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# THE CANADIAN

# MILITARY GAZETTE

A WEEKLY JOURNAL FOR THE DOMINION FORCE.

F. X. LEMIREUX, Comptroller, Ottawa, Ont.

Vol. I.—No. 1.

TUESDAY OCTOBER 22, 1878.

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THE CANADIAN

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IN THE INTERESTS OF

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Edited by **Capt. GEO. SULLY**

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**THE CANADIAN MILITARY GAZETTE**

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**Preliminary.**

THE CASE AS IT STANDS.

The Volunteer Militia of the Dominion, numbering nearly 44,000, officers and men, posted between extremes of 3000 miles, from the Atlantic to the Pacific, are without a much-needed medium of communication.

It is to be regretted that every attempt to establish a Military paper in Canada has failed, and though there are many who look upon the success of any present exertion to that end as hopeless, we should be sorry to believe that our country's defenders, who have proved ever ready to spring to the call of duty, have yet not spirit enough to support an organ devoted to their interests.

With their experience of the effects of the policy which has directed the fortunes of the Militia, its members do not need to be reminded, that an out-spoken advocate of their cause is an urgent necessity, or that a medium for the interchange of ideas and opinions is much to be desired.

No pains will be spared to make the CANADIAN MILITARY GAZETTE a credit to the force, and a faithful exponent of their views; it will be free from party influence; being guided solely by a desire to advance the interests of the volunteer Militia.

We shall endeavour to establish relations with Brigade and Regimental headquarters and Secretaries of rifle associations, with a view to the better acquaintance of all sections and branches of the service.

It will be our aim to make the MILITARY GAZETTE the most perfect record of Canadian Artillery Practice, also Military and Small Bore Shooting, leading events at British and Foreign Rifle Meetings will be reported.

Our weekly budget of British Army and Volunteers news will be valuable to the majority of the Canadian Militia, whose opportunities for requiring such news depend on a medium of selection such as we propose.

The Militia General Orders will be published in full, so as to come within the reach of all.

Our columns will be open to the Service to a reasonable extent, and all communications or suggestions will receive courteous attention.

The editorial department will be in the hands of an active Militia Officer of many years standing.

The annual subscription has been fixed at a rate to come within the reach of all. Two thousand subscribers at least are required to ensure the continued publication of the CANADIAN MILITARY GAZETTE. We have only to remind those members of the Militia and others in earnest for the success of our venture, that they should not only immediately communicate their intention of becoming subscribers, but should use every exertion to secure others.

If the necessary number intimate their wish to be placed on the subscription list, the second number of the CANADIAN MILITARY GAZETTE will be published one month hence, to be continued weekly. We have stated the case plainly, as it stands. We leave the issue to the Militia and their friends.

**Canadian National Anthem.**

(Words by G. W. Wakeford, Q. C., Ottawa.)

God save the land we love,  
Show'r blessings from above  
On Canada.  
Let her fair fame extend,  
Her progress never end,  
In her two nations blend  
Britain and France.

Each has a glorious name,  
High on the roll of fame;—  
Noblesse oblige  
May we be noble too,  
Noble to think and do,  
All to the other true  
And to our Queen.

Fast joined in heart and hand,  
Proud of their goodly land  
And of their Sires,  
Let all Canadians then,  
Gaul, Gael, or British men,  
Sing with a loud amen—  
God Save the Queen.

No Militia Gazette last week.

The Band of the 53rd Sherbrooke battalion won first prize in the tournament at Owl's Head. Four Vermont bands competed.

As soon as the table can be prepared the Stations of the British Army will be published in our journal and corrected monthly.

A flower show was recently held in one of the Lower Province drill sheds; a local paper reports the building too small for the purpose.

It is not unlikely that the Foot-ball teams of Royal Military College, the "Queen's Own," of Toronto, and the "Victorias," of Montreal, will contest for the honors at an early date.

One of H. M. regulars in garrison at Halifax writes "The 66th (volunteers) have the new helmet, blue with white ornaments; they look remarkably well, being mostly well set up men; the helmets are shown to advantage."

In another column will be found an interesting account of the first Palliser gun competition in Canada. The following are the winners in the competition:

Sergeant Walling.....	41 points.....	\$15
Sergt.-Major Lavie....	40 ".....	5
Capt. Price.....	35 ".....	5

In our book notice we have alluded to the issue of an illustrated work by the Gunnery School press, Quebec. The reports of the Dominion Artillery Association, the prize essays, &c., have also been very creditably printed by these soldier amateurs, we are very glad to know that, at last, their energies have been rewarded by a small monthly Government grant, enough to secure them against loss financially.

At the Point St. Charles Ranges, Montreal, on Wednesday, the 16th inst., a local marksman ran up 99 points out of a possible 100, at 800 yards, with a Sharpe's rifle. Nineteen "bulls" and an "inner." The 20th shot lost him the full score, being just outside the right edge of the "bull." Forty minutes was the time taken; not bad, considering the rifle requires cleaning after every shot. A slightly varying 9 o'clock wind prevailed.

The Hamilton powder factory was lately visited by Lt.-Col. T. Bland Strange, Inspector of Artillery and War stores. Some samples of Canadian manufactured R. L. G. (Rifle large grain), and L. G. were inspected and reported on by him. Verbally he expressed himself well pleased with the facilities for manufacture, and the able superintendance of Mr. Brainerd, who served with the U. S. artillery in the late war. What the official report may be is not of course, known. Lt.-Col. Strange has often officially urged the manufacture of powder and of such other war stores in the Dominion as can be economically and efficiently produced.

**ARTILLERY INSPECTION.**

On Thursday the 10th inst. Major Price Lewes, the new assistant inspector of artillery, inspected the 1st Halifax Garrison Artillery, the men acquitting themselves well. At the conclusion the Major congratulated the men on their efficiency, but regretted that their number was so limited. He advised more frequent practice with the big guns, and expressed a wish that a competition may be got up with the New Brunswick Artillery. Accordingly the St. John, N.B., *Globe* announced that, in the event of a competition between Nova Scotia and New Brunswick artillery men, with the big guns, a prize would be given by that paper. No. 10 Battery of Artillery, of St. John, N.B., desires to get on a match with some Halifax battery, and should such be arranged between batteries representing the two provinces, the *St. John Telegraph* will also be willing to furnish a prize.

**THE "QUEEN'S OWN."**

The Annual Rifle Match of this Corps took place on the 5th inst., and was most successful both in point of numbers and prizes; of the latter seventy were given, open to all ranks of the corps, thirty to non-prizemen, besides the "Company" and many special and range prizes, the whole running up to the handsome sum of \$650. A Company again won the Company prize with a score of 536 points; ten men, 15 rounds, at 200, 400 and 500 yds. D. Company second with 505 points.

A football club is being organized in the Regiment, in the hope of being able to play this season matches with the "Victorias," of Montreal, and the Cadets of the Royal Military College.

The Annual Inspection will take place about the middle of next month, and drill is now going on regularly.

Good Service badges were recently presented by Lieut. Col. Otter to sixty non-com. officers and men of upwards of three years' continuous service, to 35 of six years and 10 of nine years and over.

In another column we direct attention to an important and almost totally neglected branch of the education of our active militia. True, the system of evening drills, as a rule adopted by the city corps, precludes the possibility of imparting instruction other than straight marching, ending in a few simple close formations, and the manipulation of the rifle on parade. A portion of the men are taken to the butts to fire away their annual allowance of ammunition, in many instances without previous instruction, and thousands of rounds are annually wasted in a vain endeavour to hit the target at ranges from 400 to 600 yards by men who, for want of knowledge of their weapon, could scarcely hit a barn door 200 yards away. We shall return to this subject in a future issue, meantime it is satisfactory to know that Musketry instruction, including judging distance, drill is annually and regularly carried on in the Gunnery Schools at Kingston and Quebec, and at the Royal Artillery College, Kingston.

## NOTICES.

*Communications, especially on Local Subjects, must be brief and to the point, and written on one side of the paper only.*

*All communications should be addressed*

THE CANADIAN MILITARY GAZETTE,  
P. O. Box 745,  
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## THE CANADIAN MILITARY GAZETTE,

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 22nd, 1878.

### "Welcome the Coming, Speed the Parting Guest."

The departure of His Excellency the Earl of Dufferin, the dawn of a new regime with Royalty in Canada; the change of Government and the advent of a new policy; the fact that the present administrator of the Government, General Sir P. L. Macdougall, is proud to be known as a Canadian soldier, and the early return of our chief, General Sir E. Selby Smyth, makes the present a time of unusual interest to the defenders of the country.

None more than the volunteer militia have cause to regret that a generous nobleman has left our shores, he has done much to encourage a desire to excel in military matters. Many beautiful Dufferin medals have been awarded for literary ability, and for skill with gun and rifle. While we pray God speed the Earl of Dufferin we are fortunate in the prospect of welcoming to Canada a nobleman, well known in England as a volunteer officer and an accomplished rifle shot. The Canadian volunteer militia will be ready with a fitting welcome to the Hon. Colonel of the 105th Lanarkshire Rifle Volunteers, Lieut.-Col. commanding the Argyllshire Artillery Brigade and President of the West of Scotland Artillery Association.

We spoke of the change of Government and the advent of a new policy; those whose sincere desire was to build up in Canada the best militia system it was possible to secure, have become well nigh disheartened. "Experience has made them sage," the policy of the militia is, to be non-political; to them the words "measures not men" are fraught with meaning. The policy of the late Government has nearly economised the force out of existence. The only regret we have at the defeat of the late government from a militia point of view, is the fact that it removes an able and rapidly becoming popular Minister of Militia, his was the unwelcome task of making bricks without straw, and we know he worked diligently in the endeavour. The Dominion Rifle Association and the Dominion Artillery Association will long remember the courteous attention and ready help lent them by Mr. Jones. But, while we regret his removal, we see no reason why we should not welcome his successor; the appointment of Lieut.-Col. Hon. L. F. R. Masson was probably the best that could be made; he has always shown a great interest in militia affairs, and on that question is considered an authority in the House. He has held a commission in the volunteer militia since October, 1862, was appointed Brigade Major of the 8th military district 21st August, 1863. Served on the frontier during the first Fenian raid, March, 1866, and was on active service during the second raid, in the same year; promoted to rank Lieut.-Col. 1867. It is sincerely to be hoped that a more liberal, not to say sensible policy will be inaugurated towards the militia.

## Musketry Instruction.

"A soldier who cannot shoot is useless and an incumbrance to the battalion."—(Musketry Instruction.)

"The tactical value of troops is entirely dependent upon the degree of instruction in musketry that may have been imparted."—(Lt.-Col. Chas. Grossmann, of the Austrian Army.)

We would draw attention to a fact in connection with our militia training. We allude to the neglect of an important part of the musketry instruction, viz., judging distance. Few, if any, of the corps are put through this practice.

The majority are taught firing at targets placed at known distances; an excellent practice to accustom the rifleman to the use of his weapon as a fire arm, but which does not provide for the contingencies of the battle field.

Trainings, tactical or technical, should, we think, be looked upon only as means to attain one end, that is shooting at an enemy under the best possible conditions to inflict injury. Some means, however, to obtain this object are totally ignored and our riflemen are taught shooting at a known range, but no more.

What would be the result in actual warfare? A force drawn up in front of hostile troops and peppering at them at random.

Every one knows that when firing at a short range an error of 50 yards is not of much consequence; the culminating point of the trajectory of our rifle at say 300 yards being about 7 feet above the general level of the ground. But at 400 yards it increases to 11 feet, and at 600 yards to 23 feet, at which range the margin or space within which a man on foot is in danger is about 30 yards, so that a mistake in judging the distance at that range of about 15 yards under or over would result to say nothing more in a waste of ammunition.

If we could in actual warfare resort only to short range firing, well and good, but though some authorities have been much in favor of short range firing exclusively, still experience appears to point out that long range firing must also be resorted to.

The Germans have fully recognized its value, especially since the famous attack on St. Privat, near Metz, in 1870, where they lost 6,000 men in 10 minutes from musketry fire at 1,200 metres (1,313 yards about), and firing at long ranges is now sedulously practiced by them.

It appears, in fact, that much steadier practice is made in the field at long than at short range. Notwithstanding, volley firing at say 300 yards would still have to be used by compact bodies of troops supporting, for instance, a final advance, and from the mass of missiles thus delivered great effects could be expected. Our drill instructions are very explicit on this point. But for the gradual approach of a fighting line (in extended order) independent fire beginning at long range would have to be adopted, if it were even only for the purpose of unsteading the enemy's fire. Granting, therefore, that long range firing is a necessity, is it not evident that a force, each individual of which is well trained to accurately estimate distances, should gain great benefits thereby, as the proper elevation could be given at every stage of the advance, each man being able to judge the range himself would not have to depend upon the ability of his leaders for this purpose, and the leaders would have more liberty of action in keeping their men well in hand.

Target practice, in skirmishing order, is a complement of judging distance. Very little attention is paid to this by our active militia instructors. This is to be regretted all the more, as that practice reproduces in the best possible manner the actual conditions of battle: firing at a constantly increasing or diminishing range, obliging the riflemen to alter their elevation to suit.

Perhaps, the following additional practice could be introduced to advantage: We mean firing at a moving object or dummy advancing obliquely across the range, thus altering both

range and direction, always striving to represent as closely as possible the circumstances of actual conflict.

Now that fire is the great factor in successful engagements, would it not be advisable to take every opportunity of improving our militia in this most important part of military training? What is the object, let us ask, of drill and tactics generally, if troops cannot by their fire injure and demoralize the enemy?

To conclude, without judging distance practice we think we are right in saying that all the rifle practice in the world becomes comparatively useless, and that it is desirable that some other system than the present one be inaugurated for the militia in this respect. Very small powers of maneuvering can at the best be imparted to the militia generally—the main point, it seems, would be to give such training to the mass as would make it a *useful* organization.

## A Novel Gun.

The following extract from a letter from the East to the West written by Lt.-Col. Cecil B. Le Mesurier, R. A., Bengal, to a brother officer in Canada, will be read with interest, especially in view of the Anglo-Indian expedition now facing Afghanistan. The wonderful advances wrought by science and skill towards the perfection and deadly power of fire-arms, great and small, would not have been considered possible at the time of Sale's disastrous expedition not forty years ago, when the new musket with the percussion cap was used for the first time. Our attention is, however, now directed to a recent ingenious invention applicable to the guns of the Artillery Service, which, considering the nature of the country likely to be invaded, will no doubt receive the attention it merits.

The letter above referred to is dated Simla, Bengal, 12th July, 1878.

"On my way back from Bermuda to this country I started Major Noble and Sir William Armstrong of Elswick, in a new system of gun-making, the Le Mesurier system, notably for mountain artillery but applicable to any piece of ordnance of moderate weight; my object being to make possible the transport of powerful guns—field, position and even siege—over any ground practicable for pack animals, and this has been obtained as far as mule transport goes. The gun is made in two parts which fit together and are connected by a screw cap over the joint, which on being turned, brings the two ends firmly together and prevents any escape of gas. To ensure this, the ends are fitted with gas checks, each length of gun forms an easy load for one mule, viz: 192 lbs. and 180 lbs. total weight of gun 372 lbs. The operation of putting the gun together takes about 40 seconds and taking it to pieces 30 seconds. The guns (two have already been made), have been thoroughly tested at Woolwich and Shoeburyness, and the official report is that 'they worked perfectly, without a hitch.' With regard to their shooting—the one point to be considered in a gun—I send you the result of the trials with them at Shoebury for range and Accuracy, from which you will learn the astonishing fact that two guns have been made, one of 372 lbs and the other of only 322 lbs, which can easily be carried by two mules—the lighter one even by man transport—whose fire is equal in power and superior in accuracy to the 9-pr. field gun of the service weighing 8 cwt. and drawn by six horses. There is the fact that the light gun fired a charge of within 2 oz. of the service field piece and gave an initial velocity of over 1400 with a shrapnel shell containing nearly twice as many bullets as in the service shell and consequently a much more powerful missile. The most astonishing thing is that it was fired on the same carriage as the service 7-pr steel gun of 200 lbs. weight. Sir W. Armstrong writes to me that the carriages were somewhat shaken as they were made only to withstand the

recoil of the service 7-pr of 200 lbs. with a 12-oz charge, and that he was making carriages of the same size and weight which would be very much stronger than those of the service. I suppose he has by this time made them.

"I am glad to say that every one in this quarter of the globe is alive to the enormous power we have acquired by it. You know that in this country they are accustomed to move artillery by mule, camel and elephant transport. Now we have no guns between the 7-pr. of 200 lbs and the 9-pr. R. H. A. gun of 6 cwt. The former is carried by mules on the N. W. frontier of India, by camels at Aden, by elephants in Burmah, and whenever an expedition is expected to meet with any serious resistance a R. H. A. battery is dismantled and put on elephant back. Here we have the transport at hand, and my idea is to have the present gun of 380 lbs as the field gun, one of about 500 or even 600 lbs as a gun of position—both these could be carried on mule or camel back—and a siege gun of 12 cwt. for elephants; the half of either forming but one animals load. I say we will take siege guns to Cabool yet on pack animals.

"Again if instead of a muzzle-loader we made the gun a breech-loader we can have it in more pieces and therefore carry a heavier gun. There would then be the two lengths of barrel, the breech plug and the screw cap over joint—four pieces in all—which could be carried separately on pack animals or, in the smaller natures, by hand. For wheel transport over difficult country it might be arranged to carry the breech half on the carriage and the other half on the limbers in place of the present ammunition boxes, or between two small limber boxes containing only a few rounds. Thus the weight of the gun would be distributed over the four wheels in place of two only. The great advantage however, is the facility with which the guns in pieces can be man-handled and carried over a swamp or rocky ground where no other transport could take it and be put together in any position required. This will be enough to lead you to think over it and decide as to its utility in your part of the globe. If you should wish to know more about it write to General Wray, R. A., at Woolwich, who has strongly recommended it for India, and knows all about the trials at Woolwich, and also to Major Noble or Sir W. Armstrong, at Elswick. I must tell you that the Commander in Chief of India has recommended to government of India that they get out a battery of these guns at once, as he considers it a most important invention.

"I claim to be *bona fide* the inventor of the system, though of course Sir W. Armstrong & Co. must have all the credit of the manufacture and the shooting results."

C. B. LE MESURIER,  
Lt.-Col., R. A.

#### Departure of the Earl of Dufferin

We are indebted to the *Quebec Mercury* for the following interesting reports of incidents attending the departure of His Excellency the Earl of Dufferin from Quebec.

##### LAST MILITARY INSPECTION.

The farewell inspection of B Battery by His Excellency the Governor-General was held to-day (the 18th instant), on the Esplanade, at 10 a. m. The Battery was drawn up facing D'Auteuil street, the demi-field Battery on the right under Captain Short, the Band in the centre, and the garrison division under arms on the left under Captain Duchesnay, the whole being under the immediate command of Colonel Montizambert. The Commandant, Lt.-Col. T. B. Strange, received His Excellency with the customary compliments, and a close inspection was made of men, horses, guns and harness. Everything was in excellent order—possible brighter than usual, as the men had

taken special pains to present a smart appearance on this, unfortunately, the last of so many inspections by their popular Viceroys. The usual "march past" followed, after which the guns trotted and galloped past, the latter movement being especially well performed. The field division then unlimbered, and, coming into action, proceeded to fire a Viceroyal salute of seventeen guns. An especially interesting feature of this part of the proceedings was the apparently instantaneous collapse of guns and carriages at the end of the salute, for from the saluting point, on the clearing away of the smoke, the gunners were discovered reclining on the "disjecta membra" of their pieces. This really smart piece of work, elicited special praise from His Excellency, who advancing with his staff watched with interest the rapid process of "putting together again, by all the king's horses and all the king's men." The Battery was then formed up and advancing in review order saluted. His Excellency then stepped forward and in his usual happy style, made his farewell speech. "After six years residence in Canada, much of which time had been spent in the Citadel where he had had every opportunity of noticing the conduct of the men of the Battery, he was happy to bear testimony to their general steadiness, sobriety, attention to duty, and good conduct: as also to the uniform courtesy with which he had invariably been treated by all ranks both in his official capacity and as an individual. During his frequent visits he had noticed with pleasure the manner in which the officers had applied themselves to the instruction of their men, and the zeal with which the men had profited by their instructions. Although they had had to contend with many difficulties in the self-denying performance of these duties, he was sure that the day would come when every man present would be proud of having done his duty to his Queen and Country. The personal friendship of Col. Strange and the officers of B Battery was not one of the least advantages he had secured by his residence in Canada. He had taken the liberty of placing in the hands of Col. Strange a sum of money for the purchase of a cup, or some piece of plate, to be competed for annually by the men of the Battery, as a slight souvenir by which they might be reminded of the interest he had always taken in their welfare. He could assure all ranks that the officers, non-commissioned officers and gunners of B Battery had no better or truer friend than the Governor-General, who is now about to leave them." Col. Strange then called for three cheers for His Excellency the Earl of Dufferin, Governor-General of Canada, which were given most vociferously by the men, accompanied by "a tiger, another one, and a little one in." He then called for three more for Her Majesty, which was right royally responded to, and in which his Excellency joined most heartily, himself calling for the "other one." The Battery was then marched home, well pleased at this additional proof of the kindness and interest ever shown to them by His Excellency since his arrival in Canada, and adding another to the numerous list of all kinds and classes of men who have been bound to the triumphal chariot wheels of our departing Governor-General by the bonds of affection and respect.

SATURDAY.—The day broke with an overcast sky and occasional showers, but the mass of the people were early astir, and bent on making a general hearty demonstration in honor of the departure of Earl Dufferin, the most popular Governor Canada has seen since the historic days of Sir Guy Carleton, afterwards Lord Dorchester.

By eight o'clock the Quebec Active Volunteer Forces, horse, foot and artillery, were assembling in all their martial array at the Armoury, on Dalhousie Place, and by half-past eight they were joined by the Lancers and B Battery, under Lt.-Col. Montizambert, with their fine band,

from the Citadel who marched direct to the Queen's wharf to form the guard of honor. The Battery were soon followed by the 8th Royal Rifles, under Col. Almey, with their full band, who proceeded to the Lower Town. The Battalion took ground on the wharf to the left of the Artillery. The field Battery took up their position on Durham Terrace, and fired a salute as the Governor left the Citadel. The Quebec Garrison Artillery formed line from the Place d'Armes, and the 9th Battalion Voltigeur Rifles completed the line to the Esplanade. The Governor, with his suite, left the Citadel about nine o'clock, being received with the national anthem and a general salute from the various regiments, acknowledging the honor with uplifted hat as his carriage drove past each corps, and also in response to the cheers and salutations of the people thronging the streets. The Catholic clergy and the pupils of Laval University and Quebec Seminary were out in full strength in front of the Archbishop's Palace, and the Seminary band played numerous airs and "Auld Lang Syne" as His Excellency passed. The City Police, under Superintendent Heigham, marched in full force to the Queen's wharf, taking charge of the pavilion and its approaches, while the Dominion River Police, under Chief Trudel, formed in line to the slip where His Excellency embarked in the steamer *Dolphin* for H. M. S. *Sirius*, anchored in the offing.

His Excellency, in company with Col. Littleton, A.D.C., Captain Ward, A.D.C., and Captain Hamilton, arrived at the Queen's wharf about half-past nine. When he alighted from his carriage he was presented with an address by His Worship the Mayor, and also with the silver trowel and mallet with which he laid the corner stone of Kent Gate and Dufferin Terrace. He was also presented with a bouquet sent by Madame Duval, wife of the Chief-Justice. Amongst those present we noticed His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, Sir Patrick Macdougall, Sir John A. Macdonald, Mr. Joly, Col. Strange and officers of B Battery, Colonel Duchesnay, Colonel Lamontagne, Colonel Forsyth and a large number of the *élite* of Quebec and the Dominion, including many ladies.

After the address and reply thereto His Excellency embarked on board the *Dolphin* and was conveyed to the war ship *Sirius*, which was to carry him down the river, but owing to the heavy sea, thought it advisable to immediately embark on board the *Polynesian*, which he did after remaining on board the *Sirius* about twenty minutes. The *Sirius* fired a salute of 19 guns, and at half-past eleven the *Sirius* and *Argus* weighed anchor and moved down the stream with the steamer *St. Lawrence* following with 200 passengers on board. Many other steamers were going to accompany His Excellency down the river, but owing to the heavy sea and roughness of the weather, did not go.

The Citadel guns boomed out a parting cannonade as His Excellency left our shores.

We are sorry to learn that Capt. H. F. Perley, of the N. B. Engineers, has carried out his resolve to retire from the Presidency of the N. B. Provincial Rifle Association; a skilful marksman, and an energetic worker, he was the right man in the right place. We hope the Association will still have the benefit of his council and the example of his skill.

*The Broad Arrow* says of the English Volunteers: "The force lacks organization and cohesion. The liberty which has been accorded up to the present time of Volunteer combinations, has brought about in many cases most ridiculous results. We do not hesitate to express our opinion that the time has arrived to set our Volunteer house in order by the conversion of the whole of the Volunteers in seaport towns and along the coast into garrison artillery."



Regulars vs. Militia.

Trials of skill with the rifle between H. M. Troops and our Volunteer Militia, though frequent a few years ago have now, we regret, become a novelty, our Halifax comrades alone enjoy the opportunity. At the Nova Scotia Provincial meeting of 1877, a silver challenge cup (presented by Col. Laurie) and \$500 cash was offered for competition between ten officers and men from any battalion in the Province, regulars or militia. Nine teams entered, including a team from each of the line battalions in garrison, the regulars shooting their Martini-Henry's against the Sniders of the militia, the results was that the militia left the regulars at the foot of the list, the two leading Snider teams (the 63rd and 78th) scoring over 150 points more than the Martini-Henry's. We have now to report the tables turned.

A few weeks ago on the strength of challenges from the 20th and 97th regiments, the crack-shots of the district repaired to the ranges at Bedford. Forsaking their old friends (the Sniders), they shouldered the Martini-Henry's recently loaned by government, and, perhaps too confidently, measured strength with the regulars. Seven shots each, 200, 500 and 600 yards was the rule, the following the result:

OFFICERS 20TH AND 97TH VS. OFFICERS 63RD AND 60TH A. M.				
	REGULARS.	200	500	600 YL.
Capt. Partridge, 97th.....	26	22	26	74
Lieut. Groves, 97th.....	28	26	21	75
Capt. Fleetwood, 20th.....	39	27	21	78
Capt. Geoghan, 20th.....	31	29	26	86
Lieut. Baker, 20th.....	27	29	23	79
Lieut. Hammersley, 20th.....	28	23	29	80
				472
MILITIA.				
Capt. Mumford, 63rd.....	31	31	25	87
Lieut. Egan, 63rd.....	32	29	26	87
Capt. Walsh, 63rd.....	31	27	21	79
Lieut. Howard, 63rd.....	28	26	20	74
Qtr Mtr Corbin, 63rd.....	27	25	21	73
Lieut. Weston, 60th.....	29	24	15	68
				468

It will be noticed that the militia led by 14 points at the two first ranges, but eventually lost the match, the regulars scoring 18 points more than their opponents at 600 yards.

TEAMS OF TEN OFFICERS AND SERGEANTS 1ST BATT. 20TH AND 97TH VS. HALIFAX BRIGADE.

Seven shots each 200, 500 and 800 yards.				
	REGULARS.	200	500	800 YL.
Capt. Partridge, 97th.....	27	29	27	83
Lieut. Groves, 97th.....	30	26	27	83
Capt. Fleetwood, 20th.....	32	30	15	77
Capt. Geoghan, 20th.....	27	30	21	78
Lieut. Baker, 20th.....	30	29	10	69
Lieut. Hammersley, 20th.....	28	30	8	66
Sergt. Lofts, 97th.....	19	30	13	62
" McGill, 97th.....	27	27	27	81
" Howell, 20th.....	29	20	14	63
Sergt.-Maj McKim, 20th.....	26	33	20	79
				741
MILITIA.				
Lieut. Howard, 60th.....	25	28	30	83
Maj Graham, H. F. B.....	26	27	22	75
Capt. Mumford, 63rd.....	27	30	14	71
Lieut. Egan, 63rd.....	31	33	7	71
Sergt. Taple, 63rd.....	25	26	18	69
" Hickey, 60th.....	29	25	6	60
Lieut. Weston, 60th.....	23	23	18	64
Sergt.-Maj Harris, 1st G. A.....	22	22	20	64
Capt. Walsh, 63rd.....	26	21	9	56
Qtr-Master Corbin, 63rd.....	30	26	2	58
				671

In this match, the militia were behind at each range, 70 points in all, half their short-comings being at 800 yards. Sergeant McGill, of the 97th ran up a pretty score of three 27's for his team, while Lieut. Egan, 63rd, after scoring within six points of a "possible" at 200 and 500 yards made but seven points at the long range.

97TH REGIMENT VS. 63RD BATTALION (A. M.)

Seven shots each, 200, 500 and 600 yards.				
	97TH REGIMENT.	200	500	600 YL.
Capt. Partridge.....	30	32	25	87
Lieut. Groves.....	23	29	19	71
Sergt. Inst Marsh.....	28	22	25	75
Sergt. Brown.....	25	11	6	42
" Mitchell.....	25	28	15	68
" Jones.....	25	22	21	68
" Rhodes.....	21	28	29	78
" Hodgkiss.....	27	24	31	82
" McGill.....	26	27	30	83
" Lofts.....	29	30	29	88
				742

63RD BATTALION.				
	63RD BATTALION.	22	32	8-62
Qtr-Master Corbin.....	22	32	8	62
Capt. Walsh.....	22	23	20	65
Lieut. McInnes.....	18	24	23	65
Lieut. Egan.....	30	23	29	82
Capt. Mumford.....	28	21	30	79
Sergt. Power.....	30	16	18	64
Sergt. Taple.....	25	22	21	68
Sergt. Shepherd.....	23	29	26	78
Corpl Percy.....	27	19	23	69
Pvt. Mumford.....	27	20	2	49
				681

Sixty points in favor of the 97th regiment, and their opponents beaten at every range. The weather was reported "all that could be desired," and the best of feeling prevailed throughout. Considering the short time the weapon has been in their hands, the Halifax militia have no reason to be ashamed of their score, and a little adversity will do them no harm; we have no doubt that when the peculiarities of the Martini-Henri are better understood by our Halifax comrades, future contests they may engage in, will result in much closer totals than those we have just noticed.

On the 14th inst., a return match was fired between H. M., 97th regiment and the 63rd battalion, again resulting in favor of the regulars, by 20 points; ranges as in previous contest, the day was fine but wind rather troublesome. The following are the scores:

97TH REGIMENT. Points.		63RD BATTALION. Points.	
Color Sergt. Lofts.....	87	Sergt. Larkin.....	86
Sergt. Jolly.....	81	Qtr-Master Corbin.....	80
Lieut. Groves.....	75	Sergt. Shepherd.....	78
Sergt. Hodgkiss.....	74	Corpl Percy.....	72
Sergt. Rhodes.....	74	Captain Mumford.....	72
Sergt. Mitchell.....	73	Sergt. Taple.....	71
Capt. Partridge.....	72	Lieut. Egan.....	71
Sergt. Major Dwyer.....	70	Lieut. McInnis.....	66
Sergt. McGill.....	69	Sergt. Power.....	64
S. Sergt. March.....	60	Capt. Walsh.....	61
	735		715

It is not likely that another contest will take place this year, meantime it is to be hoped that next year our Martini-Henry teams will be found not only competing in such friendly matches as we have just noticed, but that they can confidently enter for the Inter-National Military match at Creedmoor.

An Incident in my Experience.

BY LARKSPUR.

I can vouch for the truth of the following incident, which occurred not many years ago, in one of our crack regiments. The drill-instructor—one of the old stamp of martinet-sergeants—who was the terror of every recruit, and the remorseless tyrant of the awkward squad, was putting a sergeant's firing party through the funeral exercise. Having opened the ranks, so as to admit the passage of the supposed *cortège* between them, he ordered the men to 'rest on their arms reversed.' Then, by way of practical explanation, he walked slowly down the lane formed by the two ranks, saying as he moved, 'Now I'm the corpse—pay attention.' Having reached the end of the party, he turned round, regarded them steadily with a scrutinizing eye for a moment or two; and then remarked in a most solemn tone of voice. 'Your 'ands is right, and your 'eads is right, but you 'avn't got that look of regret you ought to 'ave.'—*North Lincoln Sphinx*, (A Regimental periodical, 2nd Batt. 10th Foot.)

Books for the Service.

*The Canadian Field Artillery Manual* By Lieut.-Col. T. Bland Strange, R.A., Dominion Inspector of Artillery. (Quebec: Gunnery School press).

A complete and very useful manual, it supplies a want, created by a zealous rivalry between the Field batteries of our volunteer militia. An increasing interest, aided in no small degree by the exertions of the Dominion Artillery Association, is now taken in all that pertains to their arm of the service. Something more than a mere performance of the paid drills of the year is required if batteries aim to win the honors annually conferred by their association.

The work is unique; science, drill, technical, tactical, and practice of Field artillery have never before been treated of in a mere manual of instruction. The following which we clip from the preface explains itself:

"It is desirable to have a uniform system of Artillery instruction throughout the Dominion, as closely as possible in accordance with that of the Royal Artillery, but the excellent text books of the latter distinguished service, are more scientific, voluminous, and costly, than is considered necessary for the militia artillery of Canada. They treat of varied drills and exercises, and describe the armaments, some of which are becoming obsolete, and others not yet introduced or likely to be supplied to Canada. The information required for a militia artilleryman is, therefore, diffused through many books and manuals difficult of ready reference, and confining to a non-professional artillerist, whose time is limited, as his periods of instruction are short, and of necessity, interrupted by civil occupations, expensive works being seldom within his reach."

The object has been to condense, as far as is consistent with simplicity, changes are as much as possible avoided, and nothing essentially at variance with the present practice of Royal Artillery is introduced.

Artillery instruction is divided into Technical, Tactical, Disciplinary, Scientific.

The two last could only be slightly touched upon in a work like the present.

The scientific instruction has therefore been limited at first to a clear explanation of elementary gunnery suitable to intelligent Non-commissioned officers, subsequently to be extended to Range finding and rough Surveying, as well as such elementary Fortification as is absolutely necessary for the requirements of an Artillery officer.

The Technical includes the gun and its ammunition, use, and rules for practice.

The Tactical comprises drill.

1. As a steady, training exercise for men and horses.
2. As training to surmount obstacles.
3. Artillery tactics proper; the movements, selection of position, and working of guns before an enemy.

The Disciplinary portion includes the care and management of men and horses.

The branch of the service for whose benefit the manual has been issued, are to be congratulated upon having this excellent work within their reach. All branches of the service may read it with profit.

To even the casual reader the book cannot fail to prove interesting and instructive. The book is by no means dry reading. The portion devoted to "fighting tactics" compiled chiefly from the artillery retrospect of 1870, by the same author, is indeed the reverse, and is not without solid interest for Canadians.

The production of the manual under difficulties affords an example of energy and pluck. A fire destroyed much of the authors manuscript, and consequently delayed its appearance. The printing is the work of amateurs serving in the battery, and from first to last shows a steady improvement in the art. Illustrations were necessary, and here a difficulty arose, but it was disposed of by employing the papyrograph process, which has answered the purpose admirably; in short, the book has been written by a soldier for soldiers, printed by soldiers, and will, we trust, be read by the soldiers of Canada.

