	32	26	87
308th, Sergt. Short, G.G.F.G.	£2	31	31	24	86
369th, Lieut. Chamberlin, 43rd	2	31	28	26	85
385th, Capt. McMicking, 44th	2	29	30	26	85

Last year the highest score in the first stage of the Queen's was 95; thirty-nine 83's then came into the 300; and seventy-four 82's into the 400.

The Martin's Challenge Cup competition, seven shots at 600 yards, was won with a possible. There were 111 prizes, and sixty-eight scores of 30 points were counted out, eleven only of that value coming in. The Canadians stood as follows:

14th, Lieut. Chamberlin, 43rd	£4	33
48th, Sergt. Wilson, 33rd	2	32
61st, Lieut. Smith, St. John Rifles	2	31

Last year this cup was taken with 34, and one 29 came in.

The Alexandra match—seven shots at 500 and 600 yards—also showed higher scoring, because while last year's top score was 68 against only 64 this, there were in 1887 forty-six 52's amongst the 325 prize-winning scores, whereas in 1888 seventy-seven 53's are counted out, and only six in. Canada did exceptionally well in this match:

14th, Gunner Campbell, H. G. A.	£5	27	34	61
15th, Lieut. Dover, 78th	5	29	32	61
42nd, Sergt. Wilson, 33rd	4	32	28	60
120th, Capt. McMicking, 44th	3	33	24	57
161st, Lieut. Smith, St. John Rifles	2	30	26	56
217th, S. Sergt. Ashall, Q. O. R.	2	29	26	55
273rd, Sergt. Short, G. G. F. G.	2	27	27	54

The standing match at 200 yards—The Alfred—was won with a score of 33 points, the only one of that value, and for which the competitor received £20. There were five 32's and twenty-one 31's, the remainder of the 124 prizes going to sixty 30's and thirty-seven 29's, sixty-four of the last-named being counted out. Canada secured only one prize:

77th, Lieut. Chamberlin, 43rd	£2	30
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This match was taken with 31 last year, and a long string of 28's came in then.

These were all the matches completed up to the date of the last English papers to hand. Publication of the details will be continued next week, by which time pretty complete information will be available.

The Militia Pastime.

The challenge recently issued by the Toronto Rifle Association through the MILITIA GAZETTE, has been accepted by Quebec, and a telegraphic match between these cities will take place shortly.

"I think," writes Grenade, from St. John, N.B., "city corps should practise with the Morris tube before going to the range, as the men would gain steadiness, and officers could spend an hour or so in the evenings imparting the necessary instruction, which can be done more easily than on the range. Experience has shown that men who have been through a course with the tubes shoot much better on their first visit to the ranges. As the imperial authorities grant tubes and ammunition to regular regiments, why cannot the Militia Department here purchase a few and thus improve and further an interest in shooting."

The Port Elgin and Owen Sound Rifle Association had a very interesting match last week, on the Port Elgin range; seven men each side, 200, 400 and 500 yards, seven shots, Snider rifles. Port Elgin won with the narrow majority of 10 points, scoring 561 against 551 for Owen Sound, the range totals being:—

Port Elgin.....	183	200	178	561
Owen Sound.....	192	207	152	551

The highest scorer on the two teams was Lieut. W. Mitchell, who contributed 88 for Port Elgin; then came D. J. Izzard with 86 for the same team, and A. Campbell with a like total for the Sound.

A friendly rifle competition, nine men a side, took place on the Rideau range on Saturday afternoon last between No. 6 Co. of the 43rd Rifles and the Princess Louise Dragoon Guards. Capt. Bell of the Rifles, and Capt. Gourdeau of the Dragoons, shot on the teams which they respectively commanded. The match was fired with Snider rifles, at 200, 400 and 500 yards, seven shots at each. It resulted in favour of the Rifles by 38 points, the range totals being as follows:—

43rd Rifles.....	182	181	147	510
P. L. D. G.....	197	162	113	472

The weekly aggregate practice of the 8th Royal Rifles Association, Saturday afternoon, 21st July, at the St. Joseph range, was well attended, upwards of twenty-five members being present. Taking into consideration a strong right wind and changeable light, the scoring was high, as the accompanying scores will show. Ranges, 200, 500 and 600 yards, 7 rounds at each; Snider rifles and Quebec ammunition, issue of 1888:

Sergt. Goudie.....	29	29	27	85	Pte. Thomson.....	27	25	22	74
Col.-Sergt. Ross.....	28	30	25	83	Pte. Clark.....	25	27	21	73
Sergt. Fairbairn, 42nd Bn.	26	29	26	81	Pte. Morrett.....	26	22	23	71
Sergt. Dewfall.....	23	32	22	77	Sergt. Pugh, B Batt.....	28	24	19	71
Corp. Champion.....	30	26	19	75	Lieut.-Col. Miller.....	27	21	22	70
Sergt. Hartley.....	28	20	26	74	Pte. Brown.....	28	23	19	70

The Toronto Rifle Association's series of victories in telegraphic matches was interrupted last Saturday, when Bowmanville in the return match reversed the results of the previous week, defeating the Queen City by 7 points, the totals standing 657 to 650. On the 14th they had been 654 to 607 in favour of Toronto. The composition of the teams was the same on each occasion except that on Saturday last W. Macdonald shot for Toronto in place of A. D. Crooks. The weather on this occasion appears to have been satisfactory to both teams, as no complaints on that score have been heard. The following were the complete scores (Martini rifles, Queen's ranges, 7 shots):—

BOWMANVILLE.				TORONTO.					
J. Sando.....	29	31	29	89	Thos. Mitchell.....	31	30	30	91
J. B. Mitchel.....	29	30	27	86	Geo. Thompson.....	31	30	28	89
W. C. King.....	28	32	26	86	Wm. Harp.....	31	32	25	88
W. S. Russell.....	32	31	22	85	W. Macdonald.....	28	24	29	81
D. Beach.....	30	26	28	84	A. G. Ronan.....	22	27	30	79
Dr. McLaughlin.....	26	28	24	78	A. D. Cartwright.....	26	26	26	78
J. Curtis.....	28	29	18	75	R. McVittie.....	26	26	26	78
W. S. Young.....	28	25	21	74	G. M. Donnelly.....	26	21	19	66
Totals.....	230	232	195	657	Totals.....	221	216	213	650

The deciding match between these two associations will be fired on Saturday, 28th inst.

Variable wind and light made high scoring rather difficult at the weekly meet of the Ottawa Rifle Club on Saturday last. But the spoons were won with excellent totals—86 and 85 points respectively out of 100 possible—made by two veterans, Mr. N. Morrison and Major H. F. Perley, who, it will be noticed, led the field not only in the aggregate but at each range as well. Mr. J. R. Wynne, of Montreal, making a brief stay in Ottawa on business, joined in the practice of the local club, as he had with that of Quebec a week before, and was a good third with

82 points to his credit. The following were the scores of 50 and upwards made by the 21 competitors. Ranges, 500 and 600 yards; 10 shots each; Martini rifles:—

N. Morrison (dessert spoon).	43	43	86	W. A. Jamieson.....	34	35	69
Maj. H. F. Perley (tea spoon)	43	42	85	J. D. Taylor.....	38	31	69
J. R. Wynne.....	42	40	82	J. P. Nutting.....	40	29	69
A. Pink.....	37	40	77	Lt.-Col. J. P. Macpherson..	40	24	64
T. Carroll.....	41	33	74	T. C. Boville.....	27	29	56
J. H. Ellis.....	40	33	73	J. D. Holbrook.....	32	21	53
F. W. Smith.....	36	35	71	M. Rolfe.....	28	24	52
R. H. Brown.....	37	34	71	W. E. Cooke.....	25	25	50
T. McJanet.....	37	33	70				

Better Late than Never.

"A Member of the Q.O.C.H." having recently undertaken in a letter to the Montreal Star, to inform the riflemen and the public interested as to the causes of defects in Canadian ammunition of the past, he is taken sharply to task by another correspondent, signing himself "Fusilier," and whose letter gives evidence that this writer has some practical knowledge of the subject. "Fusilier" says: "In stating that the only fault to be found with the ammunition issued out about a year ago, is that it was too old, and consequently the powder had 'lost considerable of its strength,' he asserts what is not correct. No fault has been found with the powder served out a year ago, which came from Woolwich, nor had it lost so much of its strength as to condemn it. Else why do the riflemen of Canada pin their faith on mark IX even if it be 14 years old, and why is it that there is no objection made to the use of Martini-Henry ammunition of 1874, which is served out by the militia department on purchase? The fault was in the bullets. The Quebec ammunition was, we all know, as bad as it could possibly be, and from the time in 1885 when the commission proved and pointed out where the faults lay till now, it has taken the Superintendent of the Quebec factory and his staff three years to correct their errors, and turn out a good cartridge. It looks as if some pressure had been brought to bear on that celebrated "hedge," described so truly by Major Bond, which has burst a hole in it large enough to let a good bullet pass through. The 1888 ammunition is good, the weights of the charges, of the best of English rifle powder, are more regular than heretofore, and the variation in weight reduced from four to one grain. A badly shaped bullet had evidently been taken as a pattern, and this error has now been corrected, the operation having taken three years. There never was any reason why Quebec cartridges should not be equal to and better than the English make, and all these mistakes could have been corrected in six months, but for the reasons set forth by Major Bond, all Q.O.C.H.'s allegations to the contrary notwithstanding."

Regimental Notes.

Dominion Artillery Competitions.

On the 5th July the Newcastle Field Battery had their annual target practice, the firing taking place at Chatham, N.B. The scores for the D. A. A. battery competition were: Preliminary, 167; final, 144; total, 311. In the officers' competition Capt. Lawlor scored 16; Lieut. Davidson, 10; Lieut. Domville, 6; and Lieut.-Col. Call, 4. The average time of the driving competition was 3m. 0 1/5s.

The Woodstock, N.B., battery fired at that place on the 13th July, scoring in the preliminary 152; final, 155; total, 307. In the officers' match Capt. Emory placed 10 points to his credit, and Major Dibblee 9. The average time occupied in the driving competition was 3m. 2 1/4s.

St. John, N. B.

Drills are progressing here as usual and all corps in the city are showing the benefits of their training. The Artillery have commenced their gun drill and blank firing; the Fusiliers have one battalion drill a week, and the different companies show good attendance rolls. Target practice will be commenced on the 30th inst., and officers commanding companies have been instructed to use extra diligence and care this year in carrying out this important branch of the drill.

The 62nd had a full dress parade on Friday evening, when the attendance was good despite a wet night, and the movements steady. The corps was practised in sending out an advanced guard, and will probably put the information imparted into practical shape some evening during a route march.

The Major-General commanding passed through St. John a day or two ago, having come from Fredericton by boat, and expressed himself delighted with the scenery on the St. John river.

Major Irwin, of the 26th, paid a short visit to the city and made some friends among his bluenose militia brethren.

I saw a catalogue of medals lately, for sale by an English firm, in which the North-West (Canada), medal was quoted at £1 10s., and Egyptian medals at from 11s. to 15s.; do the Canadians who won the medal prize more what they have got than do the British soldiers entitled to wear the Egyptian decoration?

GRENADA.

C BATTERY AFIELD.

INCIDENTS OF THEIR DEPARTURE FOR THE SKEENA RIVER DISTRICT.

Novel Substitute for their Regulation Equipment.—The Plan of Campaign.—Past History of the Skeena Indians.

(From a Special Correspondent.)

On Monday, the 16th July, at 10.30 a.m., "C" Battery, R.C.A., marched out of their barracks and embarked on H.M.S. "Caroline" for the mouth of the Skeena river. The force consisted of Lieut.-Col. Holmes, Major Peters (with camera), Captain Benson, Lieutenants Ogilvie and Gaudet, Surgeon Duncan, and Lieut.-Col. Prior, of the B.C.B.G.A. (who volunteered as supply officer), Master Gunner Cornish, Sergeant-Major Mulchay, two sergeants, and 84 men.

It appears that a force of provincial police constables and a number of white settlers are hemmed in at Hazelton by hostile Indians, who threaten to murder the whites and burn the Hudson Bay post at that place. The civil authorities therefore requisitioned the militia in aid of the civil authority to put down this disturbance, and "C" Battery were selected by the D. A. G. for the service.

The route to Hazelton from the coast has not yet been adopted. The ship will convey them to the mouth of the Skeena, and if that river is found impracticable by reason of high water, then on to the Naas river. Both rivers are extremely rapid and dangerous. Many portages must be made, and in places the canoes can only be got up the river by tracking. If the Naas river is adopted, it will be necessary to canoe 80 miles, and then take the trail 130 miles to Hazelton. If the Skeena is found practicable, then the whole route from the mouth of the Skeena to Hazelton—160 miles—can be done by canoe. The country is very rough, mountainous, and but little known, these figures are therefore merely approximate, but will give an idea of the distance.

The men, as they passed through the streets of Victoria, amidst much cheering, looked very workmanlike. They had discarded their white belts, valise-equipments, cleaning rods and sword bayonets. Each man, in addition to his rifle and a short hunting knife, carried 40 rounds in a canvas cartridge belt about his waist, a haversack, and his field kit, which consisted of the "hold-all" complete, *i.e.*, knife, fork, spoon, comb, etc., one shirt, one pair socks, one pair boots, cape, greatcoat, one blanket, and 60 rounds of cartridge, the whole wrapped up neatly in a waterproof sheet, tied together by a piece of white cotton cord, while the ordinary barrack room bed-strap was made to do duty for shoulder straps.

Amongst the crowd at Esquimalt to say "au revoir" were Lieut.-Col. Wolfenden, Captains Nicholles, Snowdon, Irving, Jones, Lieutenant Mowat, and many of the n.c.o. and men of the B. C. Brigade.

(Victoria, B.C., Times, 16th July.)

On Sunday morning, "C" Battery were busily engaged packing kits and cleaning arms preparatory to a parade in marching order, which took place at 10.40 o'clock. The idea of a campaign amidst the wilds of British Columbia did not appear to strike terror to the hearts of the members of "C" Battery. Everything indicated bustle and excitement, and between the jokes indulged in the men would strike up some popular song which would almost shake the shingles off the roof of their quarters. One soldier informed his comrades that he had fought the Apaches and always found that a brave had no use for and would never shoot a white man whose hair was cut short. The hair on the speaker's head had been cut very close on the previous night. Another announced he had purchased a pistol which cost \$17.50. The tailor of the battery made a verbal will, leaving his goose and shears to Bandmaster Agius, and the reporter was informed that the men would be very much disappointed if they returned without firing a shot. At 10.30 the bugle sounded "fall in." The men then proceeded to the grounds outside the hall, and were placed in three squads for inspection. The inspecting officers were Colonel Holmes, D.A.G., Major Peters, Colonel Prior, B.C.G.A., Capt. Jones, and Lieut. Ogilvie. After a critical examination the force was dismissed.

During the whole of this morning all was bustle and confusion at the barracks preparing for the journey. At 10.15 the bugle again sounded for the parade, and a photograph was taken by Mr. Edgar Fleming. The men were then inspected by his Honour Lieut.-Governor Nelson, accompanied by Colonel Holmes. The packs were taken off and placed in waggon for conveyance on board the Caroline. At 10.45 the battery marched out of the gates, the band playing "The Girl I left

behind me." As the fine body of men marched through Government street the ladies waved adieus with their handkerchiefs, the band playing a lively martial air. Government street was crowded with people, the unusual scene attracting nearly the whole of the residents of the city. During the morning Colonel Prior was busily engaged forwarding supplies to the war-ship. Provisions for a campaign of two months' duration were sent on board. At the Adelphia corner the special constables joined the battery and proceeded with them to Esquimalt. Superintendent Roycraft will go to Essington on the steamer Barbara Boscowitz this evening.

Shortly before noon the battery arrived at Foster's Pier, when the boats belonging to H. M. S. Caroline conveyed the men on board. A large number of ladies and gentlemen were present to bid the soldier boys good-bye. Amongst the assemblage were Hon. John Robson, Hon. F. G. Vernon, Col. Wolfenden, Mrs. Prior, Mrs. Holmes, Rev. J. E. and Mrs. Starr, Lieut. P. Æ. Irving, Capt. Jones, and others. When the last boat left the wharf three cheers were given, and were responded to by the officers and men. Amongst the last to leave the wharf were Hon. J. H. Turner, Colonel Holmes, Major Peters, and Lieut. Ogilvie. The war-ship will be absent about two weeks. On the voyage up, the Caroline will anchor during the night, and will reach Essington on Friday. The number of officers and men in the battery is eighty-five, and with the specials will bring the force up to about 100 men. The battery will be taken to Kitalass Canyon, and will await a report from Supt. Roycraft and his specials. The Superintendent will take his men up the river in canoes, and if resistance is offered will drop down the stream to the encampment. The military will advance on both sides of the stream, protecting the provisions, which will be taken in canoes. At one o'clock the Caroline sailed out of Esquimalt with the band playing and cheering from the ship and the shore.

THE SKEENA INDIANS.

The Skeena outbreak may be still regarded as incipient, but the best authorities on the district and its inhabitants agree that it presents serious aspects. The Indians of that region, unlike the red men of the plains, are a savage, turbulent race of men, and have been brought into but slight contact with the mollifying influences of civilization. Among them tribal distinctions are rigidly preserved and tribal rights upheld; while the mountainous nature of the region and the fact that their chief sustenance is derived from the rivers combined have limited them to a comparatively narrow strip of country, and thus their warlike tendencies have been maintained at the utmost tension, to prevent encroachments on their respective pretensions. The Indians in the Skeena district chiefly belong to one tribe, although scattered in villages along the banks of the river, and it is between these villages that the sub-tribal distinctions are maintained. To the stranger, however, they are alike unfriendly and repulsive. Until recent years they were engaged in a series of bloody conflicts with the Haidahs, a tribe inhabiting the Queen Charlotte islands off the north-west coast of British Columbia. The Haidahs were a sort of modern Vikings and used to make periodical incursions into the Skeena valley plundering and destroying whatever they could.

During the last twenty or thirty years zealous efforts have been made to Christianize the Skeena Indians, but with a marked want of success. Some travellers to that country have described them as the most determined heathens on earth. Their moral instincts are of the lowest; their pilfering habits irrepressible and cold-blooded murders in their villages appear to be no unusual occurrence. Consequently, residence for civilized man in that district has always been recognized as perilous, and accounts for the fact that between Port Essington and Hazelton (the scene of the present trouble), a distance of 150 miles, there is not a single settler; while at the former there are less than half a dozen, and at the latter the white settlement is practically limited to the inmates of the Hudson's Bay Company's fort. In 1880 there were about 2,000 Indians scattered along the banks of the river, not including several large villages above Hazelton. For years they have been more or less disaffected, and if the outbreak becomes general an extended campaign will be necessary to suppress it. Geographically the savages have a great advantage, the mountainous character of the country, the practical impossibility of navigating the Skeena more than 70 miles above its mouth—broken as it is with torrents and falls—together with the natural obstacles to portaging or tramping offered by the high banks and alternate stretches of dense bush and rocky ground, rendering their position well nigh inaccessible to a large force of men.

On the other hand the military authorities will have an advantage in an early determinable and accessible base for their operations. The conflict is bound to be confined to the neighbourhood of the rivers, the lack of game in that country rendering any lengthened retreat inland on the part of the Indians out of the question; so that Port Essington, at the mouth of the Skeena, will in all likelihood be the base of military operations. Port Essington is about 450 miles north from Victoria.

Modern Tactics.

[By Capt. H. R. Gall—From Illustrated Naval and Military Magazine.]

(Concluded—Continued from Page 438.)

LIKE all other attacks, that on a wood should, if possible, commence by a heavy cannonade directed against the defenders' guns, with a view to silencing them if they show, and then particularly concentrated on two or more salients which it has been determined to carry by assault. Guns should also be distributed to keep the defenders generally employed all along their front, and especially on the flanks if they can be reached. The best formation to carry a wood is in successive waves of skirmishers pressed on one after the other, until a footing has been gained somewhere. The reserves should then be poured in as fast as they can be got up, and the defenders pressed back vigorously until the farther edge is reached, or a second line of defence has to be carried. This is seldom a serious undertaking if the defenders of the first line are vigorously followed up, as their presence prevents the second line from acting unless the means of retreat are ample, and the discipline very superior. The moment the infantry gain a footing the guns should gallop up, going round the flanks if they are permitted to by the defenders holding other parts of the position; if they cannot get round, some light guns should follow the infantry through the wood, with a view to bring up to aid them by their fire to hold the far edge against counter attack.

As the assailants attacking a wood have generally to cross the open, and usually suffer heavily from the fire of an invisible enemy of unknown strength, a repulse is very discouraging, and the most strenuous efforts must be made to press forward at all hazards. To call upon repulsed battalions to make repeated efforts shows either bad direction in the first assault, or recklessness which is not to be classed with valour.

CHAPTER XV.—VILLAGES.

On a field of battle, one or more villages usually form prominent tactical points for the possession or retention of which the most strenuous efforts are made. A village is often situated at the junction of two or more important roads, and is then of the first importance. Villages, hamlets, farms, or large mansions, with their surrounding out-houses, all come under the same classification, though their tactical importance will depend on their situation, and to what extent troops holding them can be supported.

In connection with a position there are five kinds of villages, or groups of buildings, one or other, if not two or more, of which are likely to be met with:—

1. A village on a flank.
2. A village in or about the centre of a position.
3. A village in front, within artillery range of other portions of the position.
4. A village in front beyond artillery range, but still too near to be disregarded.
5. A village behind a position, or on a line of retreat within range of it.

Without seeing a position it is impossible to say which is the most important; but a village, unless it can be held in connection with the rest of a position, ought rarely to be occupied, as it is pretty certain not to be attacked unless its possession is essential to the assailants. No unnecessary sieges, is a maxim of strategy. No unnecessary assaults, is equally applicable to tactics.

The defence of villages comes under the head of field fortifications rather than tactics; but it is difficult, if not impossible, to draw a line between field fortifications and tactics in these days of hasty redoubts and intrenchments in connection with modern battle-fields.

The following are the salient principles connected with the defence of villages, which may conveniently be divided under two heads, viz.:—

1. Villages held in connection with a position or a line of investment.
2. Isolated villages.

Isolated villages are extemporized forts, and with time and labour available can be made capable of necessitating almost an investment. They are generally utilized for depots on a long line of communications, and should as a rule be selected in preference to small towns, the civil population of the latter being an additional source of anxiety and trouble. Again, isolated villages are often held at the exit or entrance to mountain passes, or where they command the approach to a bridge or ford over a river.

The only difference between the defence of an isolated village and one held in connection with a position is that the former is generally prepared for defence all round.

If a village is to be held to the last, or until reinforced, a reduit or

keep must be prepared for the garrison to make their last stand in. If, on the other hand, it is only to be held for a certain time, and then abandoned, it is useless to prepare a keep.

Villages held in connection with a position are usually so important that their recapture will often have to be undertaken, in which case a reduit must be kept quite separate from the rest of the defenders. The object of a reduit in this case is to keep a foot still in a place after it has been carried. A few bold men inside can assist greatly in the recapture of a village while their presence in the enemy's ranks, so to speak, must have a more or less paralyzing effect.

Four Principal Considerations which influence the Defence of a Village.

I. To what extent it commands, or is commanded by, the surrounding country.

II. The nature of the obstacles in its immediate vicinity, and to what extent they can be utilized in the exterior line of defence.

III. Nature and construction of houses, width of streets, and situation of strong buildings capable of being grouped together or formed into a keep.

IV. Time and means available for putting it into a satisfactory state of defence, and number and description of troops for defending it with.

Steps in Defending a Village.

I. Establish exterior line of works.

(a.) To prevent surprise.

(b.) To occupy during the artillery bombardment. This zone of defence should not, as a rule, be more than 120 yards from outside houses of villages, or less than 40 yards. If more than 120 yards it would require too large a garrison to defend it; if, on the other hand, less than 40, it would not fulfil either of its objects, for the village might be surprised and rushed in the dark, and the shells directed against it would burst back and injure the defenders occupying outer zone.

II. Establish interior zone of defence by connecting outside houses, garden walls, etc., and loop-holing them.

III. If the village is defended all round, or intended to be defended to the last, establish a reduit or keep in some strong building, situated in a commanding position, the junction of several roads, for instance.

IV. Clear the front of exterior zone of all cover for enemy, and also the space between the exterior and interior zones or defence.

V. Divide the village into sections for defence if large, and mark out clearly the lines of retreat.

VI. Post garrison. (The strength cannot be laid down, as no two villages are alike; but two men per pace of exterior zone, including firing-line, supports, and reserves, is a good average proportion.) In placing the garrison, the men of the firing line should take up their places along exterior line, each company keeping one section as a support, behind some sort of cover in a suitable situation. The reserves should be kept out of harm's way, and clear of the houses. If there are enough troops it is advisable to keep the defenders of the two zones separate, and those in the outer zone should be instructed to fall back round the flanks of the inner zone, or through openings specially provided for them, and to form up in rear as reserves.

VII. The best place for guns, provided they command the approaches, is on the flanks, outside the village, in which case they must be provided with epaulments and cover for the waggons and teams. When not on the flanks guns may be posted on any commanding ground in the vicinity from whence their fire can be brought to bear upon the approaches.

Guns (machine guns excepted) should rarely be placed in interior zone of defence, and when they are should not open fire until the assailants have carried the exterior line, as they attract the concentrated fire of the assailants. For the same reason guns should not be placed along the exterior zone, and also because they are liable to be captured and turned on the village, and their epaulments give useful shelter to the enemy to rally behind.

The Attack on a Village

is generally attended with severe fighting; it should invariably commence with the concentrated fire of guns directed on the most vulnerable points.

The defenders' guns should be silenced if they show. The assaulting battalions should be simultaneously directed on two or more points, with supports and reserves close at hand; cavalry acting on the flanks. At the moment of closing on the village all three arms should be well up to co-operate. Before entering upon the assault the different brigades or battalions should be given general instructions where to rally, and, the village being carried, preparations should at once be set about for putting it into a state of defence against counter attacks. In all cases the reserves should be kept well in hand, and only introduced as required, a portion being kept back to meet unforeseen emergencies.

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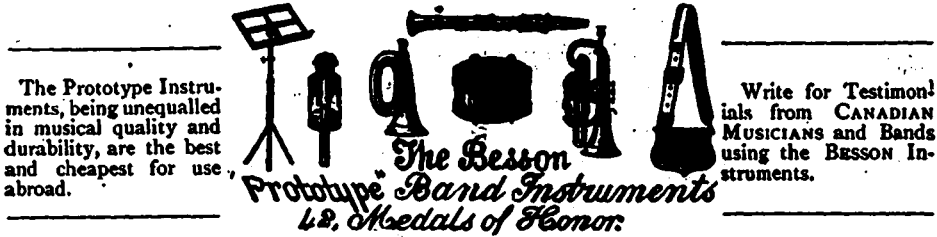
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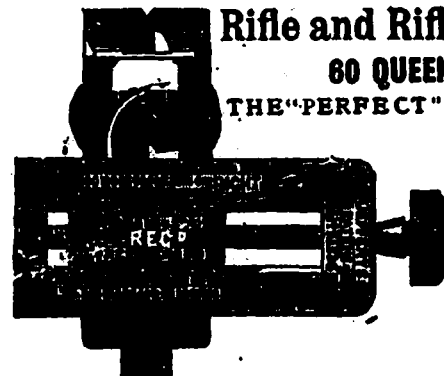
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