

# THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE

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### THE TARGET.

## Comment and Criticism.

TWO members of the sixty from whom next year's Wimbledon team will be chosen, were placed in wrong order in our issue of last week. The mistake was not material inasmuch as it is very improbable that either the fiftieth or fifty-first man will have to be called upon to complete the team, but it is just as well to rectify it. The names of Staff-Sergt. Ogg, and Lieut. Abbott should be transposed, the latter properly being fiftieth and the former fifty-first. Their totals both in the grand aggregate and Governor-General's match were the same, and the record had to be examined further back to determine the tie.

THE Dominion Artillery Association's competition at the Island of Orleans closed on Saturday last, but the official detailed scores have not yet been made up. We hope to secure them for publication next week. The prize for the "A" shift was won by the Prince Edward Island detachment; that for the "B" shift by the Montreal Garrison Artillery. No. 5 battery of the M.G.A. came first in the 64-pounder firing competition, and in the 40-pounder New Brunswick headed the list. The officers' competition was won by Lieut.-Col. Armstrong, N.B.G.A., with Lieut. Fraser, P.E.I.G.A., second. The Governor-General and Lady Lansdowne paid a visit to the artillery encampment on the Island on Wednesday of last week, and were entertained at lunch by Lieut.-Col. Oswald, the president of the D.A.A. Among other distinguished guests present were Sir Adolphe Caron, Minister of Militia; Major-General Sir Fred. Middleton and Lieut.-Col. Duchesnay, D.A.G. During the afternoon the visitors were greatly interested for some time in witnessing the firing, which was then being carried on by No. 4 detachment of the Montreal Garrison Artillery.

THERE is a wide difference between the views advocated by our correspondent who writes this week on the subject of the disposition of the government grants to rifle associations, and those respecting the participation of officers in rifle matches which, a few weeks ago, we joined another correspondent in combatting. To a casual observer it might appear otherwise—and we fancy from his letter that "Lt.-Col." has mistaken our contention. We quite agree with him that some means should be devised to secure that the government grant shall be devoted in the main, if not altogether, to the encouragement of the rank and file in learning to shoot, rather than that it should fall to the officers. In a number of regimental associations the officers who assist

by their presence at the matches make it a rule not to accept money prizes to which their scores may entitle them. They compete for the love of the sport, and that their attendance may bring forward the men of their companies, to whom their officers may render invaluable assistance on the range. It is a class of officers such as the latter whom we would be loath to see excluded from participation in the provincial and dominion competitions, for it is their taking part in these matches which keeps up their enthusiasm in rifle shooting, and the honors and emoluments there to be obtained are a reward for the loss of time and expense involved in attaining proficiency with the rifle.

NOT a little criticism adverse to the Northwest Mounted Police and the management of that fine body has recently appeared in the papers of Eastern Canada. How little justification there exists for these attacks is made manifest by a perusal of the following from the *Calgary Herald*, a paper certainly in a position to be well posted on the subject: "We hold that the prevention of crime is the most useful purpose that any police force can serve, and in this respect Commissioner Herchmer's force has been most successful. The strongest argument used by those who imagine that the force is not as efficient as it was, is the number of desertions that have taken place. They point to the large number of men who took French leave last year and say that the men have become disgusted with the management of the force and are leaving as fast as possible. A moment's thought, however, shows the fallacy of such a conclusion. It must be remembered that last year the force was increased from 600 to nearly 1,000 strong, and the taking on of such a large number of recruits explains the large number of desertions. Dozens of young fellows joined the police from Eastern Canada, who when they got there, found that they were not adapted for the work and they took the first chance they could to desert. The fact that very little effort was made to recapture them shows that the officers were prepared for a weeding out and were glad of it. They believed that a policeman who had to be kept in a guard room would be of little service to the country. This is the true reason why the desertions last year were more numerous in proportion to the number of new men taken on than in any other since the force has existed. The fact is the present year will show a large reduction in the average of desertions, and as a rule the men are well satisfied with their treatment. The Commissioner has done a great deal to elevate the honor, morality and general respectability of the force and to make the policeman's lot a happy one."

THE force has always aroused the admiration of visitors to the Northwest Territories, who have been unanimous in their praise of the men—their fine physique and steady appearance, their excellence in drill, and the cheerfulness with which they set about discharging any duties assigned to them. Their superiors it would be hard to find anywhere, and it would be a matter for genuine regret were it really found to be the case that the force has been deteriorating to such an extent as has been untruthfully claimed

AN editorial writer in the *U.S. Army and Navy Journal* has been spreading himself in the promulgation of a scheme to have British Columbia turned over to the States, for a financial consideration, as Russia surrendered Alaska to the enterprising Americans, who have since found their bargain to be a highly profitable one. This writer appears to be rather badly posted on his subject, and to be oblivious of the vastly increased importance of British Columbia to the empire since the completion of the Canadian Pacific Railway has provided through that province a new route to the British possessions in the East. The article referred to says: "The question of boundary between Alaska and the Canadian North-West is beginning to disturb the English. It is not impossible that this may settle itself if matters in British Columbia continue as they are. Why does not England do as Russia has done, and turn over to us a territory which is of so little use to her, which she cannot defend in case of war, and which by natural sympathy and affiliation, as well as by the inevitable gravitation of commercial interest, is hastening to unite her fortunes with ours? Suppose British Columbia were compelled at any time to choose between non-intercourse with the United States, and making common cause with us against the mother country, is her loyalty of that fervid sort which would stand the test? And if it is not to be depended upon is it worth while to face the possibility of having to dispute the possession of a distant province whose sole value is in its cordial devotion to the interests of the British Empire?"

THE boundary question will in all probability be very shortly settled, as the result of surveys now being carried on by the Canadian government. Any hope that may linger in United States bosoms of ever securing possession of our Pacific province is surely doomed to disappointment. There are still, with Britain and Britishers, some things that money cannot buy and that cannot be influenced by financial as opposed to patriotic considerations. Even were it commercially of advantage to British Columbia to join the southern confederation we fancy that the loyalty of the inhabitants would be found to be just "of that fervid sort" which would cause it to remain true to its name and to the grand old mother land.

THE appointment of British officers to the higher commands in the Australian army has been the subject of considerable discussion in that colony of late, and in this connection the *Colonial Military Gazette*, just lately established, has the following: "With reference to our remarks on the employment of Imperial officers in the higher commands, we should like to add that in course of time, if a military school were established for the thorough training of colonial officers, there is no earthly reason why native-born Australians who never even saw the old country should not succeed to the *highest* commands. It is not alone because Imperial officers are Britishers that we prefer them to Colonial officers in positions where the possession of high professional attainments is desirable, but because the former class have had the advantages of a professional training which is not at present within the reach of the latter."

NOTICING the establishment of the paper from which the above quotation is made the *Volunteer Service Gazette* says: "We note that in the matter of military papers our colonies are coming to the front, and thus giving unmistakable evidence that increased interest is taken by the volunteers in their work and organization." This will bear supplementing. Not only is the existence of a recognized organ an evidence that the force is taking interest in its work, but also it shows an important step has been taken towards enlisting greater interest on the part of the public. And to the force in Canada we would like to

point out once more that in proportion as a paper is more heartily supported and widely circulated, so its influence, and its usefulness to the body of which it is the mouthpiece, will increase.

"THE OHIO SOLDIER," is the title of a new military publication the initial numbers of which we have just received. Its headquarters will be at Chillicothe, Ohio. The *Soldier* will bear critical inspection. It is published in quarto form, with pages a little larger than those of this paper, and its typographical appearance is exceptionally neat, while the reading matter, original and selected, gives evidence of the truth of the editor's statement in his prospectus, that "the publication of a paper is no new thing to us." It is announced that the paper will be an organ of the Grand Army of the Republic, but that marked attention will also be paid to matters relating to the militia and especially to the Ohio National Guard. We gladly welcome this latest addition to our exchange list, and predict a long term of service for the *Soldier*, that is if it receive the encouragement its merits deserve.

A HANDBOOK for the use of the Canadian force, similar to that suggested in the paragraph quoted below, from the *U. S. Army and Navy Journal*, would, we think, be of very great value. It need not necessarily be of government issue to serve the purpose required. Is there any well-informed officer of the militia who will go to the trouble of preparing the work? The paragraph referred to is as follows: "The time seems opportune for calling attention to the importance to the army of having a field book, containing general methods of marching, camping, guard and picket duty, as well as for convoys, patrol and outpost duty. The book should also be a manual of expedients in the field, as for temporary shelters, simple intrenchments, and methods of improvised defence, management of transports, shipping and care of men and animals, loading and transporting supplies by trains as well as at sea, etc. We might mention a thousand other items which at present are scattered through many text books and are not embraced in any general system of military instruction or manual. The book we have in mind should also define, as well as limit, tactical instruction, and should prescribe, if at all possible, practical problems for each arm and command as well as for combined arms."

#### Personal.

Capt. Thos. S. Blackwell of the 54th, who is quite a frequent contributor to magazine literature, is the author of a highly interesting narrative entitled "My first Seal," which appears in *Outing* for this month.

The Honolulu rifles, about half the standing army of Kalakaua, are commanded by Colonel Volney V. Ashford, who is a Canadian by birth. He served in the war of the rebellion, and is a member of the Grand Army of the Republic.

Probably the youngest rifle shot in Canada is to be found figuring prominently amongst the prize winners at the recent provincial matches in New Brunswick. This young man, who is but fifteen years old, is Bandsman Reginald Arnold, a son of Major Arnold of the 74th Batt. Amongst the prizes he won was the first in the maiden aggregate.

The *Pall Mall Gazette* is exercised over the yarn that Imperial troops were to be secured to prevent the building of the Red river railroad. It says: "The notion of sending redcoats into the heart of the American continent to forbid the population of a great province from building a national outlet for their produce, is worthy of Bedlam, and would not be entertained for a moment by any British minister, past or present, save, perhaps, Lord North or his colleagues, if it were not that the Dominion Government seems to have the letter of the law on its side."

Gen. Valentine Baker, in *Blackwood's* for August, estimates England's military strength as follows: Active military service, 151,867; 1st class army reserve, 52,000; 2nd class army reserve, 5,300; militia, 141,438; in India, 71,691. Total, 422,296. After deductions, Gen. Baker arrives at a total of 123,000 men for a field army, including India and the colonial garrisons. The *Broad Arrow* estimates the regular forces as follows: Fit for active service in England, 105,000; army in India, 70,000; in colonies, 25,000; available for drafts, 60,000. Regular forces, 260,000.

### The Shoeburyness Camp.

(United Service Gazette.)

ALTHOUGH the National Artillery Association is not so old as the National Rifle Association, it must not be supposed that it follows the elder institution *in pari passu*. It would be difficult, perhaps impossible, to fairly handicap the relative merits of the two associations. Each is excellent in its way, imparting a rare amount of vitality to the branch of the service it represents. The Wimbledon meeting no doubt shines with greater lustre when compared with that at Shoeburyness, and many circumstances conspire to that end. There are more rifle than artillery volunteers. The National Rifle Association holds its festival near London, and thither is attracted a number of sightseers who know nothing of musketry, but visit the town of canvas out of curiosity, and form the "gallery" when the Queen's Prizewinner is proclaimed, and join in the choring, "See the conquering hero comes." Shoeburyness does not possess any of these adventitious attractions. Wimbledon Camp is a pleasant picnic, where the Queen's Regulations are as seldom quoted as the thirty-nine articles. At Shoeburyness strict discipline prevails, and the volunteers learn much by contact with men of the royal artillery. In 1865 the National Artillery Association was formed, for the purpose of encouraging gunnery among artillery volunteers, and it has admittedly been as advantageous to that branch of the service as the N. R. A. has proved to the rifles. The value and importance of the meeting was fully recognized thirteen years ago by Viscount Wolseley, when, as inspector-general of auxiliary forces, he distributed the prizes to the successful competitors. On that occasion, addressing the detachments, he said: "I have always looked upon these meetings as of really great national importance, not only for the amount of instruction afforded to those who attend, but because they associate the volunteer force with the regular army and bind both together in a manner which no other means could possibly afford. The more the army and the volunteers know of one another, the more highly they will appreciate each other and become tied up together in those indissoluble bonds which are necessary for the formation of a strong military force." The lesson learned at Shoebury by each unit of the annual contingent attending is not final, but bears good fruit in the future. Each gunner who takes part in the meeting, when returned to his own battery, becomes, in a measure, not only an instructor in drill, but an example in discipline; and, as a little leaven permeates a large mass, so each individual member attending the N. A. A. possibly renders incalculable help towards promoting the efficiency of his own corps. On the question of discipline, Colonel Stewart Nicholson, R.A., reports most favorably on the men who have been under his command the past fortnight. Addressing them, he gave them great praise for their soldierly conduct. He put discipline before drill, because he looked upon it as the first necessary in a soldier's duty, and he felt sure that their discipline arose in the good feeling and good sense of the men themselves. With reference to shooting, he alluded to the practice made with the 10-inch gun, and paid the volunteers the high compliment of saying that he had never seen better practice in his life.

So ends the twenty-third annual meeting of the National Artillery Association, one which reflects credit on all concerned. The year has been remarkable in the annals of the volunteers, who have shown much self-sacrifice in attending camps and jubilee reviews. It is pleasing to see with what *camaraderie* they have been received by those in the regular forces, who value their services and are most anxious to utilize them. The volunteers are ever ready to advance in the direction of efficiency, and their coming shoulder to shoulder with their comrades in the regular army will enhance them in their eyes, while their exemplary conduct and respect for discipline call for the warm approbation of the nation.

### The New Military Rifle.

(United Service Gazette.)

THE special committee on the new army rifle have been conducting a long series of experiments with a view to fixing a standard bore as well as settling the form of magazine to be adopted in the service small arm. As already stated, it has been decided to fix the diameter of the bore of the new rifle at a point near  $\cdot 3$ . The exact gauge is to be  $\cdot 31$ , which means a bullet about the diameter of an ordinary pencil or penholder. This is a considerable lessening of size from the  $\cdot 450$  of the present Martini-Henry, and much below the  $\cdot 400$  of the rifle of the future that was to be—the Enfield-Martini. Over one hundred thousand stand of these Enfield-Martini's have been completed, with sword bayonets to fit. That number is actually in the armories, and the re-arming of the forces with these rifles was to have been undertaken at an early date. The adoption of the still newer and smaller bore of  $\cdot 31$  renders the unissued Enfield-Martini's obsolete, so that the government will be forced

to sell them as useless or unnecessary stores. In the experiments with the now chosen rifle of the British soldier, the  $\cdot 31$  bore, it was found that although the bullet is not much bigger in diameter than that of a saloon pistol, it was remarkably efficient in range and destructiveness. At 2,000 yards range the shooting was exceedingly close. Compared with its diameter the bullet is very long. As it is fired with a large charge of compressed gunpowder, it has a high velocity, and consequently, very flat trajectory. Up to 500 yards range the soldier need not raise the back sight, but, firing low, can easily hit his enemy. In order to test the destructiveness of bullets of so small a calibre, shots were fired into the carcasses of dead horses and other animals. It was found that bullets that had a small alloy of copper in them gave most successful results. So satisfactory were these repeated experiments with the  $\cdot 31$  rifle that it left the committee in no doubt, and its adoption was recommended. Having settled on the bore of the rifle of the future the committee found less difficulty with the other portion of their labors, namely, selecting the type of magazine. With the use of a small bullet, and, as has also been decided, the adoption of the new compressed gunpowder in solid drawn cases, not only is the weight of the ammunition reduced, but a greater number of cartridges can be placed in the magazine of the rifle. For some time the committee have apparently been disposed to take up the improved Lee rifle. The chief objection to this rifle by military men was that the magazine, when of a convenient practical size, could only hold five cartridges. That number, it was argued, was too few, and unless they could be made to carry eight or ten cases, it was not worth while having the magazine, as a soldier could fire five shots almost as quickly by single loading, picking the cartridges from his bandolier. The new bullet and case will permit of an increase in the number of charges that can be placed in the Lee magazine. The committee are, however, still conducting their inquiry into the question of the best form of magazine for military purposes, and have by no means finally settled to adopt the Lee. It is tolerably certain that the future rifle of our troops will now be a magazine gun, containing not less than eight reserve shots, which, in the supreme moment in assault or repulse, can be almost instantly delivered in a death-dealing shower.

Editorially, in another place in the same issue, the *United Service Gazette* says:

"On an impartial consideration of the proposed military rifle we cannot forbear expressing our opinion that the new weapon will prove disappointing, and cannot fulfil the conditions required for the service arm of the British infantry. The bore of the present Martini-Henry rifle is  $\cdot 450$ , while that of the rifle of the future that was to be—the Enfield-Martini—is  $\cdot 400$ . The committee sitting on the Enfield-Martini determined on the  $\cdot 400$  bore as the best possible for the British infantry. Now, as to the proposed new military rifle, it is announced that the exact gauge is to be  $\cdot 31$ . Was the committee that decided on the  $\cdot 400$  bore competent, or is the committee that has pronounced for the  $\cdot 31$  bore more or less competent than its predecessor? Have any new facts come to light since the determination was made by the military authorities to adopt the  $\cdot 400$  bore to make them believe that our infantry will gain solid advantages by further reducing the service bore by 9-100ths? We are in possession of the reasons alleged theoretically for the change, but they are not new, and must have been (or ought to have been) fully known to the Solons who sat on the committee which voted the adoption of the Enfield-Martini. At present we are not going into the merits or demerits of the proposed  $\cdot 31$  bore rifle. We ask a simple question. How is it in a few months that a change of front has been effected? Last year a bore of  $\cdot 40$  was the one *par excellence*; now it is deemed advisable to reduce it to  $\cdot 31$ . Have any new facts in the laws of projectiles been ascertained to warrant this proposed change? Has a superior Daniel come to judgment on the theory of small arms, or are we again going to make an experiment, and turn out 100,000 stand of rifles to be converted before issued? Theoretically much may be said in favor of the proposed new rifle, but the same might be predicated as to the long and the cross-bow and their efficiency at Cressy and Poitiers adduced as a reason for resorting to them as service arms. The new rifle, it is said, will have a high velocity, and consequently flat trajectory. With the use of a small bullet a greater number of cartridges can be carried. These are self-evident facts. Corollaries, however, arise from them. High initial velocity means increased charge of powder, and consequently increased recoil. We shall sin against the gospel as taught at Hythe, where the word "kicking" is ignored, in saying that the new military rifle will not only kick, but kick like the devil! Again, the small bullet adapted for a Larcinty-Boulanger sort of duel may wound more than kill. In warfare against civilized nations this may be an advantage. In an engagement better wound than kill a man, for it takes a couple of men to carry one wounded to the rear. Our "small wars," however, are chiefly directed against savages, and we question, were El Teb or Abu Klea to be fought over again, whether we should do the same execution with the  $\cdot 31$  bore as with the heavier calibre of the  $\cdot 450$  Martini-Henry."

New Brunswick Provincial Matches.

THE twenty first annual prize meeting of the New Brunswick Rifle Association took place at Sussex, N.B., on the 23rd, 24th and 25th ult. The scores were not received in time for publication before those of the D.R.A. meeting, which have monopolized our space for two weeks, but are inserted now in order that the record of provincial matches may be preserved complete.

NURSEY AND MAIDEN—400 AND 500 YARDS, 5 SHOTS.

Cup, presented by Lt.-Col. Maunsell, open only to efficient members of the active militia of New Brunswick who have never won first prize at any previous provincial competition. Money prizes open only to such members as have not won a money prize larger than \$5 at any Provincial or Dominion competition.

Team Prizes.

Table with 2 columns: Team Prizes. 1. \$25—62nd Fusiliers. 2. \$15—Cavalry. Lists names and scores for various participants.

Three prizes had been offered, but only these two teams contested.

Individual Prizes.

Table with 2 columns: Individual Prizes. Lists names and scores for individual participants in the Nursey and Maiden matches.

ALL COMERS' MATCH—500 YARDS, 7 SHOTS.

Table with 2 columns: All Comers' Match. Lists names and scores for participants in the 500 yards match.

DOMVILLE—500 AND 600 YARDS, 7 SHOTS.

Table with 2 columns: Domville. Lists names and scores for participants in the 500 and 600 yards matches.

PRINCE OF WALES MATCH—200, 500 AND 600 YARDS, 7 SHOTS.

Team Prizes.

Table with 2 columns: Team Prizes. 1. \$20—62nd Fusiliers. 2. \$15—St John Rifles. Lists names and scores.

Individual Prizes.

Table with 2 columns: Individual Prizes. Lists names and scores for individual participants in the Prince of Wales match.

PROVINCIAL MATCH—600 YARDS, 7 SHOTS.

Table with 2 columns: Provincial Match. Lists names and scores for participants in the 600 yards match.

McLellan cup to be competed for at five consecutive meetings, and winners to shoot off for final possession.

Table with 2 columns: Provincial Match. Lists names and scores for participants in the McLellan cup match.

\* Tie, won by Adams upon shooting off.

ASSOCIATION MATCH—200, 500 AND 600 YARDS, 7 SHOTS.

Table with 2 columns: Association Match. Lists names and scores for participants in the 200, 500, and 600 yards matches.

ELDER MATCH—200, 500 AND 600 YARDS, 7 SHOTS.

Team Prizes.

Table with 2 columns: Elder Match. Lists names and scores for participants in the 200, 500, and 600 yards matches.

GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S MEDALS.

For the aggregate of scores in the All-Comers', Domville and Provincial matches, together with the 500 and 600 yards ranges of the Association match.

Table with 2 columns: Governor-General's Medals. Lists names and scores for medal winners.

MAIDEN AGGREGATE.

Table with 5 columns: Maiden Aggregate. Lists names and scores for participants in the Maiden aggregate.

GRAND AGGREGATE.

Table with 5 columns: Grand Aggregate. Lists names and scores for participants in the Grand aggregate.

EXTRA SERIES—500 YDS, 7 SHOTS.

Martini.

Snider.

Table with 2 columns: Extra Series. Lists names and scores for participants in the Martini and Snider matches.

Trooper beatty, the winner of the grand aggregate this year, was also the top man in 1886.

At a meeting of the competitors on Wednesday afternoon a recommendation was passed, on motion of Capt. Thompson, that retired non-commissioned officers of nine years' standing should be allowed the privilege of competition in the matches, the same as retired officers of five years' standing.

A motion of Lt.-Col. Beer, recommending that Snider extra series be limited to five shots in place of seven, was carried at the same meeting.

Color-Sergeant Phillips, of the Queen's Edieburgh, who has been shooting well all this season, fairly outstripped everyone in a recent match. At Malleny, in fine weather, the rifle club in connection with the brigade held their annual prize competition, when Color-Sergeant Phillips put on the splendid total of 101. He had 33 at each of the two first ranges, and the possible at 600 yards. The highest 20 men of the club had the very good average of 88.1, and the first 30 scorers registered 86.1.

# BOOSEY & CO., BAND INSTRUMENT MANUFACTURERS.

GOLD MEDAL, International Inventions Exhibition, London. GOLD MEDAL, Calcutta Exhibition, the only Gold Medal awarded to Band Instrument Manufacturers, English or Continental. SILVER MEDAL, Calcutta Exhibition, for Improvements in Brass Instruments.

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MANUFACTORY—STANHOPE PLACE, HYDE PARK.

## Notes of Current Events.

The Sixth Fusiliers and the Garrison Artillery, of Montreal, had their annual moonlight excursions on the St. Lawrence on Monday evening last.

At Chambly on Saturday the Victoria Rifles were defeated by the Chambly cricket club by an innings and a run, the score standing 113 to 112.

The shooting men of the Victoria Rifles, Montreal, have presented a handsome Snider rifle to Pte. Thomson, who represented the corps at Wimbledon this year.

A poem by Maurice Thompson, presenting an address by an ex-rebel to the Grand Army of the Republic, will be one of the features of the October *American Magazine*.

The following in reference to Dumont is taken from the Fergus County (Montana) *Argus*: "Gabriel Dumont returned to Lewiston a few days ago from the upper country. He has recently squeezed enough money out of the breeds to purchase a horse and cart, and will start soon for the Turtle Mountain region in Dakota. He expects to join the Wild West show in Paris later in the fall. Dumont was with this show before it left for England, but he did not dare venture on British soil, so remained behind. He is shrewd enough to get along and live without work, but is losing prestige among the breeds, and is, indeed, a very harmless character."

At the final meeting of the Halifax Volunteer Aid Association recently held the committee presented a report showing the total receipts on account of the fund for distribution among the families of the volunteers who went to the North-West to have been \$4,751.83. The contributions were almost all voluntary, and the opinion is expressed that three times the amount might have been secured if desired. \$3,651.43 was distributed among the families of the volunteers during their absence, and the balance has since been paid out to needy families during the winter months. The committee specially thank L.-Col. J. R. Murray for his services in distributing the funds.

Henry Saunders, a farmer of Oak Lake, Manr, while serving with the militia in the suppression of the North-west rebellion of 1885, completely lost his voice from exposure and lying on the damp ground, and subsequently remained quite dumb. He consulted many medical men at great expense, and all pronounced his case a bad one, and gave him but slight hopes of ever recovering his speech again. The government had him examined, and granted him a pension of \$200 a year. On waking up one morning lately he surprised his wife by conversing with her freely, and the gift of speech has remained with him ever since. He expresses the hope that the government will continue his pension, as he has suffered a great drawback from the want of his speech for so long a time—upwards of two years—and indeed his health generally is not so good as formerly, as he still complains of pains in his back.

England proposes, it appears to adopt the .31 calibre (or .307) for the magazine gun she is to take in place of her Martini's. The calibre of the Lebel rifle officially adopted by France is about the same, 8 mm. (.315in.), as is also that of the French Pralon rifle, for which such claims are made. The Tramond-Lebel rifle is said to deliver bullets with a precision hitherto unattained and upon an almost straight trajectory, the mark being hit ninety-five times out of the hundred. There is scarcely any recoil from the discharge, whilst the noise of the report cannot be distinguished beyond sixty-five feet at the most. There seems to be rapidly approaching a capacity to kill equalling the perfection of Rider Haggard's heroine, "She," who could slay an enemy by pointing her finger.

The two new swift cruisers *Ching-Chuan* and *Cheh-Yuan*, built for the Chinese government by Messrs. Armstrong & Co., have arrived at Spithead in company with a torpedo boat, said to be the fastest afloat, all under the command of Admiral Lang, of the Pekin navy. Each of the cruisers is about 268 feet long and 38 feet beam, with a depth of 21 feet from the maindeck to the keel, and they are engaged by Tennant & Co. with triple expansion cylinders capable of realising a speed of 18 knots. Their armament consists of three 21 centimetre Krupp guns, two 6-inch Armstrongs, eight Hotchkiss 6-pounder quick firing guns, and six Gatlings. The cruisers remain at Spithead until joined by two other warships built at Stettin for the Chinese government, when the squadron will sail for Canton.

The following notice of the opening of the military camp for No. 9 district, at Aldershot, is from the *Halifax Mail*: "Aldershot, Sept. 9.—Brigade camp opened here on Tuesday. Col. Worsley, D.A.G. and staff arrived on Monday. The brigade is composed of three regiments and the Kings county troop of cavalry. The camp is arranged as follows: The D.A.G. and staff are on the extreme right, the 93rd Cumberland regiment under command of Col. Harrison coming next, then the 78th regiment, Col. Blair of Truro commanding. This regiment is made up of companies from Pictou, Colchester and Hants. The next in order is the 18th from Kings county, under command of Col. Chipman of Kentville, and on the extreme left is the cavalry, numbering some 50 officers and men, under the command of Capt. Ryan of Kentville—in all about 1100 officers and men. They have settled down to work and are now hard at it. Col. Worsley, who has command of the brigade, is evidently an "old soldier" and understands his business. The men composing the regiments are very young men, youths probably under 20. Many have not yet advanced beyond the "goose step." The best of order prevails. No liquor can be had on the ground. Doubtless there is some brought for "medicinal" purposes, if so the effects are hardly noticeable. The Y. M. C. A. have made provision for the comfort of the men while off duty. The camp is expected to last ten days, closing on Friday with a grand review. General Middleton is expected here on Monday. The paymaster and superintendent of stores, Col. John R. Murray, is here with his hands full of business. He has just returned from Ottawa. There are only two cases in hospital, one from the 68th and one from the 93rd.

## Correspondence.

The Editor desires it distinctly understood that he does not hold himself responsible for the opinions expressed by correspondents.

WINNIPEG—A MILITARY VIEW OF ITS POSSIBLE FUTURE.

To the Editor of the *Canadian Militia Gazette*:

SIR,—It is to be hoped that our good friends and loyal fellow subjects at Winnipeg have blown away all the superfluous gas connected with *disallowance*. This done it will then be in order to consider how the further development of the vast territories of which the ambitious city will be the emporium, may best be brought about, provided, as is to be hoped, our valiant friends do not attempt to *lust* Confederation, and that in mercy to all mankind they will sit upon the fighting editor till the cool fit comes on. People in this meridian don't carry either *Coll's* convenience or the old Highland institution known as *Skene dhus*.

Fifteen years in the life of a city is not a very high antiquity and the prosperity of Winnipeg is very great indeed. Enterprise may do a great deal, but there must be capital as a basis or foundation to work on; and, be it stated with all due respect to the good citizens, they are just taking the trouble to frighten away that very sensitive and much needed assistance, without which enterprise is nowhere. If our irate friends can get the Militia Report for 1872, and will carefully peruse it, they will find there outlined a plan, the development of which must prove of vast advantage to their city.

The gallant soldier (since passed away to the great majority) who made a reconnaissance from Lake Nipissing to the Pacific Coast, passing through Fort Garry, with its thirty houses all told, then proposed an Imperial garrison for itself and dependencies, as will be found set forth at pages 109-10 of the report. This plan has marked down points where detachments of troops might be stationed, the sedentary *taurus* of the Sioux being rampant less than 400 miles south and our own wild cats by no means to be depended on. The discovery that regular troops were to be called to adjust matters at Fort Garry is not new, but the genius who presented that ornamental bit of the crookedness of his mind and the cussedness of his understanding stumbled if he but knew it, against a small modicum of truth.

The city of Winnipeg is an important centre as a site of strategical value from a military point of view, and the place of concentration for the grain trade of the Northwest provinces, the greatest wheat producing region in the world. Winnipeg is within 4,451 miles of Liverpool *via* the St. Lawrence and lakes and railway. Port Moody on the Pacific is 1,485 miles from Winnipeg, which is thus, nearly in the centre of the continent, 5,654 miles from Yokohama in Japan. The whole distance by this route from Liverpool to Yokohama is 10,005. As the centre of a great empire—it is nearly equi-distant from the point of concentration and that of production.

A consideration of these advantages should tend to create a quiet, peaceful municipality, the business of the inhabitants being to develop the magnificent country to all of whose advantages the people have succeeded almost without labor, and certainly in no case had the same toil to be encountered or difficulties to be overcome similar to those met with by the early settlers in other parts of the western world. Its situation and advantages are of such a character that it should prove to be in the end the cheapest sanitarium for recruiting the Imperial troops, after a sojourn in India, a subject which cannot be gone into this issue, but to which I will return in the future.

Valentine Baker Pasha published an article in *Blackwood* for August which will afford a subject which may also be calmly considered in the light of the facts there displayed.

But, Mr. Editor, considerations of space compel me to call a halt for the present.

GOVERNMENT GRANTS TO RIFLE ASSOCIATIONS—DO THEY BENEFIT  
THE RANK AND FILE?

To the Editor of the *Canadian Militia Gazette*:

SIR,—I am now about a quarter of a century in the volunteer force (since 1862) and wish to have one last shot (a bull's eye, I hope), before retiring.

In all my experience and observations I have failed to see any *real benefit* derived by the rank and file of the force, for the large amount of money expended in grants to rifle associations, whether local, provincial or dominion, or any use in sending a Wimbledon team to England every year at great expense. Take the returns of all the matches throughout the country. Nearly all, with very few exceptions, of the prizes are won by officers, staff-sergeants and n.c.o's. Few, very few, appear to go to privates. Now, why should the record show this state of things? Either because privates *do not attend* or that they are the poorest marksmen. The former is most likely the case, and is it as it ought to be? The chief reason in my experience is, that the privates are composed (particularly in rural battalions) of men of limited means generally, and cannot afford the time, not to speak of the expenses, attending these meetings, the purchase of ammunition for practice, etc. Yet they, if called into action, are the men *expected to use the rifle*, not the officers or staff-sergeants. Can you inform me the amount of ammunition expended in the North-West and the results?

My opinion and views may not be entertained by yourself and others, but all I want is a *candid, thoughtful* opinion in a matter of so much importance. Let the government make marksmen of the rank and file; then there would be some satisfaction for the money spent. I would suggest to the Department of Militia and Defence that a portion at least of the amount now granted to the various rifle associations be granted to the several corps respectively, to be distributed in prizes at the annual drills in camp each year, between the rank and file only. Such a course would, in my opinion, give an impetus to volunteering.

LT.-COL.

### The Target.

**Montreal.**—A regular monthly competition of the Sixth Fusiliers' Rifle Association was held on Saturday afternoon. Queen's ranges; Snider rifles. The highest scorers were Sergt. Marks, 79, Pte. Waters 74 and Pte. Riddle 69, but as these had already won prizes at the monthly competitions they were ineligible, and the prizes on this occasion went to the next in order as follows: Pte. Lavers, 66; Pte. J. Brighton, 64; Sergt. D. Currie, 63. The aggregate prizes, for the best three scores out of the five monthly matches, were taken as follows: 1st, Sergt. Marks, 250; 2nd, Pte. Waters, 247; 3rd, Pte. Riddle, 245; 4th, Pte. Ward, 230.

#### ROYAL SCOTS COMPANY MATCHES.

The annual matches of "C" company 5th Royal Scots, took place on Saturday afternoon last, at Point St. Charles, the ranges being 200, 400 and 500 yards; seven shots at each. The winners were: Pte. D. Smith 78; Sergt. M. O'Brien 75; Color-Sergt. Pitt 72; Pte. J. Armstrong 70; Corpl. D. O'Brien 67. Maiden Stakes—Pte. Kirkup 58; Pte. Buse 51; Pte. R. Starke 48; Pte. Pierce 47; Pte. Reid, 42.

The annual matches of "E" company took place the same afternoon, resulting as follows: Color-Sergt. Dalrymple 68; Pte. Irving 67; Pte. Houston 64; Pte. Salmon 58; Pte. Burnside 52; Corpl. Clarke 52; Sergt. Moorhouse 39; Sergt. Marr 36; Corpl. Waters 36; Pte. Pratt 31; Pte. Barnes 27; Pte. Hampshire 26; Capt. Gault 20; Pte. Sutherland 20; Pte. Smith 18.

### Gleanings.

Telegrams from Europe of August 24, state that "two of the men wounded at Ostend, July 23, in the affray between Belgian and English fishermen, have since died. A number of the Belgian fishermen to-day seized two English boats and refused to give them up. They were fired on by the police and four of them wounded, one fatally." This internationally insignificant incident suggests an occurrence of the Middle Ages which began not very far from the same place, in a strikingly similar way; and which, as it was followed by far more deadly and appalling consequences than this one, in the modern changes of national morality, can by any possibility give rise to, is well worth recalling to the memory. In 1292, two sailors, a Norman and an Englishman, having come to blows at Bayonne, the latter stabbed the former, and by some failure of justice was not brought before the courts. The Normans applied to Philip the Fair for redress, who answered by bidding them take their own revenge. They thereupon put to sea, seized the first English ship they met, and hung several of her crew at the mast head. The English retaliated without applying to their government, and things rose to such a pitch that two hundred Norman vessels came to be scouring the English seas, hanging all the sailors they caught, while the English, in still greater force, destroyed a large part of the Norman fleets, and put to death 15,000 men. The two nations had up to this time considered themselves at peace, but they now interposed and came at length into a war, which deprived England of nearly all Aquitaine. No better illustration could be given than by this voracious point of mediæval history, of the immense change for the better in public opinion and national morals which six hundred years have wrought, and how vast the strides which have been taken through the influence of Christianity, aided by the diffusive power of the press, in the interests of peace and good will towards men.

On Monday afternoon, as some corporation employees were excavating the bank on the north side of Water street, Carleton, N.B., one of the men saw a curious looking piece of iron sticking up, and loosening the earth around it he disclosed to view nine rusty swords and two axes laid closely together with the points all in one direction. The swords, with one exception, were between three and four feet long and about an inch and a half broad at the head and tapered to a point. They were nearly an inch thick. The exception was a short heavy sword more than two inches in width. There were no handles on them, but extending from the blade the iron or steel was tapered to a four-cornered point clearly made for inserting into a wooden handle, which has no doubt rotted off. The axes were between four and five inches wide on the blade, and had a straight back with a slanting front looking very much like the ordinary lathing hatchet, only much larger and with no hammer on them. The hole for the handle was an oval one about two inches long and an inch and a half wide. The head of the axe was just the rounding over the top of the handle. These were very much rusted, but were discovered only a foot below the surface. The earth at the place is a kind of clay, but these were imbedded in a loose loamy dark soil entirely different from the rest. The workmen also found a square piece of rock about twelve inches thick. This was imbedded in the same soil as the swords and axes, and they say looked as if it had been placed there at some remote period. There is little doubt that the place in which these old war implements were found was the site of a part at least of Charles La Tour's fort which he occupied in 1635, and which is described as a structure of four bastions, one hundred and eighty feet square, and enclosed by palisades. The exact location of the fort is not now known, but it was on the west side of the harbor, on a point of land opposite Navy Island, and it commanded the harbor to the south of it, and a considerable stretch of the river to the north of it. Around this fort raged the tide of battle between LaTour and Charnissy, and it was here that Madame LaTour made that heroic defence which made her name memorable in our early historic annals. The land has undergone considerable changes since 1835. What is familiarly spoken of as "the old fort," the neck of land at the foot of King street, was in those days an island and might be naturally considered then as part of Navy island. Indeed, at low tide it was an island between what is now Navy Island and the mainland. Many persons living can yet remember when boats could be brought in from the river near Stetson's mill to the mill pond, but the channel has long been closed. If the finding of these old implements proves the site of the fort, the discovery is of much importance. Of course, it is quite possible that these articles were stolen and were hidden where they were found. Indeed, they may be of a much later date than LaTour's time.—*St. John Globe.*

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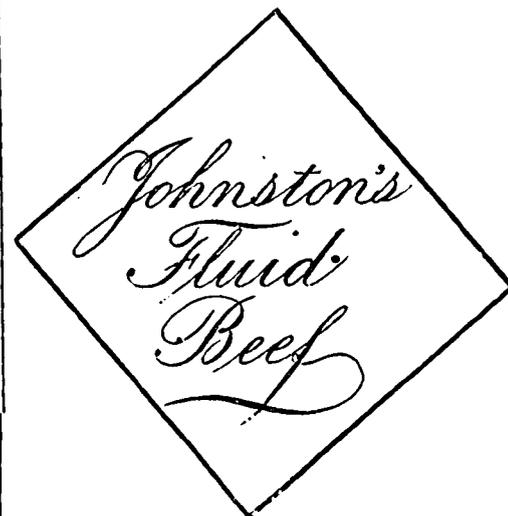
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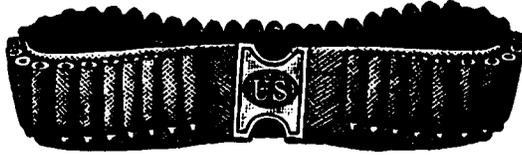
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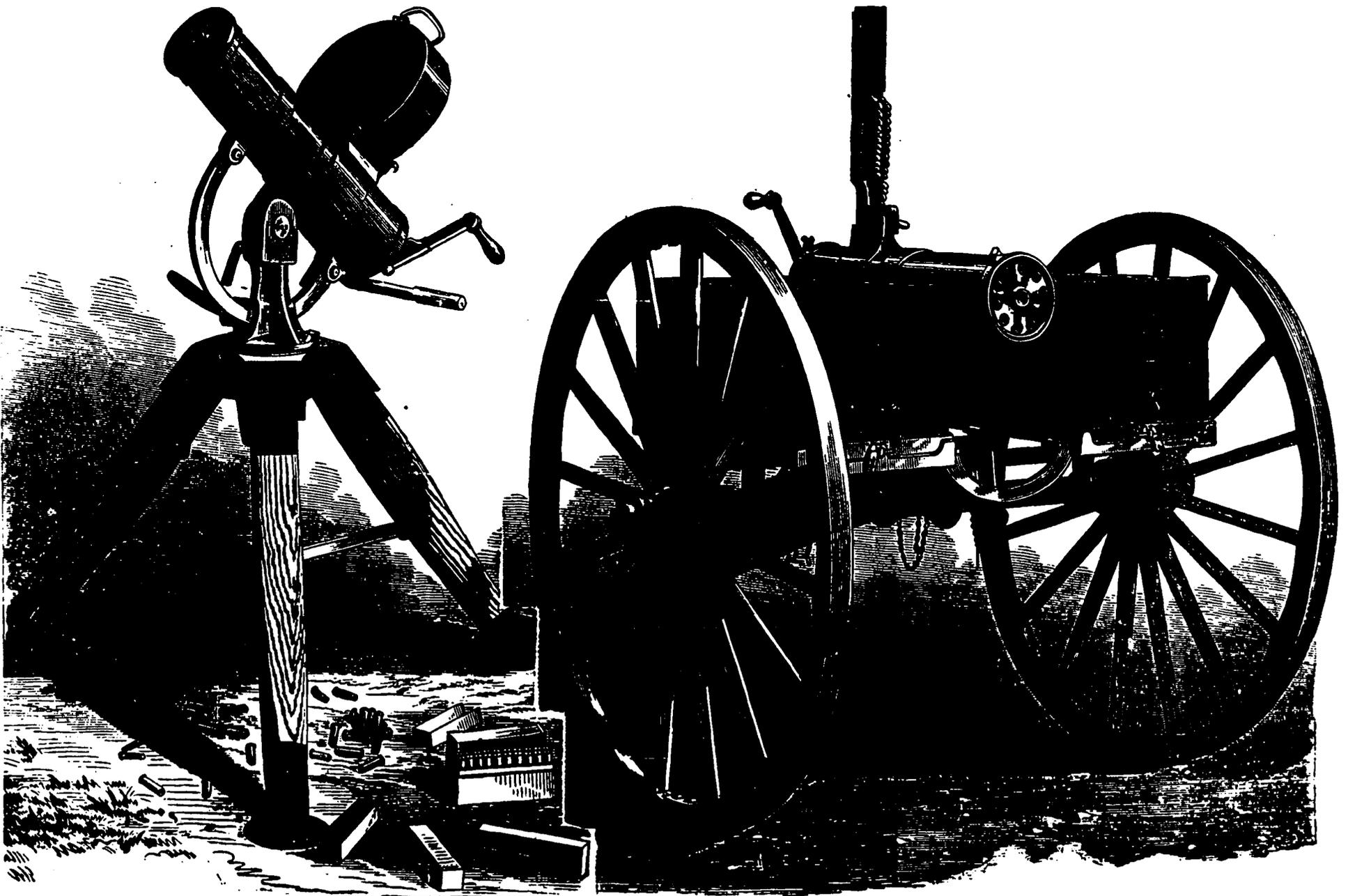
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