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MISCELLANEOUS.

### The Quebec Cavalry School.

A perusal of the report made by the commandant of the Royal School of Cavalry at Quebec, contained in the annual report of the Minister of Militia, reveals the fact that that school, and the troop of cavalry upon which it is based, are in a condition none too flourishing.

"The difficulty," says Col. Turnbull, "of conducring this school with so small an establishment is now greater than ever—thirty-one privates being the established strength. These men are overtasked; they have not only to take charge of the thirty horses, but also supply officers' servants and batmen, cooks, mess waiters, orderlies, clerks, guards, stable picquets, saddler, carpenter, veterinary and other employed men. Deducting the sick in hospital, prisoners and recruits, and considering the very heavy fatigues, such as sawing and splitting firewood, snow shovelling, etc., it becomes little wonder that the loss of trained men this year has been unusually large, and that one-half of the total strength are recruits. I therefore again beg that an additional 20 men may be added to the establishment of the Quebec school, which is really in the interest of economy, because each recruit enlisted to replace a deserter costs \$100 simply for his outfit.

There has been a marked decrease in the attendance at the school this year, the totals being 8 officers and 36 non-coms and men. It is noted that a riding school has been supplied during the year, but no riding instructor has yet been appointed, though such an official forms part of the strength of 'A' and 'B' Batteries of Artillery and the Mounted Infantry Corps." Here are other requests similar in nature:

"The daily duties and monthly returns and books connected with the Quartermaster's department certainly require that a quartermaster sergeant should form part of the establishment of this school in common with all the other Military Schools of Instruction, while all the duties and returns are expected to be performed like the other schools who each have a quartermaster sergeant, and four of them have in addition also a quartermaster."

"I desire to point out how impossible it is to carry out a proper system of regimental instruction unless a sufficient number of duty officers be given me. The greater part of this year there have been no attached officers, so that I have had only the establishment of two subalterns to do everything with. One of these officers has to act as the adjutant and quartermaster, which duties fully occupy his time, and the other officer therefore is all I have left to hold regimental court martials, boards, courts of inquiry, orderly officers duties, and all the multitude of duties and regulations comprised in the Queen's Regulations for the internal economy of a regiment, in addition to all the orders laid down in the R. & O. Mil., which are to be observed in the government of these Military Schools of Instruction. As each of these officers too becomes entitled to his leave of absence at certain periods, these difficulties are increased. I hope, therefore, an increase in duty officers will be given to this school."

The astonishing statement is made that there has been no target practice by the men of the corps in the year under review, the apology

being that "much of the daily routine of barrack duties has to be left undone for want of a sufficient establishment of men to do more than take care of and exercise the horses."

It is now in contemplation to establish another cavalry school, this one in Toronto. But if the new institution is not to be any more serviceable than its commandant reports the school at Quebec to be, it would be well to pause and consider whether one well equipped and thoroughly serviceable shool would not be more useful and much less costly than two institutions so sadly lacking in many of the most important requirements.

### The Artillery Schools.

In the annual report on the Regiment of Canadian Artillery, we find many valuable suggestions, some appearing for the first time, but a great many reiterations of recommendations of previous years which have been passed over in silence.

The present strength of the regiment is 25 officers and 367 n.c.o. and gunners, this latter class being 45 below the authorized establishment. The desertions in the year-reached the very great total of 97. As for the school part, 31 officers and 109 n.c.o. and gunners joined for instruction during the year, and 30 officers and 58 n.c.o. and gunners obtained certificates. Lieut.-Col. D. T. Irwin, writing as officer commanding the Regiment of Canadian Artillery, says:

"There is annually a very considerable change amongst the non-commissioned officers and men of "A" and "B" batteries, the average number of recruits being at least 50 per cent. of the establishment. In order to bring the batteries up to the state of efficiency which as schools of instruction they should attain, these recruits must be carefully and thoroughly trained, but as during the courses of instruction, which last nine months in each year, the energies of all ranks are taxed to the utmost, not only to furnish squads for instruction, but also to provide for the guards, duties and various employments necessitated by the maintenance of these large establishments, it is strongly recommended that unless the changes already recommended in the organization of these schools be effected, only two courses of instruction be provided for during the year, so that the batteries themselves may have sufficient time for their own drills and instruction."

The Commandant next touches upon a subject time and again called attention to in this paper. He says:

"There are now 17 horses in "A" battery, and a similar number in "B" Battery. Taken together, this number would be amply sufficient for one complete field battery at Kingston, which, if fully organized, would afford a very much better means of instruction to all other field batteries than can possibly be now attained by the partial field battery organization at both schools. On the other hand there are 34 garrison batteries which sendofficers and men for instruction to Quebec only. To provide for their thorough and efficient instruction in something more than the elementary garrison artillery course, hitherto only found practicable, an increase in the garrison strength of the school at Quebec would be very desirable, and might without expense be obtained from the Kingston school, where garrison artillery duties are seldom, if ever, required to be taught."

Lt. Col.W. H. Cotton, the officer commanding "A" Battery, Kingston, notes that owing to the reduction caused by the heavy draft to "C" Battery, the number of recruits has been exceptionally large, and with, in many cases, not very happy results. The desertions also were in

proportion to the want of trained non-commissioned officers and men. A detachment consisting of 1 subaltern, 1 veterinary surgeon, 3 staff-sergeants, 1 sergeant, 1 trumpteter and 29 non-commissioned officers and men, with 2 guns and 19 horses, were attached to the artillery brigade camp at Gananoque with much benefit to all concerned. Col. Cotton considers the plan a good one and would be pleased to see it extended as much as possible. The rifle practice had to be discontinued owing to an accident caused by the dangerous condition of the r.fle ranges. Some repairs were effected in October, but too late to permit practice being continued. The usual period under canvas did not take place in the year.

Lt.-Col. C. E. Montizambert, the officer commanding "B" Battery, Quebec, is able to report the organization of a rifle association in connection with the battery, and a very successful prize meeting. He notes again that the citadel of Quebec and the Levis forts remain almost unarmed.

#### The British Columbia Battery.

Lt.-Col. J. G. Holmes, commanding "C" Battery, makes a very comprehensive report, from which the following paragraphs are extracted:

"I am sorry to have to saate that the Battery is a considerable number of men below the strength, and has never at any time during the year been completely up to its establishment. A number of recruits have been enlisted, but not nearly enough to supply losses by desertion and other causes. I am pleased to be able to say that our percentage of loss from desertion has not been as great as I expected, as at this station, where the price of labour is exceptionally high and the demand great, the temptation is consequently in proportion. This is, I think, attributable to the fact that the men here have not been compelled to undergo the burdensome work required for the short courses of instruction, when the same drills are done by men month after month, not for their own good, but for the instruction of others. The absence of attached men for instruction in any numbers is caused by the smallness of the mil tia force in the district, and also by the low rate of pay allowed, rendering it impossible for any officer or min in civil employment to leave it for the purpose. The pecuniary loss he would be called upon to make, being too great, and in the case of an officer, the absolute impossibility of his being able to live upon the small sum allowed as his daily pay

"The established strength of the battery is far too small. The various duties here are quite as great as in "A" or "B" batteries, and greater than in the Infantry companies, which are the same in strength without taking into consideration the attached officers and men, thirty in number, allowed to all corps. Of the latter we have, comparatively speaking, none, whilst in all eastern stations the complement is nearly always filled. The following shows the total strength of the batteries (exclusive of attached):—A, 157; B, 169; C, 107. I would earnestly call attention to my recommendation of last year that "C" battery be allowed one officer and 30 men additional to its present strength. Should this not be practicable at present, I would again suggest that the batteries be equalized in strength, making each battery as follows:—A,145; B, 145; C, 144 and one officer, 145. I feel quite sure that the cause for discontent among the men will be much lessened by this means, and when it is considered that our men have to be brought from the East at a considerable expense to the public, their loss from a pecuniary point of view is considerable. Should something not be done I fear our present proportion of loss cannot be kept down, as at present complaints are made by the men at the amount of duty they are calle I upon to perform, although it is kept at the lowest possible point.

### STATUS AND DISCIPLINE.

"The status of the permanent corps is one deserving of consideration. At present they are regular troops serving under the guise of militia. This does not tend to clevate the *esprit* of the force. Men who are worth having will not knowingly enlist for continuous military service unless they are given the privilege of regular soldiers. To put them in the same list with men who enjoy all the emoluments of civil employment and who devote only a small portion of their time to military duties, does not tend to make them contented, and unless they are the service will not be as it should be.

"I am satisfied that if they are (as are their sister permanent corps in Australia) given the title of regular corps, a vast improvement will shortly be seen, not only in the numbers but in the quality of the recruits, and also in their discipline and interior economy. This need not carry with it any relative seniority as is allowed to officers in the imperial service over all militia officers, but provision certainly should be made that officers in permanent colonial corps should take rank

equally with officers of the imperial regular service. As it is now, a cadet leaving the Royal Military College, Kingston, and entering an imperial regiment immediately becomes senior to a brother cadet, who may have graduated much higher and have served for many years in our permanent service. Not only that, but to make matters still worse, if the cadet who has joined the imperial service (as is sometimes the case) gets employment in his native colony, he is given a step in local rank, thus making him senior to men who have served continuously since he wore short clothes.

"An improvement in the title of the permanent corps would cost nothing, and do much towards advancing this desirable object. There can surely be no reason why we should not have the 'Royal Canadian Hussars,' the 'Royal Canadian Artillery,' the 'Royal Canadian Infantry,' or that the sister corps of militia should have the monopoly of honourable and pleasing titles.

#### PAY AND ALLOWANCES.

"I would respectfully call attention to my remarks last year regarding the allowance to the officers of an increase in their pay of 25 per cent. to meet the increased cost of living in this expensive country. I also beg to state that the money allowance in lieu of quarters is, in the case of married officers, quite insufficient to meet the cost. The position here of the officers, in a pecuniary sense, is so much worse than that of those in eastern stations that I would most earnestly request that the matter may be made the subject of special inquiry, with a view to redress should it be found that this matter is one deserving of consideration, as I am sure it will be.

"Rifle practice has been carried on with energy under the supervision of Major Peters, who has been untiring in his efforts in encouraging the men to become good shots. A grant of money towards the Battery Rifle Association would be of great assistance. The men have done a great deal from their small means in the purchase of ammunition, but it is a question whether it is fair to call upon either officers or men to contribute, as at present, towards what may be fairly called a matter of public necessity.

"The means of artillery instruction are very incomplete; in fact the syllabus cannot be carried out at all at this station. Drill with mortar, siege gun or gyn is impracticable, owing to the want of the necesssary ordnance and stores. The course has been modified to meet this, but steps should be taken in order to place this school on the same footing in this respect as the others."

#### Regimental News.

The annual drill of the Governor General's Foot Guards, Ottawa, commenced on Monday evening, when there was a good turnout of the regiment. A very interesting programme has been outlined for the drill season, which it is intended shall last until the middle of June. This includes squad, company and battalion drill; manual, firing and bayonet exercise; guard mounting; extended order and attack drill, and a series of lectures by the adjutant, Capt. W. E. Hodgins, on "Military Trifles."

### NEW BRUNSWICK GARRISON ARTHLERY.

Towards the close of last month St. John, N. B., suddenly determined to emulate Montreal in the holding of a winter carnival drive. The affair was exceedingly creditable, the procession being fully a mile and a half long. The Artillery took a prominent part, and their share is thus described:—

To the Artillery belongs the honor of a fine historic representation. Nos. 1 and 4 Batteries joined in a scene illustrative of the overland wintry journey of the Imperial troops in 1861, when all England and America were excited over the seizure by the latter power of Mason and Slidell, the Confederate commissioners to England, from on board the steamer "Trent." It is fresh in the recollection of many persons how the troops were hurried out to Canada by the "Himalaya" and other transports, the majority being landed at St. John, N. B. From thence they were transported in the depth of winter by ordinary country sleds, the cumbersome sledges brought out from England, constructed with "sufficient iron to build a schooner," being discarded. Every morning saw large detachments of various troops of the Guards, Royal Artillery or other corps start out on their long drive to Quebec.

The transport arrangements of the home authorities were well represented by the N. B. Artillery in the carnival drive. First came their fine band in a large, low box-sled drawn by four horses; then followed a stage sleigh with officers of the brigade, and then six double teams, consisting of rough country sleds, with boards across for seats, filled with n. c. o's and gunners, wrapped in their great coats, seated in the rough and ready conveyance; after this came two double sleds containing field guns, wheels and carriages taken apart and lashed for transport.

In the rear followed an enormous load of baggage, consisting of rifle cases, chests, bales of blankets, kits and other impedimenta, with a guard duly mounted protecting the same.

The teams had mottoes such as "Trent Affair," "To Quebec," "Via

Fredericton," "Via Grand Falls," "Via Riviere du Loup," etc.

The local papers all speak very highly of the representation, and

describe it as an idea happily conceived and well carried out.

In addition to the above, Portland Battery, No. 3, of the same corps, had a capital representation of a detachment lying in camp. On their large sled was room for a tent, two small field pieces, arms piled, and a main guard, etc. Changing sentries, relieving guards, paying compliments, challenging, and so on, were carried out on their limited space during the drive with great spirit, while on the sides of the camp ground were mottoes of a loyal character. This portion of the carnival was also much appreciated and produced expressions of approval by the thousands who viewed the affair on the line of route.

#### EIGHTH ROYAL RIFLES.

The regiment commenced their annual drill on Friday evening, March 1, and had a march cut through the principal streets of the city.

On Friday evening, the 15th inst., a large number of admirers were attracted to the drill hall to witness the parade. There was a strong muster of the men. Both bands were in attendance and performed during the evening.

The battalion, notwithstanding that over sixty recruits have joined this year, is drilling remarkably well, while the appearance of the men leaves nothing to be desired—in fact the regiment never looked better.

The first of a course of lectures on Military Discipline, etc., to the non-commissioned officers of the regiment was delivered last Wednesday evening by Capt. Ernest F. Würtele, the adjutant, in the orderly room drill hall, before a fair attendance.

#### Toronto.

The officer commanding the Royal Grenadiers has promoted Corporal W. G. Fowler, "G" Co., to be a sergeant, and Corporal H. Tew, of the same company to be a sergeant provisionally. Private Robert McVittie has been made assistant armourer-sergeant. Sergeants Mc-Vittie and Tom Mitchell, the two best shots in Canada, have been transferred to "A" Co., which is under Capt. John I. Davidson. Three other men have joined the company recently, all of whom have been at Wimbledon, and one of them was amongst the best shots in Scotland. The company intends to devote special attention to rifle shooting this season and there is a talk of challenging any other company in Canada. Capt. D. M. Howard has completed a course of instruction in the Royal School of Infantry, London, and has joined the company. Two new officers will shortly join the regiment, Messrs. MacDonald and Heward. There is no truth in the rumour that Capt. John I. Davidson intends resigning. It was said that owing to his duties as chairman of the building committee of the Board of Trade he was about to do so. This is not the case. He would sooner give up the Board of Trade than the regiment. Until the new building is completed it is probable that he will not attend drill as regularly as he used to, but he has two subalterns who will do the work.

#### WHISPERS FROM THE QUEEN'S OWN.

Officers, non.-coms. and men of the Queen's Own Rifles all are

eager to get to work at "Infantry Drill 1889."

"G" and "B" companies have had some company drills, "C" and "E" commence this week. "F" has done some excellent work already, and the men deserve great praise for the way they have turned out.

The non.-coms. class, which has been hard at work all the winter, has already completed its course. Lieut. Crean now has charge of the class.

The recruit class was organized on Wednesday evening, 13th, by Capt. Macdonald. Between 40 and 50 recruits were present, and fresh batches arrive each drill night. The instructors are Sergt. F. Hurst, Ptes. A. M. Burns and W. E. Smith. This is Pte. Smith's first essay at instruction. He is principal of Rose Avenue public school and will without doubt make a first-class instructor.

The Q. O. R. Minstrel Club is doing good work under the able leadership of Mr. E. W. Schuch. It is intended to give an entertainment early in May in aid of the Band Fund. Judging from the work

the club is doing now, it will be a great success.

"E" company's annual dinner at the Reform Club on Friday evening, 15th, was an enjoyable affair. Capt. Mutton was in the chair; on his right was Major Delamere, and on his left ex-Capt. Miller. Colour-Sergt. Ritchie occupied the vice chair. The table decorations were unique and the menu admirable. After doing justice to the repast the company resolved inself into a mutual admiration society. The toasts of "The Queen," "Our Commauding Officer and Staff," "Our ex-Members," "Our Guests," and "The Ladies," were heartily drunk and drew

from those who responded many loyal, witty and sensible speeches. Amongst the best efforts of the evening were those of Major Delamere; ex-Capt. Miller, Mr. McMurchy, Lieut. Knifton, ex-Qr.-Mr. Sergt. Blight, ex-Colour-Sergt. Simpson, Colour-Sergt. Ritchie and Corpl. Lennox. Several volunteered toasts were drunk, but none was more heartily received than that proposed, in a neatly worded speech, by Pte. Thorn-hill, "Our Adjutant, Capt. Macdonald." Capt. Macdonald, who on rising was greeted with prolonged applause, made a graceful reply to the compliment paid him, and gave the company some good advice on things military. The evening was enlivened by songs from Capt. Mutton, Messrs. Blight and Simpson, Sergt. Bowden and Ptes. Dent, Thorn-hill, James, Haight, Cuthbert and McCaul. Pte. Haight made a decided hit with his topical song, "When the Pigs begin to Fly." The whole event was very successful, as have been all entertainments of the sort which "Thirsty Five" has ever undertaken.

Kune Sohn.

The cosy house of Capt. Pellatt at 513 Sherbourne street, was the scene of a gathering of many of the officers of the Queen's Own Rifles on the 14th inst. Lieut.-Col. A. A. Miller, the late commander of the regiment, was present in response to a an invitation, but he had no idea that he was to take a prominent part. He was pleasantly undeceived however, when a massive arm chair was rolled into the drawing-room and presented to him on behalf of the officers of the regiment which he has so ably commanded. The gallant ex-Colonel was completely surprised. In the absence of Lieut.-Col. Allan, whom ill-health has compelled to go south, the presentation was made by Major Delamere in a neat speech, to which Col. Miller responded in excellent manner. The evening was pleasantly spent and many a tale of camp and field was told. The chair is a handsome specimen of wood carvers and upholsterers' best art. It is high, wide and massive, the woodwork being polished oak most beautifully carved. The ends of the arms are lions' heads; over the back is carved the arms of Canada with the British and Canadian ensigns, while a silver plate bears a suitable inscription. That the Colonel may live long to fill the chair is the wish of not only the Queen's Own, but of many outside.

#### INTERVIEWING THE GOVERNMENT.

A deputation of military men from the west arrived in Ottawa to day (Thursday, 21st inst.), for the purpose of endeavoring to secure government assistance towards bringing four city corps to camp to learn the new system of infantry drill just prescribed. The corps are the Queen's Own Rifles and Grenadiers of Toronto, the Thirteenth Battalion of Hamilton and the Dufferin Rifles of Brantford, and it is proposed that they should spend four days together on Niagara Common, probably the finest parade ground in Ontario. The deputation consisted of Lt.-Col. Otter, D.A.G., Lt.-Col. Dawson, 10th R.G., Major Mason, 10th, Major Delamere, Q. O. R., Capts. Macdonald, Sankey, Pellatt and Howard. They were accompanied by Senators McInnes, Turner, Sanford, Macdonald, and the following members of the Commons: Col. Bergin, Surgeon General, Lt.-Col. Denison, Major Carpenter, Messrs. Small, McKay and Brown. They first interviewed Sir Adolphe Caron, Minister of Militia. Col. Dawson was chief spokesman of the deputation. He pointed out that the city corps, especially those of Toronto, where there is no drill shed or parade ground available, had no opportunity of learning the drill newly prescribed save by going into camp. The men were willing to give their time for nothing if the government would pay for transport and subsistence. It was proposed that about twelve hundred men should take part, and the government grant asked was \$3,500.

Major Carpenter, M.P., endorsed the application, as he did not see how the city corps could acquire the desired information without going into camp and giving a few days hard work to it. Senator Macdonald

also spoke in support of the application.

Sir Adolphe Caron said such a grant as asked for could not be taken out of the ordinary appropriation, and if special votes were proposed applications would be very generally received from other places whose requests could not consistently be refused. He was afraid that the Finance Minister or the Council would not consent to the expenditure involved.

Col. Otter said he thought if the Government would place the sum required in the estimates they would get general support in the House. Major Carpenter, M.P., agreed with this. Col. Denison, M.P., pointed out that similar applications from all city corps might be granted, and still the expenditure for 1889 would be less than for 1888, as a considerable reduction had been made in the estimates.

Mr. Adam Brown said there was no body of men in Canada more

deserving of encouragement than were the volunteers.

Sir Adolphe Caron said the proposition practically meant that certain corps should have sixteen days' drill instead of twelve, as allow 1 at present. He believed himself that twelve days was too short a period,

and had always advocated sixteen days, but had not been able to secure sufficiently large appropriations to meet the outlay. He would lay the application before his colleagues, though he must say he thought there

was little prospect of success.

The deputation and their parliamentary friends next waited upon Sir John Macdonald to make the same application to him. Having heard Col. Dawson, Col. Otter, Mr. Small, Mr. Brown and others, Sir John said he was afraid that in this year of retrenchment the Government could not grant the desired appropriation. "We must consult the military authorities, though," he added, "and I will speak to the Minister and to Gen. Middleton; he's a good practical man." Being further pressed on the score that the new drill could not possibly be learned this year at city headquarters, Sir John jocosely remarked that he would arrange it with President Harrison that there should be no war this

While the deputation were before Sir Adolphe Caron Col. Denison presented a petition from the army and navy veterans of Toronto, asking for the use of the old fort, which they desired fitted up as barracks for such of them as are in destitute circumstances. Sir Adolphe said this too involved a very serious question as there were pensioners in every city in Canada, and they would all want like treatment. However, he

would give the matter consideration.

### Meetings of Riflemen

The twenty-third annual meeting of the Montreal Rifle Association was held Wednesday, 13th inst., at the Victoria Rifles' Armoury, Capt. Hood in the chair. The following were elected office bearers for the ensuing year: Patrons, Sir D. A. Smith, M.P., Mr. J. J. Curran, M.P., Mr. A. Desjardins, M.P., Lieut. Colonels F. Bond and F. Massey, Captains J. S. Hall, jr., M.P.P., and C. C. Newton; presi dent, Capt. John Hood; vice-presidents, Capts. A. H. Sims and W. Abbott; secretary, Mr. K. Mathews; treasurer, Mr. D. McCrae; committee, Messrs. A. Shaw, J. J. Bell, J. R. Wynne, R. Kough, P. Jackson and J. W. Marks; auditors, Messrs. C. L. MacAdam and E. W. Wilson; representatives to D. R. A. and P. Q. R. A., Capt. Newton and Mr. K. Mathews. The first match will be shot at Laprairie on Good Friday, Queen's ranges, Martini rifles. The prizes will be a N. R. A. medal, D. R. A. medal, P. Q. R. A. badge and O. R. A. medal. The shooting men of the district are going to make an effort to have the matter of a rifle range for the city corps brought up in the House at Ottawa. The prospect at present for the shots of the fifth district is very black, little or nothing having been done to the range at Cote St. Luc.

#### THE MANITOBA RIFLE ASSOCIATION.

The annual meeting of the Manitoba Rifle Association was held on the 12th inst., at the office of the Deputy Adjutant General, Winnipeg. The attendance of members was large. Lieut.-Col. Boswell occupied the chair. The first business of the evening was the presentation of the annual reports and accompanying statements, which were received and adopted. The 17th annual report of the council of the association was submitted by Major Buchan, secretary. It first mentioned the lowering of the association debt from \$361.04 to \$84.41. The prize meeting of the past year was fairly successful. The entrance fees amounted to \$489 and the membership fees and grants to \$1,518, as against \$1,584 the previous year. The range and target expenses, including the entire cost of the matches, show a large deduction as compared with the previous year. The amount contributed by the association toward the expenses of the provincial team to the D. R. A. matches was \$270 (9 at \$30 each), against \$320 in 1887. The report of the team matches show that Staff-Sergeant Graburn, 91st, succeeded in winning the N. R. A.

With a view to giving the association more of a provincial character and to extend its influence throughout the province and territories, sev-

eral amendments were suggested by the council.

The council expressed their deep regret at the death of Mr. C. J. Brydges, who for many years had been a life member of the association, and was ever a willing and liberal contributor to the funds. He was always ready to assist in forwarding the aims and interests of the association. The report closed acknowledging the many grants and donations received during the past year.

The following cash statement was presented: Receipts \$2,283.14, disbursements \$2,240.83, balance in bank \$42.31; total assets are

\$212.52.

Captains Benedict and Doidge were then appointed scrutineers. after which the following officers for the ensuing year were elected: Patron, Sir Donald A. Smith; Vice-Patrons, Premier of Manitoba, Mayor

of Winnipeg, and the Chief Commissioner of the H. B. Co.; President, A. Logan; Vice Presidents, Lieut.-Col. Boswell and W. M. Whyte; Council, Capt. Wastie Brandon, Lieut. Brown, Portage la Prairie; Major Bell, Indian Head, N.W.T.; Inspector Norman, N. W. M. P., Regina; Private Gillies, Stony Mountain; Captains Balfour, Graburn, Bruce and Doidge, Lt. Benedict, Staff Sergeant Mitchell, Color Sergeant Kennon, Winnipeg. Representatives on council of Dominion Rifle Association, T. M. Daly, M. P., and Lt.-Col. D. A. McDonald, Ottawa. The thanks of the meeting were tendered the retiring officers and the chairman.

#### ONTARIO RIFLE ASSOCIATION.

The annual meeting of the Council of the Ontario Rifle Association was held on Saturday, 16th inst., at the Rossin House, Toronto. In the absence of the president, Mr. Wm. Mulock, M. P., the chair was taken by Major J. J. Mason, of Hamilton.

There were present Col. Gzowski, Lieut. Cols. Otter and Alger. Majors Dunn and Delamere, Capts. Mutton (secretary), Bruce, Manley and O'Brien, and Messrs. McNachtan, Crowe, Cartwright, L. H. Irving, A. J. Greene, A. Bell, Pearce and Mowat, each representing affiliated

The first important matter was introduced by Col. Gzowski, who may be termed "the father of the O. R. A.," and who is always watchful of its interests at home and abroad. Col. Gzowski referred to the fact that it was thought by some that the different rifle associations were not doing their duty, inasmuch as they failed to bring out the rank and file of the force, who were thus left ignorant of the first duties of a soldier, the handling of his rifle. He would rectify this by introducing an idea that had been first suggested to him by Lieut. L. H. Irving, late of the Toronto Garrison Artillery. It was that the O. R. A. should set the lead by requesting the Government to require every battalion in Ontario to send a team of eight men who have never fired in a match before to the annual matches in August, and to pay their transport, and that the association should give a handsome prize or prizes to encourage this object. He suggested \$100, of which he will contribute one-half. The Colonel stated that such a course will greatly stimulate rifle shooting among the rural battalions, from whom competitors would be chosen, and to which they would return with fresh ideas of shooting as learned among the crack shots of the Dominion at the ranges in Toronto.

The remarks were received with much favor, and as Col. Gzowski was called away from the meeting it was moved by Col. Otter that the suggestions be embodied in a resolution. This was carried unanimously.

The Secretary introduced a deputation from the City Council, Mayor Clarke and Ald. McMillan, on the subject of Garrison Common. His Worship explained that the Council wished to work in harmony with the volunteers, in proof of which he pointed to Alderman McMillan, who had been a volunteer, and whose sons were all in the force to-day. They wished more room for Exhibition Park, and while admit ting that they were powerless to enforce their request he thought they would surely come to terms. These were that the Rifle Association should allow the city the use of the grounds during the two weeks of the fair, for which time the grounds were always closed at present. And that in return the city would level and improve the common and make the butts as safe as they could be made for shooting purposes. The remarks of His Worship were supplemented by the chairman of the Executive and were well received by the riflemen present.

This committee was appointed to confer with the one from the City Council: President Mulock, Lieut.-Cols. Otter and Gibson, Majors

Delamere and Dunn and Capt. Bruce.

A deputation of the Toronto Cricket Club, composed of Messrs. G. G. S. Lindsey and Shanly, was introduced. The club requested the sub-lease of a piece of land just west of the Old Fort for the purpose of a cricket ground. The idea was entertained by the council and referred to the same committee as above for confirmation.

These officers were chosen, the President and vice-presidents having been elected at the annual meeting of the association in August last:

Treasurer—Lieut.-Col. Alger (re-elected).

Secretary - Capt. Mutton, Q.O.R. (re-elected).

Auditors—Capt. Boomer (retired list) and Capt. T. D. Delamere

Certain important suggestions from the annual meeting were then discussed and it was decided that the time system should be adopted at the matches this year; that the number of rounds in the extra series be reduced from seven to five; that the whole range be open for an hour each morning for extra series; that in the Canada Company match (maiden) "any" position may be used instead of "kneeling."

The secretary, Capt. Mutton, showed the council a sample of the medals he had procured by order of the council for the winners in the London Merchants' Cup Match, at Ottawa. They were greatly admired and unanimously approved. The prize meeting this year will be held

during the week preceding the D.R.A. meeting at Ottawa,

### Artillery Draft.

In the last report of the proceedings of the Royal Artillery Institution there is a very interesting article on the above subject by Lieut. H. A. Bethell, R.A., the chief points of which are here given:

Modern weapons and modern artillery tactics have altered the conditions under which the present system of artillery draft was established. Then the effective range of musketry was 200 yards, and of artillery 1,000 yards; now our rifles range up to 1,200 yards, yet we are taught that artillery must take its place in the front fighting line at ranges from 1,500 yards up to short rifle range. It is worth while then to inquire whether our system is as well adapted to the new order of things as to the old

Two principal things are required of a gun team: 1. To draw a gun long distances over all sorts of ground with the least possible fatigue to the horses. 2. To stand being shot at as much as possible without being altogether disabled. Experience has shown that our present sixhorse three-driver team satisfies the first of these conditions; the objection that extra work is thrown on the shaft-horse is got over by using a stronger horse than the rest of the team for this purpose. Whether in war time a supply of such extra strong horses would be available is another question. The second condition—resistance to fire effect—is a question of replacing disabled horses and combining the remnants of a partly disabled team. It is obviously best satisfied by a system in which all the horses are equipped alike, and in which any particular horse can be unhooked with the least possible delay. This is hardly the case with our present system with which among six horses we have four different noninterchangeable patterns of equipment, and in which the whole team must be unhooked to extricate a wheel-horse. The same conditions apply to men. With three drivers only the loss of one man may be sufficient to disable the whole team.

I propose to describe a system which in this respect will, I think, compare favourably with the present one. A six-horse team, each horse ridden by a gunner. Pole draft. No kit of any sort carried on the horses, except a cotton head-rope. The whole of the present marching order kit, except the shoes, which are under the footboard, is carried in knapsacks on the axle-tree seats, and arranged so as to be used as a shield in action. Two gunners on the limber. In action the off-side gunners dismount. On the march the team is driven alternately by the three near side and three off-side gunners, the remaining three either walking or riding on the limber and axle-tree seats. The distinction between gunners and drivers is abolished. Once established, the principle that a team should be driven (when under fire) by six men, not three, it follows naturally that each of the six should be efficient both as a gunner and as a driver.

Without going into detail, the principal points of difference in equipment are :

Harness.—All universal saddles, wheeler's breeching, like the present riding-wheeler's, connected to the collar at both ends. The horse will then hold back from his breech, through the bottom of the collar and the pole-chain. This difference of equipment will not prevent a leader from being used in the wheel without a breeching, as a horse can on emergency hold back with his neck. The bridle, a plain curb with a neck strap for picketing. No head collar. On the march, the hand horse's reins will be passed under his neck; when unlimbered the hand horse can be driven sufficiently well with one rein.

Dress.—Mounted infantry kit. Field boots or putties. The rest of the kit reduced in weight.

Arms.—Pistols all round for protection when in billets, etc., not for use in action. No swords, long or short, except for officers and staff-sergeants.

Carriages.—Tubular steel where it can be used. The chief point as effecting daaft is that the weight on the limber should be carried lower down, so that—allowing for the weight of the trail—the centre of gravity should be nearly coincident with that of draft. i.e., the axletree. This will prevent jar on the necks of the wheelers from the pole; if possible, a spring trail-eye or limber-hook.

From the point of view of "resistance to fire effect" the advantages of the system above outlined are sufficiently obvious. As a system of draft pure and simple, its chief advantages are:

draft pure and simple, its chief advantages are:

1st. The greatly reduced weight carried by the horses. It may be safely said that 99 per cent. of the work on service will be done on the line of march. At present the team have to carry the three men and the double marching order kit the whole time, no change or relief being possible, while, as proposed, they will carry the men only, and each horse will be ridden only half the time.

2nd. The greater flexibility afforded by a system of interchangeable men and horses. For instance, a horse with a sore back could work in his proper place, as he need not be ridden.

3rd. The activity of a team in marching order (in which order it may be assumed that a battery would always go into action) is at present much reduced by the number of loose articles of kit which are hung about them. In this respect a team carrying nothing but harness and riders would have an immense advantage.

The chief objections to which the proposed system is open are: Pole-draft—"Carriage not so well under control." This is admitted and cannot be helped. I think, however, the disadvantages are exaggerated. "Extra strain on the pole horses."—With a proper distribution of weight, I think the strain would be less than at present, especially as it is divided

between two horses.

It is urged that it takes a man all his time to become a good driver or a good gunner, and that the proposed "hybrid" would be neither. I do not consider a gunner's duties so difficult to learn as this would imply. A horse artilleryman is not generally considered to be a worse gunner because a great part of his time is taken up in riding and sword drill. As for men who cannot learn to ride, they are usually deficient in activity, and as such out of place in a field battery. The thirty limbergunners, moreover, furnish billets for a certain number of heavyweights. "The two lead drivers would be of different minds, and would not go at an obstacle together." This is difficult to overcome by practice. With reference to this, as to the objection to pole-draft, I have never heard that the old Bengal Horse Artillery were inferior to modern batteries at getting over bad ground.

"A man should never be separated from his kit." This is an infantry notion. In India the importance attached to it is shown by the fact that a gunner's kit is carried on a camel miles away. A gunner or driver is not, like a cavalry or infantryman, a complete fighting unit, but only part of a subdivision. As soon as he is separated from his gun and waggon he ceases to be efficient, and no provision need be made for his food or clothing. It follows that the kit should always go with the gun, not with the man. Moreover, the proper use for kits in action is as bullet-proof shields. Most modern writers agree on the necessity of some form of protection. Why, however, a battery which carries some hundreds of cubic feet of boots, gray shirts, blankets, and other bullet-proof materials should encumber itself with armour plates is not apparent.

In conclusion, I may say that I have advanced these somewhat revolutionary ideas less in the hope of seeing any of them carried out than of provoking criticism and discussion from officers of more experi-

ence than myself.

#### The British Soldier's Pluck.

Mr. Frederic Villiers, the noted war artist and correspondent of the London *Graphic*, who has within the past few weeks lectured in several cities of Eastern Canada, while in Montreal was interviewed by a *Witness* correspondent, to whom he imparted some interesting information relative to the operations in which Britain's soldiers have been engaged in recent years:

"I want you to make a comparison with the British and the Russian soldier, 'said the interviewer. "You have seen both in the field?" "Yes," said Mr. Villiers, "and there is no comparison whatever

"Yes," said Mr. Villiers, "and there is no comparison whatever between the troops. The British are superior in every respect. I never saw Tommy Atkins to such advantage as I did when he cut his way through to the Nile. The worse our position became the more desperately he fought. I just saw their backs when the vast horde of fifteen thousand men swept down upon them. They did not get near enough for hand-to-hand work. I think the British soldier is as good a man as he ever was. There we were short of food—water not to be had—the situation growing worse every moment. But we knew that the water was in front of us, and the soldiers were determined to get it. They did."

"What do you think of the chances of our troops in a war with

Russia?"

"I think it will be largely a question of numbers, arms and position—strategy. The British officer, however, is superior to the Russian, and therefore we should not suffer in regard to the matter of position. The day has gone, however, for hand to-hand work, such as gave British pluck the chance to turn the balance against superior numbers, as at the Crimea."

"Did you not come to hand-to-hand work in Egypt?"

"Oh, yes, at the wells and also at Tel-el-Kebir. But the advance in the quality of arms reduces the question to one of position and numbers. The British did admirable work at close quarters, but there is less of it."

"I suppose you have not had your adventures without paying for it all in hardship?"

"No; the worst of it is that we sometimes got nothing to eat. I was with Archibald Forbes one time, and for three whole days we had

only a few bunches of grapes. When we are with the British army we are on the staff, so far as rations are concerned, but when we are in the foreign camp we have to look out for ourselves and carry our own rations and baggage."

"What do you consider the moral effect of the British interference

in Egypt?"

"I consider it excellent for her prestige. When you go right into a row with both arms up, your fists in full play, it has a different aspect from going into it in such a manner as to hide your head and send your body in first. But when our troops were ordered away I think the effect was bad. I heard that speech of General Wolseley's, in which he said that if it took Queen Victoria a hundred years and all her men she would smash the Mahdi. The chiefs stood and listened, believing every word. The next day we were ordered away. It was the same thing in Afghanistan. That vacillating policy destroyed the effect of the dash of the troops."

"Did you see anything of our voyageurs at work?"

"Oh, yes. There was some insubordination among the men when they came first, which might have been expected, but you must know there were some men who were not voyageurs at all in the number. After they got used to it they did almost as well as the voyageurs. They were of great service, especially in bringing General Brackenbury's troops down. That was a masterly retreat. Yes; I believe that the bringing of the Canadian voyageurs out was a master-stroke of Wolseley, worth all it cost."

### President Harrison's Ministers.

(New York Army and Navy Journal).

The secretaries who preside over the two departments with which our readers are chiefly concerned are both of them ex-officers of volunteers. The Secretary of War, Redfield Proctor, of Proctorsville, near Rutland, Vt., when Lincoln issued his first call for troops in 1861, at once tendered his services as a private soldier, but Gen. Geo. F. Davis, the Quartermaster-General of Vermont, knowing his honesty, capacity, and spirit, had him made quartermaster of the 3rd Vermont Regiment, with the rank of lieutenant. He soon had a chance to show his mettle in an engagement at Lewinsville, Va. (Sept. 11, 1861), under the eye of General McClellan, who complimented him and recommended him for promotion. Soon after he was made major of the 5th Vermont, but before having much opportunity for service he was prostrated (in the winter of 1861-2), by typhoid fever, and for a long time his life was despaired of. Upon his recovery in the fall of 1862, he rejoined his regiment on the Peninsula, just in time to accept an unsought and unanimous election as colonel of the 15th Vermont. In this position he served faithfully and acceptably. He was born in June 1831, is a graduate of Dartmouth College, and by profession a lawyer. He has served his State as a representative in the legislature, member of the State Senate, Lieutenant-Governor and Governor, and was last year unanimously recommended by the legislature of Vermont for a cabinet position. He is vigorous and capable, has fine administrative talents, as well as large experience in the conduct of public office.

We most cordially congratulate the navy on the selection of Benjamin F. Tracy as Secretary of the Navy. We know him to be an honest man; a high minded and honourable gentleman, with whom the best elements in the service will find themselves in full sympathy. He is also a man of exceptional ability; energetic and positive, and at the same time considerate and courteous. His standing at the bar is indicated by the fact that his professional income is several times the salary of a cabinet officer, and that he has held the highest judicial office in the State of New York, that of Judge of the Court of Appeals. He was at the age of twenty-three chosen District Attorney of Tioga County, New York, and served as such for three terms. He was a member of the New York Assembly in 1861 and U.S. District Attorney for the eastern district of New York from 1866 to 1873. In 1862 he took an active part in recruiting for the army, as military commandant of the twenty-fourth Senatorial district, appointed by Governor Morgan, and was made colonel of one of the three regiments recruited by him, the 109th New York. His command was a part of General Grant's advance force and took a prominent part in the battles of the Wilderness and Spottsylvania. In the Wilderness fight General Tracy led his men into the thickest of the contest, and toward the close of the day he fell to the ground exhausted. After Spottsylvania he was compelled to return to New York on account of impaired health. When his health improved he returned to the front, taking command of the 127th Regiment of coloured troops. Later he was placed in command of the rendezvous and prison camp at Elmira, where 10,000 prisoners were under his charge. At the close of the war he was made a brevet brigadiergeneral of volunteers.

### Gleanings.

The London correspondent of the New York Times says:—"Lord Wolseley may or may not have the opportunity of proving himself a great general in a big campaign, but he has left his mark on the British army in a way no man has done since the Duke of Wellington's middle age, and some people know how much more he wants to do and would do if he were not tied by the leg, and that almost as much by the third-rate Secretary for War as by the fossil Royal Duke."

Recurring to the question of American-bred horses for the British cavalry, a London correspondent writes: "There are to-day but 11,800 horses available for 18,300 non-commissioned officers and men in the British cavalry, and a cavalier without a horse is not a very useful being. But we have 6,500 of these anomalies. Then the proportion of horses sick is always greater than that of men sick; so we may take it that there are 8,000 British cavalrymen without beasts to carry them. The deficit in the artillery is nearly as great, owing to the batteries only being horsed for the peace establishment of guns. Thus, whenever we are in a bit of trouble we shall want at least 10,000 horses from beyond sea at say \$250 a piece. Meanwhile we shall be glad to get decent horses at \$200 each rising four years. And those which for any reason are unfitted for cavalry or artillery work would still be worth for the army Service Corps \$175. Now, farmers on limestone lands across the Atlantic, don't all speak at once, but still let us hear from you."

Outing for April is a very strong sporting number. We note the following principal articles:—Clumber Spaniels, by "Clumber," with penand-ink sketches of champion dogs, by Marie Guise; "Evolution of form in College Rowing, II, the Harvard stroke", by E. M. Garnett; "Big Game Hunting in the Wild West" (The American Elk or Wapiti), by the late Brig. Gen. R. B. Marcy; and "The Larchmont Yacht Club," by F. S. Pinckney, with illustrations from photographs of the club house and representative yachts. "A Wheelman's Fatalities," by J. William Fosdick, is a very entertaining account of a trip through Normandy. Fishermen will be interested in "Trout Fishing in the Gros Bois of Canada." Amateur photographers will read with interest and profit, Ellerslie Wallace's "Amateur Photography. We note further, "Not Guilty, the Farce of Adirondack Game Protection," by G. H. Worden; "Racing in England as it is," by Borderer; "Cricket in Australia, by G. H. D. Gossip; and "Coursing in Ireland," by R. F. Welsh. "Beneath the Pines, Diffugere Nives" and "Whar the Hand O' God is seen," as poems of unusual?" merit. The Editorial departments are bright and attractive, and the records give a faithful resume of the achievements of our athletes.



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