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MILITIA NEWS AND NOTES.

HALF HOURS OFF DUTY.

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MISCELLANEOUS.

Current Topics.

THE TIME is but a generation removed since occurrences such as those imagined by the Winnipeg newspaper man whose ideas of Christmas festivities at the Mounted Infantry School were published in a recent issue, would have been as likely as they are now improbable. The Canadian soldier and the powers governing him realize that there are ideals of mortal happiness higher than the exaltation producible by unlimited "drink," and one of the teachings of the Winnipeg school, as in others of our service, is that drunkenness is the mother of all soldiers' crimes.

THE Kingston *Whig* republishes the article on the Royal Military College which appeared in our issue of last week, and also makes the following comment: "The institution has met every fair expectation, and it is sure to find the support of all who know of the work it is performing. Graduates of other colleges drift into occupations which they did not intend to follow, and graduates of the Military College should be allowed to pursue such callings as best suit them without the suspicion spreading that their education has been a failure. As a matter of fact the Royal Military College develops the cadets physically and mentally in a way which fits them for civil as well as military life. They must be students to remain in the college at all, and when they graduate they do honour to it.

BIG BEAR'S death, which occurred at Battleford a couple of weeks ago, removes the last of the three great leaders of the rebellion of 1885. Riel paid upon the gallows the penalty for the terrible bloodshed he had for the second time instigated in the Northwest; his ally Poundmaker died suddenly from excess of good living a short time after the termination of a period of imprisonment for the part he had taken in the disorders. The whole body of volunteers who went to the front were particularly interested in Big Bear, from the fact that before he was captured all three brigades had to join in the pursuit, General Middleton reinforcing General Strange, after the latter's engagement at Frenchman's Butte, and Col. Otter's column moving from Battleford to Turtle Lake to intercept the Bear in his flight from their combined force. This wily Indian was the chief of a nomadic band of Crees who persistently refused to settle on a reserve or make a treaty with the government, preferring to wander about at will to settling down and engaging in agriculture. Their exploits during the rebellion included the capture of

the Hudson Bay post at Frog Lake, and the massacre of several of the residents there; the capture of Fort Pitt, the body of Mounted Police defending it being forced to abandon their charge; the three days' fighting at Frenchman's Butte, and an action with a party of Mounted Police under Major Steele, at Loon Lake.

AGITATION for the establishment of a cavalry school at Toronto has been renewed in the press of that city. A year or so ago the importance of establishing such a school was urgently pressed upon the Government, by the Mayor and Council of Toronto, by officers of that city, and also by a deputation of Ontario Members of Parliament. The Minister of Militia has recommended to the Government that the request be complied with, but financial considerations have blocked the way so far. Canada's strength in cavalry is 1,944, of which number 1,017—more than half—are in Ontario, but the only school where the officers may receive necessary instruction is at Quebec.

OPPORTUNITY for advocacy of a trial of the Canadian Pacific Railway as a transport route for Imperial troops has been afforded by the publication of the proposed movements of regiments from station to station in 1888, and is thus taken advantage of by a correspondent of the *Empire*: "I enclose a clipping from an English paper, by which you will see that in the movements of Imperial troops for 1888 the Northamptonshire Regiment (old 58th), stationed at Hong Kong, is to be moved to Halifax, N. S. It has occurred to me that the Imperial authorities should be induced to test the new route from Hong Kong to Vancouver. By a glance at the map of the world any person can perceive that this route is by far the shortest and least dangerous, instead of the long voyage of sailing through the intricate China sea, the dangerous navigation of the Straits of Sunda, across the Indian ocean, up the Red sea, through the Mediterranean and finally across the Atlantic. Don't you think the C. P. P. might move in the matter?"

DENYING, in a letter to the *Mail*, any responsibility for the recent cable reports concerning the alleged disorganization of the Canadian Militia, Captain Edward Palliser proceeds: "I consider myself most fortunate in having served with the militia in the Northwest as a Canadian officer attached to General Strange's staff, and I always had the highest opinion of the bravery and endurance of your troops. Indeed, I have often stated that Canada could hold her own and gain successes against the United States forces in case of a sudden outbreak of war, this being due to the state of her militia, as compared with the state of the United States militia. American officers agree with me in this opinion, viz., that in the outset the soldierlike qualities, combined with the superior training of the infantry, backed by the numerous and efficient field batteries, would lead to success till great exertions, and enormous expense, had been undertaken by the 60,000,000 over the border. It is satisfactory to know that carelessness about militia training by the dwellers under the Spread Eagle is due to their being

always at peace all round; whereas if the Old Country should get into hot water with European powers, Canada would have to defend herself on the Atlantic and Pacific shores. Americans well understand the necessity of a militia force for Canada, ruled in an almost absolute manner by the Canadian Government, as compared with their handsome State forces." Those Canadians who would decrease our militia expenditure will find food for timely reflection in the concluding lines of the above quotation.

ARTILLERY friends tell us that there seems to be no disposition on the part of the Government to grant money sufficient to enable the Dominion Artillery Association to offer prizes for a competition at the Island of Orleans next year, and that therefore it will not be advisable to further press the old country volunteer artillery teams who proposed to pay a visit to Canada. These great central competitions are to the artillery what the Dominion Rifle Association annual prize gatherings are to the infantry branch of the service. They serve to keep the artillerymen keenly interested in their work, as a rule of a very arduous nature, and have become almost a necessity. Hitherto private subscription has defrayed to a considerable extent the cost of these artillery prize competitions, but their utility having been demonstrated the country should not further sponge upon private individuals. It can well afford to maintain annual artillery prize meetings, just as it can those of the riflemen.

BEFORE the Chamber of Commerce at London last week Baron Brassey lectured on the inadequate defences of coaling stations. The Duke of Cambridge endorsed his views, stating that the prosperity of the Empire depended upon its power to keep commerce free from alarm, and that preparation for contingencies was the truest economy. While formerly there was time to prepare, now warning came one day and action the next. Lord Beresford also gave an address. He explained that he resigned the office of a Junior Lord of the Admiralty because the interests of the military and naval forces had been subordinated to political exigencies. Anybody who knew anything regarding British fortifications concurred with him in the opinion that they were inadequate, and he considered it better to have no guns in the forts than to have those of ancient pattern. Lord Beresford's speech might have appropriately been made by a Canadian minister respecting the armament of the forts of this country.

A SITE has been determined upon for the new rifle range required for the Montreal brigade, the spot chosen being at Cote St. Luc, a western suburb of the city, and handily reached by the Canadian Pacific Railway. In fact the track runs within a few yards of the firing points. It is stated that the Militia Department does not intend to buy the property but will merely lease it for a term of years—fifteen, probably, with option of renewal. As the growth of Montreal towards Cote St. Luc is very rapid, this will mean that at the termination of the lease either an exceedingly high figure will have to be paid for the property or the expense of procuring another site and adapting it for shooting purposes will have to be again incurred. If a business man had use for such a piece of land, and were in position to raise the money for the purchase, he would assuredly prefer to buy. The Department should act upon the same principle. It would be much more satisfactory to the rifle associations and volunteers generally were the proposed site at Cote St. Luc purchased instead of leased. Then, upon the advent of the millenium, or if from any other cause proficiency in rifle shooting should cease to be a desideratum, the property would have so improved in value that it might be sold at a figure which would make the investment exceedingly profitable for the Department.

Canada.

[By A. B. C., in *Toronto Empire*.]

N EATH sunlit skies her lakes extending wide,
Her forests towering in primeval pride,
Her verdant plains, like gently heaving sea,
Roll east and west in boundless majesty;
And rivers broad, their crystal waters flowing,
Like ancient Nile their royal gifts bestowing.

Italian skies not more intensely blue,
No fairer scenes the old world ever knew,
Valleys and hills, and mountain bulwarks hoar
Where eagle pinion may not dare to soar,
Their ice crowned peaks to heaven in reverence lifting,
On which the clouds in shadowy mists are drifting.

Luxurious nature with a bounteous hand
Scatters her blessings o'er the fruitful land;
Resources vast, her prairies garnered grain,
Might all the peoples of the world sustain.
Did earth her yield to other lands deny
Canadian stores could every want supply.

Around her shores the grand old ocean smiles,
Her fisheries spread for many thousand miles.
And her highway, o'er mountain, gorge and stream,
Binds with its iron horse each far extreme.
While mineral treasures long unreamed of hidden
Unfold before the wondering gaze unbidden.

What though her winter wind blows keen and chill!
When every breath with life and vigour thrills,
For energy, for might, for length of years,
The sturdy Northmen have no southern peers;
The record runs till time the struggle ends,
To Gibeon's curse no northern nation bends.

Long as the annals of our race are told,
Strong as the laws that shall that race uphold,
Firm as the rocks that gird our tide-washed shore,
Till race, and rocks, and tide shall be no more;
Fair Canada shall never cease to be:
Home of the Brave, Dominion of the Free.

Correspondence.

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

MORE INFORMATION FOR "SASKAT."

To the Editor of the *Canadian Militia Gazette*:

SIR,—I have noticed "Canada First's" letter and your "Note" in this week's GAZETTE just received and would beg to say that I make it a point to keep my stock as a "military tailor and outfitter" complete, and am ready and in a position to furnish the officers of our force with anything they may require from an inch of medal ribbon to a complete outfit.

Toronto, 27th January, 1888.

JOHN F. CREAN.

"LINCH-PIN": ATTENTION!

To the Editor of the *Canadian Militia Gazette*:

SIR,—"Linch-pin" is out in one particular point he seeks to make against the permanent corps. In his batch of gossip last week, he says it passed a Brigade Major without noticing him, although he had "his war paint on." Perhaps in your next issue L.-P. will give the section and paragraph in the Queen's Regulations where the prescribed compliment is laid down. As he likes to poke fun at the militia, he may not object to a return poke: Perhaps he will kindly accept the advice given by Davy Crockett—"Be sure you are right, then go ahead." "MILISH."

THE TITLES OF CANADIAN CORPS.

To the Editor of the *Canadian Militia Gazette*:

SIR,—Noticing in your issue of the 12th inst. a letter asking the proper title of the Infantry School Corps, has brought to my mind an error, or rather series of errors, of the Militia Department, in the full and abbreviated titles of the different corps in Canada. It is generally supposed that we follow as closely as possible the British army in customs and regulations, but in the instances I will quote this is certainly not done:

Firstly—The abbreviation "Batt." is used to designate a Battalion, whereas in England these letters generally stand for "Battery," and "Bn" is the official abbreviation for "Battalion."

Secondly—In General Orders and the Militia List the names of certain corps are stated, as for instance, "3rd Battalion Victoria Rifles," "10th Battalion Royal Grenadiers," "66th Battalion Princess Louise Fusiliers." Now I maintain that this is entirely wrong, and I have seen the error perpetuated by many officers of like corps. Any battalion with a title such as Rifles, Fusiliers or Light Infantry, etc., is called by such only, and in support of my assertion I can quote a London Gazette or Army List, of date prior to the change to the territorial system, where we find the regiments officially styled, say "23rd Royal Welsh Fusiliers," "88th Connaught Rangers," or "93rd Gordon Highlanders." The word "Regiment" was never applied, and I take it that a battalion in Canada occupies the same position as a regiment in Great Britain. Under the present territorial system the same custom obtains, the word is not used unless it forms part of the title, as "Royal West Kent Regiment" or "The Norfolk Regiment." Why cannot the authorities pay more attention to such matters, and do things properly?

Perhaps "Linch-pin" will add this to his already large list of existing grievances, for which we all owe him special thanks. If I am wrong in my ideas, or if any reason can be given for so calling such battalions of Canadian militia, I shall be pleased to be corrected or informed.

Jan. 26, 1888.

GRENADE.

The Council of the United Service Institution of India have announced their intention of bestowing their next gold medal upon the author of the best essay upon "Infantry Tactics of the Future, and changes involved by the introduction of Repeating or Magazine Rifles and Machine Guns."

Modern Tactics.

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

(Continued from Page 221.)

THIS important operation fell to the lot of the left wing, composed of the VIIIth corps, under Lieut.-General Radetsky. In addition to the Caucasian brigade and a regiment of Don Cossacks, the XIth cavalry division was placed under the orders of the VIIIth corps commander (his own cavalry division having been detached to form part of the cavalry operating in front of the Russian advance).

On the morning of the 24th of April General Radetsky crossed the frontier at the village of Bestomak, and late that evening (24th April) his advanced guard, consisting of XIth cavalry division, Caucasian brigade, one regiment of Don Cossacks, and all the mountain guns, after a ride of sixty-five miles reached the Sereth river, and took possession of the railway bridge near Galatz, on the Danube.

The Russian cavalry (1877) was armed with the short Berdan rifle and bayonet, a weapon almost equal to any rifle the Turks possessed, and General Radetsky considered that his advanced guard was capable of holding its own against whatever Turkish troops they might have to encounter until he came up with the infantry. On several occasions during this war Russian cavalry, dismounted, successfully attacked Turkish infantry.

History repeats itself; and dismounted dragoons are likely once more to play a great role in the campaigns of the future. In Continental armies it seems to be the accepted opinion that dragoons are more generally serviceable and less expensive in the long run than mounted infantry. The difficulty of obtaining trained horses in sufficient numbers will always be a serious drawback to the latter.

Chapter IV.—OUTPOSTS.

The principles on which outpost duties are based are simple and easily defined; but the conditions under which these principles have to be applied are so entirely dependent on circumstances as to preclude any detailed rules being laid down, for fear that the too strict observance of them might hinder the prompt and independent action which officers and men on outpost duty are especially liable to be called upon to exercise.

The probabilities are that no two men look upon a piece of country from quite the same point of view, and the importance of a post is often overrated by the individual who is actually responsible for its safety. Herein lies one of the great dangers to be guarded against, viz., the subordination of the general aim and object in view to the local possibilities of certain portions of the general outpost line.

After reconnoitring the ground, the first thing to impress upon the troops furnishing the outposts is their mission.

Normally the mission of outposts is to prevent the enemy getting within artillery range of the position they are covering until the troops composing the army, whose repose they are guarding, have had time to get under arms, march to, and satisfactorily occupy, their respective stations.

The army once in position and ready to give battle, the sooner the outposts are withdrawn the better, as their presence clouds the fire of the position, while it does not materially aid its defenders to repel the attack.

Outposts if attacked are nearly certain to be greatly outnumbered, and any protracted resistance beyond that already indicated is an unnecessary sacrifice of life; nevertheless, outposts must at all times endeavour to discriminate between a general advance of the enemy to attack, and a feint, or reconnaissance in force; in the latter case it would be their duty to prevent the enemy, if possible, from gaining information regarding the general position, and they should only retire before rapidly increasing numbers, which would indicate that the enemy was being briskly reinforced, and might turn his operations into a real attack supported by his main body.

It sometimes happens that for strategical considerations, or owing to unforeseen circumstances, such for instance as the unexpected reinforcement of the enemy's main body, that the commander of an army deems it expedient to retire without giving battle. In such an event the outposts might be called upon to make a determined and prolonged resistance; but they would then virtually become a rear guard, and their tactics would be no longer those of outposts.

Distance of Main Resistance-line from the Position the Outposts are covering.

Except under the abnormal circumstances of a column being cut off from its base, and liable to be attacked on all sides—what the French call “a column in the air”—outposts cover the front, and overlap the exposed flank or flanks of the position they are protecting.

If the main resistance-line of the outposts is about $2\frac{1}{4}$ miles from the position, this admits of their retiring fighting over one mile of country before the enemy can get within shelling range of its defenders.

One mile properly defended ought, under ordinary circumstances, to ensure about an hour's delay, and the supposition is that in the meantime the general in the rear will have time to get his troops into position.

If a longer delay is necessary, the outposts may be strengthened, but should rarely be farther advanced. To retreat for more than a mile fighting against vastly superior numbers, even with highly trained and disciplined troops, is a dangerous and difficult operation.

The usual reserve, numbering about one-third of the outposts, ought as a rule to be sufficient to meet the requirements of any extraordinary delay beyond the hour above specified. Outposts should rarely exceed about one-sixth of the whole force, their object being to afford rest as well as security to the bulk of the army of which they are a portion.

If owing to the accidents of ground or any other cause a commander cannot encamp his troops within an hour's reach of all vital parts of his position, it is better for him to bivouac upon his fighting ground. This entails encumbering it more or less with his trains and the impedimenta inseparable from an army, and should always be avoided as far as circumstances will admit.

The main resistance line of the outposts should therefore, as a general rule, be posted about one hour's fighting beyond shelling distance of the position.

An hour's fighting is normally represented by a mile, but the actual distance must be decided on the spot, and will vary considerably with the nature of the country that the outposts have to retire over. If favourable for defence, half a mile might be deemed ample; but, for the reasons above stated, it should rarely exceed a mile, owing to the difficulty of withdrawing all portions of the outpost line in concert, and the danger of fractions being isolated and cut off if posted too far away from the main position.

Details of Outpost Duties.

The Field Exercise is so clear and explicit regarding the manner in which outpost duties are to be performed, the sub-division of outposts, &c., that any attempt at explanation is superfluous, and the student, if he has not already made himself thoroughly acquainted with the system in all its details, as laid down in the drill book for his guidance, is recommended to do so by a careful study of Section 3, Part VI. of the Field Exercise, which is divided under seventeen heads, viz.:—1. General Principles. 2. Force to be employed. 3. Selection of force for outpost duty. 4. Ground to be pointed out. 5. Composition of outposts. 6. Posting of outposts. 7. Sentries. 8. The night or patrol system. 9. Piquets. 10. Points to be borne in mind by officers commanding piquets. 11. Supports. 12. Reserves. 13. Artillery. 14. Flags of truce. 15. No compliments to be paid. 16. Instructions for a battalion practising outposts. 17. The application of army-signalling to outpost duties.

Of these, No. 11, “Supports,” runs as follows:—

“Supports should consist of one or more companies of the same battalion that furnishes the piquets. It is not necessary to have a separate support for each piquet; on the contrary, there should be only one support to each group of two or three piquets; but the support should be about equal in strength to the aggregate of the piquets to which it is linked.”

This paragraph is open to the serious objection that it is not in accordance with the generally accepted principle of companies furnishing their own supports and avoiding, as far as possible, all unnecessary mixing up.

A company of say 100 men may furnish two small piquets of 25 each, or one strong one of 50 men (it is seldom that a piquet need be more than 50 strong). In either of these cases, “which seem to cover all the piquet requirements of outposts,” there is apparently no reason why each piquet should not be supported by men of its own company; thus avoiding all confusion and changing commanders during the most critical time when the outposts become actually and more or less seriously engaged.

In the Field Exercise “Attack Formation,” all mixing up of companies is prohibited, and any formation of attack that involves the mixing up of companies finds no favour at the Horse Guards.

This is in practice opposed to the experience of recent continental wars.

The Prussians not only mix up their companies, which are double the strength of ours, but freely admit that battalions, brigades, and divisions are all liable to be mixed up.

The Russians in 1877-78 experienced the same difficulties, and acknowledge the impossibility of keeping troops from mixing in modern attack formations.

The English Field Exercise alone enforces on parade what is generally acknowledged on the Continent to be an impossibility in the attack; while in the defence where it is feasible, and especially in outpost duties, the Field Exercise lays down as a general principle that companies are not to form their own supports.

At all times unity of command is most desirable; but where it is difficult, if not impossible, it is advocated in the Field Exercise, and where it is easy and practicable it is ignored when it is not prohibited.

However, the Field Exercise says that “supports should consist of one or more companies of the battalion that furnishes the piquets.” And as far as possible the spirit of the regulations must be carried out. Incidentally it is here pointed out that the advantage secured to a piquet falling back on, or being reinforced by, a support furnished from its own company, under its own officers and non-commissioned officers, preparatory to fighting their way back on to the reserves and the position covered, appears to have been overlooked.

It is laid down that the supports are, as a rule, to be equal in strength to the piquets, and again that piquets should rarely number more than 50 men (although a company of the regular English army in peace time at home rarely numbers 50 men on instruction parades). The object of all training and drill is to prepare troops for war, when companies would number about 100 men, and there is no reason why on outpost duty companies should be mixed up until the reserves are called into requisition.

There are three systems of outpost duty.

1. The Cordon System.
2. The Patrol.
3. The Detached Post or Blockhouse system.

The two former are generally recognized in the English army, although the last-mentioned was chiefly adopted in Afghanistan.

The cordon system consists of a chain of sentries furnished by piquets, with supports and sometimes reserves in rear of them. It guards against individuals creeping through, and is applicable only to the day-time.

At night the cordon system gives place to the patrol, when the sentries are posted on the roads and main approaches, and their piquets are moved up close to them.

It is a common error to suppose that sentries are always drawn in closer at night; on the contrary, they frequently have to be slightly advanced.

The patrol system is based on the assumption that at night an enemy will only approach by the roads and main avenues of approach in sufficient force to attack. The intervening country between the sentries is watched by patrols sent out from the piquets, and also, if necessary, from the supports.

(To be Continued.)

GOSSIP OF THE MILITIA.

A Canadian in London writes the Englishman's Opinion of the Dominion force.

A Budget of News from the Montreal Brigade—Wonderful Swordsmanship at St. John's—Military funerals—Annual meeting of the Queen's Own Officers—Company festivities—Miscellaneous jottings.

A LETTER has just been received by the MILITIA GAZETTE from a friend in England, concerning the report of the alleged disorganization of our force, fathered by cable on the War Office. He says: "So far as I can make out, the whole thing is a canard. I have been mixing daily with military men and never heard one word of anything but praise for the Canadian militia. I have been constantly asked about our organization, military schools, etc., and great interest seems to be taken in our progress, but there is never a word or a hint of disparagement. As for the N. W. expedition, when they hear what an undertaking it was and in what sort of country (for many are still ignorant of the extent of Canada, and believe that Quebec and Toronto are adjoining villages) they express great admiration. The allegation that Capt. E. Palliser was the authority for the cable report is laughable; he has retired and has no more to do with the War Office than has any other civilian. As a Canadian militiaman, I think we can be justly proud of our force and can afford to laugh at any jeers—"We've got the stuff," anyway. Go where you will, to any country in the world, you'll not find such material as we have in Canada; and as for what they can do, they have shown that already. The weak point in the force is doubtless the officers, but the wonderful improvement shown since the infantry schools began their work is encouraging."

Sir Adolphe Caron, Minister of Militia, will be banqueted at Quebec on the 11th February.

Invitations are out for an "At Home" by the commandant and officers of A Co., Infantry School Corps, for Thursday evening, 9th February.

The late Lieut.-Col. Ibbotson was buried with military honours at Sherbrooke on Sunday, 22nd January. There were about a hundred men of the 53rd Batt. present, with the band, the officers being Major Morehouse and Lieuts. Robins and Spearing.

A Halifax paper publishes this oft-told tale:—"The active militia of our city are badly in need of a suitable winter head dress, the helmets of the Rifles and forage caps of the Fusiliers being very inadequate protection on a day like yesterday, when several men were frostbitten."

A Waterloo veteran named Thos. Tyler died at Brantford on the 27th ult., aged 92 years. He joined the army in 1813, and served with the 2nd battalion of the 37th at Waterloo, subsequently being transferred into the "Bloody Fifth" regiment, with which he spent eleven years in the West Indies.

Lieut.-General Middleton's pen will be kept quite busy for some time to come, contributing literature for the service papers. Amongst the articles promised are one on the Sandhurst Royal Military College, for the *Broad Arrow*; one on the Canadian schools of military instruction; and one on the volunteer force of the Dominion.

General William Lennox Ingall, C.B., who died at Chester, England, on the 10th January, received his commission in the Imperial Army while serving as clerk in the commissariat at Quebec, he having spent his early days in Canada. The deceased served during the Crimean war and the Indian mutiny, and subsequently returned to Canada in command of his regiment—the 62nd Foot.

Mrs. S. Smith, of Lindsay, has just had a lucky turn in a long lane of misfortune. In 1885 she had two stalwart sons, who did battle for their country with the Midlanders at Batoche. One contracted consumption during the campaign, and he has since died; the other was killed in a railway accident shortly after his return home. The mother was left in sore distress, but last week she received notification from Ireland that she had fallen heir to a large property in that country.

At New Westminster, B.C., last week, Capt. Bole, M.P.P., entertained the officers and men of his battery, No. 1 of the B. C. G. A., at supper at the Club. Invitations had also been extended to officers of the rifle company and others. Capt. Scoullar and Lieuts. Doane, Rickman and Glover, replied to the toast of "Our Guests," and all complimented No. 1 Battery on its efficiency. Sergt. Corbett proposed "The Battery," and Capt. Bole, Lieut. McNaughten and Lieut. Mowat spoke in response, dwelling upon the necessity for regular attendance at drill and attention to duty in order to keep up the credit of the corps.

Lieut. Lostford Woolrich, of the 63rd Rifles, particulars of whose death were published last week, was buried at Halifax on the 22nd ult., with military honours. Notwithstanding the cold and high northwest wind, the parade of the 63rd was a large one and a goodly number of the H. G. A. and 66th also attended. Lieut. C. J. McKie commanded the firing party of 40 men, principally from the second Scottish company, of which the deceased had been a member for several years. The pall bearers were Lieut. Gunning, Lieut. Bent, Lieut. Blackmore and Lieut. Kaizer, all of the 63rd rifles.

Montreal.

JUST a few lines to start the ball rolling towards what may be a larger number of militia items from this city, which, though containing a greater number of "actives" than any other in the Dominion, has hitherto occupied but a small space in your columns. This week I will devote my letter to the Vics. The regiment has commenced its annual drills, meeting twice per week by half battalions, and is getting into shape for the regular work to be performed. Some familiar faces are missed out of all ranks, but new ones occupy their places and give promise of keeping up the old corps' credit. Here and there a brand new uniform, and crossbelt with polished ornaments, show promotion has been at work and some non-com. or private

has gone into the minority with a Queen's commission, or appointment as a staff-sergeant, and the unsophisticated recruit has fallen heir to his weapons of war.

Hereafter long Turner's and Martini-Henry rifles, orthoptics, verniers, and riflemen's paraphernalia generally, as used at practice and prize meetings, will occupy the attention of the former, while the latter with his short Snider-Enfeld, worn smooth-bore, will fondly imagine himself deadly up to 900 yards or so, the distance the thing is sighted for.

The armoury is booming and is now pretty near complete in its appointments. It is the daily and nightly meeting place of all ranks and is doing a good work amongst the members, who find it a pleasant place to pass spare time. From 7.30 p.m. to lights out, about 11 o'clock, the rattle of small arms in the billiard room and the booming of cannon in the bowling alley, proclaim the interest in these branches of the recreation department. The shooting gallery has three matches on the tapis—further particulars of which next week.

The Mastodon Minstrels give their second entertainment, at the armoury, this evening. A crowded house is assured, as their first appearance, at the Academy, gave this branch of "Victoria" talent a good send off, and turned in considerable shekels.

BUSBY.

St. John's, P.Q.

THE entertainment given by members of B Co., I.S.C., assisted by amateurs of the Victoria Rifles, Montreal, in Black's Opera House, at St. John's, P.Q., on the 27th January, was a decided success. Judging from the frequent encores and the applause that rewarded the efforts of the performers the audience seemed highly pleased with the programme presented them. Amongst those present were Lieut.-Col. Count d'Orsonnens, Commandant, and the officers of B Co. and a number of officers of the Victoria Rifles of Montreal.

The band of the corps, under the able leadership of Bugle Major Hardy, opened the first part with the popular "B Co. March"; this was followed by the song "Nil Desperandum," rendered in first class style by Sergt. Roberts, B Co. Mr. Geo. R. Joseph, accompanied by Lieut. H. G. Doucet on the piano, gave some delightful solos on the "coffee pot," the audience thoroughly appreciating their combined efforts. The next number was interesting and exciting, as it brought Capt. Frear of B Co. and Sergt. Major Morgans of the R. M. C. together in a bout with the foils. The fine points in fencing were ably shown by these two masters. Immediately after Sergt.-Major Morgans and Sergt.-Major Chagnon, late of the French army, had a fencing bout, which also proved very interesting. Sergt. Bowden of the Vics delighted the audience with a comic song, and Sergt. Fraser of the same corps gave "Ready" in admirable style. Mr. F. Bangs sang "Committed to the Deep," and then a reading by Surgeon-Major Campbell brought the first part to a close. Part II was opened with a clarinet solo by Pte. Hardy, B Co. Sergt.-Major Morgans, R.M.C. fairly astonished the onlookers by an exhibition of his wonderful skill with the sword, watched with great interest. He gave a splendid exhibition, amongst his numerous feats being the following: cutting a potato suspended by a thread, first cutting the thread and then cutting the potato before it fell to the ground; cutting a potato held in the hand and cutting another placed on the back of the neck, Corpl. Walsh, B Co. I.S.C., placing his hand and neck at the Sergt.-Major's disposal for this feat; cutting sticks resting on loops of paper resting on the edges of two razors without cutting the paper; and cutting through the carcasses of two sheep with one cut. He received well deserved applause. Mr. F. Bangs scored a success in a song in character. A bout with single stick between Sergt.-Major Morgans, R.M.C., and Corp. Walsh, B Co., R.S.I., in which some really fine play was shown, came next, being followed by Mr. Geo. R. Joseph in his famous character song "The Frenchman," at the close of which he made a complete change of costume in 30 seconds and appeared in Fawn's latest song "I did it." For both he was greatly applauded. The national anthem by the band brought this pleasant entertainment to a close. Lieut. Doucet, Victoria Rifles, and Pte. DeLinel, B Co., played the accompaniments during the evening. Sergt.-Major Rodden and Sergeants of the Vics were the guests of Sergt.-Major Phillips and Sergeants of B Co., I.S.C., who are delighted with and fully appreciated the kindness and good will shown by the members of the Vics to the members of B Co.

Capt. Howard, of Gatling Gun fame, has announced to the Vics that he will present them with a prize rifle for competition at their armoury shooting gallery, and also with 10,000 rounds of ammunition suitable for use at the same place. The regimental enthusiasm has in consequence been so worked up that a gatling gun corps in connection with it is even mooted.

The non-commissioned officers of the Fifth Royal Scots held what was intended to be their first annual ball, at the Vics' armoury on Friday evening last. The attendance was large, and all appeared to thoroughly enjoy themselves. Though the thermometer registered away below zero, several of the Scots had the hardihood to appear in kilts, their picturesque uniform adding to the attractiveness of the occasion. Lieut.-Col. Caverhill and several other officers of the regiment were present, and participated in all the festivities.

Capt. Hood has received from the London Scottish regiment an acknowledgment of the receipt of a copy of the handsome picture of the Scots' team who won the united associations' cup competed for in Montreal last summer. The Scots' officers who have been to Wimbledon have been very hospitably received on many occasions by the London Scottish, who will doubtless prize the souvenir recently sent. The picture is an excellent one, being the work of Summerhayes & Walford of Montreal. The group photographed with the cup consisted of Capt. Hood, Lieut. Vaughan, Staff Sergt. Wynne, Pipe-Sergt. Clarke, Colour-Sergt. Dalrymple, and Pte. J. Kambery. Pte. Smith, who fired in several competitions, was unfortunately unable to be present when the photograph was taken.

Ottawa.

"PRESIDENT'S NIGHT" with the 43rd snowshoe club as usual resulted in a very large turnout of the members, who having traversed the course for the steeplechase set down for the 2nd February, indulged in half an hour's tobogganing at the Osh Kosh slide, and otherwise sharpened their appetites, were at length brought to a halt at the Royal Dining Rooms, Wellington street, where they were entertained at supper by the president, Capt. T. D. B. Evans. Among other officers of the regiment present were Lieut.-Col. White, Capt. Sherwood and Lieut. Bradbury, and the guests included Mr. E. E. Lemieux, of the Frontenacs, and Messrs. Rowatt, Whillans and Mackenzie, of the Osh Kosh Toboggan Club.

All the militia snowshoe clubs have made entries for the grand steeplechase, to be decided before another issue.

Capt. Berkeley Powell, Paymaster of the Governor-General's Foot Guards, has issued invitations for an officers' dinner party at the Rideau Club on Monday the 6th February.

Toronto.

E COMPANY of the Queen's Own Rifles had their annual dinner on Thursday evening, 26th January, at Oulcott's hotel, Yonge street. At eight o'clock the party started, in sleighs, from the bugle band room, Adelaide street, and after a very pleasant drive up Yonge street to Eglinton the party, about sixty, sat down to a very nice dinner. The chair was taken by Capt. Mutton; the vice-chair by Col.-Sergt. Ritchie. Among those present were Lieut.-Col. Allan, Lieuts. Brock, Lee, Knifton, Johnson, Greene, Nelson and Sergt.-Major Crean, of the Q. O. R.; Major Foster, R. L.; Major Mead and Lieut. Myles, T. F. B.; Mr. L. H. Irving, late T. G. A., and Mr. T. B. Smith, of the Engineer Corps. "The Queen," the first toast on the list, was honoured by the whole company, accompanied by the orchestra, joining in the National Anthem. The toast of the Army, Navy and Active Militia was responded to by Major Mead and Mr. Irving. "Our Regiment" was duly honoured and responded to by Lieut.-Col. Allan and Sergt.-Major Crean. "Success and prosperity to E. Co." (old number five) was answered by Lieut. Knifton and Col.-Sergt. Ritchie. "The ladies" was proposed by the vice-chair and responded to by Corp. Cauldwell and Private J. Kennedy in a happy manner. Sergt. Bowden, Privates Dent, Thornhill and Kennedy contributed songs, and Lieut. Nelson and Private Downey recitations. After dinner the whole party adjourned to the Town Hall, where athletic sports and tugs of war were practised, the Tories pulling the Grits and the Left-half the Right-half company.

The annual sleighing party of "D" Company, Q. O. R., took place on Wednesday, 28th January, to Hick's Hotel at the Humber. A substantial repast was partaken of. Capt. Mason occupied the chair. After the usual loyal toasts the health of the officer commanding the regiment was proposed and acknowledged by Lieut.-Col. Allan, who complimented the company on its efficiency. The company then adjourned to the hall, where a pleasant evening was spent in songs, dances, choruses, etc. A tug-of-war was pulled between the right and left flanks of the company, in which a great deal of interest was manifested. After an exciting struggle the left flank were declared winners. The services of the bugle band, which played the company out of barrack, were much appreciated.

The annual meeting of the Officers' Mess of the Queen's Own Rifles was held this week in the orderly room of the drill shed. Lieut.-Col. Allan occupied the chair. In the absence of the secretary, Lieut. Brock officiated as secretary *pro tem*. Captain McGee read the annual report of the Band Committee, which was unanimously adopted. The committee on the testimonial to the family of the late Captain Brown reported that the testimonial was ready for presentation. The treasurer, Capt. Macdonald, read the report of the Finance Committee, showing that the annual expenditure in connection with the regiment, not including the stores given by the Government, amounted to \$14,883.96, still leaving a handsome balance to the credit of the regiment. Lieut.-Col. Allan congratulated the officers on this very satisfactory showing. A full and complete report was presented for the Rifle Committee by Lieut. Knifton, secretary, which was eminently satisfactory. The following committees were appointed for the year:—Finance—Major Hamilton, Capts. Thompson and Mutton; Rifle—Major Delamere, Lieuts. Knifton and Rennie; Band—Capt. McGee, Lieuts. Nelson and Mercer; Treasurer, Capt. McDonald; Secretary, Lieut. Brock. The band committee's report was discussed, and it was decided to continue the present arrangements. A special vote of thanks and testimonial were presented to the Quartermaster, Capt. Heakes, for his efficient services during the year. The chairman of the buffalo bull committee, Capt. Mutton, reported that the regimental buffalo was in good health and being well cared for; that he had been successfully ringed during the past year, and that ere long they hoped he would be tractable enough to lead the regiment on its outings.—*Mail*.

RECRUITING FOR RURAL CORPS.

Report after report—year after year—we are told that rural corps are frequently composed of about one half recruits. This shows several things: that some join with the avowed intention of serving for one camp only; that some get so disgusted with their equipment that they do not show up again; some flitting to and fro are enlisted "just to fill up." There is a remedy for all this: Action can be taken against these delinquents. Should that be done everybody would throw up his hands and say, "You will break up the corps, you will never get men to serve." Break up the corps! because forsooth you intend enforcing discipline! That is a nice state of affairs.

One Major General lays the fault of all this at the feet of officers commanding companies—perhaps because they are too lenient, perhaps to save themselves unpopularity, or perhaps even *politics* come in! I think if, from the Major General downwards, the Regulations were enforced, such things would in time disappear.

THE REGULATIONS AGAIN.

Some time ago, I took in hand the Militia Regulations, 1887. I read there a notice, dated the 1st September, 1887, which says that the Minister of Militia having authorized the publication of the Regulations, they will supersede the Regulations, 1883. The Regulations, 1887, have been distributed to officers. Paragraph 986 says that "all regulations made under the authority of the act shall be published in the *Canada Gazette*." It is now February, 1888, and the "Regulations and Orders for the Militia, Canada, 1887, have not yet appeared in the *Gazette*. What's the hitch?

Para. 174 tells us all about the Adjutant: he is the c.o.'s mouthpiece, etc.; not afraid of responsibility; moderate in social pleasures, yet on cordial terms with his comrades; a good horseman, a fair tactician, an excellent drill, able to impart rifle instruction; a walking dictionary on drill, Canadian and Imperial Regulations, Army List, etc., etc., etc. And a first rate adjutant is as hard to find as the proverbial needle in the haystack. He is also to be everywhere at the same time. Can an officer become all this, drilling once in every two years? Will an officer holding a "V. F. B." certificate answer the above description of an adjutant? Cast your eye around the militia world and count up *on your fingers* how many militia adjutants come near this mark.

One man may be a born adjutant, another may become an adjutant after years of training. Barring our born adjutants, how many of our militia adjutants have had an opportunity of being trained and educated as fair adjutants? An inefficient commanding officer will never train anybody, let alone an adjutant.

With the Adjutant goes the Sergeant-Major—his shadow, in fact. His position is just as hard to fill as the adjutant's. "His duties are so manifold that he should be the smartest and most intelligent man in the regiment." On these two, the Adjutant and Sergeant-Major, one might also say depends the whole regiment. If the Adjutant is indifferent, slovenly and inexperienced so are the officers; if the Sergeant-Major is a know-nothing, with an ill-governed temper, full of oaths, dirty in appearance, the sergeants will follow suit; and so also will the rank and file.

SOME CORPS NEEDING OFFICIAL ATTENTION.

One battalion turned out for annual drill appears to have been in a nice mess. "They had neither majors, nor adjutants, nor staff-sergeants who knew anything of

their work." Is not that a terrible state of affairs in this, the 19th century?

Would you like to see a rural corps turned out equipped (?) as per regulations. This corps of mine—I have left the "Lambskins"—has 8 companies. The colonel holds a M. S. 1st; the only major a V. B. 1st; of the 8 captains 3 are V. B. 2nd, 3 M. S. 2nd, and 2 provisional; the adjutant is duly qualified; the paymaster I keep on because he served in 1812; the surgeon and his assistant I am under obligations to—financially—so cannot get rid of them; the quartermaster and I were at school together in 1790! All told we are only a half dozen, all ranks, under strength.

"A" Company has 10 knapsacks and 5 overcoat straps; "B" Company has 2 knapsacks and 10 overcoat straps; "C" Company has neither knapsacks nor overcoat straps; "D" Company has neither knapsacks nor overcoat straps. I won't go further—it gets worse as it goes on. "The boys" say string does as well as buff straps and gives a pleasing though varied contrast. When a guard is mounted the knapsacks are passed from company to company.

I keep a second corps called "The Rodents." I have been lately bothered with this corps. The colonel "resigned only a few days before the meeting of the camp. This sudden and too late resignation threw the battalion into disorder and the consequence was merely forty men or so, three company officers and five staff officers joined the camp. *This however was very fortunate*, as the company officers and men" were put with the —th, whose companies would have been too weak had not this new addition to their strength been made.

I wrote my D. A. G. that the regulations required that the Colonel should give six months' notice of his intention to withdraw—but it was "no go"—and in addition to this trouble, I had to pay each captain of the "Rodents" \$40 drill instruction money and the colonel who retired \$150 for the same purpose. Then I was called upon to pay the colonel and the captains of the —th the same sums. Whereas, as I told my D. A. G., both these corps being inefficient, nothing should have been paid.

Then, in addition, the Rodents' senior major bothered me. He was very rusty, but wanted promotion without qualification. I let him go thinking to get rid of him, but he is now colonel with a M. S. 2nd. God speed such regiments—out of the Militia List.

I have a third corps called "Stargazers," for if they had cribbed the decorations, etc., of the Imperial regiment with the same number, they would now be wearing a star on their pouches. This corps (6 companies) has a colonel with V. B. 2nd; the major has the same; two captains have V. B. 2nd; the other four are provisional; five provisional lieutenants, one vacancy; four provisional 2nd lieutenants, two vacancies; no adjutant. The regimental pills, quartermaster, etc., are all there.

Camp time came round. My 6 companies, representing 26 officers and 252 n.c.o. and men, were ordered for drill. It would take "12 hours," I am told in the militia report, "to concentrate this battalion." After a lot of hard work—more than 12 days—I managed to turn out 4 companies—or 16 officers and 161 n.c.o. and men. At inspection "general brigade movements were well performed." At rifle practice 129 men fired. The result was 4 were first class shots, 17 second class shots and 108 third class shots." (I am very proud of this corps—"most efficient corps"!) Some D. A. G. has said that his firing was what might be called bad. I would call the "Stargazers" d—bad.

The drill instruction money I have shown, so far as rural corps are concerned, is squandered. The proof of the pudding is in the eating and the proof of the waste of drill money is in the result. And the proof of ignorance of the "five simple rules" hidden away in a book of Orders and Regulations is found by the nonproduction of even a fair percentage of second class shots. The Canadian Militia Regulations may dismiss Musketry Practice with their "five simple rules," but as the rifle is placed in a man's hands for his own safety and the destruction of his enemy, no matter what degree of proficiency (?) he may attain in his brigade movements nothing can remedy his *want of proficiency* in rifle shooting.

"Five simple rules" and "20 rounds of ball ammunition" once every two years! It reminds me of *all* that is required to teach a learner how to write well: "A piece of paper, a pen and some ink."

Memo for "Driving Band": Look up Morgan's "Handbook of Artillery Materiel" for classification of guns. Thanks for information about six 32's at No. 1 Fort, Levis. Did not mention 40 pr. B. L. R. at Montreal (although knowing it was there) because it is *not given* in "Return of Ordnance"; see page 216 Militia Report, 1886. The 20 pr. B. L. R. was an oversight. Have no complaint against the 15 sec. B. L. R. fuze, but is the 15 sec. M. L. issued for Field Battery gun practice?

LUNCH-PIN.

The firm of Krupp has, it is stated, offered two million marks for the secret of the new explosive invented by the Russian engineer, Roucktosshell. Having, however, entered into a previous engagement with the Russian Government, the inventor has refused to sell.

ONTARIO ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION.

THE ANNUAL MEETING of the Ontario Artillery Association for consideration of Annual Reports and transaction of General Business will be held at the

ROSSIN HOUSE, AT TORONTO,

—ON—

Tuesday, 7th February, prox.

AT 12 O'CLOCK NOON.

A MEETING OF COUNCIL

Is also called to meet at the same place at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, the 7th February prox., to consider Report for presentation to the Annual General Meeting, etc.

L. HOMFRAY IRVING,
Secretary.

PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS,

Toronto, 4th January, 1888.

ONTARIO ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION.

PROPOSED ALTERATIONS IN CONSTITUTION.

IN accordance with Section 8 of the Constitution of the Ontario Artillery Association, notice to members thereof is hereby given that I have received a notice of motion, in writing, that it is intended to propose the following alterations in the Constitution at the General Meeting to be held at Toronto on the 7th February, 1888:—

"That Section 9 be omitted, the following being substituted therefor: The affairs of the Association shall be managed by an Executive Committee consisting of five members to be annually elected at the General Meeting. The Secretary and Treasurer shall be members of this Committee.

"That Section 9 be omitted, the following being substituted therefor: The officers shall be a President and four Vice-Presidents, a Secretary and a Treasurer, to be elected at the Annual General Meeting. That all words inconsistent with these changes be eliminated from the Constitution."

L. HOMFRAY IRVING,
Toronto, 10th Jan., 1888. Secretary

BANDMASTER WANTED.

BANDMASTER wanted for 7th Fusiliers.—Applications will be received up to the 31st January, 1888; duties to commence 1st April. Salary, \$300 per annum. Applicants will state age, experience, etc., and give references. Apply to MAJOR W. M. GARTSHORE, Pres. Band Com. 7th Fus., LONDON, ONT.

Half Hours Off Duty.

A STORY OF THE WAR OF 1812.

By James Hannay.—From *The Empire*.
(Continued from Page 240.)

WHILE Mrs. Wright was in this dreadful situation two horsemen were seen rapidly approaching. As they drew near Mary recognized them as her brother and her lover, and with a cry of joy she sprang to their arms. Even Mrs. Wright felt her heart comforted by their presence. Very tenderly and carefully they carried the sick woman to the house of a farmer who resided some two miles from Newark, and there they left her to the tender care of her daughter.

"Now for vengeance," said Sutherland, as he turned away from the humble cottage which sheltered the dying mother and her heart-broken child.

"Amen to that," replied Samuel Wright. It was with such thoughts as these in their hearts that they returned to the camp.

Eight days after the burning of Newark five hundred and fifty resolute men, under the command of Colonel Murray, crossed the river in the darkness and attacked Fort Niagara in the early morning hours. Sutherland and Samuel Wright accompanied the assaulting party as volunteers, and took part in the conflict which in a few minutes put the British in possession of the American stronghold. Squire Wright was found a close prisoner and in a state of great mental distress, for he knew nothing of the fate of his wife and daughter when Newark was destroyed. The news which was communicated by his son, that they were in a place of safety, almost restored him to cheerfulness. He lost no time in making his way to the farm house where they were sheltered.

As he approached the door it was opened by his daughter; her eyes were streaming with tears. She pressed his hand in hers and led him into an inner room. As he approached the bedside he gave a bitter cry and fell upon his knees, sobbing violently; his wife was dead.

She was buried on Christmas day in the little churchyard at Newark, and the father and son and daughter, who were the last to gaze on her dead face, felt and knew that she was the victim of the barbarous orders of the Washington government and of the inhuman McClure.

Chapter IV.

To Squire Wright the death of his wife was a dreadful blow, yet its very violence seemed to restore him from the state of mental hopelessness into which he had fallen in consequence of his long term of imprisonment. He became again a man of resources and a capable adviser to all who needed his counsel. His old neighbours came to him for advice as to their future.

"Shall we abandon Newark?" they would ask.

"No," was his reply. "We will rebuild it."

"But if it is captured again, what then?" they would suggest.

"No matter," said the Squire, "they cannot hold this frontier unless they have the command of the lake, and I don't think they will undertake to burn Newark again after what they have experienced of our ability to retaliate in kind. The smoking ruins of Lewiston and Buffalo will serve as a warning."

Squire Wright's neighbours adopted his advice and began in an humble way to rebuild their nice beautiful town. He himself was the first to set the example, and during the winter and spring of 1814 a new house, which was almost a duplicate of the old one, was erected.

The invasion of Canada by Major-General Brown in the summer of 1814 was the most formidable attack that the Niagara frontier had to sustain during the whole war. The troops under his command had learned something of discipline and formed a valuable fighting force, so that their discomfiture reflects the greater credit on the British regulars and Canadian militia which defeated them.

William Sutherland was early in the field with his regiment when the campaign opened and missed none of the glory won by the Lincoln militia in that memorable year. At the battle of Chippewa he was with the militia and light troops under Colonel Pearson which routed General Porter's brigade of volunteers and Indians, and received a slight wound, but not one sufficient to disable him. He distinguished himself greatly and won the high commendation of his commanding officer.

But it was at the battle of Lundy's Lane that Sutherland crowned his military career with glory. In that desperate night struggle, the full details of which can never be told, but which resulted in a glorious victory for Canada, he fought as only men can fight who are defending their homes and loved ones, but almost at the close of the battle a bullet struck him in the breast, and stretched him bleeding on the field.

(To be continued.)

The Bridge of Death.

An Alpine Guide's Sad Fate.—Dangers to be avoided.

ONE day in August, in the summer of 1864, two Austrian noblemen were crossing the Grand Plateau in their descent of one of the loftiest mountains of Switzerland. They had crossed the Grand Crevasse in the morning by a snow-bridge which, though apparently insecure, carried them safely over. They reached it again on their return late in the afternoon. The leading guide had advanced to the middle of the bridge, when, to the consternation of his fellow travellers, he suddenly disappeared from their sight. The bridge had fallen beneath his weight; he had proceeded with too little caution, and had disappeared forever in the abyss below. They tied together ropes and let them down into the crevasse, but no hand seized them, no voice arose from the darkness.

How few of us realize the importance of trifles, or that incidents which in themselves seem wholly insignificant lead oftentimes to most momentous results. A single grain of sand holds in a vise-like grip the delicate mechanism of your most reliable time-piece.

The business man tied down to his absorbing cares, goes home at night with a throbbing brow and a lame back. This continues a day or two and he remarks to his wife that he is so overworked he thinks he had better take something to brace him up a little. He tries a tonic and for a few days feels better. He flatters himself he is well. Poor man, how little he realizes that the trifling indisposition was a voice warning him that the tired and overworked kidneys, the most important primary organs of the system, had ceased to perform their proper functions. They no longer eliminate properly the waste matter of the system, and uric acid accumulates.

That means disease. The body cannot be healthy unless it be free from this poison. If the blood channels become vitiated with it, as they must be unless it is carried out of the system, the man is liable to disappear from the walks of life almost as suddenly as the guide who went down with the insecure but unsuspected bridge. So many of the ordinary diseases, so called, are the direct results of the action of this poison that it is difficult to tell how one will be carried off.

This was precisely the experience of Herman Urban of the celebrated firm of safe manufacturers, McNeale & Urban, of Cincinnati, O. He has always been a very active business man, had overcome many commercial difficulties, but about five years ago he began to run down with a sort of general debility, headache, want of spirit, and nervousness. "There seemed to be no life in my blood, no vigor in my muscles, no marrow in my bones," he says. He tried physicians in vain. Four years after this sad experience he reports that he used Warner's safe cure at that time and his prostrated condition was completely cured and had remained so to date. "I am," he remarks, "more than anxious that other business men, worn down and likely to be overcome by kidney disease whose manifestations are so mysterious that they cannot positively identify the disease, should try the magnificent remedy that did so much good to me."

The opening article in the *American Magazine* for February is by the well-known naturalist C. F. Holder. He takes his readers into "The Heart of the Sierra Madre," leading them through dense forests and gloomy canons, to climb steep precipices by narrow ledges where a misstep means instant death. Here are the resorts of a variety of game, and the favorite haunt of the mountain lion—presumably the king of American beasts. J. Macdonald Oxley contributes an interesting and valuable resumé of the results obtained by expeditions which the Canadian Government has recently sent to explore Hudson's Bay. The object of the explorations is to determine the feasibility of a north-west passage to the North-West itself. Mr. Oxley adds an entertaining account of the natives dwelling on the margin of "The Inland Ocean of the North." Hafis Behran Aga, chief eunuch to the Sultan of Turkey, who died a few months ago at Constantinople, is said to have carried more secrets to the grave than any other man. Rose Eyttinge, in her travels around the world, met this personage, and she relates an incident that came under her observation, which shows the character of the secrets the chief eunuch carried.

A revolt occurred, Nov. 9th, among some infantry recruits, at Buda Pesth, owing to the brutality of a drill sergeant. The men attacked the sergeant with their bayonets and seriously wounded him and also another officer who had come to the sergeant's assistance. The guard was summoned and the recruits were disarmed and placed under arrest.

The Czar has refused to comply with energetic requests of the Pan Slavist Party to assist Abyssinia against Italy and England. It is reported at St. Petersburg that a ukase is about to be issued reserving commissions in the artillery and engineer branches of the service solely to cadets belonging to the nobility. This is an extension of the policy of Count Tolstoi, who refused to confer posts in the civil service on representatives of the untitled classes.

The old soldiers of the Hotel des Invalides, Paris, cannot complain that they are overlooked by the Government. Tenders will be received next week for a two years' supply of crutches, leg and arm pieces, and "timber toes" for the old warriors who have lost their limbs on the field of battle. The contractors chosen will have to work in the Hotel des Invalides from wooden models, and will receive 18 francs for legs, and about 5 francs for crutches.

When Gambetta went up in a balloon during the siege of Paris he alighted in the wood of Favières, not far from Clermont. The grappling hooks which he and his faithful secretary, Spuller, threw out took hold on a venerable oak tree, and since then the tree has been called Gambetta's tree, and held sacred by all the republican inhabitants of the department. But the wood belongs to a monarchist, who, being no admirer of Gambetta, is about to have it cut down. Thereafter a movement has been set on foot to persuade the said monarchist to spare the identical tree, which it is proposed to rail round and preserve as a historical monument.

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THE Canadian Militia Gazette

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CORRESPONDENCE.

Correspondence on topics of interest to the Militia is invited. To ensure insertion of any communication the name and address of the writer must be forwarded with it.

REGIMENTAL NEWS.

It is our desire to record all events of general interest transpiring in connection with each and every corps in the Dominion. That we may be kept posted, officers are respectfully requested to interest themselves in seeing that the news of their respective corps shall be forwarded to the MILITIA GAZETTE—if possible by some person chosen by them as regular correspondent.

Adjutants will greatly oblige by forwarding copies of regimental orders, especially those relating to promotions or transfers of non-commissioned officers and officers.

Reports of annual or other meetings of regimental or company clubs, etc., or rifle associations, should be forwarded by the secretaries as early as possible. Scores of rifle matches must be accompanied by full particulars as to description of rifle, distances, number of shots, etc.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

Advertisements of unobjectionable character will be inserted at reasonable rates, which will be made known upon application to the Manager.

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These may begin at any time. Back numbers, to complete current volumes, can generally be supplied, and will be forwarded on receipt of price.

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The date upon the address label shows to what period each subscription is paid, and a change of such date after money has been sent constitutes a receipt for an amount sufficient to cover the subscription up to the further time indicated. No other receipts for subscriptions are sent unless specially requested. Subscribers are requested to pay particular attention to the dates upon their address labels, and to report immediately any mistake.

The date upon the label should always be ahead of that of the accompanying issue of the paper, subscriptions being payable in advance.

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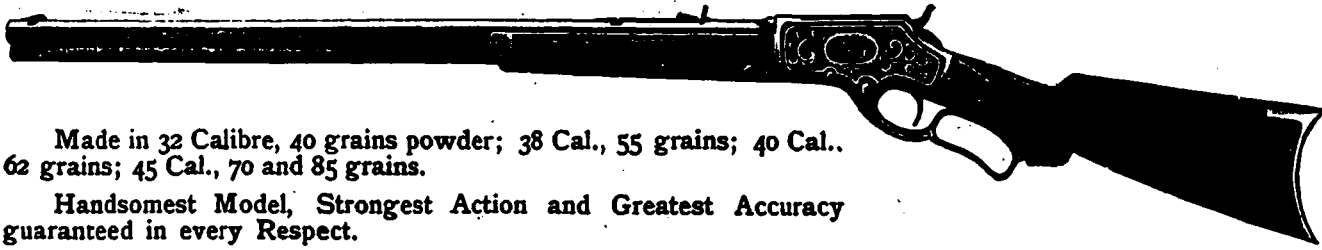


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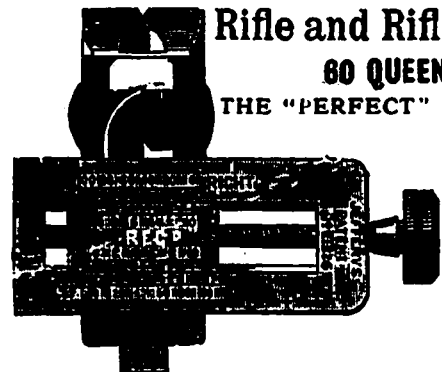
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