

THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE

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OUR thanks are due to the Dominion Artillery Association for the kindness of the members in unanimously adopting the CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE as the official organ of the association, at the annual meeting held in this city last week. The only other artillery association in the Dominion, that of Ontario, conferred a similar honour on the paper more than a year ago. Endorsation by these influential bodies cannot fail to be of immense benefit to the MILITIA GAZETTE, in influencing artillerymen generally in its behalf; and for our part we will continue to endeavour, as we have done in the past, to arouse and foster interest in the work of the artillery association, and thus reciprocate the benefit. Such a publication as this cannot achieve the object for which it was called into existence except with the hearty co-operation of the force whose welfare it was designed to promote, and in proportion as this co-operation is extended or withheld the influence of the paper must grow or wane.

LIEUT.-COL. OSWALD'S refusal to again accept the Presidency of the Dominion Artillery Association, will be learned of with general regret, more especially when the reasons prompting this withdrawal are considered. During his occupancy of the office he has worked indefatigably on its behalf, not only giving a generous portion of his time, but appropriating his private means with a lavish hand to meet very necessary expenses, of hospitality and otherwise, for which nothing could be spared out of the small funds of the association. While not begrudging either his time or his money, it seemed to Col. Oswald that the country should not permanently sponge upon his generosity for the improvement of its artillery service, and being unable to influence the Government to do anything more for the association, he has withdrawn in the hope that perchance his successor may be more successful. A happy choice was made in the election of Lieut.-Col. Macdonald, of Guelph, to succeed him. This officer has been one of the most indefatigable workers in the organization for many years, and his extensive experience and ability will enable him to fill the position acceptably to all concerned. It will be noticed that before consenting to election, Col. Macdonald distinctly declined to undertake the financial obligations which had been borne by Col. Oswald.

AN increase of five hundred dollars has been authorized in the prize list of the Dominion Rifle Association for the year, \$7,250 being

fixed as the maximum limit, this being the highest figure yet reached. A committee of five has been appointed to draft a programme, these five being Majors Anderson, Perley and Blaiklock, Capt. Hood and Lieut. Macnachten. The date fixed for the opening of the meeting is Monday, the 3rd September.

LIEUT.-COL. CHAS. MACDONALD, the officer commanding the 66th Battalion, Halifax, has been appointed commandant, and Capt. Joshua Wright, 43rd Battalion, Ottawa and Carleton Rifles, adjutant of this year's Canadian team for Wimbledon. Col. Macdonald became a life member of the D. R. A. early this year; Capt. Wright has long been in name and reality an active member. Each is pre-eminently qualified for the duties of the office entrusted to him. The commandant is one of the most popular officers in his province; and his social attainments are a guarantee that he will "do the honours" at Wimbledon in such a manner as to do credit to himself and the association he will represent. Capt. Wright possesses all the qualifications necessary in an adjutant. He is not only a first-class shot, having time and again secured a place in our "Queen's sixty, but is an excellent "coach" as well. He is a man of great good nature and never failing patience—"a fine fellow"—all who have the pleasure of his acquaintance style him. Both these officers saw service in the North-West. Col. Macdonald with the sixty-sixth, and Capt. Wright going up with the sixty-fifth and subsequently assuming the duties of Quartermaster of the Alberta field force. He was specially mentioned by General Strange for the manner in which he discharged these duties. The team are to report at Quebec on the 20th June next.

OUR army medical department is the subject of special attention at "Linch-pin's" hands this week. The state of affairs to which he calls attention is not creditable. The worst feature of the thing is that the complaints are not by any means new, but have been repeated year after year until the medical officers must be tired of the reiteration. The medical branch of the service is excellently officered, but lack of equipment must seriously menace its efficiency. It is little consolation to a sick soldier to know that his regimental surgeon is an eminently wise practitioner, if he has reason to believe that neither medicines nor instruments are available to apply the remedy which the surgeon's experience tells him is proper.

NOTWITHSTANDING that the financial prospects are not of the brightest, the association have quite an extensive programme laid out for next summer, according to the report of the council. This recommends that a team of two officers and twenty men be sent to Shoeburyness, and also that two central competitions, for garrison and field artillery respectively, be held in Canada. A proviso as to funds is inserted with the recommendation, however, and the matter will be discussed at a special meeting of the Council.

THE DOMINION ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION.

Interesting Plain Speaking at the Annual Business Meeting.

Recommendations of the Council and Executive—Address and Gift from the Governor-General—The object of the Defence Commission stated—The Presidency of the Association—Col. Oswald declines re-election, in consequence of governmental lukewarmness—The "Militia Gazette" made the official organ of the Association.

At the annual meeting of the Dominion Artillery Association held in the Parliament buildings Thursday morning last, His Excellency the Governor-General was again in attendance. The President, Lieut.-Col. Oswald, occupied the chair, and amongst others present were Col. Powell, Adjutant-General; Col. Panet, Deputy Minister of Militia; Major-General Laurie, M.P., Lieut.-Cols. Hon. G. A. Kirkpatrick, M.P., O'Brien, M.P., Irwin, Otter, Macdonald, Walker, Gravely and McKenzie, Majors Prior, M.P., Wilson, "A" Battery, Stewart, Blaiklock, Capt. Donaldson (Secretary), D. C. Bliss, Lieut. T. A. D. Bliss and Mr. L. H. Irving.

The annual report was presented, comprising statements from the council, the executive committee and the secretary-treasurer.

THE COUNCIL'S REPORT.

It is a matter for congratulation, the council report, that in addition to the Royal Military College 16 field batteries and 26 garrison batteries have joined the association during the past year.

The garrison artillery competitions at Quebec were successfully carried out, but regret is expressed that the special grant to the association by the Government was inadequate to meet the total expenses of the competition, the extra expense falling upon the funds of the association. In this particular a difference exists between the provisions made for the field battery practice and that for the competitors at Quebec, as in the former case the expenses are borne by the Government in addition to all other grants.

The concentration of the field artillery competitions in two places in the province of Ontario has been to a certain extent successful and satisfactory, but the council feel that the utmost success cannot be attained until such arrangements are made as will enable the whole of the marksmen of the field artillery to be concentrated in one place for a definite period, as recommended last year.

The contributions received from affiliating batteries and members of the association in subscriptions and entrance fees during the year amounted to \$475, while the expenses of maintenance of the association, including the secretary's salary, amount only to \$307.12, so that the members of the association contribute considerably more than the expenses of working, leaving the whole of the general government grant to be expended in the prizes for the different competitions.

The amount expended on account of the Quebec competitions was \$2,081.21, of which \$1,339.21 was for transport.

The whole amount paid in cash prizes and for prizes in kind, with the expense of maintaining cups, etc., amounted to \$1,253.49. One hundred and sixty marksmen competed in firing from the field batteries and 324 from the garrison batteries, in addition to which large numbers of men were specially instructed in matters pertaining to their duties under the rules of the Artillery Association.

It is proposed that during the present year a detachment of 20 men and 2 officers be sent to the competition at Shoeburyness, and also that a central garrison artillery competition be held at Quebec, and a central field artillery competition at such other point as may be selected, provided the proposition is approved of and sufficient funds can be obtained from the government for the purpose.

The council is of opinion that the state of efficiency of the field artillery would be materially increased were some provision made for the preliminary drill of the corps before they go into camp. It would appear from the reports that while the standard of efficiency is maintained it has arrived at such a degree that further proficiency cannot be well reached without more time being spent in drill.

The council, in conclusion, press upon the artillery in the different provinces the advisability of their forming provincial associations, and with that in view approves of some changes being made in the constitution.

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE EXECUTIVE.

The executive committee in their report recommend the purchase of an additional number of Scott's revolving sights for the use of the

field batteries, so that each may be provided with at least two of these sights.

Concerning the garrison artillery, and the competition at Orleans island the committee report: "More stringent rules as to disqualification of competitors for serious mistakes in gun drill, etc., will require to be made, and some other details as to ranges, etc., will require modification." The gun practice was much delayed by the frequency with which the targets were shot away and the consequent loss of time in replacing them. As generally accurate shooting is the best test of marksmanship, it is proposed that in future the size of the target shall be much diminished and the points for a direct hit be very much reduced. Application has been made for improved sights for the 64-pr. gun, those at present in use being unsuitable for very accurate laying."

THE SECRETARY-TREASURER'S STATEMENT.

Capt. J. B. Donaldson, secretary-treasurer of the association, in his report shows the year's receipts to have been \$3,475, and the expenditure \$3,642, the balance of \$493 in cash at the beginning of the year being reduced to \$325. Having acknowledged the donation of two silver cups by the Governor-General and a gift of a hundred dollars from the Hamilton Powder Co., through the president, Mr. T. C. Brainerd, the secretary, continues: "In this connection I beg to suggest that the council, during the year 1888, take steps to solicit subscriptions from the various banks and establishments throughout the country, with the hope that an equally liberal response will be given to the appeal as was accorded to that made by the rifle association. The aims of the two associations are identical—the promotion of general efficiency with their respective arms. I would further beg to suggest that steps be also taken for the formation of an endowment fund by means of special subscriptions. Action in the above directions are a necessity if the association is ever to be raised out of its present impecunious position. The council, year after year, have by vote delegated the duty of drawing up prize lists for the competitions to the executive committee with the result that after drawing them up and distributing them they have had to be curtailed for want of funds, or the matter has had to be delayed so long as to delay the issue of the lists until after some of the competitions have taken place.

"It was hoped that a small balance would have remained to the credit of the association at the end of the year, to assist in meeting the additional sum which will be required if it is decided to send a team to Shoeburyness during the year 1888. Owing, however, to the distinct refusal of the Government, through the Honourable Minister of Railways, to grant free passes over the Intercolonial Railway to the detachments proceeding from the Maritime Provinces to Quebec—a privilege granted to the competitors at the Dominion Rifle Association matches—the sum of \$1,122 (less a refund of \$39 for three unused tickets) had to be paid to the Government for conveying the detachments to Quebec to carry out their annual practice, and the funds are consequently lower, perhaps, than they have been at the commencement of any year since its formation."

COL. OSWALD DECLINES RE-ELECTION AS PRESIDENT.

In moving the adoption of the report, Col. Oswald expressed dissatisfaction with the treatment which had been accorded by the Government to the association. Not only was their grant of money small, but they had been compelled to pay largely out of the funds for the transport of Government troops over a Government railway to perform Government work—that is to put in their annual gun practice while taking part in the prize competition at the Island of Orleans. While riflemen from the Maritime Provinces were granted free passes, the artillerymen had been compelled to pay for their transport. He regretted to have to state that in conversation with the Minister of Militia that gentleman had told him that there could be no increase in the grant this year. He had therefore informed Sir Adolphe that under these circumstances he found it incumbent upon him to retire from office in the association, for he did not feel that its efficiency could be maintained without an additional grant.

THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL SPEAKS.

A vote of thanks to His Excellency the Governor-General was moved by Lieut.-Col. Irwin, seconded by Lieut.-Col. Oswald. The mover announced that Lord Lansdowne had made a parting gift of \$75, which it was proposed to invest in a cup, to be competed for annually.

His Excellency made a neat speech in acknowledgement. He expressed the hope that the association would be able this year to send a team to Shoeburyness, and that though he would by that time have turned his back upon these shores, he might there catch a parting glimpse of some of our gunners. Referring to the action of the Government in appointing a central defence commission, he said this had been done not because they had any idea of asking the tax-payers of this country to become involved in an ambitious and extensive scheme of national defence and fortification, but rather because it was fitting that

we should take stock of the resources of the country in the way of national defence and fortification. This would render possible the co-operation of our defence system here with the Imperial forces, in the event of their united action being required. He had little doubt but that the result of the investigation, particularly in the matter of coast defence, would add very much to the importance attached to the efficiency of the artillery of this country. He expressed regret that his successor would not have the pleasure of meeting with Col. Oswald as president of the association, and having highly complimented that gentleman for the manner in which, to the speaker's personal knowledge, he had discharged the duties of president. His Excellency strongly urged that he should reconsider his determination to withdraw from it.

THANKFUL FOR PAST FAVOURS.

Lieut.-Col. Macdonald, of Guelph, moved a vote of thanks to the government for aid to the association during the past. Even though this support had been too little, he knew that the government considered they had done the best they could for the association, but he sincerely hoped their views upon this point would change.

Major Stewart, Ottawa, seconded the resolution, adding that everyone would like to see the sinews of war more evenly distributed between the rifle and artillery associations.

Col. Panet, Deputy Minister of Militia, in acknowledging the resolution of thanks explained on behalf of the Minister that Sir Adolphe Caron had fully intended to be present, but was unexpectedly detained at the last moment. Respecting the grant to the association he could say that it was not increased in great measure because the estimates for the militia department had been so very much limited.

Capt. Donaldson in moving a vote of thanks to the Hamilton Powder Company for their donation, referred to the urgent necessity of some steps being taken to secure more general contributions to the funds. The association he said had been kept in a state of semi-starvation—dying by inches.

SUPPORT FOR THE MILITARY PAPER.

The following new rule, notice of which had been duly given, was adopted unanimously: "That the CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE, published at Ottawa, shall be the official organ of the association; and publication of a notice in that paper, by the secretary or other person authorized to act on his behalf, shall be a sufficient intimation to all concerned of the holding of any regular or special meeting of the association, or of any proposed changes in the constitution and rules thereof—provided that such notice shall be first inserted at least one month before the holding of the meeting specified, and shall appear in every subsequent issue until such date."

ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

Mr. T. C. Brainerd, president of the Hamilton Powder Co., and Capt. McMurrich, of the Toronto Garrison Artillery, were elected life members of the association, in consideration of donations and services rendered.

The officers of last year were re-elected, with the exception of the president, Lieut.-Col. Oswald, who for the reasons given above declined to serve again. Lieut.-Col. A. H. Macdonald, president of the council last year, was unanimously chosen in his place. Before accepting, Col. Macdonald addressed the association to make it distinctly understood that he could not attempt to carry the financial responsibilities assumed in the past by Col. Oswald. That gentleman had, he said, occupied a position where he could with the greatest advantage solicit support from the wealthy men of a rich community, whereas there were not the same opportunities in the part of the country where he (Col. Macdonald) resided. Col. Oswald had also been most generous and lavish in the expenditure of his private resources in support of the association, but Col. Macdonald had not the means to attempt to follow his example in this respect. If the association, fully understanding the nature of the change involved, desired to make him president he would be proud to accept the office.

MEETING OF COUNCIL.

At a meeting of the council of the association held in the afternoon, the members present were Lieut.-Cols. Irwin, Macdonald, and McKenzie, Major Stewart and Mr. L. H. Irving.

Lieut.-General Middleton paid a visit, and expressed to the council his regret that he had been unable to attend at the meeting of the association in the morning. He stated that he took a very great interest in its operations, believing the Dominion Artillery Association properly supported to be of even greater usefulness in promoting the proficiency of the branch of the service with which it was connected, than the Dominion Rifle Association was to the infantry branch.

Lieut.-Col. McKenzie, Gananoque, one of the vice-presidents, was elected president, instead of Lieut.-Col. Macdonald, promoted to the

presidency of the association. Lieut.-Col. Curren, of Halifax, was elected a vice-president in his place, and the other three were re-elected, viz.: Major Stewart, Ottawa; Major Lindsay, Quebec, and Major Moore, Charlottetown.

Lieut.-Col. Macdonald, Capt. Donaldson and Major McLean (Port Hope) were elected members of the executive committee, the only change being that Major McLean replaces Lieut.-Col. McKenzie. The inspector and assistant inspectors of artillery are ex-officio members of the committee.

Lieut.-Col. John Macpherson and Capt. Knight were elected auditors, the latter replacing Major Wicksteed, who has gone to reside in England.

It was decided that no entrance fees should be charged in the officers' competition.

The holding of a central garrison meeting and the sending of a team to Shoeburyness were referred to an extraordinary meeting of council.

Practice will not, it was decided, be held in future during annual drill, but if practicable the marksmen of the field artillery will be concentrated.

Tel el Kebir.

[BY TROOPER WILL T. JAMES, GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S BODY GUARD].

Nocturnal mists of gloom are spread
Along the plain; prone as the dead
Each martial sleeper lies;
Around the tentless bivouac
Each watchful sentry stalks his track,
And "All's Well" betimes cries.

Midnight is past—three hours of day
Scarce have in darkness slipped away,
When musters every man;
Full harnessed for the rash onslaught,
Resolved to quit them as they ought,
Like they who took Redan.

The rumbling guns and marshalled squad
In cautious haste speed o'er the sod
In line of battle formed;
Marching all sternly to the fray,
Like spectres in nebulous grey,
Valiant and unalarmed.

At dawn of day, with dread surprise,
Before the foes' affrighted eyes,
Our troops to fight advance;
Swift swarming o'er the neutral ground,
With fire reserved—the only sound:
"Orders and ambulance."

Anon the cannon's thunderous roar
An iron storm upon them pour
From centre to the flanks;
But dauntless 'cross the trench they leap,
Regardless of the fires which sweep
With havoc through their ranks.

Above the clamour rings their shout,
As bold they scale the first redoubt
And mingle with their foes;
Then fiercely fight with desperate zeal,
Nor flinch before the shimmering steel—
Hand now to hand they close.

While thick in deadly struggles pressed
True British valour proves the best
And Egypt's warriors fly;
Our flag o'er Tel el Kebir waves,
But sets the sun on many graves
Where British soldiers lie.

27,300 officers and men, with 3,600 horses and 60 guns, are now occupied in the pacification of Ireland. In the Belfast district there are 4,300, in the Dublin district 14,000, and in the Cork district 8,800.

I had never had the chance, says London *Figaro*, of closely examining a Field Marshal's baton until the other day. After handling one and appraising the value of the gold with which it is lavishly decorated, the crown and much of the ornamental part of the baton being of that precious metal, I can better understand what I had not before been able to make out, viz.: why it was that a British Field Marshal's baton cost upward of 50 guineas.

Belgium has determined to spend about \$12,000,000 on guns for new fortifications. Naturally the native gun makers would like to get such a large order; but hitherto it appears to have been the custom of the Belgian ordnance authorities to get their supplies from Krupp. A very fierce controversy has, therefore, arisen in the papers, which has been complicated by statements that on this occasion French gunmakers will be asked to tender.

SILK RIBBONS!

Those of our lady readers who would like to have an elegant, large package of extra fine, Assorted Ribbons (by mail), in different widths and all the latest fashionable shades; adapted for Bonnet Strings, Neckwear, Scarfs, Trimming for Hats and Dresses, Bows, Fancy Work, &c., can get an astonishing big bargain, owing to the recent failure of a large wholesale Ribbon Manufacturing Co., by sending only 25 cents (stamps), to the address we give below.

As a special offer, this house will give double the amount of any other firm in America if you will send the names and P. O. Address of ten newly married ladies when ordering and mention the name of this paper. No pieces less than one yard in length. Satisfaction is guaranteed, or money cheerfully refunded. Three packages for 60 cents. Address, LONDON RIBBON AGENCY, JERSEY CITY, N. Y.

Manitoba Rifle Association.

The Annual Meeting—An interesting Report from the Council.

THE annual meeting of the Manitoba Rifle Association was held in a committee room of the City Hall, Winnipeg, on Tuesday the 13th inst. Major Bedson (president) occupied the chair, and those in attendance included Lieut.-Col. Boswell, vice-president; Lieut. Col. Houghton, D.A.G.; Majors Buchan, Coutlee and Steel (treasurer), Captains Swinford (secretary), Bruce, Dow, Knight, Belford and Graburn and Messrs. Kennon, Lamb, Huston, Clark, Lamb, Brundret, Graburn, Shepperd, Williams, Ingram, Taylor, Garbett, Baxter, Sutherland, D. Smith, Griffith, Macklin, Hope, Bleasdel, McMicken and S. S. Smith.

THE FINANCES.

The financial condition of the association is set forth as follows in the report of the council: "It will be seen that a great falling off in our grants and subscriptions has taken place, more particularly from the following sources, viz.: The provincial government, which divided our grant with a western local organization when it was voted for the provincial association; the city council, which refused the customary annual grant, which was, up to last year, placed in their estimates; also the various banks doing business in the city, who have not donated anything to the funds of the association; together with a marked falling off in the amounts subscribed, caused no doubt from the depressed state of business.

"We are in debt to the amount of \$320.89, with only \$1.77 cash on hand. Our expenses have been larger in some instances than in former years, from having to be at considerable expense in improving and repairing the ranges and targets for the annual matches, the inclemency of the weather preventing completion of the matches within the three days; the engraving of cups and trophies which had up to the present year never been done; and the payment of sundry liabilities from the former year."

DONATIONS DURING THE YEAR.

The cups and trophies presented to the association by its various friends for competition during the past year have been unusually numerous and handsome, and the thanks of the association are tendered in the report to the following gentlemen for them: Hon. J. C. Aikins, Lieut.-Governor, Manitoba; Sir Donald Smith, Hon. L. M. Jones, M.P.P.; Hon. Senator Schultz; Major C. F. Forrest, Major Bedson, Major W. R. Bell, Wm. Stephens, C. J. Brydges and H. S. Holt. A magnificent silver cup presented by Sir Donald Smith, was received too late for competition at the annual matches.

The death of three life members is recorded, viz., Lt.-Col. McKeand, Lt.-Col. Osborne Smith, C.M.G., and J. H. McTavish.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The council suggest that for the future prizes in the extra series be arranged so that the competitors receive the receipts from such source in each match, less a percentage deducted to cover the expenses.

The association is asked to consider the advisability of changing the place of holding the annual matches from Stony Mountain to a more convenient location, so as to reduce range and transit expenses.

The association expresses pride at having had two members on the Wimbledon rifle team, viz: Staff-Staff C. N. Mitchell and Pte. A. Gillies, both of the 90th Rifles' the latter being the winner of the Prince of Wales' prize, and honoured by a presentation to His Royal Highness at the meeting.

In consequence of the application to the Militia Department for an augmentation of the annual grant, this has been increased by \$250.

The council tender their hearty thanks to Lieut.-Col. Boswell, range officer, and the non-commissioned officers employed on the range and butts for their zeal and efficiency, also to the secretary and treasurer for their unwearied exertions in carrying out the preparations and details of the annual meeting, and in conclusion regret that the shortness of funds alone prevents the printing of the annual report in the usual way.

OFFICERS ELECTED.

The election of officers resulted as follows:

Patron—Sir D. A. Smith.

Vice-patrons—Mayor Jones, C. J. Brydges, Hon. Thos. Greenway.

President—Major S. L. Bedson.

Vice-presidents—Lt.-Col. Boswell, Major Buchan.

Council—Capt. Graburn, Staff-Sergt. Mitchell, Capt. Balfour, Capt. Bruce, Dr. Clarke, Capt. Dow, Lieut. K. Graburn, R. Macklin, S. S. Kennon, Major Ruttan, Lieut. Alex. McIntyre, Lieut. Brown, Portage la Prairie.

Messrs. Nursey and Benedict were elected auditors.

Lieut.-Col. D. A. Macdonald, of Ottawa, and Mr. W. B. Scarth, M.P., were appointed representatives on the council of the Dominion of Canada Rifle Association for 1888.

Mr. D. Brundrit, retiring auditor, presented his report, which showed the accounts to be in a very satisfactory condition.

The following motion by Capt. Balfour, seconded by Lieut.-Col. Boswell was carried unanimously: That this association desires to convey to its patron, Sir Donald A. Smith, its keen appreciation of the continued interest which he manifests in its affairs as evidenced by the very handsome cup which he has again donated to it for competition, for which the association desires to thank him very sincerely, and that the secretary be instructed to forward a copy of this resolution to Sir Donald.

A long discussion on matters of general interest took place, and then the meeting adjourned.

Correspondence.

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

THE ORDNANCE AT SYDNEY, C. B.

To the Editor of the Canadian Militia Gazette:

SIR,—I see by the Militia Report, 1888, under the head, "Return of Ordnance, etc.," that Sydney, C.B., is credited with four 9-pr. S.B. guns (these are with the S. F. B.), and also eight 32-pr. S.B. guns. These latter were once mounted on the earthwork at Sydney mines. But are they there now? This is a question that the District Staff might try and answer some of these days. With your permission, I will try and tell "Linch-pin" something about Louisburg, and its present military value.

MILITIAMAN.

SIMPLE AND INEXPENSIVE EQUIPMENT.

To the Editor of the Canadian Militia Gazette:

SIR,—If it should become necessary to call out the militia for another North-West trip, would not the following be a cheap and easy way to equip them, viz., issue a canvass cartridge belt, or "bandoleer," such as the N. W. M. P. wear, in place of the old pouch, and an extra havresack in place of the old knapsack. With two havresacks, water-bottle, bandoleer, canteen (slung on the waist-belt behind), rolled overcoat and rubber sheet, an infantry man could carry 100 cartridges and all the "kit" he could possibly require, except blankets. This system has been lately adopted by the Russians, but their havresacks appear to be made of leather. Our old-fashioned knapsack is rather heavy and uncomfortable for the rapid movements required in the North-West, and in fact was carried on waggons during the last campaign. The equipment used in the regular army is open to the same objection, weighing with the pouches 5 lbs. 4 oz. empty, and the pouches on the waist-belt in front are disagreeable to lie down on. The equipment I speak of is cheap—weighs very little in itself—and is not much in the way of a skirmisher. A battalion equipped in this way could be mounted without necessitating any change; they could fasten their overcoats and pouches to the saddles, but you could not mount a man with a knapsack or valise.

VOLUNTEER.

Toronto, 14th March, 1888.

Queries and Replies.

SOCIAL PRECEDENCE IN CANADA.

To the Editor of the Canadian Militia Gazette:

SIR,—A correspondent recently asked a question about precedence. The following is, I believe, the correct sequence for the persons named:—

The C. M. G.	Colonel.
Eldest son of a Baronet.	Consul.
Eldest son of a K. C. M. G. or K. C. B.	Lieut.-Colonel.
Younger son of a Baronet.	Major.
Younger son of a K. C. B.	Vice-Consul.
County Judge.	Captain.
Barrister.	Lieutenant.

Justices of the Peace, Barristers, Bachelors of Divinity, Law, or Physic, and Military Officers down to the rank of Captain inclusive, rank as Esquires. But the Canadian table of precedence places the General in chief command of H. M. Troops next after the Governor-General, and other general officers serving in the Dominion rank between Privy Councillors and Senators.

X.

PARAGRAPHS 55 AND 74, REGULATIONS AND ORDERS.

Q. Please explain paragraphs 55 and 74, R. & O., 1887. (1.) What course should a commanding officer pursue so as to have the provisions of these paragraphs carried out or have his subordinate officers retired from the service? (2.) Who is the judge of an officer's medical unfitness for service? (3.) What really constitutes "left limits" and how can retirement be enforced? (4.) Who can and does grant leave to reside permanently "out of limits?"

RICOCHE.

Ans. (1.) Report the facts to headquarters, through the usual channel. (2.) The surgeon of the corps. (3.) Ceasing to be domiciled within the defined limits, or contiguous thereto so as in the opinion of the commanding officer to be conveniently accessible. Retirement can only be enforced through report to headquarters. (4.) No one.

Lieut.-Col. O'Malley, the officer who for the past thirteen years has held the command of the 25th battalion, is about to retire from the force, to which he has rendered excellent service during his long connection.

GOSSIP OF THE MILITIA.

An Interesting Review of our Army Medical Department.

Annual Meeting of the Dufferin Rifles Rifle Association—Events at the Montreal Infantry School—Guards' Non-coms. at Mess. Miscellaneous Items.

A RIFLE Association has been formed in the Island of Cape Breton. The District Staff is giving it every encouragement. The following compose the council: Major Hill, 94th; Major McLeod, S.F.B.; Capt. Crow, S.F.B.; Lieut. Gillis, 94th, and John E. Buchill, Esq.

The non-coms. of No. 1 Co. of the Guards had a grand spread at Spencer's restaurant on Saturday evening last, the occasion being the regular monthly mess dinner. Col.-Sergt. H. N. Chesley presided, and the members were present in full force. Col.-Sergt. Ed. Taylor of No. 5, formerly a n.c.o. of No. 1, and Lance-Corpl. Grout, who has just had his first stripe conferred upon him, were initiated into the membership. Several guests were present, including the officers of the company, Major Todd and Lieuts. Thompson and Winter, and several civilians, formerly members.

Montreal.

WITH the approach of spring comes the awakening of the different city corps which have been hibernating more or less for the last few months. Notices of meetings or drills make an almost daily appearance in the papers, and towards the usual hour of 8 p.m. the smart uniforms of men making their way to their respective armouries are hailed as the infallible signs of spring. The rifle associations are also holding their annual meetings to make arrangements for the campaign of 1888. At the Vics' armoury the second competition for Lieut.-Col. Henshaw's gold medal was shot on Saturday last and was won by Pte. Geo. Cooke, with 66 points—5 shots each at 200, 500 and 600 yards.

Winnipeg.

ON the 15th inst., Major Coutlee, commanding Winnipeg Field Battery, gave a very instructive and interesting lecture on Artillery in the Recreation Room of Mounted Infantry School, placed at his disposal for the occasion. Lieut.-Colonel Taylor took the chair and introduced the lecturer. The lecture, although to a large extent a technical one, was so clear as to be easily understood by all branches of the service. It was attended by all the officers and many of the men of the Mounted Infantry, as well as by the members of the Winnipeg Field Battery.

A VICIOUS BRONCHO.

One of the horses of the Mounted Infantry, when in the blacksmith's shop last week, came very near making an end of Farrier-Sergeant Smith. It appears the horse had got caught in the halter rope and the farrier went up to him and cut the rope. No sooner had he done this than the horse "made for him," standing on his hind legs and striking at him viciously with his fore feet (after the usual custom of bronchos). He got the farrier in a corner and hit him twice on the head, once very severely, tearing the scalp, and when the farrier held up his hand to protect his head the horse struck his hand, tearing it badly, and then struck him badly on the arm. Luckily the fur cap protected his head or he would have been killed. The horse drove everyone out, and the door being shut on him, he then went round the shop striking the sides violently with his fore feet, trying to break out. It was some time before he could be quieted. The horse, though high-spirited, was considered to be fairly quiet—but Western people say you can never trust a broncho.

The Mounted Infantry have had mounted parade and ride out for exercise for two hours every day this winter (except during three or four blizzards). They have no fur coats like the Mounted Police, but have warm fur helmet-shaped caps, fur collars and gauntlets, and though the thermometer has been often from 20 to 30 below zero, very few have been frost bitten on riding—none indeed as bad as two of the sentries in barracks, one of whom has lost one of his fingers.

Brantford.

THE tenth annual meeting of the Dufferin Rifles' Rifle Association was held at Brantford on Thursday 15th inst., there being present Major Rothwell, Major T. H. Jones, Capt. H. J. McGlashan, Capt. H. Leonard, Capt. W. D. Jones, Capt. J. S. Hamilton, Capt. W. A. Wilkes, Lieut. A. E. Christie, Lieut. E. Park, Lieut. M. J. Ince, Lieut. W. G. Kilmaster, Lieut. J. W. Howarth, Sergt. Jas. Thompson, Pte. A. McKay, Mr. D. S. Henderson and others.

The secretary, Lieut. M. J. Ince, presented an exceedingly interesting report, reviewing in detail the operations of the year. Included in this is a paragraph expressing the regret felt by the council that a large number of the members of the regiment do not avail themselves of the advantages of weekly target practice, nor turn out in such large numbers at the annual rifle matches as is desirable. No regiment, they point out, is considered thoroughly efficient unless it is known as a good shooting regiment, and efficiency with the rifle can only be attained by constant practice. To meet objections of a good many the prize meeting is held one day instead of two as formerly, and the regimental match for several years has been so arranged that only half a day need be taken up by those who cannot spare a whole day from business. To give more encouragement to the men of the regiment the officers have refused to accept prizes in this match. The council hopes that representative teams will this year be sent to the Ontario Rifle Association matches and the Dominion Rifle Association matches, and with that end in view steady practice will be undertaken during the spring and summer months.

The treasurer's report showed a balance on hand of \$38, an increase of \$10 during the year. Votes of thanks were then passed to Major Rothwell, treasurer, and Lieut. Ince, secretary, for their services.

It was decided to commence the regular target practice on the 2nd of June and continue it until the annual matches, the practice days to be each alternate Wednesday and Saturday.

Wednesday, the 19th September, was the day suggested for the annual matches. The Association will this year affiliate with the Ontario Rifle Association and also with the Dominion Rifle Association, and hopes to send representatives to the matches of both.

Toronto.

MEMO for Driving Band: You say in your last letter that Canada boasts of six 40-pr. B.L.R. and ten 7-in. B.L.R. guns. I cannot make out how you arrive at this. The Stores' Return gives us four 40-prs. and ten 7-in., then, in addition, two 40-pr. have been ordered. That I presume makes your total of six 40-prs.; but the report of the artillery commandant at Quebec says that three 7-inch and one 40-pr. were rendered *useless* by fire, so that we *really* have in Canada to-day three 40-prs. and seven 7-in. B.L.R. guns. The same officer further says that there are in the Citadel at Quebec only a few rifled guns, *none of which could pierce an ironclad at 50 yards range*. If some enemy would bombard Quebec for a few minutes, the authorities might change their minds and buy modern guns.

OUR ARMY MEDICAL DEPARTMENT.

Lord Wolseley tells us in his handbook that officers should impress upon their men that the wounded of a victorious army are always taken care of whilst those of the beaten side fare badly. Whether this would be true of the Canadian militia, victorious or not, is doubtful.

In the Report, 1878, we find in No. 2 district that "the medicine chest furnished was incomplete in almost every particular, although I went through about half a dozen other medicine chests in the stores to make up deficiencies. Further, I would suggest that the chests be condemned as useless, the most of the medicines being old and inactive. The pills had been in stock since the chests were first issued. In urgent and even dangerous cases I had no immediate means at command to treat actively."

During 1885 a principal medical officer was not allowed for the annual camp, and there was only *one* medicine chest in camp. What were the contents of the last chest like, for instance in 1886?

In 1886 our attention is drawn to the very *inadequate* supply of medicines and appliances. The small quantity of astringents and opiates were exhausted before the end of the first week. There were no bandages, *no splints*, the adhesive plaster was worthless and unfit for use on account of its age. The medical officer in charge considered the want of these articles a very grave matter, as in the event of severe accidents, the consequences might be terrible.

At Niagara camp, 1887, there were two cases of broken limbs, and we are informed that great inconvenience was caused by the absence of instruments, *splints*, etc. I wonder how the sergeant with the broken leg appreciated this inconvenience and the persistent disregard of all reports on this point by the doctors.

In 1887 at the Aldershot camp the medicine chest was not at all satisfactory and was devoid of several important requisites. Surgical instruments and appliances were conspicuously absent. On several occasions men fainted in the ranks, but there was no ambulance service to remove them to hospitals, not even a stretcher. Let me tell this medical officer, should he see this, that there are *stretchers in store* at Ottawa and that he should badger the life out of them there until he gets what he requires.

At the Kingston camp the medicine chest was handed over nearly empty, but perhaps on the whole that was better than issuing useless old muck, as the "medicine man" can then order those things which are certain to be required.

It is hard work getting at the true state of affairs as regards medicine, instruments, comforts, ambulances, etc., as so few reports are published on this subject. I dare say there are districts in which not even a medicine chest exists.

A SAVING OF AMMUNITION.

I must compliment the country on the great saving of money effected during the past year. At the London camp, "owing to the defective state of the butts, the troops did not perform the usual target practice." During 1885, the 1st Regiment of Cavalry and three companies of the 30th were unable to have an opportunity of target practice while in camp. In 1886 these corps did not drill, and the year during which they did perform their drill they were unable to fire; and in the present year they will not, it is assumed, be called out, so that we find the 1st Regiment of Cavalry stands thus as regards practice:

1882—	One troop out.	Practice not completed.	(?)
1883—	Four troops out.	"	No ammunition issued. (?)
1884—	Did not drill.		
1885—	Four troops out.	Did not fire.	
1886—	Did not drill.		
1887—	Four troops out.	Did not fire.	
1888—	Probably will not drill and not fire.		

So that in seven years this regiment has 29 men who fired (1882) and their practice was not even completed.

With the 30th Battalion it stands:

1882—	Nine companies.	Practice not carried out; no range.
1883—	Ten	" " completed; ammunition issued to 8 companies only.
1884—	Did not drill.	
1885—	Ten companies.	Not completed. Three companies did not fire.
1886—	"	Did not drill.
1887—	"	No range.
1888—	"	? ? ?

With this corps 72 men on an average have fired during seven years.

These are only samples. You can find the same thing all over the Dominion. In No. 2 district the target practice of the Governor-General's Body Guard did not take place, *ammunition* (Winchester) *not being available*. With the 2nd Regiment of Cavalry there was *no time for their practice*. As the Cavalry School is armed with the Winchester and they managed to put in their practice, there must be Winchester ammunition available somewhere in the country. As regards the 2nd Regiment, in 1887 there was not sufficient time for that corps' practice, in 1886 it was relieved from drill, the same in 1884, and in 1883, although the regiment drilled at Niagara, it looks very much like as if it did not fire then.

This is a happy state of affairs. Corps armed with a weapon for which there is no ammunition; corps armed with a rifle for which there is inferior ammunition, which drill, but still it is either no range, no time or no ammunition.

Like the medical question, there are very few reports on target practice—probably it is something not worthy wasting the time on. We are told that by carrying out the practice during camps it ensures every man having some little instruction and compels him to actually fire his rifle. But these facts which I have quoted make it look as if *whole corps did not fire*.

Modern Tactics.

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

(Continued from Page 286.)

CHAPTER VI.—ATTACK ON A POSITION BY THE THREE ARMS.

BEFORE deciding to attack a position, a commander endeavours, by means of reconnaissances both armed and secret, to obtain every possible information regarding its capabilities. If the enemy's outposts are well posted, and his piquets and sentries alert, very insufficient information may be procurable. In this event a reconnaissance in force is usually sent out to drive in his outposts, and force him to unmask, *i.e.* show himself on the positions he means to occupy.

The command of a reconnaissance in force is entrusted to an experienced officer, and is usually made with a view to bringing on an action.

First Stage.

The advanced guard, reinforced if necessary, drives in the enemy's outposts. At this first stage of the attack on a position, provided the country admits of their manœuvring, the assailants' cavalry can hardly be used too freely or too boldly on the flanks.

1st. To prevent the defenders' cavalry discovering the plan of attack.

2nd. To try and work round the flanks of the position, and discover what natural or artificial protection the defenders have got for them. To ascertain, if possible, the depth of the position, and the position of the defenders' second line and reserves, and also their lines of retreat.

3rd. To cover the movements of their own infantry, moving to a flank, and not formed for attack.

4th. By their pressure generally to harass the defenders, by opposing their cavalry and making feints at charging their infantry whenever an opportunity is given them for delaying, even momentarily, a deployment. The assailants' cavalry, manœuvring on the flanks, can often judge of the effect produced by their own side's artillery-fire, and report on the practice they are making.

A well-handled body of cavalry with a few field guns may play an important *role* in every stage of an action, provided its commander is in touch with the other arms, and is not so rash as to suppose that cavalry alone can engage infantry, unless they have run short of ammunition, or are greatly demoralized, or taken completely unawares.

If instead of charging the British squares at Waterloo Napoleon had sent half his cavalry to the right to harass the Prussians, and a portion of the remainder to work round Wellington's right flank, they might have considerably delayed Blucher's advance on one side, and spread panic as far as Brussels, and subsequently have hovered on the flanks, and in rear of the allies, or rallied on Grouchy's force.

When not operating on the flanks the normal place for cavalry on the field of battle is with the reserves. Cavalry can quickly be transferred to any part of the field when required.

Great caution combined with dash and boldness have been the characteristics of all successful cavalry leaders. Had Prince Rupert possessed the first of these qualifications, he would have been the *beau ideal* of a cavalry general.

A thorough knowledge of the tactics of the three arms is essential to every cavalry officer, without which he cannot hope to seize upon and make the most of the fleeting opportunities in a battle, when a well-judged and skilfully-handled charge may produce a momentary effect, as astounding as it is sudden.

The highest perfection in a cavalry leader is to know when to withdraw, and give way to his own infantry.

The Russians have, perhaps, bought their experience somewhat dearly; but with respect to their cavalry they are making rapid progress in a right direction, and this arm is probably destined to play an important part in their future campaigns.

Cavalry at all times should be capable of being turned into serviceable infantry.

Second Stage.

The outposts driven in and the flanks well scoured, a battle opens with what is called the "artillery duel."

Having approached within shelling distance, the assailants' guns should be massed as much as the ground admits of, and their concentrated fire directed upon some vital point.

If the artillery of the defence replies, the guns of the attack will be directed with a view to silencing it if possible. This is not easy to accomplish. First, because the defenders' guns are generally protected by epaulments. Secondly, they can withdraw them out of action until the assailants' infantry appears. If the defenders' guns are not brought into action the assailants can shell their positions with impunity; but with what effect depends on the amount of cover they afford.

It is a generally accepted maxim that no position ought to be assaulted by infantry until it has been well pounded and shaken by artillery. Nevertheless, a good many hours of valuable daylight may often be wasted to little or no purpose, by prolonging a harmless cannonade directed against substantial earthworks.

It has been seen that the direction of the artillery attack will depend at first on the fire tactics of the defence; but eventually the concentrated fire of the assailant's guns must be directed on some vital point, the capture of which has been decided upon.

During the artillery cannonade, the infantry is deployed, and if a turning movement is contemplated, the troops told off for it are marched away, covered, if the ground is open, by cavalry, in skirmishing order.

At all times when within view of an enemy, and especially when moving to a flank, every possible advantage should be taken of any cover from view. This is often obtainable from much gentler undulations than men are accustomed to utilize in drill.

Third Stage.

There are three courses at this stage of a battle more or less open to the assailants.

First.—To endeavour to envelop a position, and gradually close on it, without exposing a flank to counter attack. This plan necessitates a great superiority in numbers.

Secondly.—To make a holding attack in front, and a wide and deep turning movement round one or both flanks. This plan also implies a considerable numerical superiority, and entails the most careful and accurate calculations of time, to ensure the combined action between the front and flank attacks, without which they become isolated and liable to be beaten in detail.

A skilful general will provide artificial flank defences to his selected position when natural ones do not exist, in rear of either or both exposed flanks.

The probabilities ought to be that a turning movement to be successful will have to outflank these entrenchments, in which case it must be very wide, and can only be undertaken when the assailants feel themselves strong enough to divide their forces, and still repel any concentrated counter attacks delivered by the defenders acting on interior lines, at the time when their opponents are at their widest point of separation.

The danger of dividing an army on the field of battle, has been fatally exemplified too often to need further demonstration.

Still, if a turning movement is accurately timed, and secretly and skilfully executed, so as to ensure the two attacks, *viz.* that in front of a position, and that on its most exposed flank, being simultaneously delivered, it justifies the presumption that it may be carried.

The third course open to the assailants is perhaps the most generally adopted, and, in the event of the preponderance in numbers not being much in favour of the attacking side, is certainly the least risky, *viz.* to make a demonstration along the front of the defenders' positions, to keep them generally occupied, and by means of local and general reserves to attack a vital point with local superiority.

In order to do this the commander must throw his reserves into the fight exactly at the right moment. Battalions, brigades, divisions, must be launched not one after the other, but as nearly simultaneously as the cover they are taking advantage of will permit.

The general plan of attack will be influenced—

1st. By the configuration of the ground and the amount of lateral communication between the centre and flanks.

2nd. The quality of the assailants' troops.

3rd. The quality of the defenders.

4th. The mistakes of the defenders and the accidents of battle.

To take advantage of the latter so as to turn them to immediate account is the highest aim of tactics.

The Duke of Wellington, when asked to state the opinion he had formed of Napoleon as a tactician, is said to have replied, "Napoleon's presence on a field of battle is equivalent to forty thousand men."

If no cover exists, successive waves of skirmishers pressed on vigorously in rapid and never-failing succession can alone hope to capture an entrenched position resolutely and scientifically defended.

General Skobelev, who seldom failed to carry the numerous entrenched positions he attacked, said, that in every attack there was a critical moment when the reserves must be thrown into the fight, either to re-establish confidence or to confirm victory.

This moment has arrived when there is any signs of wavering on either side.

It must always be borne in mind that a vital point has not only to be carried, but to be held when captured, and made secure against counter attack, and during the final rushes the assailants, owing to their proximity to the enemy, lose whatever support they may have hitherto received from the oblique fire of troops co-operating on their flanks, as well as that from the artillery-fire directed over their heads against the defenders.

Any infantry attack formation founded on the supposition that companies are not to be mixed up, however good in theory, can hardly be expected to meet the requirements of modern warfare.

Experience has shown that in the attack on an entrenched position, not only do companies become mixed, but battalions, brigades, and divisions, before steady troops fighting behind earthworks, will abandon good cover to be shot down retreating over the open, by volleys delivered at point-blank ranges.

The Prussian losses within 300 yards of the French positions in 1870 were almost nil, but the experience of a more recent campaign has shown that resolute troops can hold entrenchments to the last against breechloaders.

The odds in favour of the defenders, if carefully and scientifically entrenched, are very great, and with repeating-rifles they will be greater still.

However, positions have been assaulted and carried against fearful odds from time immemorial, and will have to be again when nations go to war.

The breech-loader has developed fire action in the open, to the exclusion of what was called shock; but the spade, as demonstrated at Plevna and in the Shipka Pass, has beaten the rifle; and before entrenched positions resolutely and scientifically defended can be captured, the next great war will probably show that rifles will frequently have to be clubbed and bayonets crossed.

(To be continued.)



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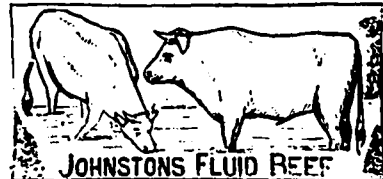
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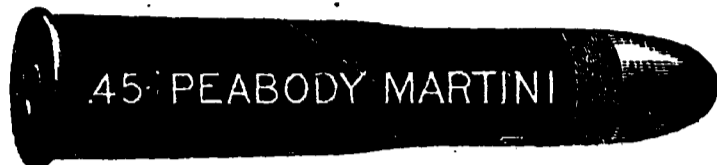
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