

Military Gazette

Successor to the Canadian Militia Gazette.

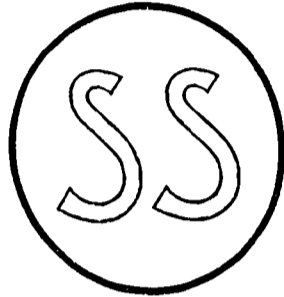
VOL. XI.
No. 2.

MONTREAL, JANUARY 15, 1896.

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CANADIAN MILITARY RIFLE LEAGUE

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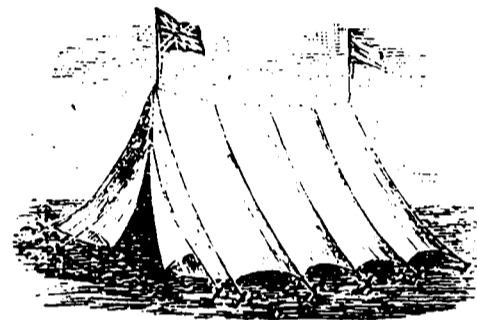
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MONTREAL, JANUARY 15, 1896.

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News of the Service.

NOTE.—Our readers are respectfully requested to contribute to this department all items of Military News affecting their own corps, districts or friends, coming under their notice. Without we are assisted in this way we cannot make this department as complete as we would desire. Remember that all the doings of every corps are of general interest throughout the entire militia force. You can mail a large package of manuscript, so long as not enclosed in an envelope, for one cent. At any rate, forward copies of your local papers with all references to your corps and your comrades. Address.

EDITOR, CANADIAN MILITARY GAZETTE

P.O. Box, 2179, Montreal, Que.

Halifax N. S.

I am glad to see that the suggestion of "Gravelcrusher" in your columns, a short time ago, re the re-naming of the Dominion Artillery Brigades, has been carried out.

The only war preparations made down this way was the appointment last month of a man to fill the place of the late Mr. Mulvena at the Militia Store, and the discharge this month, on reducing the establishment, of a young and active man who has been employed here for over 10 years, whilst the old man engaged last month was kept on. There is something in this that we outsiders cannot understand.

On the 27th ult., Private Hayworth, Berkshire Regt., died from typhoid fever and was buried with the usual military honours. This is the first death in the Berks since its arrival here.

Band Sergeant Sheehan, late Kings Regt., has been appointed bandmaster of the 63rd Halifax Rifles. Let us hope he will improve the appearance of the band, for from the remarks I have heard as to their appearance at the last Guard of Honour there is lots of room for improvement, in the cleanliness of its uniforms and instruments.

On the 9th inst., the 63rd furnished a Guard of Honour under command of Capt. Dixon, to attend His Honour the Lieut. Governor on the occasion of opening the local legislature. The Guard was up to strength and looked clean and natty.

The 1st Halifax Regt. Canadian Artillery, (late H. G. A.) fired the usual salute.

The N. C. officers 1st Canadian Artillery held a meeting on the 10th inst., to make arrangements for their annual sleigh drive and dinner. It was decided to hold it on the 23rd inst., weather permitting.

The officers 1st Canadian Artillery are holding their annual meeting on the 13th inst.

Lieut. Col. Curren has a class of provisional officers of his corps under his instruction. He is preparing them for their exam at Quebec where they intend going in the spring.

GRAVELCRUSHER.

Hamilton.

The sergeants of the 13th regiment made a call upon their new commanding officer, Lieut.-Col. Moore, on New Year's day, to congratulate him upon assuming the command and to wish him every success. An hour or so was spent very pleasantly. They then paid a visit to their old commanding officer, Lieut.-Col. Gibson, and were received by him and Mrs. Gibson. The president of the mess, after wishing them a very happy new year, expressed the regret of the sergeants in parting with their colonel—a regret, he said, felt by one and all throughout the regiment. Refreshments were partaken of at both houses, and the morning's outing was declared a huge success.

The officers of the 13th gave their second ball of the season on Friday night, Jan. 3rd, in the armory, which had been exquisitely decorated for the occasion. Colored bunting was draped from the ceiling. At each of the four corners of the dancing floor was a large cannon, which, with the bright uniforms of the officers, gave the affair a military color. Dancing began shortly after 9 o'clock.

The first set was composed of Lieut.-Col. Moore and Mrs. Gibson, Lieut.-Col. Gibson and Mrs. J. J. Mason, Judge Snider and Mrs. Forneret, H. C. Baker and Mrs. R. A. Lucas, Sheriff and Mrs. Murton, Major McLaren and Mrs. W. A. Logie, Dr. Rennie and Miss Bell, Dr. and Mrs. Griffin.

The dance was a huge success in every way and reflected great credit on all con-

cerned—nearly 300 people being present.

The lady patronesses were: Mrs. Gibson, Mrs. H. McLaren, Mrs. J. J. Mason, Mrs. J. J. Stuart.

The stewards were: Dr. Griffin, Capt. Mewburn, Capt. Labatt, Lieut. Herring, Lieut. Fearman, Lieut. Lester, Dr. Rennie, Lieut. King.

Dr. Rennie, the secretary, was indefatigable, and it was largely due to his efforts that the event was such a social hit.

Kingston.

KINGSTON, Jan. 11th.—There are at present sixteen short course men at Tote du Pont barracks. They come from all parts of the country, from Guelph to Winnipeg. In all sixty applications have been received, and of the applicants twenty-nine were successful.

Driver Stark of "A" Field Battery, has been promoted to the rank of bombardier.

Gunner Pringle of "A" Battery was caught rifling his comrades' kits, a few days ago, and will be tried by court-martial for the offence.

Lt.-Col. Smith, commanding the 11th P.W.O.R., called a meeting of his officers, some time ago, to discuss the question of the reorganization of the battalion. A second meeting was to have been held shortly after the preliminary one, but it has not yet taken place, and some of the officers believe that the existing system will be continued. The officers decline to say what changes were proposed.

Driver Lawrence, who deserted from "A" Field Battery early last spring, returned to Tote du Pont barracks, and gave himself up yesterday.

Certain officers of the 11th Batt. P.W. O.R., are "down on Velette," because of the disgraceful conduct of a fresh sergeant of the corps on the night of the reception to Major-General and Mrs. Gascoigne, was censured in the Kingston correspondence of the MILITARY GAZETTE. Of course, the gentlemen in question expect ordinary mortals to gaze with fear and trembling, mingled with open-mouthed, inexpressible admiration, upon their lordly forms when encased in their uniforms, and to howl loudly in approval of

their every act, no matter how unreasonable, or unjust, such may be. And, should any presumptions follow—who may have worn the Queen's uniform in times and places of danger, as well as of peace, and may have "fell in" for action as well as for church parade—dare to express an opinion, or make a comment, upon "anything military," straightway their little backs are elevated, their little strut is "put on," and their astonished gaze is turned upwards, in the expectation that the heavens will fall upon, and "squelch" the cheeky offender.

Of course "Vedette" should not have noticed the blackguardly conduct of the man who disgraced his uniform in the presence of the General. That was a matter to be hushed up, or denied. Of course he should not have noticed the disgraceful conduct of a number of the men of the 14th, at the unveiling of the Sir John A. Macdonald monument, when these military paragons hooted and yelled, during the delivery of the Premier's address, until his words were drowned by their clamor. That, too, was a matter to be vigorously and emphatically denied. What unheard of fate, poor "Vedette" may expect, when, in the near future, he exposes certain of the abuses that exist in the 14th, and that tend to destroy the efficiency and the welfare of the regiment, it would be hard to predict. But "Vedette" with the hope that he may be able to promote the prosperity, and increase the usefulness, and efficiency of the battalion, will point out these regimental ulcers, and expects to survive the displeasure and haughty chilliness of the offended autocrats of the service.

VEDETTE.

Toronto.

New Year's day in Toronto was celebrated, as far as the sergeants' messes of the city corps were concerned, in a little different manner than in past years. The Grenadiers and Highlanders sergeants' mess had representatives on hand all day to receive their callers, and the Queen's Own sergeants held an "At Home" in their new quarters from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. To them must be given the greatest credit, as without a doubt their reception was as well attended as any other event in the city.

Cards were sent to the officers and sergeants of the forces in the city, and as the number of callers exceeded two hundred the reception committee was kept busily engaged.

The lower floor blinds were shut and the gas lighted, and the effect on one coming in from the bright sunlight was most pleasing.

The callers, as they arrived, were received by Q. M. Sergt. Thorn, and the vice-president, Hospital Sergt. World, and by them handed over to a member of the board of management, who after seeing to the refreshment of the inner man, acted as a guide in showing the rooms the members take such a pride in.

Following their practice the sergeants of the Highlanders were early abroad in a well-equipped four-in-hand, and with the pipe-major and pipes occupying a prominent seat in front.

They opened the reception of the Q. O. R. sergeants mess, reaching there almost to the minute, the reception opened, proceeded from there to the Grenadiers, thence to Stanley barracks. They also called on Sergt.-Major Robertson, who who has now become attached to the Toronto Fire Department, Lieut.-Col. Davidson, Major Cosby, Major Macdonald and Mr. W. Simpson.

They were all delighted with their day's outing, and their well-known high spirits were a little increased as they observed in

their mess rooms a very handsome marble clock, presented to them with best wishes for a prosperous new year from the popular wife of their popular commanding officer.

Sergt.-Major Harding, in charge of the drill hall, was agreeably surprised at receiving a handsome silk umbrella on New Year's eve from the sergeants' mess of the 48th Highlanders, who took this method of reciprocating the many kindnesses which they have received at the hands of the chief caretaker.

Considerable disappointment was expressed in many quarters that the idea so successfully carried out by the Montreal regiments of receiving in their respective regimental quarters, in the drill hall, was not carried out in Toronto.

To those who know anything of how Toronto people appreciate these little acts of courtesy, it seems as if a good opportunity was lost, and it is by such little acts that keep alive that interest without which no regiment can be successful.

Following the success which attended the example set by the sergeants' mess of the Q. O. R., it seems safe to say that New Year's day, 1897, will see their idea acted on by all the regiments.

The following clipping appeared in a recent issue of the *Mail and Empire*, and possibly ere this reaches the eye further progress will have been made :

AN ARTILLERY CORPS.

A movement is on foot to reorganize the Toronto Garrison Artillery, a military body which was born in 1866 and died a few years ago. The battery formerly existed under the command of Captain Gibson and Mr. W. B. McMurrich, but did not remain on the military list after 1892. A petition has been circulated asking for the reorganization of the corps as a brigade of from four to six companies, which has been signed by over 2,000 names. A meeting of the sergeants of the old battery was held last evening at the residence of Major Harston, those present being Major Harston, and Sergts. R. Lovatt, Ward, G. Brooks, W. L. Ramsay, and T. W. Self. The question of the reorganizing of the battery was discussed, and it was decided that a deputation should be requested to go to Ottawa to interview the Minister of Militia on the subject. A letter will be sent to W. B. McMurrich, H. H. Dewart, Dr. R. A. Pyne, Major Harston, W. D. McPherson, R. A. Denison, A. R. Boswell, and H. P. Drayton, asking them to act on the deputation. It is expected that the petition will be presented by Mr. Emerson Coatsworth, M.P.

In reference to the above, the present time seems most opportune for the carrying out of such a scheme, and if Montreal, with her plethora of regiments, can support so successfully as she supports the Montreal G. A., no one doubts the success, under the proper officers, of a Garrison Artillery in the city.

The M. G. A., as seen here last July, was a credit to any city, and there is not the slightest doubt but that a corps could be raised in Toronto that would make them look to their laurels.

It is to be hoped, however, that better results will follow the efforts of Major Harston in this attempt than attended his efforts in forming a bicycle regiment.

In view of the events which attended the publication of the message of President Cleveland re the Venezuelan matter, the feeling of friendship and desire for closer connection which is being evinced by Canadian corps toward the 100th Royal Canadians, must be gratifying indeed to the people of the mother country, and nothing would better refute the desire for

annexation which some ill-advised people state is prevalent here, than the expressions of good-will that have been extended to the commanding officer and officers of the 100th.

Following the gift of the badges, etc., of the permanent corps of infantry, presented by Lieut.-Col. Macpherson, came the invitation from Lieut.-Col. Maunsell and officers of No. 4 company, R.C.R.I., to become perpetual honorary members of their mess.

Through the able efforts of Major Delamere this was quickly followed by a similar invitation from Lieut.-Col. Hamilton and officers of the Queen's Own Rifles. The acceptance to the invitation of the Q. O. R. reads as follows :

"On behalf of the officers of the First Leinster regiment, Royal Canadians, I beg to thank you and the officers of the Queen's Own Rifles of Canada, for your kindness in making us honorary members of your mess, a privilege we will gladly avail ourselves of, should opportunity offer, and an honor much appreciated by the officers of this regiment, as a token of the interest and kindly feeling still taken by the army of Canada in the regiment, which, though now recruited in Ireland, has not forgotten its old and intimate association with Canada, and is proud of the title which it alone bears amongst the regiments of the British army.

"Yours very sincerely,

"(Sgd.) H. W. FRENCH, Lt.-Col.

"Commanding Royal Canadians.

"Barracks, Tipperary, Dec. 12."

Through the kindness of Major Delamere the sergeants of the Queen's Own are forwarding to their brother sergeants of the 100th a frame containing the chevrons, badges, etc., worn by the regiments, as well as a photo album of their mess rooms. Accompanying this will be an invitation from sergt.-major and sergeants, extending a similar invitation to that extended by the officers.

The kindly disposed person alluded to in my last letter has evidently been found, as from reliable authority, I learn that the C. O. of the Queen's has at length bestirred himself, and by the time this meets the eye the indications point to the bowling alleys apportioned to his regiment being made use of. I cannot say under what arrangement they will be run, but the supposition is that in the meantime the sergeants of the regiment will take charge, if for no other reason, than to prevent further delay in getting them open.

The drill pay of the Grens and Kilties was received by them on or about the 12th of December. The pay of the Queen's is still in futuro.

Various rumors are prevalent in the places where these things are talked of, and while no one can be found who really knows anything, it is pretty generally supposed that carelessness or negligence in connection with some of the returns, is the real cause of the trouble.

The delay has caused considerable talk as well as disappointment to many members of the regiment, who think that it is about time that the withdrawal for their annual blow-outs had arrived.

"SABRETACHE."

Ottawa.

OTTAWA, Jan. 11.—The government have something more interesting to them to look after just now than strengthening Canada's defences and supplying the deficiencies of Canada's military effective. Mr. Dickie, minister of militia, is temporarily out of business and the department is turned over along with others,

the premier himself who is having quite enough to think of outside of military affairs without bothering his head or anybody else's head about such things as field guns, garrison artillery, breech-loading rifles, munitions of war, transport of troops, plans of campaign and so forth and so on. If Uncle Sam is thinking about overrunning Canada, he couldn't do better than set about it whilst cabinet reconstruction is on. He will have to make haste about it, as we expect Bowell to have things ready next Tuesday for resuming where everything was left off last Saturday. At least that's what the government whip George Taylor M.P., claims to-day.

It is interesting to note the way the question of Canada's defences came up in parliament each time the House has met this year. The topics enumerated in the speech for the throne included the question of defence. On resuming after adjournment the subject came up several times as one of predominant importance which requires to be handled without delay. Before the House rose for the present recess defence cropped up again. One of the strong points made by Col. O'Brien in relation to the smash of the cabinet was the urgency of the question of the defence and the fact that at any hour the country might be called on to strain every nerve to prepare for war as a leading division of the Empire.

The supernatuation of Col. Powell, adjutant-general of militia, which I advised you of by wire just as you were going to press with the last issue of the CANADIAN MILITARY GAZETTE, has gone into effect. The colonel has proved himself a thoroughly efficient official, and is popular in all branches of the service. His retirement at the present juncture has caused a good deal of unfavorable comment, although his successor is considered an exceptionally good man and is acceptable so far as I can hear, to the militia with very few exceptions.

Quartermaster General Lake's mission to England to consult with the imperial military authorities, is expected to last until May. Your readers will have learned already from the dispatches to the daily papers from the capital that the idea is to increase the field batteries in Canada from four to six guns, retaining the muzzle loaders; a new pattern twelve pounder longer in the barrel, but not heavier than the gun at present in use, to be substituted for the nine pounders.

Another topic that has come to the front here in connection with the possibility of war, the need of a cable to the West Indies from Halifax. The North Atlantic Squadron has left Bermuda for the annual winter cruise in the West Indies, which lasts till April, and should war break out could not be recalled by telegraph. It is understood the government was in communication with the Imperial authorities on the subject when the present cabinet crisis came on, but the confusion into which all departments of the administration have been thrown has delayed matters, and nothing effective can be done at present.

The sudden war talk here about the time parliament assembled gave unusual interest to the turn-out of the Foot Guards, Dragoons and Field Battery for the opening, and the spectacle on the terrace in front of the parliamentary buildings was as impressive as anything I have seen here for years. All classes of the population were massed along the walks, the roads and the building itself in front of both wings east and west of the main tower. The troops never presented a more soldierly and efficient appearance.

Quebec.

QUEBEC, Jan 7th, 1896.—The Royal Canadian Artillery issued a handsome New Year's card, consisting of a photograph of the engraving of a veteran holding a scabbard from which his grandchild is drawing the sword, set in a festoon of overgreens, with the British flag on the left and a group of arms and accoutrements on the right, with the regimental crest and motto.

Lieut.-Colonel George Rolt White and officers of the 8th Royal Rifles, issued a neat card in connection with the New Year's Greetings, with the regimental crest and motto.

A number of gunners have arrived here to take a short course with the Royal Canadian Artillery, among others the following from the Montreal Regiment of Garrison Artillery: Bomb, R. C. Clarke, Tr. T. Boucher, Grs. T. Burns, Jos. Kirkham, J. C. Crowe, J. Garrick and C. Corcoran. From the New Brunswick Regiment of Garrison Artillery: Corp. D. H. Roxborough, Bomb. J. A. Pollock, Gunners Donahue, Love, and Tr. Price.

The school of instruction recently established in this city has resumed duty after the holidays which lasted some ten days. The term is to be for three months with attendance five nights per week, which will afford ample time to prepare the candidates for examination.

The 8th Royal Rifles are to be congratulated upon the decision of Captain O. B. C. Richardson, to remain with the regiment for at least another year, in lieu of retiring from the service as previously contemplated by him.

Captain Frank Pennee, of the 9th Battalion, has been appointed chief of police of the city of Quebec. His appointment meets with the approval of the citizens generally. His application was nearly unanimously received by the city council. The new chief has entered upon his duties.

The Royal Canadian Artillery have formed a snow shoe club consisting of the officers N. O. O's and men and is to be known as the Royal Canadian Snow Shoe Club. The following officers were elected for the year:

Patron, Lt.-Col. C. E. Montizambert.
Vice-Patron, Lt.-Col. F. Wilson.
President, Captain O. C. Pelletier.
Vice-President, Lieut. J. H. C. Ogilvy.
Captain, Lieut. Henri A. Panet.
Sec.-Treas., R. Q. M. Sergt. Wood.
Bugle-Major, Sergt. Godreau.
Committee, R. S. M. O'Grady, Corpl. Small, Gunner Johnston, C. S. M. Rimbault, Bomb. Pugh, Gunner Naufts, C. S. M. Fellows, Corpl. Lafleur, and Gunner Power.

Their first march out through the principal streets of the city will take place on the 8th inst., in the evening, leaving the Citadel at 7:30 and serenading the popular D. A. G., Lieut.-Col. T. J. Duchesnay and Lieuts.-Cols. Montizambert and Wilson.

On Christmas day the officers of the Garrison accompanied by a number of friends paid a visit to the Artillery, and visited their quarters in the Citadel and in the Montreal Division, St. Louis street. Much labour had been devoted to the decorations of the rooms which presented a fine appearance with flags and banners, arms, etc., etc. A most enjoyable time was spent by the N.C. O's and men, who received the visitors in their usual hospitable manner.

Major-General I. J. C. Herbert, late General Officer commanding the Canadian Militia, did not forget his friends in the Artillery, having sent a cable of kindly Christmas greeting. His efforts on behalf of the Permanent Militia will long be remembered.

On New Year's eve, Lieut.-Col. J. F. and Mrs. Wilson gave a pleasant dance in Tara Hall, which was fully enjoyed by all those present.

Capt. Chas. J. Dunn, secretary of the Quebec Garrison Club, had the door prettily decorated with the greeting of "A Merry Xmas."

The present season would be an opportune one for a few lectures in the room of the Royal Canadian Artillery Military Institute. The room is so well adapted for the purpose and recent rumours of disturbances so numerous, that a lecture for instance on the defence of Canada and the part to be taken therein by the local force, would prove of great interest, and would doubtless draw a good attendance. Our friends in the Citadel should take the initiative.

Among the New Year festivities was that of the Staff Sergeants and Sergeants of the R.C.A., who gave a dance which was fully enjoyed by those who were fortunate enough to attend. Dancing which commenced at about 9 o'clock, was kept up until about 5. A large number of civilian friends were present, as well as others, among the latter being Major J. Secretan Dunbar of the 8th R.R. At midnight "Auld Lang Syne" was sung by all present.

The officers of the R.C.A. Quadrille Club are as follows:

Patron, Lt.-Col. C. E. Montizambert.
Vice-Patron, Lt.-Col. J. F. Wilson.
President, Reg't Sergt-Major Lyndon.
Vice-President, Sgt-Instructor Slado.
Sec.-Treasurer, R. Q. M. S. Woods.
Floor Manager, Corporal Jordan.
Asst Floor Manager, Corporal Small.
Committee, Sergt. Morgan, Gr. Larko, Sergt. Lyndon, Sergt. Sellwell, Corpl. Rutherford, Corpl. Morrison, Bomb. W. Pugh, Gr. Naufts, Sergt. Sutherland, Corpl. Whitlaw, Bomb. T. Pugh, Bomb. Baugh and Gr. Power.

PATROL.

Montreal.

New year's day was celebrated by the usual receptions in the different armories.

Lieut.-Col. Starke and his officers in the officers' mess and the sergeant-major and sergeants in their mess made the armory on Cutacart street very lively, indeed, from 11 to 1, and many visitors called on both officers and sergeants. In the drill hall red coats and green vied with one another in hospitality. Lieut.-Col. Bulter and Capt. Bond received in the Prince of Wales quarters, Lt.-Col. Strathy and his officers in the armories of the 5th, Lt.-Col. Burlandin the 6th, and Lt.-Col. Prevost and Capt. d'Orsonnens received the callers in the rooms of their regiment, the 65th. The M. G. A., the Field Battery and the Cavalry were all represented by their commanding officers at their respective quarters and several pleasant hours were spent together.

Never has the day been better kept by militia men in Montreal.

W. R. Boyd, drum-major of the Royal Scots, has published a short poem entitled, "Let 'Em Come." It is dedicated to Lieut.-Col. Strathy, and is full of vim and spirit. The following are the closing lines:

We pray that Peace may ever reign 'twixt us and
"Uncle Sam,"
And would that he might, reverently, the "Tenth
Commandment" scan.
We're loyal British Subjects, and till our days be
done,
To firmest friends, and fiercest foes, our "Watch-
word's" *Let 'em come!*

The Military Institute was fortunate in being able to induce Lieut. P. Girouard, of the Royal Engineers, to give a lecture in their rooms on "Infantry Tactics." Major E. B. Ibbotson, presi-

dent of the Institute, occupied the chair, and there was not a vacant seat when the lecture began. Lieut. Girouard is an easy and fluent speaker, and his admirable lecture showed careful preparation and a thorough knowledge of the subject. He spoke for about an hour and a half on modern infantry tactics, and was listened to with great attention. On the conclusion of the lecture, Lieut.-Col. Houghton, D. A. G., arose, and, in a few words, proposed a vote of thanks to the lecturer. He had enjoyed the instructive lecture, and agreed with the views set forth in it. Lieut.-Col. Starke seconded the motion, and it was conveyed to Lieut. Girouard by the chairman.

Lieut. Girouard leaves in a few days for South Africa. He is a son of Judge Girouard of this city and a graduate of the Kingston Royal Military College.

Quite a number of the cadets from the R. M. C. spent the Christmas holidays in town.

The Vics are hard at work on the bowling alleys and are in a fair way to winning championship honors in this sport. Both their first and second teams have beaten the M. A. A. A. men and they have also come off ahead in their last match with the Ottawas. Keep it up.

We hope that Morris tub practice will form a part of the instruction of every recruit this spring. Every regiment now has facilities for this training, and the help it would be to recruits, fitting them, as it does, to take their place in front of the targets with an intelligent idea of how to sight and hold their rifles, cannot be over-estimated.

Some old shots are heard who run down gallery shooting as practice for the range, but there can be no doubt that no training is as good for recruits as a course of Morris tube shooting.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Didn't Have His Full Dress.

To the Editor of CANADIAN MILITARY GAZETTE:

DEAR SIR,—With regard to a letter signed "F. D.," commenting on the appearance of an officer said to have paraded at the brigade church parade on Nov. 3rd last in this city "in a nondescript undress uniform," permit me to inform the writer that he saw a captain in the Royal Engineers for the first time, and that he would be better employed than in making an exhibition of his ignorance in the public press. The officer in question did not happen to have his full dress with him; had he had it "F. D." would have been still more mystified.

Yours, &c.,

R. E. A. D.

Toronto, Jan. 10th, 1896.

Minister of Militia.

To the Editor of CANADIAN MILITARY GAZETTE:

DEAR SIR,—The unfortunate crisis at Ottawa is of the utmost interest to the militia for the reason that we have lost by it the best Minister of Militia we have ever had. I say "lost," intentionally, because the late minister cannot resume his portfolio without a re-election, though he can assume another within 30 days without going to his constituents. It has been my good fortune to have come closely in contact with four ministers of militia, and I can say that Mr. Dickey is the one who, above all others in my experience, has shown a real and sincere interest in the force. Prompt in the despatch of business, courteous to those with whom he had to deal, considerate in a high de-

gree, his removal from office is nothing short of a calamity for the militia. I cannot let the opportunity pass of testifying to his public and private worth. Let us all hope that in the time to come he may once more be able to serve his country in the patriotic and earnest manner which has so far characterized his administration of the department.

Yours, &c.,

N. C. O.

Serviceable Equipment Wanted.

To the Editor of CANADIAN MILITARY GAZETTE:

SIR,—I read with much interest the communication from Captain Wurtele, published in your issue of the 1st instant, urging that the militia be furnished at once with a serviceable valise equipment, and putting forward the claims which the invention of Mr. Patrick Lewis has upon the authorities.

Unfortunately, I have not seen this particular equipment so am not in a position to say anything of its merits or demerits, but whilst I thoroughly agree with Captain Wurtele that now if ever, "our force should be properly armed and equipped," I am firmly convinced that next to having the best rifle to be procured our men should be provided with the most serviceable equipment known, and that in this respect we should be cautious.

In the British army this is a subject which commands the most serious consideration, and we could not do better than profit by the experience which has been gained there after years of careful study of the subject.

The Slade-Wallace equipment was, without doubt, a great improvement upon anything that the British soldier had previously worn, but if your readers will refer to a communication published in the columns of your paper some months ago, they will notice that already there is a strong movement towards replacing this with what is known as the Oliver equipment. This latter I have seen, for it has been tested frequently in this garrison, and at present, I understand, is being tried under service conditions by the commanding officer of the Royal Berkshire regiment, with the idea of applying for it if it proves to be thoroughly satisfactory, as the regiment will require a new issue shortly.

One of our city corps, the 66th P. L. F., has applied to have the Oliver equipment issued to them, and I would not be surprised to find the other corps following suit.

I may say that I have no personal interest in the matter beyond desiring that in making the selection, a fair trial shall be accorded to each of these patents, the best to be adopted, but the test should be commenced at once.

I have the honor to be, sir,

Your obedient servant,

FRED H. ONLEY,

Major 1st Halifax Regiment C. A.

Canada's Duty.

Her Citizens Soldiers Should be Well Looked After.

To the Editor of CANADIAN MILITARY GAZETTE:

SIR,—The horizon of the Canadian volunteer has recently widened. He is no longer merely an aid to the civil power. He is recognized now as a factor in national preservation, in national life, and much is expected of him. In return he is justified in expecting much of his fellow-citizens, for whom he "takes his life in his hands," as the saying goes he has a right to expect sympathy and encouragement in times of peace as well as when danger comes. It is with a full

appreciation of the faithful services of previous commanding officers of our city battalion that Colonels Ponton, Campbell, Lazier and Henderson, and with a full recognition of how their arduous labors were lightened and those who served under them were strengthened, by public operation, that I bespeak that spirit of cheer and of good will (expressed and silent) that animated them in times past and kept them doing duty despite discouragement. But I desire to write of more than local affairs. The press of Canada has done its duty well during the past exciting weeks in giving printed prominence to all that appeals to manhood and British citizenship, and our city volunteers have to thank The Sun for much valuable information and military news; and also for fair and generous comments on their own drill and their endeavors not to disgrace their past commanders. We have also to thank The Sun for the publicity given to Capt. Muir's excellent series of lectures, which should be taken advantage of by all who have at heart the possibly necessary future defence of their homes. The military column of Saturday's Mail and Empire contains an excellent letter from a Belleville officer, and no one can read (in the same issue) the Flaneur's comments on our situation, and on what may come to us in any month, without being convinced that he is right. And there is but one answer to the question, "Are we ready?" and I regret to say it is a negative one, for in a military sense we are not ready. We have the same old spirit, we have the same just cause, we have more men and possibly more money, but, I speak not locally only, but of Canada as a whole, we have not sufficient efficient officers, we have not non-commissioned officers, we have not supplies or equipment for even a defensive campaign. Parliament and the people will surely now awake to the need of action, and, as a guarantee of peace, will not begrudge the militia department the necessary grants to make defence effective, and (should war be forced upon us) to save the loss of thousands of lives which would be sacrificed through the inefficiency of the brave young force which would have to bear the brunt and hold the frontier at all cost, against all odds, even a war to the death.

Patriotism will not avail, save, perhaps, in a bayonet charge; but hand-to-hand conflicts are rare in these days of modern weapons of distinct precision. Loyalty and determination to repel invaders or to die will not save life. Canada will expect every militiaman to do his duty, but there is the converse of this. The militia expects Canada to do her duty—by them, and to do it now. Willingly, then, will they assume the responsibilities of defence, and there will be a note of victory in the old response of their country's call, "Ready, aye ready!" What is wanted is not a spasmodic expenditure of energy and money, but a constant and practical and generous consideration of the needs of the force—not to encourage a military spirit, but to ensure stability, confidence, self-reliance and efficiency of organization, and to prevent our being accused of being, through our assailable weakness as a colony, a menace to the safety of the Empire, rather than a source of strength, which, if we are to retain our self-respect, we should be.

In a subsequent letter I hope, with your permission, to give some details (from the old order book of the XV. Battalion) of how Belleville soldiers answered the call in 1896. I will just note in closing that the first officer on regimental orderly duty on that occasion was Captain Bowell—now Sir Mackenzie Bowell—then, as now, to be found at his post living up to the motto on his crest: *Festis cadere non cedere potest.*

Yours, etc.,

W. N. PONTON.

Belleville, Jan. 11, 1896.

A Canadian Appointed Royal Physician.

From the Ottawa Citizen.

The Queen has just added to her personal staff, one in whose welfare and advancement in life all Canadian must take more than a common interest. According to the last issue received of the Colonies, and India. Her Majesty has been pleased to appoint Surgeon General Herbert Taylor Reade to be Honorary Surgeon in the Royal Household. Dr. Reade not only is a Canadian by birth, but as the Citizen is informed by a well known local authority, he is one of our very selves—a native of the Ottawa Valley. Many years ago, in a brochure widely approved and quoted at the time, "The Place British Americans have won in History," our painstaking townsman, Mr. Henry J. Morgan, recited some of the deeds which have made Dr. Reade's name famous in military annals.

The son of the late Dr. George Hume Reade, for many years clerk of the peace of the Old Bathurst District, the younger Reade was born at Perth, in the adjoining county of Lanark, Sept. 20, 1828. Educated at the District Grammar School he entered the army Nov. 8, 1850, as assistant surgeon in the 61st, the South Gloucestershire Regiment of Foot. Promoted surgeon in 1857, the outbreak of the Mutiny in that year found him with his regiment in the thickest of the fight.

A GALLANT INCIDENT.

Mr. Morgan records that, during the siege of Delhi, on the 11th Sept., 1857, while Surgeon Reade was attending to the wounded, at the end of one of the streets of the city, a party of rebels advanced from the direction of the bank, and, having established themselves in the houses in the street, commenced firing from the roofs. The wounded were thus in very great danger, and would have fallen into the hands of the enemy had not young Reade drawn his sword and calling upon the few soldiers who were near to follow, succeeded, under a heavy fire, in dislodging the rebels from their position. Reade's party consisted of about ten in all, of whom two were killed and six wounded.

Surgeon Reade likewise accompanied his regiment at the assault of Delhi, and on the morning of the 16th (September, 1858, was one of the first up at the breach in the magazine which was stormed by the 61st Regiment and Belooch battalion, upon which occasion, he, with a sergeant of the 61st, spiked one of the enemy's guns.

For these two splendid acts of bravery, the Queen was graciously pleased to confer upon the young Ottawan that most coveted of all military rewards and decorations—the Victoria Cross, the presentation taking place, on the return of the regiment to England, in 1862, at Plymouth, in the presence of the entire garrison and of Her Majesty's naval forces at that place. Dr. Reade subsequently served during the campaign in the Bengal, Madras and Bombay presidencies, and also in the Mauritius, in the Straits Settlements and the West Indies. He became a Brigade Surgeon 1879, a Deputy Surgeon General 1880, and a Surgeon General 1886. He is a member of the Royal College of Surgeons of England, and in 1887, was created a Companion of the Order of the Bath.

A FAMILY OF SOLDIERS.

The military instinct seems to have been very strongly marked in the Reade family, the father and his four sons having served in the army at various times. William, the eldest son, entered one of the West India Regiments, and died in the tropics; Herbert Taylor, as has been already noted; John By Cole Reade (named after his god-father, who built the Rideau Canal) has also risen, after serving with distinction in the Crimea,

and during the Indian Mutiny and the Afghan war, to be a Surgeon General and a Companion of the Bath; while Arthur, Lloyd Reade, the youngest son, is now a retired Lieut.-Colonel from the 62nd Foot.

All four boys were born and educated in the Ottawa Valley, and are, so to speak the product of our local institutions. Their distinguished success in the world's broad bivouac of life, is as creditable to them, as it is pleasing and gratifying to the country which is proud to acknowledge them as among its valiant and worthy sons.

The Citizen congratulates Dr. Reade upon his new honors. May he be spared to receive and wear many others.

The Old 100th.

A correspondent of the London Globe echoes the strong feeling which is being aroused in English and Canadian military circles, for the restoration of restoring the Royal Canadian Regt. to Canada.

"Being very strong on the advisability of extending the territorial system in our Army to the Colonies and so establishing a military Imperial federation, I am glad to have an opportunity of again referring to the connection, which is becoming stronger every day, between the Leinster Regiment (Royal Canadians) and the people of the Dominion. Within the last few days Lieutenant-Colonel Maunsell and the officers of the 4th Regimental Depot Royal Canadian Infantry, quartered at Fredericton, New Brunswick, have elected Colonel Trench, and the officers of the 1st Battalion Leinster Regiment, perpetual honorary members of their mess. The 2nd Queen's Own Rifles of Canada, one of the crack corps of the Dominion Militia, has sent a similar flattering invitation; and it is very probable that some other branches of the Canadian Service will follow the example. It is hoped that the British Government, in view of the strong feeling indicated in these proofs of attachment to the mother country, may see grounds for a consideration of the propriety of restoring the Leinster Regiment, the Old 100th Royal Canadians, to the the Colony of Canada. Nothing would give greater satisfaction to the officers of the regiment or to all branches of the military service of the Dominion.

Bees For Use In War.

A correspondent sends a clipping describing the use of bees as a substitute for pigeons for carrying despatches in time of war.

"The man who suggested it took a few bees from his own house to that of a friend four miles away. He waited several days, so that the bees might become familiar with their surroundings. He then let a few of them loose in a room in which was a plate of honey. The bees settled upon this, and while they were busy eating mock despatches were fastened on them by the apiculturist's trained hand.

The thinnest of all thread bound the little packets, which were of the flimmiest of paper, to the bees' backs. Great care was taken to leave the head and wings absolutely free. The windows were then opened, and the bees thrown out into the air. With the certainty of carrier pigeons they started off at once for home, arriving there in an incredibly short time, with the packets secure upon their backs."

It must be owned, however, that the average man would rather deal with a pigeon, when it comes to fastening despatches under a wing than with a bee. The latter is apt to make interference with its usual habits of life too lively to be pleasant.

"Broad Arrow" Comments on the Turn Out of the Ottawa Militia.

In its issue of the 17th Dec., "Broad Arrow" makes the following remarks on the turn out of the Ottawa militia on the occasion of the recent trouble in Lowe County.

The prompt and smart turn-out of the detachment of Canadian troops, detailed for duty in connection with the taxation troubles in Ottawa, speaks well for the state of the Force and its readiness for service. It is true it was only a small affair, and only comparatively few officers and men were required, still when the 43rd Battalion of infantry, the Princess Louise's Guards, and the Ottawa Field Battery were called out in order to select the detachment, they paraded in full strength at a very short notice. The work of equipping the men occupied only a few hours, and the next morning saw them off to the scene of the disturbance. No doubt the law can compel attendance, and the penalty for absence when ordered out is a heavy one, still, there was no hint of reluctance on the part of the men, but on the contrary every indication of soldierly enthusiasm.

General Gascoigne inspected the detachment and saw the men off at the railway station. This was his first experience of seeing a portion of his command under something like service conditions, and the Canadian newspapers represent him as well pleased with his inspection. Happily the affair has ended without any fighting or trouble. The Canadian Militiamen had however a somewhat though experience under canvas at this time of year. The lesson of this little episode confirms former experiences of the Canadian local forces as being a reliable body which displays creditable discipline and efficiency. England might with advantage consider whether it would not be well to introduce something of the Canadian system into her home Volunteer Force.

It speaks well for the patriotic spirit of Canadians that at the present time there are in the possession of the Militia Department over three hundred applications from officers and men for opportunity to undergo military training at the several schools, commencing in January. The annual estimates, however, only provide for the training of ten officers and twenty non-commissioned officers and men every three months, or 120 in all for the year, so that unless Parliament votes a special appropriation in the shape of a supplementary estimate, at the coming session, it will not be possible for the department to meet the views of those who are anxious to undergo this special course of training.—*Ottawa Citizen*.

The "Loyal Canadians."

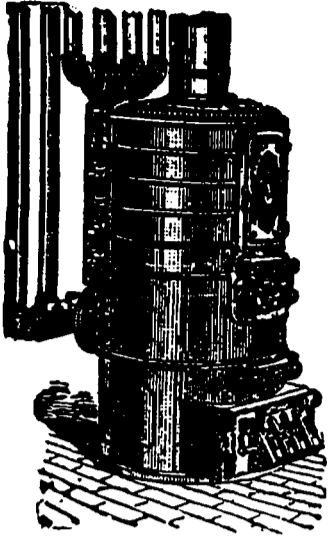
We cannot too strongly advocate that the people of Canada lose no time in memorializing the British Government to restore them their own old corps, the "Royal Canadians," which was so loyally raised by them under such historic circumstances and enrolled in our regular Army as the "100th or Prince of Wales Royal Canadian Regiment." England does not forget how the flower of Canada's sons left their hearths and homes to assist her in the clouded days of 1858.—*Army and Navy Journal*

A militia order has been issued announcing the retirement from the active force of Col. Walker Powell, Adjutant-General of the Militia, with a retiring allowance, and the rank of colonel on the retired list. The order contained a high and unusual tribute to his personal and official character.

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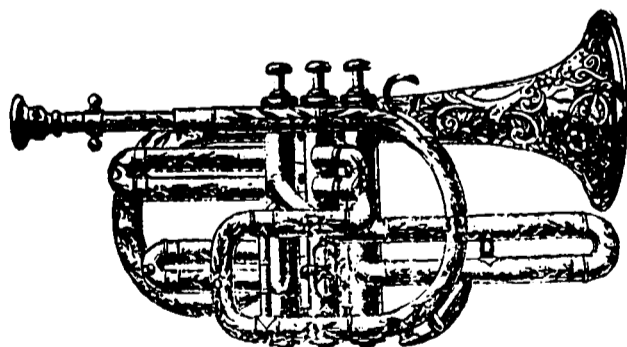
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No attention is paid to anonymous communications, but the wishes of contributors as to the use of their names will be scrupulously regarded.

All communications and remittances should be addressed to the editor, P. O. Box 2170, Montreal.

MONTREAL, JANUARY 15, 1896.

Notes and Comments

The year opened well for the militia force. Thanks to the Cleveland war bluster, the public has been thoroughly awakened to the necessity existing for the strengthening of the frontier defences, and thanks, moreover, to the energy and determination of the Hon. Mr. Dickey, the late Minister of Militia and Defence, the government, in the speech from the Throne, has pledged itself to the long desired and oft demanded policy of militia reform. His Excellency informed the Dominion's legislators at the opening of parliament: "Your attention will be asked to measures intended to provide for the better arming of our militia and the strengthening of Canadian defences."

It is difficult to understand the objections urged to the adoption of this more active militia policy by friends of Canada in England. The Dominion government was not carried away by any spirit of jingoism, in asking parliament to devote some attention to the question of national defence at the present juncture. That the announcement of this policy is intended in any way as a threat to our powerful neighbor to the south of us, is too absurd to raise a smile. Canada has no designs on the independence of the United States. Apart altogether from the military difficulties in the way, Can-

adians, in common with all other British subjects, are devoted lovers of that liberty which they enjoy to such a pre-eminent degree, and, whatever designs for enslaving neighboring and kindred people may be nurtured by certain nations that boast of liberty more than they practice it, the people of the Dominion foster no ambition to compel their neighbors to change their political allegiance, however much they may feel convinced that such a change would be to their advantage, individually and collectively.

The determination of the government to re-arm and to some extent strengthen the frontier defences, is no sudden impulse of the moment. We have it on indisputable authority that the government had determined upon this policy long before President Cleveland perpetrated his recent champion spread-eagle joke. And we feel that we shall not be accused of empty egotism if we claim for THE CANADIAN MILITARY GAZETTE a part of the credit for having led the government to arrive at this important decision. Ever since this journal came under its present management, three years ago, it has persistently urged upon the government the absolute necessity of re-arming the militia, and of making some provision for a system of frontier defence. The last two predecessors of Mr. Dickey as Minister of Militia will be able to bear witness to the truth of this, even if they did not like it at the time. Mr. Patterson evidently felt the power of these criticisms, to judge from his rather ill-tempered remarks at the banquet tendered to him by the officers of the Montreal Brigade upon his retirement, but he practically admitted that he was unable to carry out the reforms which he admitted to be necessary. Mr. Dickey succeeded where Mr. Patterson failed, because he was undeniably more in earnest in his efforts on behalf of the militia, and he had more determination.

At the time the last named gentleman was appointed Minister of Militia, we remarked, "Mr. Dickey has the chance of a life time. Let him insist now upon the re-arming and re-equipment of the militia with the best rifle, the best field guns, and the best equipment in the market, and he will not only earn

the lasting gratitude and confidence of the militia, the very elite of Canadian citizenship, but he will at some future time, if he does not now, receive the grateful thanks of the whole country." We quote this merely to show that the present commendable policy of the government is not a mere result of a sudden war scare. The militia force, through its recognized journal and through the influence of many of its members, has for years been working to induce the government to do something to place the force on a more efficient footing. That this long prolonged and often disappointing agitation has at last had a favorable result is certainly a subject for hearty congratulation. Members and friends of the force must now see to it that the ameliorations to be carried out shall be as thorough as the occasion requires.

We can almost forgive the next to criminal delay which has occurred in taking this highly important step, when we think of the extra favorable conditions under which the new militia policy will be presented for the approval of parliament. President Cleveland and the host of rabid tail twisters applauding him, probably did not nurse their war howl with the view of aiding the work of militia reform in Canada, but all of this savagely unneighborly talk across the lines will have the effect of strengthening the hands of the government in this great national undertaking.

We cannot refrain here from commenting upon the inspiring spectacle presented to the world by the calm, loyal attitude of the Canadian people, from one end of this great Dominion to the other, while the late war excitement was at its height. While the bottom was literally dropping out of Wall Street for fear of the war threatened by the President of the American Republic, while loud-mouthed apostles of unreasoning spread-eagleism were threatening the conquest of Canada and the enslaving of her loyal people, and while United States army officers were explaining for the edification of the great unwashed how Canada could be "licked" in short order, Canadians, conscious of the injustice of their country's would-be-invaders' cause, confident in the military power and resources of the

great empire to which they belong, and relying upon their own manhood and loyalty, went about their work as usual, eschewed bounce and bluster, but plainly and coolly showed themselves ready to do their duty by the empire and bear the consequences. Earnest prayers for peace were repeated in some of our churches, but the hearty manner in which the congregations subsequently joined in the singing of "God Save the Queen" showed that the devout desire for peace was combined with a sturdy spirit of loyalty which would not accept such peace as would mean dishonor to the empire. A day or two after Mr. Cleveland published his war-threatening message, the Rev. Dr. Shaw, addressing the boys of the High School of Montreal, perhaps the leading public school of Canada, one which has supplied numerous officers to the militia as well as to the regular army, said: "I hope that the boys of the High School will always be not only physically and intellectually fit to take their places in the defence of their country, but will be ready and anxious to defend Canada and fight for the national flag against any nation whatever which should dare to invade this beloved Dominion of ours." The continued shouts of applause which greeted the remarks of the reverend gentleman showed that the rising generation of Canadians are just as loyal as their fathers.

Altogether, we repeat, Canada has every reason to be proud of herself for the way she has borne herself during the past few weeks. Like every other country, we have all sorts and conditions of people in this broad Dominion, but we apparently have no cravens or traitors. From one end of the country to the other, the press has commented upon Cleveland's threat of war. Not one writer in any of our papers has hinted that imperial interests in Guiana should in the slightest manner be sacrificed for the sake of averting the threatened invasion of Canada. Canada, during the past few days, has shown that she would be as loyal to the empire in war time as she is in the piping times of peace, and that, even if she herself had to bear the brunt of the conflict. Our amiable Fenian and other fire-eating friends in Uncle Sam's domains should realize pretty thor-

oughly by this time how visionary are their hopes of forcibly, or in fact any other way, adding Canada to the United States. Canadians have in their veins the blood of the United Empire Loyalists, of the men who successfully repelled several of the most unjustifiable invasions of a free country ever made, and of loyal Britons, who, compelled to leave the land of their birth, came to Canada that they might live and die under the Union Jack and sleep their last sleep under the ample folds of the same venerable bit of hunting.

The temperaments of the two peoples are different. There is no more chance of Canadians and Americans forming one people than there is of oil and water mixing. Americans hate Britain with a great and unreasoning hatred. Canadians love and venerate her as the mother of their race, the fountain-head of their just laws and sacred liberties, the guarantor of their national safety, and their powerful protector in whatever part of the world they may chance to be. The Stars and Stripes stands to the citizen of the United States for freedom. To the Canadians it is the emblem of democratic tyranny which was borne by the armies of the United States on the several occasions the Republic attempted to enslave Canada, and was only prevented by the free sacrifice of torrents of loyal Canadian and British blood. Canada's dearest heroes are the men who died rolling back the successive tides of American invasion; the good citizens of the United States in their hearts canonize the men who left their bones on the free Canadian soil over which they hoped to plant the Stars and Stripes. The Americans are Republicans; Canadians are devoted to the limited monarchical form of government. Although of a common stock, Canadians have quite distinct aspirations from their separated kindred of the United States. Our people made no blatherskite boasting of their willingness to fight, if necessary, during the recent incipient excitement, but the attitude of the Canadian press, dignified and calm as it was, in marked contrast to the hysterical raving of most of the organs of public opinion in the United States, clearly showed that Canada can never be bullied or coaxed into the union. Americans must realize now, if they did not before,

that their only chance of transferring the brightest gem of the British Crown to their republic is by force of arms. Let it be our first duty as a free people and as that section of people especially entrusted with the safety of this important part of the empire on which the sun never sets, to see to it that the conquest of Canada be put beyond the range of possibility.

We imagine that after the unfriendly exhibitions of the past few weeks there will be few people left to prophecy that there will never be another American invasion of Canada. It must have struck everybody that once the war talk was started, the spread-eagle orators and papers left consideration for Venezuela out of the question altogether to devote their attention to the capture of Canada. Underlying all of this tail twisting humbug is the burning desire of the American jingoes to see the Dominion of Canada severed from the British empire. And there is no telling when they will commit the United States to some act of aggression, which will lead to war, with this object in end, for the Imperial government cannot with any self respect allow the office hunting politicians at Washington to proceed much further with their insults. True it is that there is a large and influential element in the United States as anxious for peace as any of us on this side of the line, but it is not the most influential and intelligent elements of the community that dictate the policy of a democratic country like the United States. The Napoleonic wars were precipitated by the vilest elements of the French nation, in spite of the most influential and intelligent of the people of France; many of the best citizens of the United States were to the last opposed to the unrighteous war of 1812, but the rabble, and their faithful henchmen, the professional politicians, insisted, and the peculiar spectacle was presented to the world of the country which boasted of being the home of liberty, taking up arms to attack the nation which was almost single handed fighting the cause of liberty in Europe. Delegates from several countries in Europe protested at Albany against it, and the day war was declared, the shipping in the harbor of Boston displayed their flags at half mast in token of mourn-

ing. The States of Massachusetts, Connecticut and Rhode Island refused their quota of militia. "Still," as Colonel Pennington Macpherson recently wrote, "that war went on, and it was not the fault of the democracy of the United States that the bones of their peaceable but courageous neighbors, the Canadians, were not mixed with the ashes of their habitations."

What has occurred once is likely to occur again. History repeats itself, and will continue to do so until the millenium, in spite of peace societies, and pretty after-dinner speeches at international gatherings. As the popular officer already quoted says, "The population of the United States is not homogeneous. Among the citizens of the Republic are representatives of every nation in Europe, and many of them from the lowest and most revolutionary classes [of those nations; and the fact that the American politicians find it to their advantage to occasionally 'twist the lion's tail,' indicates that amongst the electorate there are a large number of people who would rejoice over the humiliation of Great Britain, and that the politicians bid for their votes by pandering to their wishes." No colony of the empire stands so much in need of efficient military defences as Canada, because none has so dangerous a neighbor.

While Canada, by reason of her situation in close proximity to the United States is thus in constant danger from invasion, Canadians would have no reason to dread the ultimate result were the military defences of the country once put upon an efficient basis, and properly maintained. We possess the interior lines of communication along the most important sections of the frontier; our frontier population is more considerable than the border country of the United States, and our existing military strength is much better distributed from a strategical point of view. The Royal Navy insures our seacoast from molestation, and in the event of war would easily blockade the whole coast line of the United States, not only paralysing the trade of the country, but putting the great seaport cities under contribution, and demanding the attention of all the troops that the seacoast states would

be able to put into the field. Canada at the start, too, would have the great advantage of the only water communication with the great lakes and Lake Champlain. With proper precautions now this communication can be maintained and it would have to be if a war were to be brought to the most satisfactory conclusion. The command of the lakes would paralyse the forces of the lake states and be a complete protection for Ontario. Our militia is a national, homogeneous body, drilled and disciplined, so far as it goes, on the lines of the most modern and most advanced military force in the world; the main defensive force of the United States consists of the state national guards, and organized on antiquated lines and drilled in discredited systems of tactics.

With these great advantages to start with Canada could well hold her own, and with the assistance of the British army even carry the war across the lines to boot; were the militia put upon a thoroughly efficient footing, and frontier defences strengthened to meet the exigencies of modern warfare. First as to the militia. Two hundred thousand of Lee-Metford rifles should be procured, fifty thousand served out to the enrolled corps, and the rest stored at Halifax, Quebec, Kingston and Victoria. As many valise equipments and kharkee service uniforms should be similarly distributed, also boots. The nine pounders of our field artillery should be replaced with modern pieces, and two extra guns for each battery, with extra waggons, etc., provided. The fortifications at St. John, Quebec, Isle-aux-Noix, St. Johns, Kingston and Toronto should be remodelled, and reconstructed, and armed with the most modern ordnance procurable. We believe that it only requires a request to the War Office from Ottawa to secure the detailing of a commission of expert engineers and strategists to decide just what defences are required for the protection of Montreal, the most important place in Canada from a strategical point, the St. Lawrence canals, Hamilton and Winnipeg. At the least a triennial enrollment of the reserve should be inaugurated, and an earnest effort made to place the reserve on something like a sensible footing. There

has been no enrollment since away back in the seventies, and if there is a list of reserve officers nobody knows where it is or whose names appear upon it. Corps of submarine miners and of naval reserve militia should be established at lake, river and sea coast points, and schools established to instruct the men in the special work of those particular branches of the service. In addition to rifles the department should procure a number of machine guns for issue to a certain proportion of the infantry and cavalry regiments in each district, and a certain proportion of officers and non commissioned officers should be required to take a course of instruction in the handling of these powerful weapons, at the schools of artillery.

Every one who has given the matter the least consideration must agree as to the great importance of organizing corps of naval militia at our inland ports. Canada must hold command on the lakes, and to make sure of it we must make sure of having men ready at the outbreak of hostilities to transform the vessels of our lake merchant marine into light cruisers and capable of doing effective duty as seaman gunners. Lake seamanship, as Britain learned to her cost in the war of 1812, is a special branch of the art, and our hardy lake sailors, especially if a little familiar with naval discipline, gunnery, signalling, etc., would be of invaluable aid to the ships of the Royal Navy operating on the lakes. If naval schools were opened at lake ports during the winter, while the lake shipping is in winter quarters and the crews idle, there should be no trouble in inducing many of our sailors to take a course of instruction to fit them to do their duty in defending their country, in case of need.

Of course all of this would cost money; but what are a few million dollars after all to national safety, and Imperial welfare? In time of peace prepare for war, is an old adage but it holds good now, surely, just as much as it did the day it was first uttered, particularly, when we have brought so forcibly to our notices the unquenchable hostility of the dominant American democracy, to the British Empire

in general and Canada in particular. We do not suppose that the government measure promised in the speech from the throne will provide for such a thorough plan of military preparation as we have briefly and very imperfectly outlined, but we sincerely wish it did, for all of the additions to our defences enumerated, would be essential to the successful prosecution of a war were one thrust upon us. Meanwhile the members of the militia will take comfort from the reflection that at last the needs of the service have received recognition, and if they wish to see the cause of militia reform succeed altogether they will each and every one impress upon their representatives in parliament, the necessity which exists for the strengthening of the country's defences.

The members of the militia will regret very sincerely that the recent cabinet upheaval at Ottawa resulted in the withdrawal of the Hon. Mr. Dickey, Minister of Militia, the first minister for a long while who went into the question of the welfare of the militia at all seriously. At the moment of writing it is not very clear what disposition is to be made of the militia portfolio. Some authorities think that Mr. Dickey will re-enter the cabinet; others predict that Lieut. Colonel Prior is to be our new minister. Either of these gentlemen would possess the full confidence of the militia and could be depended upon to induce the government to make its promised militia measure as far reaching as possible. Whoever is minister, however, the government is committed to do something for the force; but we would dearly like to see an acknowledged and tried friend of the militia at the head of the department at this particular time.*

It is satisfactory to the force too, to see the interest beginning to be evinced in the militia by leading men of the Liberal party, who have so often been accused by their political opponents with ignoring the force altogether. It will interest many of our readers to learn that in the recent closely fought electoral campaign in the important consti-

tuency of Montreal Centre the Liberals appealed to the electors to reject the government candidate, Sir William Hingston, among other things as a protest against the cheese-paring militia policy of the government. Mr. W. A. Weir, the chief organizer of the Liberal campaign, spoke at a mass meeting held at Point St. Charles, the headquarters of the Grand Trunk R'y, and the chief recruiting ground for the English speaking militia corps of the city. He quoted some of the articles in the CANADIAN MILITARY GAZETTE showing the disgraceful treatment the force has received at the hands of the government in the past, entering especially into one exposure of the scandalous manner in which the spoils system had been followed in filling appointments to the permanent corps. Mr. Weir remarked that the Liberals did not make a special claim to any monopoly of loyalty, but they loved their country and appreciated the Imperial connection too highly to view with composure the continued neglect and discouragement of the militia, a sentiment which was heartily applauded by the Hon. Mr. Laurier, the leader of the Liberal party, who was present. The attacks on the old militia policy of the government proved the most popular parts of the Liberal campaign speeches at Point St. Charles. With the government pledged to an energetic militia policy and the opposition clamouring for more enlightened and liberal treatment of the force, something can surely be looked for from the present session of parliament.

It will interest many of his old friends in Canada to learn that Vice Admiral Sir John Hopkins, formerly in command of the North Atlantic and West Indian Squadron, has succeeded Admiral Sir Algernon Lyons in the Davenport command. His old flagship, H. M. S. Blake, after an extensive refit, at Chatham, has been put in commission again and attached to the channel squadron.

The British service papers continue to devote a good deal of attention to our suggestion that a depot of the old 100th Royal Canadian Regiment, if not a battalion of the present linked regiment, be located in Canada. The *Army and*

Navy Gazette, introducing some quotations from the CANADIAN MILITARY GAZETTE, speaks of that never-to-be-forgotten band of loyal Canadians who united together and formed the 100th or Prince of Wales Royal Canadian Regiment, and goes on to say "We shall hail with unbounded satisfaction the day when the Royal Canadians have a depot in their own country, where the daily increasing territorial interest in them is assuming proportions which cannot be ignored.

The "Broad Arrow" publishes a letter from E. D. Davies now of London in which he says:—

As one of the old 100th Prince of Wales Royal Canadian Regiment I beg to thank you heartily for your kindly reference to the relationship existing between the 1st Battalion Leinster Regiment (Royal Canadians) and the land of their birth. Though no fault of their own the men who responded to the call for Sir Edmund Walker Head, Governor-General of Canada, to take up arms on behalf of the old country in 1858, and whose services were so graciously accepted by Her Majesty the Queen, are deprived of the honour of their home. To show her approval of their patriotism, H. M. conferred upon the Regiment the title of "Prince of Wales Royal Canadian Regiment" and further sent His Royal Highness to perform his first public act, both as heir apparent and as a soldier, to present a stand of colours to the regiment which bore his name. Much was written in 1858-59 as to the interest taken in the welfare of the old country by her children across the seas, and the words of the Prince on the occasion above referred to, namely, "Strengthen the unity of the various parts of this vast empire under the sway of our common Sovereign," have been re-echoed in the press from time to time, and more frequently of late. Now, sir, why? Simply I suppose that the time has come in our nation's life when the old country and her Colonies should be more closely and firmly bound together not only for commerce but for means of armed defence, or if you like, federation of the empire. There cannot be surer means of attaining so desirable an end than giving encouragement to the youth of our colonies to join the Imperial Army and Navy. Young men of adventurous spirit are to be found everywhere, but none of more pluck and finer physique than those of our own colonies. One who knows says, in *The Canadian Military Gazette* of 15th Sept. last, that several young men have recently crossed the border, and are now serving under the Stars and Stripes both in the Army and Navy. This is not right, and means should be taken at once that enlistment for the British Army and Navy be made easy in our Colonies. When the 100th was raised in 1858, officers joined who fought in the rebellion of 1837-38, and men joined whose grandfathers had fought in the war of 1813-14. The same spirit animates the youth of Canada to-day, and grant the principle that they have the right to serve in the Imperial Army and Navy, details are easy. There is a splendid recruiting ground for us in the ranks of the Militia of Canada. No one knows the worth of these men better than Lord Wolseley. Sir Frederick Middleton is proud to speak of their behaviour at the battle of Batoche and Fish Creek,

* The Hon. Senator Desjardins, of Montreal, has since been sworn in as Minister of Militia.

and in the pursuit of Big Bear. That the 100th Royal Canadians is still remembered with something like family ties in Canada, witness the cordial invitation of the officers of the Royal Regiment of Canadian Infantry to the officers of the Leinster Regiment to become, or rather consider themselves permanent honorary members of their several messes. This good feeling is also extending, for very recently the officers and sergeants of the 2nd Queen's Own Rifles of Toronto have sent a similar invitation to the officers and sergeants of the Leinster respectively. It is gratifying to read the comments of the press in Canada and in this country on this action of our brethren in arms of the Canadian forces. Now, Sir, is the opportunity of Lord Lansdowne and Mr. Chamberlin to strengthen and bind for ever the ties of National brotherhood between Great Britain and her colonies.

A valued correspondent in the Imperial service suggests that the old 100th might be made the basis for the organization of a new Canadian regiment of four battalions in the Imperial service. He suggests that it be called the Royal Canadian Regiment with one battalion each at Halifax, N. S., Esquimault, B. C., Bermuda and England, with the depot, say at Montreal or Kingston, and each battalion to remain no longer than three years in any one station.

It will be noticed with surprise and regret that the last appointment to the Royal Regiment of Canadian Infantry was a provisional one, signifying that the appointee was not qualified for the appointment. With the number of smart graduates of the Royal Military College and qualified officers of the active militia available for this post, we cannot but express surprise at the action of the militia department, especially after the outcry which has been made against these scandalous political influence appointments. And we hear that another similar appointment is in contemplation, one which was blocked before, and it is to be sincerely hoped, will be again. "Take steps to make the militia the great end, and put down all political and private influences" was the advice given by Major General Gascoigne to the officers of the Montreal militia. We would very respectfully like to commend his words to the consideration of the government.

The newspapers are taking up the singular persistence of the government in ignoring the Royal Military College graduates in making appointments to the per-

manent corps. A correspondent of the *Kingston News* took exception to a statement made at the limestone city that the Provincial Government was not doing its duty by the graduates of the college. He wrote :

"The Imperial Government gives at least four commissions in the Imperial Army each year to the graduates of the College, and also offers other commissions to volunteer officers who pass a qualifying examination. All this is a great advantage to young Canadians, many of whom have gone out and made the name of Canadians honored and respected in all parts of the world, by their honest and good work. Does the Dominion Government offer similar advantages to the graduate? Not at all. It takes all that it can get, and gives as little as possible. Let it also first do what it ought to do, and set apart a certain number of appointments in the permanent corps, and Civil Service, to be given to the R. M. C. graduates every year, and then you might with some face ask the Provinces to do something to keep the young men at home. I often think that if the Imperial authorities knew how very little is done here for our graduates, they would scarcely continue to be as liberal. They evidently value our men much more than our Government apparently does, and are glad to have their services."

According to the Broad Arrow the problem connected with the Lee-Metford bullet has yet to be solved. The leaden pellet encased in its metal cover gives excellent results on the range, but it is so delicately balanced that any tampering with it by firing off the point or giving it a leaden "nose" destroys its ranging power and lessens its penetration at long distances. Each of these devices makes it effective at short ranges, as the bullet breaks up and it will drop a man or an animal in its track. It is now suggested that the British soldier should have his magazine attachment loaded with the lead-pointed bullet only. He could be given, say, three such magazines to be carried in one pouch, separate from the rest of his ammunition. The instant that it became necessary to employ rapid concentrated fire, a simple order would be required to ensure the use of the more destructive bullet. Confidence in the Lee Metford would be restored, as the men in the ranks would realise that the shorter the range the greater would be the stopping power of the bullet. There would be no risk of the ammunition becoming mixed, as the loaded magazines, once served out at the beginning of a campaign, would remain always with the rank-and-file. There replenishment would be an

easy matter after an action in which they had been resorted to.

It is to be sincerely hoped that the promised government measure will provide for the adequate training of the rural militia. The present system of embodying the rural corps for ten days camp is simply throwing money away to no purpose. It should be three weeks camp or nothing, and besides the officers and non-commissioned officers should be given a chance to learn their duties and to brush up a bit of drill at classes held during the winter at the different regimental headquarters. It is about time that the training of the rural corps ceased to be a farce.

What about the explosive for the new rifle? It is hardly possible to believe that there is any truth in the statement that the government has placed a large order for cordite, after the reports which have been published broadcast as to the extreme sensitiveness of cordite to changes of atmosphere, and as to the wear and tear of the explosive on the rifle. We see it stated that after firing fifty shots in rapid succession the barrel becomes so hot that the sights melt and drop off, a defect it is said to be impossible to remedy so long as tri-nitro cellulose and nitro-glycerine form the base of the explosive compound. It is also announced that the enormous heat has the disadvantage of causing the greatest amount of wear and tear on the rifling of the gun, so much so that the maximum life of the magazine rifle when used with cordite is admitted to be only 3,000 rounds. We trust that the Quartermaster-General will be instructed to make a personal, impartial investigation of the explosive question while in England. There is no use having the best rifle in the world if we have not got the right ammunition for it.

Beloved by the force at large and with a consciousness of ever having done his duty, that gallant old soldier, and courteous gentleman, Colonel Walker Powell, Adjutant-General of the Canadian Militia, goes into retirement at last. "The Father of the Canadian Militia," he was popularly called, and truly he has been a military parent and guide to many an officer who has

risen to prominence in the force. His was a disposition which combined the gentlest consideration for the feelings of his subordinates with the most soldierly exaction of duty, and it was little wonder that he was as much beloved as a man as he was admired for the efficient discharge of his difficult duties. It had been a fond hope of the force that the grand old soldier should receive some recognition of his sovereign's favor before he relinquished his post at headquarters, and certainly no man in Canada deserved such an honor more or would have received it with heartier approval on the part of the militia force and the public at large.

It is about time that we heard of the department doing something towards providing suitable ranges for the new long range rifle. The present ranges, almost without exception, would be so dangerous for use with the Lee-Metford rifle as to be practically out of the question. There is no use providing the militia with a modern, good-shooting rifle without giving them ranges where they can perform target practice with the new weapon without endangering the lives of all the people living within two miles of the firing point.

We would again strongly urge the department to take into consideration the question of providing the active militia with Morris tube practice at the public expense. Besides the great economy of this form of rifle practice and the possibility of performing it during the winter season, there is now the additional object to be considered of the saving to the rifle barrels. So with barrels having lives of only 3,000 rounds the saving of the wear and tear of as much target practice as possible is an important consideration. Of course, Morris tube firing cannot replace range work altogether, but it could effectively take the place of the preliminary rifle practice of the raw recruit.

As we go to press the announcement is made that in the reconstructed cabinet the portfolio of Militia and Defence has been allotted to the Honorable Senator Desjardins. While believing that this arrangement is only a tem-

porary one, we cannot refrain from expressing satisfaction that the new minister is a gentleman, who as mayor of Montreal always showed himself well disposed towards the active militia. He is a sterling specimen of Her Majesty's loyal Canadian subjects of French descent, notably patriotic, honorable to a degree and possessed of that genialty and courtesy which is a characteristic of his race. We would have much preferred a minister specially identified in some way with militia interests; but we might have had a much less promising minister put over the department. It is understood that the Hon. Mr. Dickey will continue to have charge of militia matters in the House of Commons, and that the government policy matured under his care will be carried out.

The executive of the Military Rifle League has issued the following circular, which speaks for itself, and which has been distributed broadcast to the executive of the various rifle associations throughout Canada:—

GENTLEMEN,

In inviting entries for the year 1896 to Canadian Military Rifle League, I have the honor, by order of the Executive Council, to request you to forward any suggestions regarding present year's programme, which you may have to make for the better carrying out, if possible, of the purposes for which this Association was originally formed.

I will be obliged if you will kindly forward these suggestions to me before 30th January, as it is the intention of the Executive Committee to arrange this year's competitions immediately after that date, in order that other matches to be held during the coming season, may be arranged in such a way as to prevent any possible conflict.

I am especially requested by the executive Committee to emphasize their request that any suggestions for changes in this year's matches be carefully considered by you and forwarded by date mentioned. Assuring you that they will receive every possible attention, I beg to remain, with the compliments of the Executive Committee,

Yours truly,

W. M. ANDREWS,

Capt. 6th Batt. Fusiliers

Secretary.

Good Messing.

One dollar a year and an intelligent man can ensure first class messing to any officers or sergeants mess provided that dollar be spent on a subscription to "Table Talk," a monthly magazine published in Philadelphia. Mess presidents and committees should avail themselves of the offer this publication makes to send free sample copies to any who may request it. Address: Table Talk, Pub. Co., 1113 Chestnut street, Philadelphia.

He Saw a Snake.

As appropriate to the season, a member of one of the Service clubs revived the other night a Mess story regarding the experience of an officer at a certain station in India on a Christmas night some years ago. There had been considerable jollification, and about midnight, he, the officer of the day, proceeded to visit the guard, which occupied a bungalow where the bright moon was casting around dark and fantastic shadows. As he was about to remount his horse, previously to returning, he sang out to the sergeant of the guard that there was a snake on the steps leading up to the verandah. "All right, sir," answered the sergeant, but without stirring. "There's a snake, I tell you," persisted the officer "All right, sir," again replied the sergeant, yet without moving, "I'll see to it directly, sir." The officer, however, was not to be put off, and ordered a lantern to be brought, and then, sure enough, to the surprise of the sergeant, was the snake, which was quickly despatched. The sergeant then began apologetically: "I beg your pardon, sir, I thought—" but suddenly seemed to remember that if speech is silver, silence is often golden, and abruptly lapsed into silence.

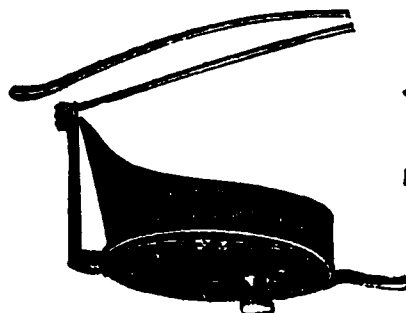
A New Volume of the Living Age.

The two hundred and eighth volume of *Littell's Living Age* opens with the issue of the week ending January 4th. The beginning of a new volume is an excellent time for the beginning of a new subscription, especially when, as in this instance, it includes a new—a lower price. For 1896 the subscription price will be six dollars. Good news truly to its subscribers and to all others who appreciate and enjoy good reading, for no one who wants the best of choice literature should be without it. *Littell & Co.*, Boston are the publishers.

Great Britain is seriously and steadily preparing for war on a very large scale, at land and on sea, against Germany, or against Germany, France, and Russia, should they combine against her.

The Cuban insurgents have captured Guira, the third city in the province of Havana, after a fierce battle, in which 600 Spaniards and 100 Cubans were killed and wounded.

The National Zeitung, of Berlin, says that no correspondence in the nature of a diplomatic or state paper has passed between the Queen and Emperor William.



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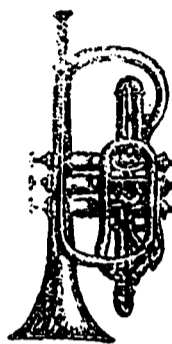
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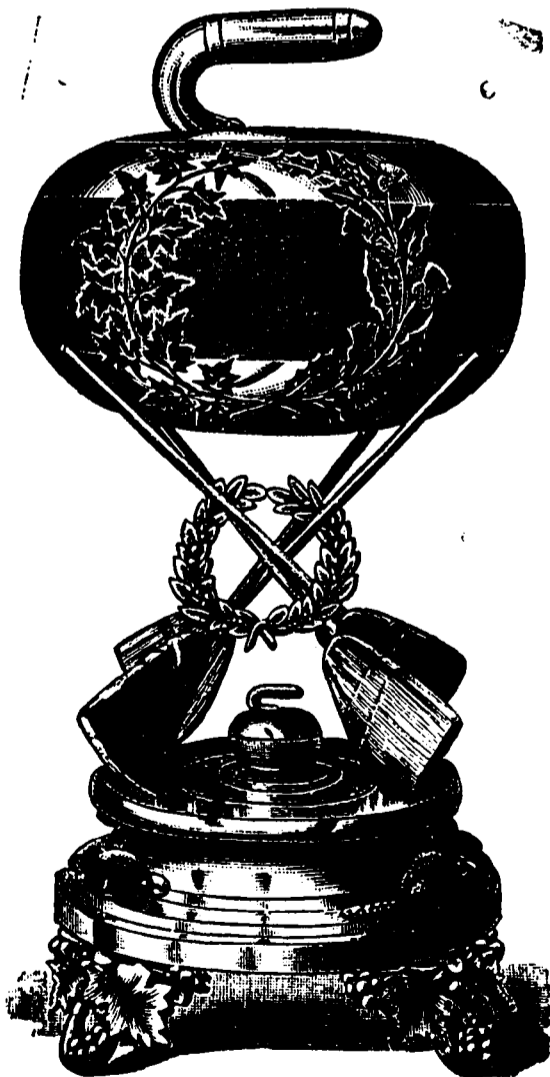
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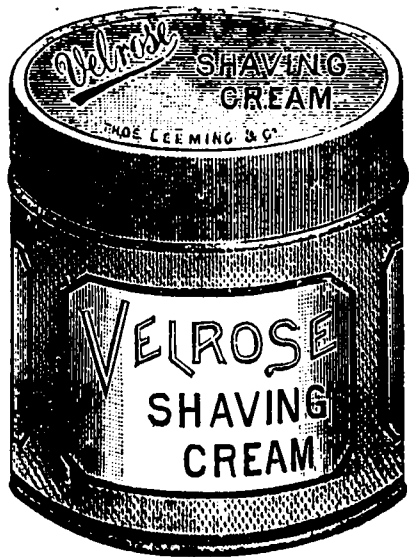
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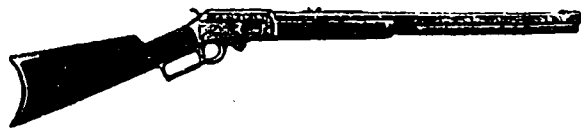
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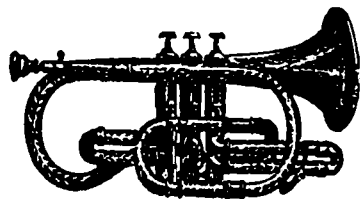
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