

The Canadian Militia Gazette

THE POPULAR ORGAN OF THE ACTIVE FORCE OF THE DOMINION.

(Adopted as their official paper, by the Dominion Artillery Association, the Ontario Artillery Association, the Canadian Military Rifle League, and the Royal Military College Club.)

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No. 8.

NOTE AND COMMENT.

WE are requested to state that in consequence of the large number of members of the Ontario Artillery Association who are interested in the return of their friends to Parliament the annual meeting will not be held on the 24th instant as advertised in our columns. In order, however, to comply with the strict letter of the constitution, a nominal meeting of the Toronto members will take place for the purpose of adjourning to some date more convenient to all.

WRITING privately to the Editor, an esteemed commanding officer who does not desire to argue the point in print takes exception to the arraignment of the officers of rural corps made in letters recently published. "In my battalion," he says, "which is not exceptional, I have not now, I think, one officer who is not qualified for his position and able to instruct his men. What more do you want? And what officer would trouble himself to keep up a skeleton battalion?" Now we know that in many so-called "rural" battalions the position of affairs is just as satisfactory as this commanding officer reports, and at camp these show marked superiority over many of the corps drilled only at their city headquarters. Needless to say, battalions of this class do a great deal of drill apart from that called for by regulation. The *esprit de corps* which prompts this purely voluntary work causes them to resent indiscriminating criticism of rural corps as a class.

"WE understand," says the *Broad Arrow*, "that the Government will be pressed from both sides of the House of Commons to utilise the Canadian Pacific as a military road to the East. The proposal, however, is unpopular with the military authorities, because of the necessity of transshipment involved by it. There would be the landing at Halifax, the conveyance by rail, and the detraining and embarking on the Pacific. These matters present themselves in a very forbidding light to the War Office and transport authorities, and so long as it can be maintained, the route will remain as at present, *via* the St. Lawrence Canal and direct by sea. To the question, why, if the road across Canada is not to be used for army purposes, did the Home Government subsidize the Canadian Pacific? the answer will be that the line might some day be useful as an alternative route. At

present it is unnecessary, and offers rather an alternative of objections. This will be explained upon the practical ground that if the Atlantic route were adopted, it would be necessary to maintain two lines of troopers, one from Portsmouth to Halifax, and another line across the Pacific. This would add to the expense of the service, and the Government is 'not prepared to swell the estimates for the sake of a railway interest, or at the dictation of Colonial sentiment.'"

THE following, from the *Broad Arrow*, will be read with interest, from the old military associations it will bring to mind:—"With the retirement of Colonel Milligan, the last of the Colonial Staff Officers of Pensioners disappears from the Army List. He has filled the duties at Toronto for many years past. The late Col. J. G. D. Tulloch, it may be remembered, was for a long period in chief charge of the Canadian pension staff, with the office and rank of Military Superintendent, and he had under his orders staff officers at Toronto, Quebec, Ontario, Montreal and London. Of officers who filled the duties on the Canadian pension staff, a well-remembered name is that of the late Colonel Wily, who, during the hottest part of the battle of Sobraon, succeeded to the command of the 50th, and brought it out of action, his gallantry on that occasion calling forth the marked and written approbation of Lord Gough, Sir Harry Smith, and Brigadier Penny. The late Captain Robert Naylor Rogers, also on the Canadian staff, carried the colours of the 2nd Battalion 30th, at Quatre Bras and Waterloo, and obtained an appointment on the pension staff as a reward for his services."

WHILE printing the following paragraph, for its interest as mere rumour, we believe there is no likelihood of an interruption of the annual prize meetings of the N. R. A. This, however, is what the *United Service Gazette* says: "There is some doubt being expressed as to whether after all the National Rifle Association will hold its annual competition at Bisley this year. The question is agitating the minds of a large number of Southern Volunteers, who are beginning to fear that the answer will be in the negative. It is well known that last year's meeting at Bisley led to a loss, and that the funds of the Association are now at a very low ebb. Furthermore, the new site is heavily mortgaged,

and the interest that has to be paid is no mean item. To hold the meeting again at Bisley would cost from £8,000 to £10,000, and, as there are now no funds available to meet this charge, some extraordinary efforts will have to be made if the National Volunteer Carnival is to be continued. The winter meeting of the National Rifle Association will take place shortly, and on that occasion the members intend, it is believed, to thrash the question out. There is no doubt that the Association has saddled itself with an immense expenditure, and how it will relieve itself of its burden is a matter calling for the gravest consideration.

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"AN OLD FILE" writes to one of the English service papers to correct the grammar of the sentries' form of challenge. He says: "Who comes there?" is the modern form of challenge. Now a person is never said to "come there." If it was "Who goes there?" as it used to be, or "Who comes here?" or simply "Who comes?" or "Who's there?" then there could be nothing to say against it; but, as it is, it is contrary to general usage, for a man is said to "go there" and to "come here," but never to "come there."

.....

EXPLANATION of the source of the rumour of Lord Wolseley's desire to come to Canada, in thus given by the *United Service Gazette*:—"Much amusement has been caused to those in the know by the various rumours that have been started in consequence of Lord Wolseley having contemplated taking a well-earned holiday and having selected Canada, where he intended to go on a salmon-fishing tour, as his destination. The story grew until it got to be believed in certain quarters that Lord Wolseley had expressed his desire to be transferred from Dublin to Halifax, although Sir J. Ross has been out only but two and a half years, and a glance at the *Army List* might have shown the improbability of the tale. Lord Wolseley, however, considering the short time he has held the Irish command, and that important changes in the distribution of troops in Ireland are in view, has abandoned his trip, at any rate for the present. Had he gone, the *quidnuncs* would doubtless have discovered some grave political reason for the step."

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A correspondent of the *Army and Navy Gazette* writes:—"In these days of simplicity in drill, &c., for the young soldier, it seems folly to have two sorts of rifle drill or exercise where one would do for the whole Army. British troops are being armed with the magazine rifle, and Native regiments have the Martini-Henry—both rifles almost alike in length. Would not one 'shoulder' or 'advance' arms do for all? The 'long rifle shoulder' is useless, and would never be used on service. Everything can be done from the 'advance.' It is awkward, difficult to do properly, hideous when not done properly, bad enough at the halt, and impossible, except to big strong men, on the move, and after all merely a 'show' position. Were the 'long rifle' drill done away with, it would be a great boon to the men, and we should then have only one rifle and carbine exercise for the whole Army."

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

(This paper does not necessarily share the views expressed in correspondence published in its columns, the use of which is freely granted to writers on topics of interest to the Militia.)

THE PROPOSED HOLIDAY PARADES.

EDITOR MILITIA GAZETTE,—General Herbert is a new broom, and, no doubt, in propounding his scheme of holiday parades and voluntary camps, imagines he is going to make a clean sweep in militia matters. To those in authority it may be very pleasant to imagine a holiday parade and the benefit (imaginary as well) it will be to the Force—with a big F. and how happy each member of the Force will be to partake of such benefit, and the glory and honour and praise that will accrue, especially to the Major-General, from such a parade. But there is another way of looking at a holiday parade. Holidays—enforced holidays—are infrequent. The bulk of the militia are men who have to work for a living, who cannot afford to take a holiday, but when an enforced holiday arrives would like to spend it after their own fashion, and many there are who will take the wife and children off for the "holiday" and thus enjoy it together. To such men a "holiday parade" partakes of the nature of a fraud; it takes a man's time for nothing, it prevents him from spending his idle day after his own manner, and it compels him to spend his money where no money should be spent. It is about time that the Militia Service of Canada was put on an honest footing, and that the maintenance of battalions, and batteries, and troops, should not be at the expense of the individual members of such troops, batteries, etc., but at the cost of Canada. Not content with saddling the expense of the different corps in Canada on the corps themselves, the successor to the late alleged trader in furs would wish to pile more expense on the unfortunate militia, and certainly not for the benefit—the infinitesimal benefit—which would accrue from a "holiday parade." If General Herbert wants to have a parade, let him arrange that "all expenses" will be paid, and not place the cost of his proposed exhibitions of feathers and lace on a body of men who have sacrificed much, from the pocket sense of view, to make and maintain the militia of Canada as effective as it apparently is.

If a display is wanted, the "Honorary A.D.C.'s" to the Governor-General might be paraded at noon on the 24th May next and inspected in the "goose step."

SNAP CAP.

February 14, 1891.

THE RIFLE LEAGUE.

EDITOR MILITIA GAZETTE.—In your issue of 12th inst. you have an article on the "League." With your kind permission as one who is fond of shooting, and, to use the words of a contemporary, "having the purest motives," I would like to give expression to a few thoughts that have been awakened in my mind by your article, and also by the letter of said contemporary, who signs himself "Buckshot," which seems a very appropriate synonym, as he scatters his ideas over a vast area. First, then, as to the number comprising the teams. Ten men seems to be the greatest number wanted by the old shots, of which I take Buckshot to be one. Now, sir, if ten is to be the number of the teams, then I hold the League has failed of its object, which, as I understand it, is for the encouragement of rifle shooting in battalions. We know that most regiments can muster a ten men team, but beyond that have to put on rather weak men, and I believe that I am about the truth when I infer that our Winnipeg friend views with alarm the prospect of a twenty or twenty-five men team from his regiment.

I write with the purest motives, to again quote from his

letter, and though ten is as many good average shots as the regiment of which I am an humble member can bring on the range, yet considering that the Government has been so liberal as to give free ammunition, I think we ought to do something for the gift, and not let the old shots get away with it all. Make the teams twenty-five men a side; or, if ten, then bar out every man who has won a prize at any Provincial or Dominion match, and give us young shots a chance; then the League will be doing what it was instituted for. I may say just here the old shots don't need free ammunition as an encouragement; you will find them on the range anyway.

There are a great many points in that letter one might criticise. Our friend says, "I believe that in no pastime the world over does there exist the purity that we have in our favourite sport." If that is so why all this necessity for selecting markers outside of corps of which teams shoot, why the necessity for an officer of a neutral corps in the butts to check the marking and measure the bulls-eye and rings? A remark like that after the experience of last year in the League is veritable gush. There are many fine fellows to be met on a rifle range; there are also many of whom the less said the better. Riflemen are after all but men, and the history of the rifle associations of the world shows that some of the greatest frauds have not been far away from rifle ranges.

PETER BLANK.

February 17th, '91.

ORDERLY ROOM CLERKS.

EDITOR MILITIA GAZETTE.--Some time ago you were pleased to contribute some remarks in an issue of THE GAZETTE, on the correspondence appearing from time to time regarding the position of Orderly Room Clerks at the Schools of Instruction. I have been anxious to say something more on the subject, but have been unable to act sooner.

It has been stated that the Department has authorised for each school the quota of staff and non-commissioned officers required for a company. If the Sergeant-Major and Quartermaster-Sergeant are required on the establishment of a company, why not in the name of common sense an Orderly Room Sergeant also? An Orderly Room Clerk with the work of a School of Infantry, and, also, of a large brigade or district, has no such easy time as some people seem to imagine.

Although the paragraph in the regulations and orders authorizing the payment of ten cents per diem. reads:—"The non-commissioned officers acting as Orderly Room Clerks," &c., it does not seem to be intended that the appointment should be given to a N. C. O. on the establishment of the company. The new General will, let us hope, have his attention drawn to this matter, and that he will try to ameliorate the hard condition of Orderly Room Clerks by giving them the proper rank and status to which they are entitled in the standing army of the Dominion of Canada.

JUSTICE.

Her Majesty the Queen has accepted from the officers of the 4th Battalion the Rifle Brigade, a large bronze Burmese bell, taken by the Battalion near Mandalay. The bell which weighs nearly 7cwt., and is 3ft. 7in. high, is partly covered with an inscription which sets forth that it was cast in 1,220 of the Burmese era, corresponding to A. D. 1859. The bell, which is intended to be placed at Windsor, was prepared for presentation to the Queen by Messrs. E and E. Emanuel, 3, The Hard, Portsea, who have done the regimental work since the return of the battalion from Burma, and whose name will be familiar to those who have scanned our advertising columns.

REGIMENTAL.

TORONTO.

The season of Lent is upon us, but of a truth the idea of renouncing all the pomps and vanities of this wicked world seems to be far from the minds of a great many of our militiamen, and perhaps the unusual activity displayed for the past week and rumours of events to take place in the near future will bring them still further under the ban of that august body the Ministerial Association.

On Tuesday evening the members of "A" Company gave their first smoking concert, to an audience of about one hundred and thirty guests. The chair was taken by Capt. Thompson promptly at eight o'clock, and the large programme of nineteen pieces was carried through a little inside of two hours. The committee had matters so well in hand that in no instance did a delay of over two minutes take place. Space does not permit of a description of the concert, which owed its success to the following contributors: Cornet solo by H. L. Clarke; euphonium solo by Budson Smith; Bugle Band Orchestra under Bugler Davis; songs by Messrs. Dickie, Barker, Stevens, Sergts. Duncan and Woods, Pte. Kain and Bugler Davis; recitations by Mr. H. L. Ebbles and Pte. Acheson. Among the guests of the evening were Lieut.-Col. Miller, Lieut.-Col. Hamilton, Capt. Mason, Lieuts. Knifton, Crean and Wyatt. Dancing and other amusements filled up the remainder of a very enjoyable evening.

On Friday evening the members of the Bugle Band were at home to their friends, and about sixty couples availed themselves of the well known hospitality of this corps, and to the music of Maitland's orchestra danced just as often and just as blithely as if Lent was not holding sway, but then, no doubt, they thought that perhaps it wouldn't be so bad after all if they brought the evening to a close a little earlier than usual, which they did about 2 a.m.

The committee having charge of it was composed of Bugle-Major Swift, Corpls. Cotterell and Ross, while caterer Tasker attended to the longing not supplied by the orchestra.

The billiard, pool, card and cribbage tournament is now in full swing in the Sergeants' Mess, and the committee in charge have provided some very handsome and costly prizes.

Recruiting is going on briskly among the several companies, and in a short time additional arms will have to be supplied, or else a waiting list will have to be started in order to keep pace with the increasing strength of the regiment.

ANNUAL DINNER OF "D" CO., Q. O. R.

On Wednesday evening the annual dinner of "D" Company took place at Webb's, and at 8.15 p.m. Napolitano's Orchestra played the guests into the supper room to the tune of the Regimental Quickstep. About eighty sat down to discuss a bill of fare furnished as only Webb can furnish, and no time was lost in discussing the many dishes. The chair was occupied by Capt. Mason, supported in the vice-chairs by Lieut. Peuchen and Col.-Sergt. Robertson. Seated on the right of the chairman were Lieut.-Col. Otter, D.A.G., Lieut.-Col. Hamilton, ex-Capt. Miller, Major Sankey, Capt. Bennett, Capt. Mutton, Quartermaster Heakes, Staff-Sergt. Harp, and on his left were Mayor Clarke, Lieut.-Col. Jones (Dufferin Rifles), Capt. Macdonald, Lieut.-Col. Miller, Capt. Pellatt, Capt. Thompson, Capt. McLean (Grenadiers), Lieut. Wyatt, ex-Lieut. Mickle, Quartermaster-Sergt. Powell, of the Royal Engineers, Halifax, Col.-Sergt. World, "H" Company, Sergt. Pearson, "E" Company; Mr. W. J. Mitchell, late of Winnipeg, and Col.-Sergt. Barr. On the back of the menu was a memo showing "D" Company's average attendance at drill to have been 50.4, and its percentage of possible drills to have been 90.2, a showing which again places it at the head of the regiment.

The toast list was as follows :

The Queen, Deputy Adjutant General, Lieut.-Colonel Hamilton and Staff, ex-Officers of "D" Company, Our Guests, Press, Ladies.

The Queen was honoured in a genuine anti-annexation style, as in fact were all references to the flag and to the land we love.

The D.A.G. was received with great enthusiasm and briefly reviewed the history of "D" Company since its inception.

The toast of Lieut.-Col. Hamilton and Staff was replied to by Col. Hamilton and Major Sankey. Previous to this toast the chairman cause no little amusement by his following action : Col. Otter remarked that brevity was the soul of wit, and by being as brief as possible he could lay claim to his speech being the wittiest of the evening. Immediately after the next toast had been honoured, and before it could be replied to, Capt. Mason arose and started in a few remarks to propose the next toast. He was no doubt astonished at the suppressed laughter that soon was going round the table, and finally as it burst into a wild peal of laughter he seemed to understand his error and sank back into his seat. As the Colonel remarked, "he evidently intended them all to be witty and brief with a vengeance."

Ex-Officers of "D" was responded to by Lieut.-Col. Miller, ex-Capt. Miller and Capt. Macdonald.

Our Guests by Mayor Clarke, Lieut.-Col. Jones, Capt. McLean, and Quartermaster-Sergt. Powell, R.E.

Mayor Clarke stated that, in his opinion, if the lawyers had had less to do in the matter the drill shed would have been well under way by this time, and announced that tenders had been called for the excavation, which would be pushed as fast as possible. He also dwelt on the new rifle ranges and assured all present that the corporation had no intention of trying to have the butts removed without giving as a substitute a range better in every respect than the present one.

Mr. Dickie responded for the Press, and Corpl. J. Thompson in an exceedingly happy manner chanted the praises of the Ladies.

Songs were rendered during the evening by Lieut. Wyatt, Sergts. Pearson and Woods, and Pte. Somerville.

The last toast was to the memory of the late Sergt.-Major McKell, and Capt. Mason spoke very feelingly at the loss the company and regiment had sustained, and briefly traced his connection with the company for the past twelve years. As a lad he joined "D" Company in 1877, continuing therein as private, corporal, sergeant and colour-sergeant up to a year ago. The position then becoming vacant he was appointed sergeant-major of the regiment. During all these years he never missed a company or regimental parade. His loyalty to his company and unremitting attention to its welfare, his deep and practical interest in everything pertaining to the regiment or the militia force, made him a power for good, and his funeral, attended as it was by the entire Toronto garrison, showed the general appreciation in which he was held.

Shortly after midnight, a pleasing innovation by the way, by long odds the most successful gathering the company ever held was brought to a close, and one and all of the speakers during the evening hoped that in all future events of this kind their names would be included in the list of invitations.

"BREECH BLOCK."

MONTREAL.

["Cartridge Box," in Gazette.]

I hear that a meeting of commanding officers is to be called this week to consider the orders of Major-General Herbert, about having holidays used as field days, and also to consider what shall be done in regard to the proposed turn out on Her Majesty's birthday.

At a meeting of the officers of the Victoria Rifles, Staff-

Sergeant C. L. MacAdam was elected lieutenant of No. 6 company, in place of E. W. Parker, resigned. This will make, with Captain Busted and Lieutenant Pope, a very strong shooting trio, and the other companies will have to look out for the shooting trophies.

Lieut.-Col. Turnbull, of the Garrison Artillery, has been granted six months' leave of absence, and left the city yesterday on his way to England. Major Laurie will take command in his absence.

Another resignation is on the tapis. This time the cavalry branch of the service is the sufferer, as Captain Bush, of the Duke of Connaught's Canadian Hussars, has sent in his resignation. I have never had the pleasure of meeting the captain, but from what I have heard his men will be sorry to lose him, as he was a good officer as well as a good fellow.

The stores and clothing of the 5th Royal Scots were transferred on Friday last from Lieut.-Col. Caverhill to Major Hood, who, no doubt, will soon be promoted to the command of our "Highland laddies."

BIG SCORES AT THE VICS ARMOURY.

Below will be found the fortnightly spoon competition of the Victoria Rifles, as well as the scores of the highest men in the monthly contest for Lieut.-Col. Henshaw's medal at the Morris tube range, which, by the way, I wish to call the attention of all the members of our city battalions to. A good many of the boys, when speaking of shooting and the number of prizes won by the Vics, said, and said truly, that the Vics had an advantage over them ; but this excuse will not do any more. The Garrison boys have thrown open their range for practice, when not used for matches, and the Prince of Wales have now a range of their own, and, perhaps, within a very short time the 5th and 6th will have ranges also. Now, shooting men, it is your own fault if Montreal does not carry off nearly all the prizes next summer. Give the green men all the show you can ; train them, and their records in the future will not only be a credit to the corps they represent, but a pride to their teachers.

The fortnightly open competition, Victoria Rifles, ending Saturday night, thus resulted :

Special class, 200, 500 yards—		<i>2nd class.</i>	
Pte. Keough.....	23 22—45	Corp. Becket.....	16 22—38
<i>1st class.</i>		Pte. Tabb.....	19 19—38
Pte. Becket.....	21 23—44	Pte. Oswald.....	22 14—36
Corp. Hardie.....	21 22—43	Pte. King.....	18 17—35
Pte. Manning.....	20 23—43	Pte. McKend.....	14 19—33
Sgt. Lanigan.....	19 23—42	<i>3rd class.</i>	
Sgt. Belcourt.....	21 21—42	Corp. Binmore.....	18 11—29

For the Colonel's medal, Pte. John Becket, although a shot often heard of before, has never up to this season been considered a crack ; but his score of Friday, 97 out of a possible 105, stamps him not only as a splendid shot but shows the result of constant practice.

Colonel's Medal.

Pte. Becket.....	34 31 32—97	Pte. Napier.....	26 19 26—71
Corpl. Hardie.....	32 30 21—83	Pte. Foot.....	25 23 8—56

THE P. W. R. NEW RANGE.

While I am on the shooting strain I might as well tell the boys about the new Morris tube range of the Prince of Wales. Those up in military circles know the trouble that Lt.-Col. Butler had to secure the addition to their armoury, and as soon as it was secured a range was placed in the building. On Saturday night it was opened with great eclat. Among those present I noticed Lt.-Col. Butler and Mrs. Butler, Mr. J. J. Curran, Q.C., and a number of the officers of the regiment, as well as the men. Sharp at 8 Mr. Curran declared the range open, and in a few remarks said that as the members of the regiment had now more facilities for shooting he hoped that they would enter in competition matches, and hold up their motto before every one that they

were, and would be, as the motto says, "Nulli Secundus." At the close of the gentleman's remarks, which were greeted with cheers and the regimental cry, Mrs. Col. Butler fired the first shot over the new range, Mr. Curran following with the second. Lt.-Col. Butler then stepped forward to say a few words, but for a few minutes could not be heard from the cheers and clapping of hands. After it subsided he told those present how the addition had been received, and assured the members of the regiment that whatever he could do, not only to raise the corps to the highest state of efficiency but to get them comfortable quarters, and otherwise help them, he would not be backward. The range was then thrown open to all and the firing of the bullets striking the target kept up until the armoury closed.

THE BRIGADE OFFICES.

A report was started around town last week that the 6th Military headquarters was about to be removed to St. Johns. Well, as far as the present quarters go, it might be a good thing for the offices of the fifth, which are now divided between the two districts. The place is cramped up, and it is impossible to even hold a meeting of commanding officers, much less a brigade meeting. But, at the same time, the space now given to the districts should be used for the purposes of one, and the other district given quarters elsewhere in the city, not remove it to St. Johns. If this is done it will not only raise discord, but will cause great trouble for the officers of the different companies in making their reports, as many of them would not care to go to St. Johns.

AN ENJOYABLE REUNION.

A merry crowd seated around tables well loaded with good things was what I witnessed last Friday night at the Hope Coffee House, when the annual dinner of F company of the Prince of Wales Rifles was going on. Captain Bradshaw was in the chair and among the guests I noticed Lt.-Col. T. P. Butler, Captains Lefebvre, of No. 2, Bartlett, of No. 3 company, Sergt.-Major Ferguson and representatives from other regiments. After the bill of fare, which was quite an extended one, was disposed of, the Queen and the other usual toasts were honoured and responded to. Col. Butler responded to the toast of the active militia in a short speech, which gave a good history of the regiment from its rise to the present time. All the other officers were called on for a few words, and answered in a cheery manner, especially Lieut. Bond. Private Wallace, who has served thirty-eight years in the Prince's, responded to the toast of the old members of the corps. The veteran, in few feeling words, thanked the younger men for the honour they did themselves and him in remembering the old men of the regiment. Capt. Bradshaw then rose and in the name of the company presented to ex-Colour-Sergt. John Watson, an illuminated address, telling on its face the regard in which he was held by his old comrades, and regretting his retirement. Accompanying the address was a gold pin, being set in diamonds, the arms of the regiment, the Prince of Wales feathers. Sergt. Watson, in rising to reply, was greeted with a storm of cheers, and for a few moments could not reply, being overcome by emotion, but when he did so he thanked the donors, not so much for the gift, but for their token of regard, and assured them that although he was leaving the ranks he would always be with the Prince's, and especially No. 6, or F company. During the evening Corporal McWilliams, No. 6; Private Wilson, No. 3; Private Lloyd, 6th Fusiliers; Corporal Lafferty, Royal Scots; Corporal Fall and Privates Tobin and Laing sang songs or amused the company and their guests in many ways. The committee, Col.-Sergt. Ware, Corp. Simpson and Privates Legrow, Freeman and Burnett who had the dinner in charge, were congratulated by all on their successful efforts, and I must say it was as pleasant an evening as I have enjoyed for a long while.

PROPOSED NEW CAVALRY DRILL.

The *Army and Navy Gazette* prints the following synopsis of the new cavalry drill submitted to the Horse Guards authorities by Major-General Keith Fraser:—

That an entirely new and thoroughly revised edition of the Regulations for the instruction and movements of Cavalry be drawn up on the lines of the admirably arranged drill-books of Continental armies, especially those of France and Austria-Hungary.

That the guiding principles introduced in the Austro-Hungarian Cavalry by Baron Edelshein in 1862, and long ago accepted as the standard of drill by such cavalry commanders as Prince Frederick Charles, Gen. Von Schmidt, Von Wright, L'Hotte, Gallifet, Rosenberg, Koehler and many others, be adopted to their fullest extent in the British service.

That in future leaders should be responsible for taking the shortest route, and those under their command for following them, "Follow your leader" and "Take the shortest cut" being maxims.

That the comparatively silent system of the French and Austrian Drill Regulations be adopted, and all unnecessary words of command and trumpet sounds be suppressed.

That the signals of leaders and the direction and pace of their horses be considered as commands to be obeyed and followed.

That no movement should be executed which does not admit of rapid deployment in any direction at any moment.

That in future each squadron shall be divided into two troops, or two half-troops (or divisions) each—*i. e.*, four half-troops per squadron.

That each half-troop or division be subdivided into three groups or squads, which answer so admirably in the Austro-Hungarian Cavalry.

That the strength of a half-troop should never be less than 18—*viz.*, twelve in the front rank and six in the rear rank, inclusive of non-commissioned officers.

That the strength of a group should never be less than six—*viz.*, four in the front rank and two in the rear rank, and that each group may form two patrols.

That in the event of there not being sufficient men in the squadron to admit of its being divided and subdivided as above, the number of half-troops or divisions be reduced to three, and even two if necessary.

That the senior officer shall command the squadron, the second senior riding in rear of it, superintending its discipline, and prepared at once to replace the squadron leader if necessary.

That in column of divisions the second senior officer of each squadron shall ride on the outer flank of the column, and the two senior non-commissioned officers shall ride on the outer flank of the rear-rank man of the second and fourth (or third in the case of weak squadrons) divisions, from which position they can superintend the order and discipline of the squadron.

That each division (or half-troop) leader shall be, as far as it is practicable, the officer who has charge of it in barracks.

That the *serre-file* rank be entirely abolished, except as to the second senior officer and the two senior non-commissioned officers of the squadron.

That all manoeuvring by "fours" be absolutely forbidden, and all field movements in such a formation, which only admits of facing an enemy if he comes from certain directions, be eliminated from the drill-book. Fours, sections, etc., only to be used for column of route, etc.

That many movements at present executed by the half-wheel of troops shall in future be carried out by wheeling the head of the squadron, or by the individual incline of each horse.

That the "incline" to an angle of 45° shall be substituted for the present "incline," which is limited to 30°.

That only wheels from a "halt" shall be made on a fixed pivot.

That unless specially ordered, a body of troops shall always advance after wheeling without word of command, following its leader.

That all deployments, unless otherwise ordered, shall be made on the prolongation of both flanks of the leading body, which effects a great saving of time; for instance, that the second division of a squadron in column shall always form on the right, the rear sections on the left of the leading division. On the same principle, in a regimental column of divisions the second squadron shall form on the right of the leading squadron, the rear wing forming on the left of the latter.

That in forming column on any named squadron, the squadrons on the right shall move first into column, those on the left following them.

That in advancing or retiring in column of divisions from a deployed squadron, the right section shall invariably move off first.

That changes of position shall no longer be considered field movements, but that the commanding officer will take his regiment by the shortest route and in the handiest manner, by wheeling the head of the column or columns, or if the change of direction be less than the quarter circle, by shouldering to its new position (the responsibility which is now shared by so many officers in such movements being thereby greatly diminished and resting only on the leaders).

That the so-called "quarter-column" (which is now a meaningless term), a formation from which, under the present troop system, all deployments are very complicated, be abolished entirely, and line-of-squadron columns at close intervals be substituted for it.

That the squadron leader should ride well away (at about 30 paces) in front of his squadron deployed and in columns or divisions, and the same distance on the flank in regimental column, watching the commanding officer and in no way occupying himself with the discipline and order of his squadron.

That on the order to "attack," swords should be drawn, and the squadron leader should at once fall back to the right hand of the third division leader, his proper place in the "charge" (otherwise a gradual reduction of pace might be accepted as a signal to slacken the pace of the squadron).

That regiments should be exercised much more frequently than is at present the case, in trotting and galloping for long distances (necessitated by the long range of modern firearms), and in charging, rallying in any direction, into column or line, behind their leaders, pursuing, etc.

That squadrons should be trained to gallop for from six to ten minutes, and then to deploy and charge.

That bases with swords held up, which are worse than useless, and confusing on the move (as two horses cannot possibly keep level to an inch at full gallop for long), and without the aid of which a perfect line can be formed even at "halt," be entirely abolished.

That in future all distances and intervals be calculated in paces, instead of in yards, horses' lengths, feet, etc., as at present.

That the breadth occupied by a mounted man be calculated at one and a quarter paces—i. e., four men abreast occupying five paces.

That the length of a horse be taken as three paces (90 inches.)

That the distance between front and rear rank, and between leaders of divisions and the front rank be reduced to two paces, which was the regulated distance in the British Cavalry up to 1862, and which is found amply sufficient in the Austro-Hungarian Cavalry and which obviates the undue lengthening of columns. (The distance between ranks can be increased, if deemed advisable, when squadrons are deployed).

That the squadron "interval" shall always be 10 paces instead of 12 yards.

That the theoretical rates of pace laid down in the existing regulations of—

Walk,	not to exceed	4 miles per hour
Trot,	"	8 "
Gallop,	"	12 "

be rejected, especially as regards the gallop, the pace of 12 miles an hour never being adhered to in practice, and being far slower than that of any cavalry in Europe (except Russian).

Present English rate of Gallop—352 yards per minute

" German and Austrian do.—436 " "

or more than 2¼ miles in favour of the latter per hour.

The canter only to be retained for riding-school and parade (not to exceed 300 paces a minute).

That in order to bring about quiet riding and order in the ranks, and to lessen the fatigue of the horses and save their backs, the men should rise in their stirrups always in the field, after being carefully instructed in the riding-school in the art of doing so, as is done in all Continental armies.

That the men shall be taught to ride in the field with double reins and using both hands, it being impossible to ride over broken ground or to jump fences riding only on the curb-rein.

That swords be drawn except for parade purposes only when the order and authority is given.

That the adjutant should act as aide-de-camp to the commanding officer (the second in command exercising a general superintendence.)

NEW ARMY RIFLE FOR THE U. S.

The Board of United States Army Officers, ordered to report on a small calibre rifle suitable for the army of the United States, convened recently. It consists of Col. A. V. Kantz, 8th Infantry, President; Lieut.-Col. R. H. Hall, 6th Infantry; Major G. W. McKee, Ordnance Department; Capt. H. B. Freeman, 7th Infantry; Capt. G. S. Anderson, 6th Cavalry, and Capt. S. E. Blunt, Ordnance Department, Recorder.

The Board is directed to select a magazine system for rifles and carbines, and also to test and report for adoption such smokeless powder as is deemed most advisable to use. In its sitting of a few days' duration the Board has drafted its rules to govern the test of small arms. The arms to be tried may be submitted from any source, only they must not exceed a .30-cal., and must be adapted to the Franfort Arsenal cartridge. The smokeless powder to be used in the tests has already been contracted for with Belgian establishments. Other grades of nitrate powders will be open to acceptance. All tests will be competitive. The session of the Board is not limited, and in all likelihood will be prolonged until a desirable arm is obtained. The tests will be made at Springfield, Mass., and will be inaugurated during the early part of March. The delay is necessitated because of the non-receipt of the nitrate powders. This delay, however, will afford inventors more time in which to prepare specimen weapons.

The necessity for a small calibre rifle has long been felt in the United States. To-day the army and marine are using the Springfield single-shot breech-loading piece. As a serviceable weapon there is, perhaps, none better in the world than the Springfield. On the other hand, the low initial velocity of its shots make it in point of fighting efficiency immeasurably inferior to the new German rifle, to the new British, or to the new Austrian rifle.

The Austrian rifle, the Mannlicher, has a calibre of .315 in. It weighs 9.68 lbs., and has a vertical fixed box magazine holding five cartridges. The Mannlicher has a muzzle velocity of about 2,000 ft. per second.

Denmark has a rifle, the Krag-Jorgansen, of .315 cal., and a velocity of 2,099 ft. per second.

The Belgian Mauser rifle of .301 cal., working on the bolt system and using a bullet encased in a German silver envelope, has a velocity of about 1,800 ft. per second.

The new English rifle of .303 cal., working on an improved Lee system, has a muzzle velocity, using ordinary powder, of 1,500 ft. per second.

The German Infantry rifle, pattern 1888, of .311 cal., has an estimated initial velocity of 2,034 foot seconds. Its sights are graduated to 2,242 yds.

The new Swiss rifle, the Schmidt, of .295 cal., has a muzzle velocity of 2,362 foot seconds. Its estimated rate of fire is 30 shots per minute. The Schmidt is operated on a bolt system.

The new French Lebel rifle is of .3228 cal. maximum and .3142 cal. minimum. It has a muzzle velocity of 2,194 foot seconds, and it is said that a Lebel bullet can pierce over 15 in. of oak at 220 yds. The powder is a secret compound of gun-cotton and collodion, which is reported as producing no smoke, little noise, and very slight recoil.

The new Portuguese rifle is the Kropatschek of .315 cal. It has a muzzle velocity of 1,745 foot seconds.

In comparison with the above the United States Springfield rifle is found to have a .450 cal. and a muzzle velocity not exceeding 1,300 foot seconds. It is at the same time a single loader, while all of the above pieces are magazine guns.

EUROPEAN GOSSIP.

[By a Volunteer Abroad—In Volunteer Record.]

A special letter of thanks and the distinctive decoration of the Blue Ribbon Army of England ought to be voted to General Saussier, the worthy Military Commandant of Paris and its environing forts. The General, it may be observed, has already a large constellation of others to carry on his breast, either for civil or military merit secured amidst trials of "derring do" in every nature. This gallant officer has friends on every side, and amidst all the latter mutations of the French Cabinet, no overt attempt has been ever made to alter the command of the Paris Army to his prejudice, or to disturb the ruling of the forces under his command.

The reason why your "Volunteer Abroad" will ask for the additional honour to a gallant French General, from the Blue Ribbon Army, is the fact that General Saussier has ordered that every trooper and Infantry soldier within the sphere of his command shall every morn receive half-a-pint of warm, sweetened, strong *tea*, in addition to the ordinary liquid allowances of water, or the infused chicory mixture misnamed "coffee" daily doled out to the stomachic perturbation of the soldiery at large.

"The cup that cheers, but not inebriates" will be certainly largely appreciated, and the consideration of General Saussier received as a bounty by the otherwise insufficiently nourished troops under his command. It is quite a novelty besides, in its way, as this temperate and refreshing drink is almost unknown, save in a medicinal sense, to the majority of the French people. As it is, both the physical and moral forces of the recipients may be greatly improved. Whether the venerable military commandant knows or not, his idea is a good one, and supported by the proof that the four largest and most numerically powerful nations in the world are inveterate tea-drinkers, viz., China, Great Britain, the United States, and All Russia.

The French Minister of War in his many tentative yet somewhat senile aspirations for the progress and improvement of the Army, and military science in general, has frequently led his ideas to an extreme length. Aerostation has of late become a particular study for Army purposes, and last Sunday some bold experiments were made accord-

ing to the order of M. de Freycinet, "up in a balloon" at Rheims. A balloon christened "La France," was sent into the clouds to carry out some curious scientific and military manœuvres, including aerial bombardments, a sham fight between hostile machines, the launching of torpedoes from the skies, and the interchange of telegraphic messages from air to earth and vice-versa. The balloon car, which was captained by a certain M. Chereau, carried two howitzers, four torpedo tubes, a parachute, a long rope of "saucissons" (sausage) petards, twelve smaller parachutes or pilot balloons, with other smaller explosive devices—and 130 bursting shells for incendiary purposes. Its pyrotechnic display in mid air was only comprehensible to the spectators on terra firma, by the numerous puff of smoke and muffled reports at intervals during the inexplicable gyrations and movements up and down imparted by the aeronaut to his machine, but which were possibly perfectly explicable to the inspecting military men who had to report the trials.

Two no able French painters, amongst a trio of artists on canvas or on marble, and about half-a-dozen writers or journalists of mark at Paris, have paid the debt of life in January last. Leaving aside the political celebrities of the time—whose name is legion—in France, your correspondent will confine himself to a short biography, and passing anecdotes concerning the deceased limners (each good in their ways), Meissonnier, and Charles Chuplin.

Meissonnier, who was born at Lyons, in 1811, grew to be of an exceedingly irritable and pugnacious temperament, like all little men, who possess or have acquired a certain reputation in their chosen line of labour. Meissonnier prided himself as much upon his large flowing beard and moustachois, as he did in his paintings, upon which he placed and obtained in the future the most extravagant and after-enhanced prices—according to the customer. In his earlier career, Meissonnier had been content to cover canvas with his pictorial ideas at the rate of 5-frs. (4s.) for a metre square (168 cubic inches) of modulated pigments in oil. He then took up the almost lost art of miniature or cabinet pictures, and in this *genre* he largely excelled, according to the present standard of fine art judgment. More ambitious grown, Meissonnier went into military episodes, and also triumphed all along the line of soldiers (French), which he most ably portrayed, at doubtful episodes, in some of the uncertain battle successes of his countrymen under the First Empire.

Meissonnier was not above painting portraits, but clients, in the end, grew somewhat chary in enlisting his talent to perpetuate their "lovely features and forms divine" by his brush and palette, as the artist had an ugly propensity to ask a certain sum, and to double the demand when the picture was nearly finished. Many people of rank or distinction were thus "Jewel" by the "mammikin" artist, including even Napoleon III.; but it finally belonged to an American woman to bring the dwarfed *maître de peinture* on his knees, and to his proper senses. Mrs. Mackay ordered her portraits of Meissonnier, during one of her fits of lavish expenditure, but, well cognizant by report beforehand, of the vanity and avarice alike, in the character of this accumulative genius, and with whom she would have to deal afterwards in regard to the stipulated payment. Meissonnier, without suspicion, haggled about the sum; in the end the conditions were assented to by Mrs. Mackay, and the finished portrait was brought by the painter himself to the lady. The money was at once paid down, but to the ungovernable rage of Meissonnier, Mrs. Mackay, after bestowing but scarcely a glance at her re-produced features, ordered her servants, in the presence of the horrified painter, to detach the canvas from its frames, roll it up, and put it away in the lumber-room.

Of far different temperament and character, and in his mode of dealing with the world, was Charles Chaplin, whose

name alone will betray his origin and righteous training. The last deceased painter was born in 1825, of English parents, at Andelys (Eure), and his student days were not altogether exempt from the privations and proportional misery that usually attend upon professional pride or the consciousness of innate merit, that most individuals encounter who look forward to fame.

Until his fatal illness, by congestion of the lungs, Chaplin preserved joviality of demeanour, and humour of repartee, which, combined with his truly British appearance of robust vigour, and hearty frank manners, were strangely at variance with the vaporous—not to say sensual—reproductions of female beauty, *à la mode en demi toilette*, that signalled his brush as the modern successor on canvas to the old French masters, Watteau and Boucher, in the same styles of painting. A characteristic remark, repeated by the *Figuro*, is a real index to the character and inclinations of the late Charles Chaplin, who one day told an intimate friend—"See here, I believe hard work, the seaside, and tea, are the three bases of perfect health!"

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L. HOMFRAY IRVING,
Secretary.

Toronto, 26th January, 1891.

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FRED WHITE,

Comptroller N. W. M. Police.

Ottawa, Feby. 9th, 1891.



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