

# THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE

A WEEKLY JOURNAL DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF THE ACTIVE FORCE OF THE DOMINION.

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS.

### COMMENT AND CRITICISM.

The retirement of old officers.  
Experience of veterans valuable.  
The new staff of the 59th Stormont Batt.  
English ammunition for the D. R. A. meeting.  
A commission to examine D. C. ammunition.  
The Kolapore cups lost.

### PERSONALS.

### CONTRIBUTED ARTICLES.

The Welcome Home of the Field Force.  
Rifles and Rifle Shooting (XI)—Capt. Perley.

### SELECTED.

The duties of Field Artillery in action (IV)—Lt.-Col. W. Kemmis, R.A.  
The official report of the Fish Creek fight.  
Losses in battle.

### CORRESPONDENCE.

Target Practice and Rifle Associations.  
Victoria Cross.

### NEW PUBLICATION.

### THE TARGET.

### REGIMENTAL NOTES.

### EXTRACTS FROM MILITIA GENERAL ORDERS.

## COMMENT AND CRITICISM.

The regulation which appears in this week's general orders, instructing commanding officers to report the names of all officers over the ages laid down in paragraph 75 of the "Regulations and Orders" looks as though the Department intended to compel the retirement of all over the prescribed ages. There is no doubt that if this is done it will be for the advantage of the force, both by bringing younger and more active men to the front, and by creating a healthy circulation in the ranks of the officers. There will be many cases where the service will suffer by a stringent enforcement of the rule, where men above the age retain the vigor and enthusiasm of their younger days, and are in every sense desirable officers, but it will be necessary to sacrifice these few for the good of the many. When the age regulations were introduced some months ago they met with general approval, and a strict interpretation of them would also be received with favor.

While we will miss many a familiar name from the active list and many a familiar face at our annual camps, we rest satisfied that the long and varied experience of many of our veterans will not be lost to the force at large, nor to the special battalions that have grown into prominence, and some of them into being, under a fostering hand—old associations are not so easily severed and those who will rise to take the place of the "shelved" will no doubt look to them for words of

encouragement and assistance in numberless ways to enable them to tide over difficulties and entanglements that are sure to arise sooner or later in all human institutions, and that they will not look in vain is almost a foregone conclusion. In all walks of life new men are always to be found fully capable of taking the helm when their turn comes, military life being no exception to the rule, and it must be remembered that a new shuffle of the cards often results in the turning up of trumps.

The old friends of the Stormont battalion will find the personnel of the staff greatly changed by this week's orders. That Lieut.-Col. Bergin should retire from the command may be accepted as a sign that the Surgeon-Generalship, which he now fills temporarily, will be continued permanently, and the whole district as well as the battalion is to be congratulated that, as they were obliged to lose so popular a commander, they should have secured in Lieut.-Col. Bredin another officer likely to maintain the regiment in its former efficient state. Both majors are new staff appointments, and Major McLennan is apparently new to the force. The Quarter-master has taken a company, and Major Davey has taken the Quarter-mastership, while Capt. Smart, who was formerly Adjutant, but who lately took command of a company, will be missed from the next camp, as he has retired from the battalion.

As there is considerable anxiety on the part of possible competitors to know what ammunition will be used at the D. R. A. meeting this year, we are glad to be in a position to assure all that English made cartridges (mark IX) have been already purchased by the association in sufficient quantity to provide for all the matches, and that this make only will be sold on the ground. We may add that there is no further supply of English ammunition here, nor, so far as we can learn, at any store east of Winnipeg, except some old stuff (mark IV) at Kingston, so that only Canadian make can be procured for practice.

Rightly or wrongly a very strong prejudice has arisen against the Snider ammunition manufactured by the Dominion Government; a feeling that time does not appear to be dispelling; and the Militia Department proposes to appoint a commission to investigate into the whole matter and report on the causes for any inferiority, if such is found to exist. We hope to see as members of the Commission officers, who are thoroughly acquainted with the theory of explosives and projectiles rather than shots.

The match for the Rajah of Kolapore's cups, the Wimbledon event in which Canadians are most particularly interested, has been decided this year adversely to our team, and for the first time we have lost the £80 which go to the best score of a visiting team. We were beaten by the Mother Country, Guernsey and Jersey, in the order named. There is no use in being either disappointed or discouraged by this reverse, which might have occurred under any circumstances, while on this occasion our

men were under the disadvantage of firing in a mirage, an event which is not unusual in the moist atmosphere of the old country, but almost unknown here. Altogether there has been a dearth of news this year from Wimbledon and we are comparatively in ignorance of the achievements of our contingent. There is a rumor that Ashall gained a place in the sixty but we have not seen it confirmed. The Canadian cup which he won is a cup given by the Canada Company for the best aggregate made by a member of the Canadian twenty.

#### PERSONALS.

The Kingston *Daily News* of the 18th devotes a column to describing the return of Major Short, of "B" Battery, from the front. He has always been a smart soldier, and a favorite alike with his men and in society, but the exhibition of his personal bravery at Cut Knife Hill has made him, if possible, more popular than ever. The men of his battery made a rush for him, and carried him into barracks on their shoulders as soon as the train arrived, and later, dragged him and Mrs. Short to their home in his cart. A welcome given his charger, a serenade in the evening by the 14th P. W. O. Band, and an oyster supper concluded a sincere and hearty greeting to the hero of Cut Knife Hill.

Capt. Jeffrey H. Burland, 6th Batt. Fusiliers, of Montreal, sails for England this week on a two months' leave of absence. He will visit London, Paris and other cities on the continent. The gallant captain delayed taking his trip till there was no prospect of his battalion being required for service in the North-West.

#### THE WELCOME HOME OF THE FIELD FORCE.

The past week has been consecrated to receiving the homecoming troops, and all the superlatives in the dictionary have been brought out to describe the celebrations; rightly, too, for Canada has never been so deeply stirred, nor has she ever before so given way to enthusiasm. In Winnipeg the official celebration took place on the 17th, having been delayed a day by storm. The 90th—to whom Big Bear's sobriquet of "little black devils" seems likely to stick—paraded in the morning, and in the evening there was a grand procession and illumination. The *Free Press* thus describes the sight:—

"The street from one side to the other was one moving mass of people, and it was difficult to distinguish the procession. In fact it was all a procession and one that has never been equalled in this or any other city in the Dominion. The air was filled with music and yelling, and it was utterly impossible for one to hear himself speak. Cheer after cheer rent the air, and the echo was taken up by the crowd blocks away. The boy brigade carried tin horns, and their shrill blasts would almost waken the dead. Along Main street and up Portage avenue wound the great throng, cheering vociferously at every step. Along Kennedy street and down Broadway marched the ten thousand people, firing rockets and illuminating the heavens generally in their wake. At the corner of Main and Broadway the Queen's Own, 90th, Grenadiers, and Ottawa Sharpshooters fell in and marched with the procession down Main street. It was a wild sight. The greatest enthusiasm prevailed. From every quarter rockets were fired and from every quarter cheering was heard. No pen can picture the scene. The whole street was one blaze of fire."

A similar description, *mutatis mutandis*, would serve for the receptions at other battalion headquarters, such as Toronto, Ottawa, Montreal, Quebec and Halifax.

The Queen's Own and Grenadiers reached Toronto on Thursday afternoon, debarking at North Toronto station. The scenes at meeting with the heroes of Batoche and Cut Knife Hill can be better imagined than described. Suffice it to say that the enthusiasm was unbounded—the cheering deafening, the greeting heartfelt and supremely honest. Toronto was beside herself in honoring her brave sons, and the thousands upon thousands testified in a never-to-be-forgotten manner their honest appreciation of the work so well and bravely done. Howard, of Gatling fame, was not forgotten and was deluged with bouquets, one having the word "Gatling" inscribed in its centre. Each man as he marched in his place through the dense throng of familiar faces must indeed have felt his "bosom swell with pride." The day will live in Toronto's history and in the memory of all who took part in the proceedings. The following effusion from the Toronto *Morning News*, while somewhat effervescent, tells how deep was the feeling and stirring the occasion:—

"The boys have come home.

"The happy time has come, the glorious day has come, the dreadful story of treason dark and gory did end in a sunburst of glory, and the boys are home.

"Wives and sweethearts flocked all around them, caressed them, and last night one hundred thousand voices prayed God to bless them, when the boys come home.

"Never since Creation has there been such a home-coming. There may have been times, in the history of older nations, when the decorations were gayer,

when the event was more costly, when a greater artificial stimulant was given the spontaneous outburst of public enthusiasm, when mercenary or political ends had a greater interest and a more controlling influence in the reception, but never, since the day when the walls of Jericho fell before the best appointed host that the world had yet seen; never since the time when Cæsar marshalled Roman legionaries on the plains of Italy; never when Carthaginian hosts overturned the traditions of the world's empire; never even when Lodi, and Montau, and Marengo, and Austerlitz, and Jena lent Napoleonic glory to French arms; never when Vimiero, and Badajoz, and Ciudad Rodrigo, and Salamanca, and even Waterloo clothed with the garment of fame the magnificent soldiery of the British Isles; never when victory perched on the banners of Von Moltke, and Unser Fritz, and the Red Prince, and Steinmetz, and Baron Von Manteuffel, and made the names of Sedan and Gravelotte, and Paris sacred in the eyes of Germans; never even when one million three hundred thousand brave Americans marched through the streets of Washington, celebrating the grand climax at Appomatox has there been a more genuine, hearty, overflowing, enthusiastic, heartfelt, grand, glorious and uproarious exposition of the feelings of a grateful people than yesterday identified itself with the history of Toronto."

The Ottawa sharpshooters reached home on Friday evening, and were met at the Union station by all the troops in the city, the Mayor and corporation, and by most of the incorporated societies. The streets were profusely decorated, perhaps not so much in their honor as in honor of the victorious expedition from which they were returning, and on their way to the drill hall the streets were thronged by a cheering multitude. Several addresses and a banner were presented to them, and it was late before they were allowed to disperse to their homes. The Minister of Militia in an eloquent speech referred not only to the local corps but to the whole force. Speaking as a private citizen and as a Canadian who loved Canada above everything else, he felt proud to be able to give an opinion which he did not believe to be an exaggerated one, of what their deeds had done for Canada. He had but the other day received a letter from a gentleman of high standing in England, and in that communication the writer congratulated Canada on having so expeditiously and so energetically put down a wicked and groundless rebellion, and expressed the belief that the manner in which it was accomplished had done more for Canada than any other means that could be employed to make the Dominion respected and honored abroad. He asked if the press of foreign countries had not given Canadian soldiers credit for their bravery and intrepidity. Had not the leading papers on the other side of the imaginary line which divides us from a friendly nation to the south of us, in the most exhaustive articles on the rebellion, shown that Canada had risen greatly in the estimation of our neighbors? So it was everywhere. Our soldiers by the difficult marches, by their bravery and by their enthusiasm had won the plaudits of the world, and drawn attention to our country. It was due to the pluck of our Canadian army that the rebellion was crushed out in so short a space of time. Just as in forming the Sharpshooters, the men were taken from all the various corps in the city, so in calling out the troops all the different provinces were asked to send their quota. Referring to the regiments who did not take part in any of the fights, he said he was sure that they would not and should not be shorn of the honor that was due them. It was necessary that regiments should be had to garrison important points and to prevent any movements on the part of the rebels to cut off communications with those who were out. He felt therefore that he should give credit to those who did not have an opportunity to do any fighting, for the manner in which they had performed their all important duties. Had their destiny been before the enemy they too would have undoubtedly given an excellent account of themselves.

The 65th reached Montreal on Monday morning, the 20th, being the first corps home. Their reception was similar to all the others, with this addition, that they marched straight to their parish church, where a "Te Deum" was sung. The Garrison artillery reached Montreal on Friday afternoon and received a greeting quite as warm. Both corps met on the exhibition grounds on Saturday, where they received an official banquet from the city.

The 9th Voltigeurs landed in Quebec on Tuesday, the Halifax battalion reached home on Friday, and the 7th on Saturday, being the last corps to return. All these corps have, as will be seen by general orders, been relieved from active service.

Besides the receptions at their own homes, the battalions received many attentions *en route*, all showing the feeling of admiration with which their conduct at the front had inspired their fellow citizens.

The Midlanders' return was necessarily marked by an element of sadness in their having to perform the last sad rites over the grave of their departed and much beloved and honored leader, nevertheless each centre that had contributed its quota to the fine battalion gave its representatives an enthusiastic welcome and in the same style of warm hearted approbation as was observed in the larger cities. Altogether, Canada has been deeply stirred from ocean to ocean, a wave of popular enthusiasm has swept over the land having a deeper meaning than is apparent to the superficial observer who only sees a welcome to the volunteers.

It points to a chain of provinces bound together by a tie of affection and respect ever ready to rise in defence of one another under the talisman of a Union Jack. A warning finger has been held up to all rebels that will last for many a long day, and will serve to show that the Beaver as well as the Lion cannot be trodden upon with impunity.

### RIFLES AND RIFLE SHOOTING.—XI.

BY CAPTAIN HENRY F. PERLEY, HEADQUARTERS STAFF.

The bullets used with the Snider-Enfield rifle are known as expanding bullets, and *pure* lead only is used in their manufacture; for, being one of the most non-elastic of metals, it requires the least force to expand it, and makes but little effort to resume its original shape after having been altered by any force impressed upon it, whilst its mixture with any other metal affects this property of non-elasticity. As has been before stated bullets were originally cast, and as a rule were found to be imperfect and faulty. Now, they are made by machinery, by which they are formed in steel dies and the accuracy of their manufacture has been brought to such a state of perfection that a working limit of two grains over or under a weight of 480 grains, is all that is permitted in the Snider bullet. The machinery in use will turn out 2,650 bullets in less than two hours at a cost of about two cents for five; but before commencing their manufacture great care is exercised in testing the purity of the lead to be used, which, if found to be satisfactory, is placed in a melting pot, and when sufficiently fluid is removed to the "squirting machine" from which the lead issues in the shape of a rod, and is wound on reels which hold 130 yards, each reel weighing nearly one quarter of a ton, or enough to make 6,800 bullets. A coil is then placed in a bullet machine, the end of the lead rod being passed between a pair of grooved rollers, by which it is drawn forward through a box of lubricating composition to facilitate future movements. Passing through a hole rather more than half an inch in diameter, a piece exactly the length of the future bullet is cut off and is instantly seized by a pair of nippers and is held momentarily before a die; a punch then protrudes and forces the cylinder into the die where it takes the prescribed form. But this operation leaves it hollow and open in front, but by passing through another machine the point is spun over and closed, and the bullet then has its shape and appearance as seen in a cartridge. A number of changes have been made in the Enfield bullet, both in its shape, in the number of grooves by which it is surrounded, in the plug, &c. At first it was smooth and had a cavity in the rear, the sides of which expanded, directing into the grooves by the action of the gas, but it was only under certain conditions that satisfactory results were generally obtained. To obviate the difficulties experienced the shape of the cavity was altered, and an iron cup placed in it to aid expansion. But this did not fulfil the requirements of a good bullet, and in 1855 a new form with a boxwood plug was adopted which gave increased accuracy in shooting, and in a few years after a plug of baked clay was substituted for the boxwood one. The construction of the Snider bullet is peculiar—the head as well as the base being hollow; this last being required to receive the plug which is forced forward by the explosion of the charge of powder and expands the rear of the ball into the grooves of the rifle, whilst the first was found to be necessary in order that a proper length should be obtained without increasing the weight, and at the same time to preserve the centre of gravity, and thus ensure the bullet travelling point foremost in its flight. This bullet weighs 480 grains is 1.065 inches in length and is .573 inch before being lubricated. The length of a Snider cartridge is 2.445 inches, weighs 1 oz. 10 drs. 20 grs. and contains 2½ drams or 68 grains of powder. Up to 1857 the lubricating mixture was composed of five parts of tallow and one of wax, and it may be said that the use of these materials was the cause of the rebellion in India. Amongst the Mahomedans, the pig is held in abhorrence, whilst among the Hindoos the cow is venerated, and it is considered a sacrilege for any of the last to touch with the lips the animal or any part thereof which is thus venerated; and it is an abomination to the first to do the same with the detested pig. Great dissatisfaction arose among the Sepoys, fermented no doubt by fanatics, and the *lie* was spread over the land that by compelling the Mahomedans to apply his lips to the fat of the pig, and the Hindoo to that of the cow, the British government intended to break down "caste," or the distinction and difference with which the native Indian has enwrapped himself. In explanation it must be stated that the muzzle loading Enfield rifle and its cartridge had only just been put into the hands of the Sepoys, without giving prominence to the change which had been made in the firing exercise, that the cartridge was to be torn open with the fingers of the left hand, instead of being bitten off with the teeth, as was the practice with the cartridges served out for "Brown Bess." Owing to the revolt the lubricant was changed to five of wax and one of tallow; and in 1859

and since then only wax has been used. If an Enfield bullet be examined it will be found to be surrounded by three grooves called "cannelures." These, beside holding the lubricant, assist, by the impinging of the atmosphere against their bases, in keeping the longitudinal axis of the bullet in the line of flight, as will be explained further on.

At present the Snider cartridge case consists of a base-disc of iron .047 inch thick, copper or brass cap chamber, two base cups of brass, paste-board or rolled paper wad, and a body which is made of 1¼ turns of brass .005 inch in thickness, covered inside and outside with thin paper. The exploder consists of a copper cap which is placed in the cap chamber, resting on a small brass anvil, which in turn sets on the bottom of the chamber. To explode the cap the crown is indented by the striker of the rifle, when the detonating composition is brought into contact with the anvil, and the flash passing through the fire-hole at the bottom of the cap chamber ignites the charge of powder. Each cartridge case is first capped and then filled by the aid of an apparatus with the proper amount of powder on which is placed a plug of cotton wool, then the bullet, which has been coated with wax, is inserted, and the cartridge is "choked" by running a crease around it into one of the grooves, and is finally completed by wiping off the wax around the edges.

The manufacture of caps is exceedingly simple. A sheet of thin copper is stamped into the discs of the proper size, which are passed through a machine which punches them into the required shape and trims them off to the proper length. The caps are then placed mouths upward in a tray, and the inside of each is touched with a strongly adhesive varnish, after which the requisite quantity of detonating composition is deposited and pressed into place.

With the exception of being "bottle-shaped" the Martini cartridge case is similar in construction to that of the Snider. The bullet is solid, made of an alloy of 12 parts of pure lead and one part of tin, weighs 480 grains, has two cannelures, is papered and lubricated with wax. The body is made of sheet brass .004 inch in thickness and lined on the inside with tissue paper cemented to it. At the base it is strengthened by an additional band of sheet brass of the same thickness. The top end of the cartridge is .45 inch in diameter, and the base .577 inch. The charge of powder is 85 grains, over which is placed a wad of wax having one glazed millboard disc underneath, and two above it, and the bullet is secured in place by being choked into the cannelures.

(To be continued.)

### THE DUTIES OF FIELD ARTILLERY IN ACTION.

BY LIEUT.-COLONEL W. KEMMIS, R.A.

(Continued from Page 76.)

#### THE STAFF NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS.

The limbers being separated from the guns, though but a short distance, and the divisional officers having in action their attention fully engrossed in an opposite direction, should as a whole, be in charge of some responsible N.-C. officer. For this duty the senior staff N.-C. officer is the most suitable, because he will thus have the greater scope for active usefulness, while he will be nearer to the commander, who, failing an available officer, might require to make special use of him; at the same time having in his daily routine of work much to do with the discipline and distribution of the battery generally, and having thereby a perfect knowledge of the N.-C. officers and men, he is well fitted to make the most of their individual abilities in emergency.

Being then in charge of the limbers, the senior staff N.-C. officer has first to retire them to the spot directed, placing them, if there be any choice, as advantageously as possible with regard to cover and convenience of movement for limbering up; he should then see that the gunners with the limbers are at once ready to supply ammunition and, so far as he may, that they supply it, as ordered, on the command to load; while the fighting proceeds he must maintain the limbers ready to move, carrying out any special instructions which the commander may give respecting them and see generally that the N.-C. officers and gunners with them do their duty correctly: he should also note the expenditure of ammunition and the casualties which occur, reporting from time to time to the second in command, or, in his absence, to the commander, obtaining his instructions and acting thereon.

When ammunition, spare men and horses arrive from the wagons, it will be his business, under the second in command, to see to the proper and ready distribution of the former and to the best utilization of the latter.

At the same time that the senior staff N.-C. officer fulfils the foregoing particular duties he will have opportunities for general usefulness.

assisting the officers when pressed in their work at the guns, engaged, perhaps, in one spot and unable to give attention at another equally requiring it; taking charge, mayhap, for the moment, of a gun at which the No. 1 has just fallen, keeping up its fire and restoring confidence to its gunners: particularly can his aid in this respect be valuable when the number of the officers is reduced.<sup>1</sup>

Finally, it is the duty of the senior staff N.-C. officer—as it is of all other N.-C. officers in their degree—to stand out as examples of obedience, endurance and every good quality.<sup>2</sup>

It is necessary that a N.-C. officer of experience remain with the wagons when detached from the guns, to act under the second in command with respect to them and to take charge of them in his absence: for this, the junior staff N.-C. officer is the most fitting, not merely because, as we have already pointed out, he is not the most suitable to be in charge of the limbers, but because the duties which he will there have with regard to supply will fit in well with that routine of work with respect to equipment usually given to him and, at the same time, he will be less liable to be placed *hors de combat*, which would cause many details in making good expenditure, accounting for deficiencies, etc., to fall upon the commander after the action, when possibly the latter would have as much as he could do in reorganizing his battery and in general superintendence of its refitting.

The first duty of the second staff N.-C. officer will then be to assist the second in command in the dispositions which he may make with regard to the wagons, carefully noting what is done and the orders which he receives; guided by the latter his next duty will be to take every care of his charge in the absence of the second in command, maintaining it ready for any movement required, taking any additional precautions which, from time to time, may seem desirable, and informing the second in command of anything of importance which may occur. It will further be his duty to send forward, as demanded, wagons, spare men and horses, to examine return wagons, and to send, subject to any instructions he may have received, those which are empty to the reserve for further supply. If he finds any temporary repairs possible by the battery artificers with him in the *matériel* sent back from the guns he should direct and superintend them.<sup>3</sup> While he performs the foregoing duties he must be careful to observe, as far as possible, the progress of the fight, and particularly any change in the position of the guns, or of the reserve ammunition wagons.

#### THE OFFICIAL REPORT OF THE FISH CREEK FIGHT.

The *Canada Gazette* of the 11th contains, as a Militia general order, General Middleton's reports of the actions in which the field force have lately been engaged. We hope to reproduce them all, but can now only give the first report:—

NORTH-WEST FIELD FORCE,  
HEAD QUARTERS, FISH CREEK, May 1, 1885.

Sir.—I have the honor to state for the information of His Excellency the Governor-General and yourself, the following particulars of the engagement between my force and that of the Rebels, on the 24th of April last, which I have been unable to do before, except by telegraph, owing to having so much to do in reconnoitring, getting up supplies and making arrangements for the movement of the troops in the other parts of the North-west Territory.

I had previously informed you of the division of my forces, and on the morning of the 23rd both columns advanced on the two sides of the river, with the scow moving down between them. We halted about 18 miles down the river, my column near the farm of a settler named McIntosh, and the other in a line with us on the other side. After a quiet night we started on the morning of the 24th at about 7 a.m. with the usual military precautions.

Mounted Infantry scouts spread out well in front, with support of Mounted Infantry under Major Boulton about 200 yards in rear. An advanced guard of the 90th Batt. about 300 yards in rear of that, and the main column about 200 to 300 yards in rear of the advanced guard.

Though I had not been led to believe that the rebels would come so far to the front to attack us, still I was aware of the existence of a rather deep ravine or creek about five or six miles ahead, consequently I was on this occasion, with the support under Major Boulton, accompanied by Capt. Haig, R.E., A.Q.M.G., and my two Aides-de-camp, Capt. Wise and Lieut. Doucet, and Mr. MacDowell attached to my staff. On approaching some bluffs, just as the left advanced scouts were circling round, we suddenly received a heavy fire from a bluff and some ground sloping back on our left, which fire was luckily too high to do mischief, having been evidently fired in a hurry owing to the approach of the left scouts. Major Boulton instantly ordered his men to dismount, let loose their horses (two of which were immediately shot), and hold the enemy in check. This was done by them most gallantly—the flankers and files in front falling back on the main body. I sent Capt. Wise back with orders to bring the advanced guard and main body, which was soon done,

<sup>1</sup>In such case the sergt.-major is sometimes detailed to look after the division or half-battery of guns: it would, however, seem better to leave him mainly to the charge of the limbers and supply of ammunition, etc., his normal work.

<sup>2</sup>If the sergt.-major falls, the senior coverer should take charge of the limbers: his other duties in action must be carried through by the captain alone.

<sup>3</sup>Any damaged *matériel* not so repairable, and yet desirable to keep, he should send with the wagons to the reserve: he should make a note in a memorandum book of what he sends to the latter and what he receives therefrom.

though in going with the order Capt'n Wise's horse was hit by a shot from the bluffs on the left. The advanced guard on arrival extended and took cover in the bluffs nearest us, and as the main body came up, two more companies of the 90th were extended, the rebels advancing up out of the ravine into which, however, they again speedily retired and a heavy fire was exchanged, but having sent a party round to a house on the enemy's right, the enemy gradually retired along the ravine while our men advanced slowly to the crest of a deeply wooded part running out of the main ravine. In this former ravine a small party of the rebels made a stand, in which we found afterwards to be some carefully constructed rifle pits. These men were evidently the best shots—Gabriel Dumont being amongst them, but were, so to speak caught in a trap. A great number of their horses and ponies were in this ravine, and, what is said to be very unusual, tied up—thus showing, I am informed, that the rebels were pretty confident of success—55 of these horses were killed. These men were gradually reduced in number until, from the position of our men, it was almost impossible for them to retire, and they continued to fire at intervals, doing a good deal of mischief. Captain Peters with great pluck and dash led the dismounted men of "A" Battery, supported by a party of the 90th under Capt. Ruttan, and gallantly attempted to dislodge them, but they were so well covered and were able to bring such a heavy fire on the party advancing without being seen, killing three men, two artillerymen and one of the 90th (the body of one artilleryman was afterwards found within 8 or 10 yards of their pits) that I resolved to leave them, contenting myself with extending more of the 90th in front to watch them and sending some shells into the bluff now and then. Lt.-Col. Houghton, my D.A.G., in taking orders got mixed with this party and advanced with them, showing great pluck and coolness. I would here beg to notice the pluck and coolness displayed by other officers (especially Capt. Drury) and men of "A" Battery in running their guns up by hand to the edge of the ravine and the opposite gully afterwards, three of the men being wounded. In the meanwhile, having seen the part of the 90th extended as above mentioned, I galloped across to the right, having previously sent my two As.-D.-C. there with orders to get "C" half company and two companies of the 90th extended. On arrival there I found that the enemy was in force trying to turn our right, having set fire to the prairie as the wind was blowing towards us. About this period Capt. Drury, of "A" Battery, threw a shell into a house some distance off where some rebels were seen congregating, and set it on fire. The rebels at this time advanced under cover of the smoke out of the ravine which extended across our front, and the firing was tremendously hot. My A.-D.-C., Lieut. Doucet, and several men were hit. Our men were forced back here a little at first, but soon rallied and advanced steadily, holding their own and taking cover well, until using the enemy's own tactics we fairly drove them back bluff by bluff, and they retired all together going off as hard as they could. I may mention here that their attempts to drive us back by setting fire to the prairie proved a failure, though at one time it looked awkward, but I sent for a party of teamsters who soon beat it out, notwithstanding they were for a short time under fire.

By about 2 p.m. the enemy had disappeared and all firing ceased except from the men in the ravine, who seemed by their voices to be reduced in number, and whom I endeavored to reach by means of the guns from the opposite side of the ravine, I think successfully, from the amount of blood found afterwards in the pits and a dead Sioux found near there. To return to the action of the left flank—on recrossing to them I received a bullet through my fur cap from one of the men in the rifle pits, who had made several attempts to hit me before, and whom I have reason to believe was Gabriel Dumont himself, and who a few minutes after, being obliged to recross with my A.-D.-C., Capt. Wise, shot from the same place his horse and threw him. Shortly after, I am sorry to say, while looking over the brow of the ravine to see if the enemy were still there, Captain Wise received a shot in the foot. I found the firing reduced to the men in the ravine, the rest of the enemy having retired in confusion.

During the action a messenger from the left column arrived asking if they should bring troops across, and I directed the 10th Grenadiers to be brought over, which was done by means of the scow most expeditiously, one company with Lord Melgund arriving about 1 o'clock p.m., and two other companies under Lt.-Col. Grasett later on, with two guns of the Winnipeg Field Battery, under Major Jarvis. As the affair was nearly over then, I contented myself with extending a company of the 10th on the right centre to assist in watching the ravine where the enemy's rifle pits were, the other companies being on the extreme right in support and ultimately remaining there until the wounded were removed to the camp ground which had been selected in the meantime. I would here beg leave to draw particular attention to the crossing of these troops, who, though luckily not required, might well have been. To fully appreciate the rapidity with which this was done, in spite of the difficulties that existed, the river must be seen; wooded heights on each side 100 feet high—at bottom, large boulders encrusted in thick sticky mud—a fringe of huge blocks of ice on each side, a wretched scow carrying about 60 men at most, pulled with oars made with an axe, and a rapid current of about three or four miles an hour were the obstacles that were surmounted by dint of determination and anxiety to join with and aid their comrades.

Meanwhile a sort of Zareba had been formed by Mr. Bedson and Mr. Secretan of a few wagons, where the doctors formed their temporary hospital and carried out their functions skilfully, coolly and quietly under the able superintendance of Brigade Surgeon Orton, 90th Battalion. A little later finding the firing had ceased, and the enemy fled except the two or three whom I left there for the reason above mentioned, and as a thunder storm was coming up—having removed the dead, and sent off the wounded, we pitched camp amidst a severe thunder storm in an open spot close to the scene of the fight, which had been selected by Lord Melgund as above mentioned. I append an official list of killed and wounded, which I regret is so large, but which is not larger than might be expected, considering the circumstances under which we were attacked, and the fact that not a man in the force but myself had been under fire. Moreover I had only about 350 men in action, and I estimate the enemy at about 300—as regards their loss, all we actually found on the field was three dead Indians, but I am confident they must have sustained a tolerably severe loss, as they would not have abandoned so strong a position, and one, from the amount of food we found in the different houses, they evidently expected to occupy for some time. Moreover after crossing the creek, the trail was so situated as regards numerous bluffs, running at right angles to it, that they could have impeded my

advance with a very few men. I am afraid I shall have to stay some days in my present camp, until I can send my wounded to the rear. All my troops, officers and men, behaved well, and my thanks are due to all of them and to their several commanders; but I beg to mention by name those officers who came specially under my personal notice, and to whom my great thanks are due, viz.: Captain Haig, R.E., my A.Q.M.G. My two As.D.C. Capt. Wise and Lieut. Dncet, who gave me great help and assistance. Major Smith "C" Company, I.S. Corps. Major Boswell and Capt. Buchan, of the 90th Battalion, who were of great help to me in holding the right and eventually forcing back the enemy under a very heavy fire. Major Boswell was hit in the heel of his boot, and Captain Buchan's horse received a shot. Major Boulton's coolness and firmness in checking the enemy at the commencement of the engagement was remarkable, and deserves great praise. Messrs. Bedson and Secretan also were of great assistance in forming a Zareba of waggons round the place selected by the medical men for their temporary hospital, which was almost under fire of the enemy. My thanks are also due to Brigade Surgeon Orton, 90th Batt., for the excellent arrangement made by him for attending to the wounded, and removing them to our new camp. The men employed as ambulance men also performed their duties very well, not hesitating to bring away the wounded under fire. I cannot conclude without mentioning a little bugler of the 90th Regiment, named William Buchanan, who made himself particularly useful in carrying ammunition to the right front when the fire was very hot; this he did with peculiar nonchalance, walking calmly about crying—"Now boys, who's for cartridges?"

And also herewith a rough sketch of the scene of the action, drawn by my A.Q.M.G., Captain Haig, R.E.

(Signed), FRED. MIDDLETON, Major General,  
Commanding Canadian Militia and N.W. Field Force.

P.S.—May 13th. I find from papers captured at Batoche yesterday, that the number of the rebels at Fish Creek was 280 under Gabriel Dumont; that they intended to let me enter the ravine or crest and then destroy us, taking me prisoner and holding me as a hostage to assist them in making terms with the Government, at Ottawa. Their scheme was defeated by my having my scouts so far in advance, which obliged them to fire on them, and thus disclose their position. I also find now that the rebels had 11 killed or died of wounds, and 18 wounded at Fish Creek.

(Signed), FRED. MIDDLETON.

*Official List of Killed.*

"A" Battery.—Gunner G. H. de Manolly and Gunner W. Cook.

90th Battalion.—Privates A. W. Ferguson, James Hutchins, George Wheeler, William Ennis.

*Wounded Seriously.*

"A" Battery.—Gunnery E. Moissau, C. Armsworth; driver M. Wilson.

90th Regiment.—Private David Hislop, corporal J. E. Lethbridge, private C. H. Kemp, \*Lieutenant Charles Swinford.

"C" Company Infantry School Corps.—No. 49, private Robert H. Dunn, \*No. 165, private Arthur J. Watson.

Boulton's Scouts.—Troopers Val. Bruce, Perrin, J. Langford, C. King, Baker Darcy.

*Wounded.*

"A" Battery.—Staff sergeant S. W. Mawhinney, acting bombardier D. Taylor, gunners A. Asselin, W. Woodman, A. Emerie, M. Ouillet, W. Langerell; drivers J. Harrison, J. Turner.

"C" Company Infantry School Corps.—No. 59, private R. Jones; No. 142, private E. Harris; No. 26, private E. J. McDonald; No. 71, private Harry Jones; No. 28, color-sergeant R. Cummings.

90th Battalion.—Private Milas Riley Jones, corporal John Code, captain W. Clarke, privates A. S. Blackwood, M. Caniff, E. Lowell, W. W. Matthews, Joseph Chambers; corporal W. Thacker, private Chas. Bouchette, corporals J. W. C. Swan, H. H. Bowden.

Boulton's Scouts.—Captain Gardner, sergeant Alex. Stewart, trooper F. H. Thompson.

Total—Killed or died of wounds, 10. Wounded, 40.

(Signed) FRED. MIDDLETON, Major General,  
Commanding Canadian Militia and N. W. Field Force.

**LOSSES IN BATTLE.**

**THEIR PROPORTION TO THE NUMBER ENGAGED IN MODERN WARS.**

An exchange remarks that, "strange as it may sound, improvements in killing men in battle actually prevent men from being killed. Ancient wars were always more bloody, counting the number of fighting men, than modern ones." It then goes on to prove its assertion by reviewing the list of losses in the wars of the last two centuries and a half. Between 1631 and 1674, when firearms were very imperfect, the average per cent. of loss was 26. Between 1745 and 1813 the per cent. was 20½; being set down at 24 for Bunker's Hill and 19 for Lundy's Lane. After the introduction of percussion caps and rifled barrels the losses fell to 15 per cent. in the Crimean, Italian and American wars. With the improvement in Krupp ordinance and needle guns a decrease of mortality is recorded, the average for the last two great Prussian wars being 11 per cent. Of course the figures in many cases went far above the average. Grant's losses in the Wilderness campaign were enormous. At Shiloh the per cent. was 24; at Antietam, 16; at Chancellorsville, 11; at Gettysburg, 28.

\* Since died. † Died of wounds.

We have examined the records of the forces engaged in the principal European conflicts during the past thirty years, and we find the following figures, which may prove interesting:—In the Crimean war the following were the chief encounters between the allies and the Russians: At Inkermann the allies had 15,000 men and lost 2,500; the Russians lost 9,000 out of 40,000. At Alma the allies had 50,000 troops and the Russians 46,000. The former lost about 3,400 and the latter 4,100. In the Italian campaign of 1859, when the French and Piedmontese were arrayed against the Austrians, two memorable battles were fought. The first was Magenta, where the allies had 55,000 men against 75,000 Austrians. The former lost 4,000, the latter 10,000. The second fight, that of Solferino, was terribly bloody, lasting fifteen hours. The allies lost 8 generals, 936 officers, and 17,305 soldiers; the Austrians lost 630 officers and 19,311 soldiers. At Sadowa, or Koniggratz, July 3, 1866, the Prussians won the great victory over the Austrians, which made Russia the most formidable military power in Europe. The Prussian army engaged numbered 150,000; its killed and wounded were 8,800. The Austrians, under Benedek, were 200,000; their losses were about 20,000.

If we look at the great battles of the Franco-Prussian war of 1870 we shall see that in spite of the vast hosts which were engaged, the proportional loss was less than would be commonly supposed. At Worth, the French, under McMahon, had 45,000 men; they lost 6,000 killed and wounded. The Germans, under the Crown Prince, had 150,000 troops: their loss was 11,642. At Weissenburg, just previous to the battle of Worth, 40,000 Germans defeated 10,000 French under Douay. The former lost 10,000; the latter 1,551. At Spichern 40,000 French, under Frossard, were whipped by 27,000 Germans under Kameke and Steinmetz. The slaughter was very heavy.

The Brandenburg regiment of Grenadiers alone lost 35 officers and 771 men. The total losses were: French, 4,078; Germans, 3,871. The chief battles of the war, however, were at Vionville (August 17, 1870), and at Gravelotte (August 18, 1870). In the former about 100,000 French, under Bazaine, were worsted by 70,000 Germans. 15,780 of the former fell; the latter lost 16,900. At Gravelotte, which decided the fate of Metz, and, indeed, rendered the collapse of Napoleon's armies imminent, 140,000 French lost 19,000 men, while 180,000 Germans lost 25,000. At Sedan, McMahon's army numbered about 124,000, of whom 17,000 were killed or wounded in the contests preceding the surrender. The Germans had 250,000 men, of whom 9,000 were killed and wounded. The following summary shows the losses at a glance:

	Whole No. Engaged.	Killed and Wounded.	Per Cent.
Worth.....	195,000	17,642	11
Weissenburg.....	50,000	2,751	5
Spichern.....	67,000	8,949	8
Vionville.....	170,000	32,680	18
Gravelotte.....	320,000	44,000	14
Sedan.....	374,000	26,000	7

In more recent conflicts great carnage has been recorded. Thus 8,000 out of 38,000 Russians fell in the second battle of Plevna, July 30, 1876, when they were repulsed by the Turks under Osman Pasha, but this was an assault upon a strong position rather than a pitched battle.

The inference to be drawn from these figures seems to bear out the assertion that mortality in warfare is decreasing. A comparison of these statistics with those referring to the great battles of ancient times and of modern times before the introduction of gunpowder would be equally instructive, and corroborate the general statements made above.—*Philadelphia Evening Bulletin.*

**CORRESPONDENCE.**

**TARGET PRACTICE AND RIFLE ASSOCIATIONS.**

To the Editor of the Canadian Militia Gazette:

SIR,—Your remarks in the issue of 30th June on the waste of ammunition during the annual training are quite right, but it cannot be remedied. It rests with the individuals who do not take enough interest in their own shooting, and there is no time during the training to make them do so, therefore, by them the annual allowance is blazed away uselessly. But any man who tries to shoot, and is anxious to account for his missing the bull's-eye, is worth encouraging and being taught; for him the annual allowance is insufficient. Here the Regimental Rifle Association steps in and makes a marksman of him.

Your "nameless" correspondent is rather down on all rifle associations. Evidently his experience of them has been very limited and not a success; likely from bad management, and his sweeping condemnation shows a want of knowledge about the interior economy of a regimental or any other rifle association. I would ask him who got up the rifle matches, and if it is not the case that when the officers take no interest in rifle practice, the men will not; and also that when ammunition is given around promiscuously to the company's free of cost, if it is not simply wasted. A shooting man will take all the ammunition that is

given to him, but he does not object to pay for more, and therefore is careful of it. If your correspondent will take the trouble to look through the list of winners, let alone the entry list of the provincial and Dominion matches, he will see that the rank and file form the large majority, and take the lion's share of the prizes. They get to these matches and if they did not attend them these meetings would be failures. I don't think our friend gives much of his time to rifle shooting, and likely cannot hit a haystack at 500 yards.

To show the benefit the rank and file get from the regimental rifle associations, I will give a sketch of one which has for its object the making of as many marksmen in the regiment as possible. "The season opens with the annual meeting, to which all are invited to attend and see what is being done to foster rifle practice, hear the record of the past season read, elect the committee and discuss new plans for the future. The committee is elected by ballot and composed of a president, vice-president, secretary-treasurer, and one representative from each company, irrespective of rank. These manage the musketry of the regiment, frame the rules, select men for outside teams, and keep a correct record of all practices and matches. The annual fee is \$2 for rank and file, and a higher rate for officers, who must all be members. One day in the week is practice day, when sufficient ammunition is supplied to members at a great reduction in price, the association losing the difference. The last practice day of the month is prize day, when a certain number of money prizes are given, the rank and file having been handicapped by the committee from previous records. At the end of the season one or two aggregate prizes are given for which the officers are allowed to compete, they taking no prizes in the monthly matches. The annual regimental matches are held on a suitable holiday, when all ranks compete. There are usually a company team match, one open to the regiment with several green prizes, one open to members of the association, an all comers, and, if there is time, a military match. The prizes amounting to more than the Government grant. Besides this each company has its own private match for the rank and file, if possible, during the annual training, at regular ranges, and on a certain day the two highest scorers per company compete at Queen's ranges for the regimental badge and one good money prize. Also some aggregate prizes equal to railway fares might be given to the rank and file who go to the Dominion match in Ottawa that year."

I see that in the British services all the used rifle cartridge cases are collected and returned to store, money got for them to be devoted to shooting purposes. In the Russian service the men get a proportion of good rounds for extra practice in exchange for a certain number of used shells returned to the quartermaster. Cannot our energetic Minister of Militia do something in that way with the thousands of used shells now thrown away which are surely worth something. The iron base discs can be used again and the balance sold by the department for old brass.

MARKSMAN.

VICTORIA CROSS.

To the Editor of the Militia Gazette,

SIR,—A great deal of nonsense about the "Victoria Cross" in connection with the late North-West campaign has appeared in the public press, written evidently by persons ignorant of the fact that the V. C. is not given for simple acts of duty, no matter how well performed, but for something more, for signal personal deeds of valour before the enemy, as will be seen in clauses 5th and 6th of the Royal Warrant instituting the order:

5th. "It is ordained that the Cross shall only be awarded to those officers and men who have served in the presence of the enemy, and shall have then performed some signal act of valour or devotion to their country."

6th. It is ordained with a view to place all persons on a perfectly equal footing in relation to eligibility for the decoration, that neither rank, nor long service, nor wounds, nor any other circumstance or condition whatsoever, save the merit of conspicuous bravery, shall be held to establish a sufficient claim to the honour."

The *Official Chronicle*, published by W. H. Allen, of London, called the "Victoria Cross," will be found extremely interesting and give these writers some idea of how this most coveted decoration has been won in times past.

XX.

NEW PUBLICATIONS.

A history of the late insurrection has already appeared\* in the form of a neatly printed quarto book, covering 44 pages, put together after the manner of the Seaside Library series. It contains a succinct account of the rebellion, from the 17th March to the recovery of Big Bear's prisoners on the 22nd June, and will prove valuable to all Canadians who desire to refresh their memories as to the sequence of events; and is specially suitable, from its low price, for sending to friends out of the country, who may not have received full details of the grand achievements of our Canadian militia. Some such account was required, because, as the preface remarks, "descriptions by mail of events a fortnight old tumbled in on the heels of the telegrams of yesterday." Now that the rebellion is over, an orderly knowledge of events in their sequence and relations will be desired by everyone. In this work care has been taken to preserve only the romance of truth, discarding apocryphal embellishments.

The book is illustrated by numerous woodcuts, most of which have already appeared in the daily press, some of them being very good, others indifferent. These comprise portraits of the principal people engaged on both sides, illustrations of many points of interest and plans of all the battle fields. An appendix contains the names of all the field force and mounted police in similar form to the lists in Capt. Dunlevie's hand-book, already noticed in our columns.

\*The Riel Rebellion, 1885. First edition. Witness Printing House, Montreal, Price 25 cents.

THE TARGET.

OTTAWA.—On Saturday the Rifle Club fired for the D.R.A. and O.R.A medals, ten shots at each range without sighters. Weather very hot, light changing, wind light, 4 o'clock at 200, varying to 6 or 7 before the competition was completed. Capt. Perley's fine score was well earned, and contained two good strings, his last seven shots at 500 aggregating 34 and his first seven at 600, 32. Taking the first seven shots at each range he would have had 92.

Captain Perley.....42 45 38 125	Lieut. H. H. Gray.....33 37 31 106
(D.R.A. medal.)	Lieut. J. C. Chamberlin.....33 28 38 104
Mr. E. D. Sutherland.....38 44 33 115	Mr. T. Carroll.....34 39 28 101
(O.R.A. medal.)	Mr. N. Morrison.....41 26 31 98
Mr. J. A. Armstrong.....42 35 37 114	Mr. H. Walters.....43 30 25 98
Mr. W. H. Whiteley.....40 36 35 111	Mr. J. E. Hutcheson.....36 28 31 95
Mr. A. F. Cotton.....38 41 31 110	Mr. A. Pink.....40 24 26 90
Major Anderson.....40 42 28 110	Mr. W. Holtby.....34 28 26 88
Dr. Hutchison.....38 40 31 109	Mr. F. W. Dawson.....35 30 23 88
Major Deslaurier.....41 38 29 108	Mr. O'Leary.....37 26 16 79
Captain Waldo.....38 37 31 106	Lieut. C. M. Wright.....34 28 15 77

SHERBROOKE, P.Q.—The eighteenth annual prize meeting of the Sherbrooke Rifle Association was held on the 15th and 16th instants. The shooting was under the average, for which the Dominion ammunition used in the matches was blamed, loud complaints being heard on all sides.

MATCH NO. 1—7 PRIZES.

Q. M. Sergt. Loughlin.....20 \$12 00
Capt. H. R. Fraser.....22 5 50
J. Bush, Pto.....22 3 75
A. T. Johnson.....21 2 00
N. A. Morkill.....18 1 50
Thos. Rawson.....18 1 00
Capt. E. B. Worthington.....17 1 00

400 yds., 7 shots, open to members who never won 1st or 2nd prize in any open match.

MATCH NO. 2—12 PRIZES.

Capt. Hood, Royal Scots.....54 \$10 00
R. P. Doyle, S. R. A.....51 9 00
C. H. Clark.....43 8 00
Capt. J. F. Morkill, S.C.....39 7 00
R. J. Spearing.....39 6 00
Capt. Ibbotson.....38 5 00
J. Fisetto.....35 4 00
W. Moy.....32 3 00
Sergt. Bothwell, 54th Batt.....32 2 00
C. P. Byrd, S.R.A.....31 1 50
A. Martin.....29 1 00
Capt. Trenholm, 57th Batt.....24 1 00

Open to all members. Range 500 and 600 yds., 7 shots at each.

MATCH NO. 3—12 PRIZES.

R. J. Spearing.....65 \$10 00
A. Martin.....59 9 00
Capt. Hood.....59 8 00
Sergt. Bothwell.....54 7 00
C. H. Clark.....53 6 00
C. P. Byrd.....51 5 00
Capt. Trenholm.....50 4 00
W. White.....50 3 00
Capt. Ibbotson.....50 2 00
Lieut. Edwards.....49 1 50
Sergt. Doyle.....49 1 00
Capt. J. F. Morkill.....49 1 00

Range 500 yds., 15 shots, open to all members.

MATCH NO. 4—12 PRIZES.

R. J. Spearing.....57 \$10 00
R. P. Doyle, S. R. A.....54 9 00
C. H. Clark.....54 8 00
A. Martin, Q. R. S.....50 7 00
E. W. Davis.....50 5 00
J. Fisetto.....49 4 00
Capt. Morkill.....44 3 00
J. Bush.....42 2 00
Capt. Grindrod.....42 1 50

MATCH NO. 4—CONTINUED.

S. T. Westlake.....42 \$1 00
C. P. Byrd.....41 1 00
Q. M. Sergt. J. Loughlin.....40 1 00

Range 200 and 500 yards, 7 shots at each.

MATCH NO. 5—12 PRIZES.

Sergt. R. P. Doyle (Ladies Chal-enge Cup).....83 \$5 00
C. H. Clark.....83 9 00
A. Martin.....75 8 00
J. Fisetto.....74 7 00
R. J. Spearing.....71 5 00
Capt. Morkill.....61 4 00
C. P. Byrd.....61 3 00
W. Moy.....61 2 00
S. W. Twose.....59 1 50
R. Price, S. R. A.....55 1 00
Q. M. Sergt. Loughlin, Bishop's Colledge.....51 1 00
E. W. Davis.....46 1 00

Range 200, 500 and 600 yards, 7 shots at each.

EXTRA SERIES MATCH—20 PRIZES.

R. J. Spearing.....23
R. P. Doyle.....19
Sergt. A. I. Bothwell.....18
Capt. Ibbotson.....17
Sergt. Major Rawson.....17
C. H. Clark.....16
Q. M. Martin.....16
R. Price.....16
S. T. Westlake.....15
W. Ponnover, R. A. S.....15
A. P. Johnson.....14
Capt. Hood.....13
J. White.....12
S. W. Twose.....12
J. Fisetto.....9
Capt. Fraser.....9
N. A. Morkill, R. A. S.....8
Col. Mattico.....7
Q. M. Sergt. Loughlin.....7
J. Bush.....7
Lieut. Vicat.....7
Capt. Trenholm.....6

Range 400 yards, 4 foot target, 12 inch bull's eye, 5 shots.

GRAND AGGREGATE.

R. P. Doyle, D.C.R.A. medal and \$5.....237
C. H. Clark, P.Q.R.A. badge and \$5.....233
R. J. Spearing, cash \$5.....232

REGIMENTAL NOTES.

BANQUET TO THE OTTAWA SHARPSHOOTERS.

OTTAWA.—A banquet to the sharpshooters was given on Monday evening, 27th instant, at the Russell House, Ottawa, by the officers, non-com. officers and men of the G. G. F. G. The occasion was indeed a joyful reunion and was ably presided over by Major Macpherson who is in command of the regiment during Lieut.-Col. Ross' absence in England. The guests of the evening of course were the observed of all observers, while the varied company present to render them a welcome over the festive board was only a further evidence of the esteem in which our representatives in the field force are held by all classes of the community. The presence of the Mayor and Corporation indicated our city's pride in honoring our boys, and the stirring speech of the civic veteran, Mr. Wm. Pittman Lett, was cheered to the echo during its delivery. Besides the officers of the G. G. F. G. there were present of the Headquarters-Staff, Lieut.-Col. Panet, Deputy Minister of Militia and Defence; Col. Powell, Adjutant-General; Lieut.-Col. Macpherson, Director of Stores. The absence of the respected Minister of Militia was much regretted. The menu served in good style was done ample justice to and then came the era of speech-making. The usual loyal toasts were drunk and that of "Her Majesty's Ministers" was responded to by Lieut.-Col. Panet in the absence of the Hon. A. P. Caron. The "Sharpshooters" was drunk enthusiastically and was very ably and fittingly responded to by Major A. H. Todd, who manifested sincere pleasure in the welcome accorded to his command in whose company he had passed so many pleasant hours. Lieut. Gray outdid himself in reply to the "Ladies," his loyal remarks soliciting round after round of applause. The "Mayor and Corporation" was responded to by His Worship who expressed the hope that in future all national societies should join under the one British flag in celebrating our national holiday every first of July, as we had seen them unite under that flag to welcome home the Sharpshooters. This liberal sentiment met with a hearty murmur of approval. Major-Gen. Strange was called upon for a speech which he

responded to in a happy style and in conclusion called for three cheers for Col. Otter and his command. The banquet which was in all respects a grand success fittingly closed by all rising with one accord and joining heartily in the national anthem.

**WINNIPEG.**—It is the intention of the members of the 90th Battalion to put on an original play entitled "The 90th on Active Service," at the Princess Opera House about the 27th instant. This play depicts many of the most interesting scenes and incidents of the late campaign, commencing with the march out of the regiment and concluding with the capture of Batoche. While stationed at Fort Pitt, the idea of the entertainment was first started, the play was written and a number of rehearsals held on a temporary stage staked out near the ruins of the fort. The charge scene has been so arranged as to give the audience a good idea of the capture of Batoche. One of the chief features is the introduction of the camp songs and burlesque parodies, as well as the reviews and inspections of the General. Nearly 130 members of the battalion take part in the play, and the chorus singers are nearly sixty in number. The proceeds of the play will be devoted to the establishment of a fund for regimental purposes, probably in the shape of a reading room for the battalion and a gymnasium.

**MONTREAL.**—The 6th Fusiliers Battalion excursion takes place on the 31st, in aid of the Rifle Association, whose matches will be held on the 15th August.

**EXTRACTS FROM MILITIA GENERAL ORDERS OF 24th JULY, 1885.**

General Orders 16. No. 1.—Land grant to the Militia for services in the North-West in 1885.

The act passed to legalize the grants is given in full. Its provisions are strictly in accordance with the synopsis published in our No. 10. The last clause provides that the entries shall be free from the usual office dues.

**NO. 2.—REGULATIONS AND ORDERS FOR THE ACTIVE MILITIA, 1883.**

The following is added as sub-section (3) to paragraph 75 of the "Regulations and Orders":—

"(3). Commanding officers will report to headquarters the names of the officers belonging to their corps who are over the prescribed age, or are medically unfit for service, in order that such may be retired."

**DRESS OF OFFICERS.**

The following are added as sub-paragraphs (2) and (3) to par. 295:—"(2). When on duty with their corps, they will perform any required dismantled duty without change of attire. (3). When in uniform and not on duty with their corps they will wear boots under trousers."

**NO. 4.—ROYAL MILITARY COLLEGE OF CANADA.—COMMISSIONS IN THE ARMY.**

Adverting to No. 2 of general orders (15) 10th July, 1885, a commission in the Infantry of Her Majesty's Regular Army has been accepted also by William George Warner, a former gentleman cadet.

**NO. 5.—SPECIAL CORPS OF ACTUAL SERVICE IN THE NORTH-WEST.**

**Winnipeg Batt. of Inf.**—Quarter-Master Sergt. John Taylor is appointed to serve temporarily in this corps with the rank of 2nd lieutenant, from 18th June, 1885, vice R. H. Hunter.

**CORPS RELIEVED FROM SERVICE.**

The following corps, having returned from the North-West, are hereby relieved from active service, from the date of arrival at their respective headquarters, viz.:—

- Governor-General's Body Guard for Ontario.
- The detachments from 2nd Batt. "Queen's Own," and 10th Batt. "Royal Grenadiers."
- Company of Sharpshooters (1st Batt. G. G. F. Guards).
- 7th Batt. "Fusiliers."
- 9th Batt. Rifles "Voltigeurs de Québec."
- York and Simcoe Batt.
- Midland Batt.
- Montreal Brigade of Garrison Artillery.
- 65th Batt. "Mount Royal Rifles."
- Halifax Provisional Batt.

**NO. 6.—ACTIVE MILITIA.**

**8th Reg. of Cavalry, F Troop.**—To be captain, 2nd Lieut. Thomas E. Alfred Pearson, CC, vice Campbell, transferred to C Troop.

**21st Batt., No. 2 Co.**—To be lieut., prov., Color-Sergt. Wm. Upcott, vice John W. Beacom, left limits.

*Erratum.*—In No. 1 of General Orders (12) 12th June, 1885, in the appointment "to be major provisionally," read "John Cassimer Guillot," instead of "John E. Guillot."

**26th Batt., No. 2 Co.**—To be captain, Lieut. James Buchanan, M.S., vice Wm. Baltimore Lindsay, who retires retaining rank. To be lieut., 2nd Lieut. George Cameron Billington, M.S., vice Buchanan, promoted.

**34th Batt., No. 3 Co.**—*Memo.*—Adverting to the appointment of "William James Deans," in No. 2 of General Orders (11) 29th May, 1885, read "To be lieut., provisionally," instead of "To be 2nd lieut. provisionally," and read "vice Cleverdon, promoted, instead of "Thomas Cooper Robinette, whose resignation is hereby accepted." To be 2nd lieut., prov., Arthur Lukes Rundle, vice Robinette, resigned.

**59th Batt.**—To be lieut.-col., from 5th April, 1885, Major James Henry Bredin, M.S., vice Darby Bergin, who retires retaining rank, on being transferred to the medical staff.

To be majors, Roderick R. McLennan, Esquire, prov., vice Bredin, promoted. Captain Alfred Thomas Light, V.B., from No. 5 Co., vice Davey, appointed quarter-master.

No. 3 Co.—To be captain, prov., Quarter-Master Corrydon Hannibal Wood, vice Davey, promoted. To be lieut., prov., Allan Matthews Snetsinger, gentleman, vice George Ibberson Nichols, who retires retaining rank.

No. 5 Co.—To be captain, Lieut. Gordon Baker, jr., V.B., vice Light, promoted. To be lieut., 2nd Lieut. Arthur William Ault, V.B., vice Baker, promoted.

No. 6 Co.—Capt. John F. Smart retires retaining rank. To be quarter-master, Major John Robert Davey, vice Wood, appointed captain of No. 3 Co.

**88th Batt., No 2 Co.**—To be captain, Camille Bouchard, M.S., from retired list of lieutenants, vice Joseph Gauthier, deceased.

*Errata.*—The following mistakes in Orders of 10th July are corrected:—16th Batt.—Lieut. Cooper's certificate being 4th class he is only appointed provisionally. 28th Batt.—Lieut. Knox's first name is Wellington. 38th Batt.—Quarter-Master Harris' first name is Richard. 93rd Batt.—Lieut.-Col. Harrison's rank is for 1885 instead of 1875.

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T. P. FRENCH,

Post Office Inspector.

Post Office Inspector's Office, }  
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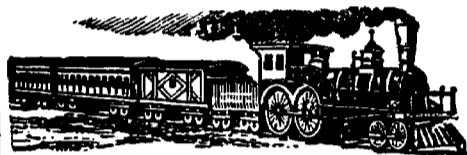
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THE Statutes of Canada are for sale at the Queen's Printer's Office, here; also separate Acts since 1874. Price lists will be sent to any person applying for them.

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