

The Canadian Militia Gazette

THE POPULAR ORGAN OF THE ACTIVE FORCE OF THE DOMINION.

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NOTE AND COMMENT.

The article on the proficiency of officers in the use of their weapons, which we reproduce from the *Broad Arrow*, might have been written with special reference to our militia, so exactly does it apply. The subject is one of great importance as well as interest, and we invite suggestions from those of our readers who may have given attention to it.

Sir Adolphe Caron has introduced in the House of Commons a bill providing that whenever a requisition is made for the calling out of the militia in aid of the civil power a sufficient sum shall be deposited to cover the cost of eight days' pay and maintenance of the force required. It is not intended to put the bill through this session, but its introduction will afford opportunity for full consideration before the House meets again. The step has been found advisable because of the difficulty sometimes experienced in getting a settlement from the municipality, which is already held responsible for all expense; and perhaps also with a view to prevent the unnecessary calling out of the militia. It is to be hoped that when the bill is next introduced there may be the further provision that men called out for such duty shall receive a fair day's pay, so that they shall not as at present be out of pocket as well as inconvenienced by their prompt response to the call of duty.

Some over-zealous politician wrote to the chief organ of his party in Toronto during the recent provincial matches, letter charging political bias against the officers of the association, whom he singled out by name for the seemingly aimless and unprovoked attack. Under the circumstances the letter created more amusement than indignation. The officers, however, have found a defender in Major Sam. Hughes, who sent to the same paper a reply which the *Milton Champion* notices as follows:

"Major Sam. Hughes, of the 45th Bn., Lindsay, one of the most prominent Conservatives in his part of Ontario, in a letter published in Saturday's *Empire* administered a well deserved rebuke to an anonymous correspondent of the Conservative organ. The correspondent had made a pretended interest in the welfare of the Ontario Rifle Association an excuse for a political attack on its leading officers, Mr. Mulock, M.P., president, Lt.-Col. Gibson, and Lt.-Col. Jones, vice-presidents, and Capt. Mutton, secretary, including also Lt.-Col. Otter, D.A.G., and Capt. Manley, all of whom were denounced as Grits and accused of using Grit influence. Major Hughes, who is himself a well known rifleman, and knows whereof he writes, says that notwithstanding their Critism, the attacked officers are all efficient and earnest workers for the welfare of the Ontario Rifle Association, that none of them have ever shown any political bias in connection with it, and that he has not seen any attempt to introduce politics in any of the meet-

ings or elections of our military associations. Were such attempted it would be most effectually opposed.' Riflemen and volunteers generally who have had experience in connection with our military associations know that Major Hughes is right, that Canadian volunteers, like Major Hughes, drop their politics when they don their uniforms, and that when attempts are made to interfere politically in militia matters they are made by petty, non-volunteer meddlers who have axes to grind or personal spite to gratify. The interference of these gentry is generally resented by the volunteers, and the meddling pays neither the meddler nor his party. Major Hughes's brother volunteers will appreciate the manly stand he has taken: but those who know him personally and understand his straightforward and upright character will not be surprised at it."

ADJUTANTS OF VOLUNTEERS.

The adjutants of the volunteer Battalions in England are selected from the regular army, and appointed for five years for service with the volunteers. This system has lately been discussed by the British Service papers and some opinions expressed lead us to conclude that we are not so badly off as some think in being obliged to appoint our militia adjutants from among our own militia officers. In England it is found in some instances that the regular adjutants are too active, while in other cases they do not take sufficient interest in their duties. The effect of the former type of adjutant is to prevent the volunteer officers from taking an active interest in the battalion work, and of the latter type to greatly deteriorate the efficiency of the battalion. In view of the opinion that has been sometimes advanced in Canada that paid adjutants would improve the efficiency of our corps, the experience through which our English cousins are now passing is certainly worth our careful study.

BRIGADE OR BATTALION CAMPS.

The *Broad Arrow* lately formulated a programme of work to be undertaken by English volunteers in brigade camps, which might profitably be discussed by our military authorities. The scheme embraces a drill of six days' duration for troops who have had some preliminary experience or training, and is graduated from squad drill on the first day, through company and simple battalion movements, up to brigade drill, winding up with a brigade field day. The most notable point in the programme is the prominence given to instruction in attack movements.

We believe that a somewhat similar programme adopted at our own camps would be very attractive, if preliminary

training before brigading, as in the English programme, could be secured. Unfortunately the battalions which we muster in camps of instruction are invariably rural corps, and contain so large a proportion of recruits that the whole nine days available for instruction are spent in the rudiments of drill. Under these circumstances it becomes a question whether the large expense entailed in brigading the troops is justified by the results obtained. In many corps of instruction the whole time is spent in squad, company and elementary battalion drill, and in target practice, and the force in camp is sometimes never assembled as a brigade.

Is it not possible that better results might be obtained by organizing battalion camps instead of brigade camps, always provided that the battalion could be under competent staff drill and inspection during the period of camp?

BRITISH OFFICERS AND THEIR WEAPONS.

(Communicated to the Broad Arrow.)

The question as to the proficiency of British officers in the use of the weapons which form their equipment is seldom raised. Yet the whole subject is of great importance, not only to individuals, but to the army at large. That an officer should be able to act both on the defensive and offensive when necessary is indeed of vital interest. How many a brave fellow might still be unmourned had only the importance of a proper training with the sword and revolver been recognized sooner! The matter seems to be little considered, chiefly for two reasons: firstly, because it appears mainly a subject for individual effort; secondly, because the conditions of fighting have so completely changed with the introduction of long-range weapons, that hand-to-hand encounters seem generally to be looked upon as belonging to a past epoch in military history. The whole matter can best be summarised by a question: Is the British officer—more especially of the infantry—capable, with the training he receives, of successfully defending himself, or of acting on the offensive, with the arms authorized to be carried by him? It is hardly necessary to remark that no allusion is here being made to personal courage, either moral or physical, but merely as to the efficiency and science with which the sword and revolver can be handled. Neither need any comparison be made as to whether the British officer is a better swordsman than he in the armies of continental powers. That is not the point; it is a weak thing to seek comfort in the reflection that although we are not proficient in such and such an art, yet those who may be opposed to us are no better.

Let us glance briefly at the present system of instruction as imparted to officers. Firstly as regards the sword. On joining the cavalry, the regulations require that the young officer be put through a course of fencing. So far, so good. But with respect to infantry, instruction to officers is only to be imparted when there happens to be a military gymnasium at the station. The regulation relative to fencing further adds, "All other officers should be encouraged to practise this exercise during their leisure hours as much as possible." This appears to be an ingenious way the authorities have of ridding themselves of any responsibility in the matter. Then there is, besides this initiation into the art of fencing, the laughable farce called sword exercise, gone through at irregular intervals. Who will dare to say that the performance given by regimental officers before the general at his annual inspection is of any practical value at all? It must be admitted, therefore, that the training an officer undergoes does not tend to make him an expert swordsman.

What then can be said of the revolver? This firearm is generally understood, in a covert kind of way, to be an authorized weapon of the British officer. Few officers on home service possess one, and still fewer have opportunities for revolver practice; and yet, were these officers ordered on active service, nearly the first article they would provide themselves with would be a revolver. What an exceedingly comical army it would be in which the rank and file were only supplied with rifles just before their departure for service in the field! In England no attempt is made to train officers to shoot with the revolver: it may almost be said that the existence of such a weapon seems to be ignored. In India matters are slightly better, for every officer has annually to expend twenty-four rounds of pistol ammunition. Fancy! an allowance of twenty-four rounds in a year to efficiently exercise officers in the use of the most difficult firearm ever invented! It is a fact to be regretted, but one which happily can be remedied, that the knowledge which the majority of officers have of the use of their revolvers is rather less than their knowledge of swordsmanship. This state of things, it must be borne in mind, is not the fault of officers themselves. In seeking a remedy for the evil, the chief point to be kept in view is to provide opportunities for all officers to improve their skill with arms.

The first act of the authorities ought to be the construction of at least two revolver ranges in every barrack in the United Kingdom. These would be but small matters in themselves, and occupy but little room, but when once they are in existence, one great difficulty under which officers desirous of improving their shooting now labour will be removed. Besides this, every regiment of cavalry, battalion of infantry, and battery of artillery should be enabled to start its own school of arms. A special fencing instructor, whose duty it should be to divide his attention between the different corps in a garrison, should be appointed to every station where troops are quartered. Special classes, with certificates obtainable at their close, might also be held at large military centres, solely for the training of officers in fencing and revolver shooting. Once a year one great inter-regimental contest could be instituted and held simultaneously at different stations throughout the country, every regiment being obliged to be represented by a team of at least six officers. In the confidential reports at a general's annual inspection, special mention should be made of the pistol shooting and swordsmanship carried on during the preceding twelve months. Again, a return of all matches shot might be submitted quarterly, together with the results, to the headquarters of the respective districts. Finally, it would ensure the due practice of arms, so essential for the safety of officers, if fencing and revolver shooting were included in the examination for promotion. This, roughly, is a scheme whereby an important matter might receive the attention due to it. Were it adopted, the British army—officered as it is at present by the bravest gentlemen any force can show—would undoubtedly contain some of the most deadly shots and finest swordsmen in Europe.

OTTAWA SOLDIERS ON DUTY.

Another has been added to the long list of services rendered by the Canadian Militia in aid of the Civil power. Last week a strike occurred at the lumber mills adjoining the Chaudiere Falls in Ottawa and Hull. About 1,500 men quit work to demand shorter hours and higher pay, the great majority going rather unwillingly at the command of the leaders. An attempt was made to force out also the employees in the Eddy factories at Hull, and entrance to these places was forcibly gained, Mr. Eddy and his chief assistants being rather roughly handled. At Wright's quarries also the men were compelled to quit, and Mr. C. B.

Wright having attempted remonstrance with the interfering crowd they answered with a volley of stones, one of which cut him severely on the head. Mr. Eddy is Mayor of Hull, and the police force there being small and powerless against such a mob he got two other magistrates to sign with him a requisition asking the assistance of the militia. This requisition was directed to Lt.-Col. W. P. Anderson, 43rd Battalion, as the senior officer of the district, and he ordered out two companies of the 43rd Battalion and two of the Governor-General's Foot Guards, with a field officer and the Adjutant of each regiment, and the Sergeant-Major and the Ambulance Corps of the Guards.

The parade was ordered for five o'clock the next morning (Wednesday, 16th inst.) and shortly after that hour the force left the Ottawa drill hall en route for Hull. Lt.-Col. Anderson was in command of the expedition, and under him were Major Toller, in command of the Guards (Nos. 1 and 2 companies), and Major Sherwood, in command of the 43rd (Nos. 1 and 6 companies). In the meantime a deputation from the strikers had waited on Mr. Eddy to say that the interference with his factory hands was all a mistake, as they had not the same grievances as the mill hands, and he was asked to have the military orders countermanded. It was thought advisable, however, since matters had gone so far, that the soldiers should put in an appearance, as an indication of what might be expected in the event of further disorder. Passing all the other mills and yards on the way, the militia passed also all the strikers, who had turned out at that early hour as usual, but only stood sullenly round in place of resuming work. They made no demonstration, however. Arrived at Hull, the militia were told off to four different yards, a company to each, and there they quietly spent the day, such games as could be devised on the spot helping to relieve the monotony. For breakfast and dinner they paraded by small squads to the two principal hotels, where good meals were served by order of the corporation. At six o'clock in the evening it was decided to leave one company of the 43rd (No. 6) on duty for the night, and the rest were marched back to Ottawa and dispersed, after Col. Anderson had briefly complimented them upon their good behaviour, and expressed satisfaction that their active interference had not been called for. Ten rounds of ammunition had been served to each man, in packages only to be opened when ordered, and fortunately the packages were returned intact.

The strike is still on, with no prospect of immediate settlement, but there has not been disorder of any kind.

THE ESSEX FUSILIERS.

No. 2 Company of the 21st Essex Fusiliers had their annual rifle matches at Leamington on the 4th inst., and closed the day's proceedings by holding their annual dinner. It took place at the Scott House, where an excellent meal was served. For the subsequent speechmaking Mayor Johnson by request took the chair. One of the chief toasts was that to "The Army, Navy and Volunteers." responded to by Lieut.-Col. Wilkinson. The Colonel congratulated Capt. Ley on the excellent shooting made by this company as well as the whole battalion. The volunteer force of Canada, he said, were in a better position to-day than ever before. The officers now were educated at the Military Colleges and had also taken practical lessons in the British Army. The Cavalry and Infantry Schools were doing much, and the example set by the officers educated there was working the force up to a better position than that occupied by any other outside the regular army, and he believed that if the volunteers were called upon to repel an invasion of our country, or put down any rebellion that might arise, that they would be found always willing to go to the front. There seemed to be a natural military spirit in the Canadian people, and there were many instances where our volun-

teers stood side by side by the British Red Coats and fought as valiantly as they. He hoped the day would never come when our people would want annexation.

The following were the scores of the rifle meeting, the conditions being 200, 300 and 400 yards, 5 shots: Pte. Bradford, 60 points; Corp. Dresser, 57; Capt. Ley, 55; Pte. D. Nebbitt, 52; Pte. J. Hope, 52; Pte. J. Henry, 50; Bugler Russell, 46; Sergt. J. Black, 45; Pte. B. West, 42; Pte. A. Noble, 42; Corp. A. Cascadan, 33; Corp. F. Sincac, 32; Sergt. Howie, 32; Pte. J. Wiper, 25; Pte. B. Imeson, 21; Pte. C. Noble, 19. There was a lengthy prize list, with rewards for the best range scores as well as the aggregate of the three ranges.

THE RIFLE.

THE CREEDMOOR MEETING.

The annual prize meeting of the U. S. National Rifle Association at Creedmoor this year was very poorly attended, the great majority of the competitors being New York State riflemen, who consequently had things pretty much their own way. The change in time from the second to the first week in September resulted in improved weather at the outset, but on the last days of the meeting, when the important team contests were fired, the weather was very bad, wind and rain prevailing to such an extent that to score high was exceedingly difficult. In the Hilton Trophy match, the one team event for which Canadians would be eligible, there were but two contesting teams, representing respectively the State of New York and the District of Columbia. The Captain of the latter, who were armed with regulation Springfields, with ammunition of Government issue, protested against the use by members of the New York team of special twist Remingtons and specially prepared heavily charged ammunition, in place of the ordinary Remington rifles and ammunition issued by their State Government, and their seems to have been a good deal of ill feeling over the protest. It seems to have been decided that the special rifle and ammunition were sanctioned by the State and therefore allowable. It will be seen from the scores below that Washington led by 4 points at the first range, but at the other two New York was far ahead, winning handily with an average of 88 3/4 points for the twelve men:

NEW YORK TEAM.				
	200	300	400	Total
A. B. Van Heusen, 12th.....	30	32	31	93
W. P. Pickett, 23rd.....	29	34	30	93
George F. Hamlin, 23rd.....	28	35	27	90
Frederick A. Wells, 23rd.....	31	34	25	90
H. M. Field, 23rd.....	28	29	32	89
J. W. Halstead, 7th.....	27	34	28	89
S. C. Pirie, 23rd.....	27	31	30	88
W. J. Underwood, 7th.....	26	32	30	88
Ezra De Forest, 23rd.....	26	34	27	87
D. H. Ogden, 20th Sep. Co.....	29	34	24	87
J. S. Shepherd, 23rd.....	26	32	28	86
John Macaulay, 12th.....	28	31	26	85
Total.....	335	392	338	1065
WASHINGTON TEAM.				
J. E. Bell.....	27	32	31	90
C. W. Dickey.....	29	33	28	90
J. M. Pollard.....	28	33	26	87
W. L. Cash.....	29	32	25	86
Walter S. Cash.....	28	28	28	84
A. O. Hutterly.....	30	29	25	84
R. B. Smythe.....	29	28	26	83
C. L. Himebaugh.....	29	29	24	82
C. H. Laird.....	25	33	24	82
J. M. Stewart.....	29	25	28	82
G. H. Harries.....	28	31	22	81
F. L. Graham.....	28	26	22	76
Total.....	339	359	309	1007

ACCIDENTS ON THE RANGE.

The United States volunteers whose names figure prominently in the various sharpshooting contests, are no more deadly than some of their more retiring comrades who have suddenly achieved notoriety within the past two weeks. On the 16th September a 6th Infantry man on the range at South Framingham, Mass., loaded his rifle at a right angle with his body, instead of pointing towards the target. It became accidentally discharged, and the bullet after narrowly missing several persons close by, ended its flight by passing through a plate glass window in the town some distance off. On the 17th September, at Willimantic, Conn., Corporal Peterson, of the 3rd Connecticut Regiment, holding their annual matches there, went to shoot fish between ranges. He found no fish, but returned with his rifle loaded, and inadvertently snapping the trigger shot Pte. Babbington through the heart, and Pte. Malone through the hip. The former fell dead without a word, and the latter's wound may prove fatal. Aroused no doubt by these occurrences, Col. Chase, Inspector-General of Rifle Practice for Massachusetts, on the 21st inst. ordered several members of the 9th Infantry to discontinue shooting in the regimental matches then in progress, because of their evident unfamiliarity with the use of the rifle.

GARRISON ARTILLERY COMPETITION.

The following is the official return of the prizes won at the recent Garrison Artillery competition at the Island of Orleans, with 64pr. R. M. L. guns:—

AGGREGATE SCORES.

1st. \$30 Digby Battery	72
2nd. 20 No. 4 Battery Halifax Brigade	67
3rd. 15 No. 6 " " " "	47

INDIVIDUAL SCORES.

\$10 B. S. M. Gordon, No. 4 By. Halifax Bde.....	23
8 Sgt. Pendrigh, Yarmouth Battery	21
8 Gr. Bent, Digby Battery	20
8 Sgt.-Major Woodman, Digby Battery	20
6 Sgt. Clarke, Cobourg Battery	19
6 Corp. Laliberte, No. 2 Quebec Battery	18
6 Sgt. Burnham, Digby Battery	17
6 Sgt. Broadhurst, No. 4 Halifax Bde	17
2 Corp. McJunkin, No. 3 N. B. Bde.	16
2 Sgt. Mackay, No. 2 Halifax Bde.	16
2 Sgt. Laflamme, No. 2 By., Levis	16
2 Br. Theakston, No. 5 By. Halifax Bde.....	16
2 Corp. Pierce, No. 1 " "	16
2 Gr. Woodburn, No. 1 " "	16

The following are the detailed scores of all the competitors:—

HALIFAX BRIGADE.

<i>No. 1 Battery.</i>		<i>No. 2 Battery.</i>	
	Time. Score		
Gr. Dow	7.35 8	Corp. Carroll.....	10.32 2
Gr. Woodburn.....	9.30 16	Sgt. Mackey	9.48 16
Sgt. Jackson.....	8.27 5	Sgt. Byers	9.33 13
Corp. Pierce.....	7.59 16	Sgt. Marshall	7.18 13
Total	45	Total.....	40
<i>No. 3 Battery.</i>		<i>No. 4 Battery.</i>	
Corp. Spence	13.19 6	Sgt. Broadhurst	10.15 17
Sgt. Weatherbee	10.58 1	B. S. M. Gordon.....	9.02 23
Sgt.-Major Case.	9.48 9	Gr. Boston	11.06½ 14
Gr. Morgan	9.50 8	Gr. Joy	10.00 13
Total	24	Total.....	67
<i>No. 5 Battery.</i>		<i>No. 6 Battery.</i>	
Sgt. McLeod	12.00 2	Sgt. Snow	10.44 9
Br. Theakston	10.00 16	Corp. Harman.....	9.30 13
Sgt. Theakston	8.30 10	Sgt. Marshall.....	9.55 10
Sgt. Robinson	10.00 16	Corp. Havill.....	10.00 15
Total.....	44	Total.....	47

No. 7 Battery.

Gr. Moody	9.10 6
Gr. Hodgson	9.35 4
Sgt. McLeod	9.35 7
Br. Campbell.....	9.09 0
Total.....	19

YARMOUTH BATTERY.

	Time. Score
Br. Hylsman	9.25 0
Br. Graham	8.56 8
Sgt. Pendrigh.	7.33 21
Gr. Cooke.....	11.40 14
Total.....	43

MONTREAL BRIGADE.

No. 1 Battery.

Gr. Dennis	9.03 5
Gr. Evans.....	10.37 1
Sgt. Courtney	8.42 3
Gr. Edwards	10.00 0
Total.....	9

No. 2 Battery.

B. S. M. Beatty.....	5.30 0
Sgt. Nicolls	8.44 11
Corp. Gubian.....	9.13 7
Gr. J. Morris	9.45 7
Total.....	25

No. 3 Battery.

Corp. A. Elridge.....	8.12 0
Corp. Morrison	8.10 3
Gr. Forman	11.15 9
Gr. McDonald.....	7.55 5
Total.....	17

No. 4 Battery.

Gr. Lunan	9.16 8
Corp. Jones	12.27 7
Br. Burton	8.21 3
B. S. M. Dowker.....	9.20 7
Total.....	25

No. 5 Battery.

Br. Cooke	Ruled out.
Sgt. Norris	8.53 5
Sgt. Bowell	10.46 7
Sgt. Carpenter	8.46 0
Total.....	12

No. 6 Battery.

Br. Gubian	9.40 6
Gr. Bricault	8.42 9
Gr. Greenfield	10.20 15
Gr. McGinnis.....	12.00 11
Total.....	41

NEW BRUNSWICK BRIGADE.

No. 1 Battery.

Gr. Lindsay	9.28 8
Gr. Ells	9.48 11
Gr. Withers	12.00 8
Sgt. Clayton.....	10.42 8
Total.....	35

No. 5 Battery.

Sgt. Richardson	9.21 8
Watson	9.55 3
Beattie.....	9.35 4
Ritchie	9.50 9
Total.....	24

No. 3 Battery.

Gr. Sears	10.00 10
Gr. Sarah	9.01 3
Corp. McJunkin	9.42 16
Gr. Moore	Ruled out.
Sgt. Edwards (3 rounds)	10 10
Total.....	39

DIGBY BATTERY.

Sgt. Burnham	9.43 17
Sgt.-Maj. Woodman... ..	8.67 20
Gr. Holdsworth... ..	8.17 15
Gr. Bent.	7.56 25
Total.....	72

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND BDE.

No. 1 Battery.

Sgt. Connolly.....	7.28 4
Corp. Murley.....	7.10 10
Br. Proud	9.10 5
Sgt. Matheson.....	9.47 11
Total.....	30

No. 4 Battery.

Gr. St. John.....	7.37 3
Gr. Watts.....	9.06 0
Gr. McCuaig	8.06 11
Gr. Landrigan	7.51 15
Total.....	29

No. 2 Battery.

Gr. Prowse.....	9.20 0
Gr. Harper.....	9.13 10
Br. Wood	10.37 2
Sgt. Quigley	8.55 15
Total.....	23

COBOURG BATTERY.

Sgt. Clarke	9.57 1
Sgt. Russell	9.43 0
Br. Routh	10.42 11
Sgt. Lunn.....	10.07 14
Total.....	44

NO. 1 BATTERY, LEVIS.

Corp. Loisselle	9.23 8
Sgt.-Maj. Lacroix	0 0
Sgt. Lemieux	8.43 0
Corp. Fontaine.....	10.00 5
Total.....	13

NO. 2 BATTERY, LEVIS.

Sgt. Bergeron	7.23 0
Sgt. Roy	8.26 6
Sgt. Laflamme.....	10.00 16
Corp. Blais.....	9.57 5
Total.....	27

NO. 2 BATTERY, QUEBEC.

Sgt. Belanger	7.26 5
Gr. Frenette.....	7.17 13
Corp. Laliberte	7.32 18
Sgt.-Maj. McCavour... ..	10.50 4
Total.....	40

The result of 40-pr. competition will appear in next issue.