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MONTREAL.

JOSEPH PLIMSOLL EDWARDS, PROPRIETOR.

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NOTE AND COMMENT.

General Herbert's report, which we printed last week, is spoken of on all sides with the greatest favour, because of the expectation it has aroused of more activity and variety in military work next season. His advice to city corps makes it plain that for the future they will be expected to make themselves reasonably efficient in the drill laid down in General Orders, in place of devoting themselves to other movements with which perhaps the commanding officer or adjutant may be more familiar. In connection with the suggested change in the monotony of street parades, we would direct attention to the article on The New U. S. Drill Regulations, published in our issue of the 17th ult.

* * *

With respect to the rural corps, there appears to have been a feeling of disappointment that General Herbert said nothing on the subject of the much desired annual camps, but this omission is no doubt attributable to the fact that in this Order his design was to deal only with the training of this year, reserving for another occasion suggestions for the future. It is encouraging to note that the General found the drill, as he reports it, "generally satisfactory," and the fact that he has singled out the best corps for special honourable mention will be an incentive to them to keep up in the future the good reputation thus gained. Official recognition of the good results of cadet drill, is given in his remarks on the young men from the Stratford High School. The military schools come in for credit for a good effect on officers and non-commissioned officers. The fact mentioned that the lowest standard of capacity for imparting military instruction obtains in the Fifth Military District, should emphasize the contention so often made, that the usefulness of the school at St. Johns, Quebec, is minimized by its inconvenient situation.

The artillery receive very little attention, no doubt because of the full report expected as usual from their own Inspector, to whose excellent system and care is very largely due the fact that, as General Herbert remarks, "the field batteries of artillery are generally superior in efficiency to any other arm." The cavalry receive a little attention, quite as much as they are accustomed to. As the conclusion arrived at is that "judging from the intelligence and zeal generally displayed there is reason to believe that the cavalry could be developed into a most useful force," it is fair to presume that official effort will be made to assist in this greatly to be desired development.

* * *

The staff officers receive a fair share of criticism. We would like to see in this connection a change in the system, or lack of system, pursued in making staff appointments. Staff officers should be chosen as much as possible from corps not called out for drill, and the most capable men rather than those having the greatest "pull" should be selected.

* * *

The publication in the General Orders of the names of those scoring highest in the musketry practice at the camps will be an incentive to keener effort in future. It is a notorious fact that the musketry practice now is very carelessly performed, there being general indifference as to the result. It is misleading, however, to describe as the "best shot in camp," the man who happened to have the most points in these class firing competitions, where more depends on chance than skill. The fact that out of the thirty names mentioned as the best shots in the respective corps, only two or three have any Provincial or Dominion reputation, supports our assertion. In the Third and Fourth Military Districts there was no rifle practice at the combined camp, the range being considered unsafe. This

suggests inquiry as to the responsibility for the choice of a site where no range was available.

* * *

The answer to the plea for efficiency competitions, made for years past in these columns, has always been that while the idea was a good one it could not be carried out. Col. Otter, however, demonstrated its feasibility in No. 2 District last year, and this year General Herbert instituted and has had successfully carried out such a competition in connection with each camp. The published results make interesting reading. The further development of the scheme, with a comparative test between the several districts, and including city as well as rural corps, will be awaited with general interest.

* * *

Col. Beer gives an interesting intimation, in our correspondence columns, of a new signalling system which we are sure every rifleman would like to see further explained, in practical operation, if necessary. Should it not form part of the duty of the Dominion or Provincial Rifle Associations to encourage improvements in this respect by taking official interest in such inventions, and exhibiting them to members?

* * *

We were sorry to receive last week from an esteemed correspondent a letter in which he expressed disapproval of our new departure in the shape of an Athletic Department. He advised us to give all that space to strictly military matters of general interest, and concluded with a further protest against the generous reports given of rifle meetings, great and small. Now, lest there be others who privately speak as this officer has publicly expressed himself, we feel constrained to print a conclusion long since arrived at from the experience of this little paper. This is, that the great majority of the members of our militia force care absolutely nothing

about matters of general, as distinguished from purely local, military interest. This is quite as true of the officers as of the rank and file. There are a few bright exceptions, whose energy and perseverance keep life in the force, but as to the great majority the truth is as stated above.

* * *

From this small class of enthusiasts, and from the riflemen as a whole, we have received constant and generous support, but as the riflemen largely predominated, they have naturally received the most attention. Undoubtedly the mainstay of the force, they are men of great energy and resource, and do not as a class remain indolent during the non-shooting season, but engage actively in other outdoor excises. They will therefore, we are sure, be pleased to have all such pastimes noticed in this paper; and especially so if by interesting non-military men in our Athletic department, we can influence them first to read of and then participate in the military events. Our aim has been and will be, first to attract the attention of as many as possible by recording matters of interest to them, and next to afford such further military information, instruction or entertainment as may be put into our necessarily limited space.

* * *

Though hardened by many years' cold shouldering, the frigid douche in the letter above referred to sent a shiver down our spinal column, for it was the first expression of opinion received with respect to a venture the success or failure of which is destined to have an important influence upon the future of the MILITIA GAZETTE. Happily, however, all our subscribers do not think the same as the above quoted, for in our New Year's mail we unexpectedly received from one of the ablest and most respected officers of the force, a letter from which we may safely quote as follows, though as it was marked "Private" we cannot use the writer's name:

"DEAR SIR,—I cannot allow the old year to pass out of sight without wishing you and the MILITIA GAZETTE every success in the new year—more particularly in view of your new departure in adding "Sports and Pastimes" to your columns—a step which must be heartily approved by every member of the force; for as the whole military structure is based upon physical fitness, so must athletic development and love of sport go on side by side with improvement in drill and discipline and target practice. How can the busy man better spend his well earned holiday than in taking part in military training in camp or field, or—with rod and gun—in forest or by

stream? And how can he more profitably spend an hour of a winter's evening than in reading accounts of "Sports and Pastimes" in your rapidly improving MILITIA GAZETTE?"

* * *

New Year's Day was fitly celebrated by an interchange of courtesies on the part of the military men at the several centres, but Montreal seems to have led in this respect. At the spacious drill hall on Craig street, each of the many corps having headquarters there had a well equipped reception room, and visitors made the complete round. The quarters of the 65th Mount Royal Rifles are said to have been especially attractive, though there was nothing lacking in the way of hospitality at those of the others—the 1st Prince of Wales Rifles, the 5th Royal Scots, the 6th Fusiliers, the Field Battery, or the Garrison Artillery. The last named conducted their reception on prohibition principles—a pleasant variety. The Scots had their pipers present to give proper eclat to the occasion. At their handsome private armoury up town the 3rd Victoria Rifles held high carnival, and thither their comrades of all ranks repaired when the tour of the drill hall was completed. The day's reception had the effect of well advertising all the corps, and should be of material assistance in recruiting.

A traveller in Japan says that the Japanese dislike the Russians and the Chinese but like the Americans and the English. They are fearful of the aggressions of the Russians in Corea and of the Chinese in the Islands that lie south of Japan; but they do not look for any act of aggression by the United States or by England.

It is announced that after sufficient investigation, both theoretical and practical, the German War Minister has confirmed the employment of cast steel as wholly preferable for guns. The introduction of a new small calibre revolver, which has given great satisfaction at the trials, is also announced.

The *United Service Gazette* says: "Sailors have long been dissatisfied with the amount of protection afforded to a ship's secondary armament, and the successful trials in America of nickel-steel plates lead them to hope for an early improvement in this respect, more especially as the results arrived at on the other side of the Atlantic have been so far verified in this country as to justify the Admiralty in ordering a certain portion of nickel-steel armour for our future battleships. As this armour will be considerably stronger without involving any additional weight it seems obvious that those portions of a ship's armament at present insufficiently protected can be made far safer."

Letters to the Editor.

[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.]

IMPROVED MARKING AND SIGNALLING.

SIR,—In your issue of the 19th Nov. last appeared an article on a new system of targets and signalling likely to be adopted in India, which, as you very justly remark "seems cumbersome as compared to the system in use in Canada." While reading that article my mind was drawn again to a system of double targets and signalling, and I have since worked out a system which for simplicity, correctness and speed I feel confident cannot be excelled. Spotting discs can be done away with if desired, and yet the exact position of every shot shown. Can be worked by one man, or, if extra speed is required, by a man and a boy, or two smart boys, and at least ten shots a minute can be correctly signalled. Moreover, first class targets can be used on the same supports.

The parapet is only seven feet high from crown to floor, and nothing appears above it but the target when in use.

The cost is so small as compared with any other system, together with the advantage of being able to use a first class or 12 foot target, that it should be generally adopted.

EDWIN B. BEER, Lt. Col.,
74th Battalion.
Sussex, N B., 31st Dec., 1891.

SUGGESTIONS FOR THE P. Q. R. A.

SIR,—The annual report of the council of the Province of Quebec Rifle Association just published is of a nature which will not suffer by a liberal criticism, and the more freely members come forward now, and give their opinions regarding it and the recommendations made to the incoming council, the better it will be for the members, competitors and association.

Acting upon this belief and in the hope that if I set the ball rolling I may induce others to follow my example, and thus enable the executive to get a more intelligent idea of the true reason for the decrease in the attendance at their meetings, I venture to ask space in your columns to consider the contents of the report just issued.

I will first deal with the items commended to the incoming council:—

1. I cannot agree that it would be beneficial to change the date of the meeting from August to July. In the latter month regimental and county rifle meetings are being very generally held, and instead of these meetings deterring competitors from attending the Provincial, it is often by their success in July that members are induced to attend the larger meetings in August. I would rather favour holding the meetings one week later, or

just before the Ontario gathering. This would give members of the Bisley team a little more margin of time, and many more would drop in on the way home. It would also suit better the class of men who are compelled to take leave of absence for a continuous period, many of whom might be inclined to include the Q. R. A. and O. R. A. as well as the D. R. A. in their programme if it could be conveniently arranged; and it would not interfere any more than the present system with members not limited to any particular time of leave. Let the meeting begin on Wednesday, and have it scheduled to run through in three days. There is no necessity for spreading it over four, and I know it prevents some from attending, probably many. This would give Saturday to spare in the event of bad weather, or other unforeseen contingency interfering with the programme.

2. Unlimited team entries would only benefit the local brigade, and if the outside corps take that view of it might cause a further falling off among them. There could be only one excuse to justify the change, namely, if it would bring in more revenue to the Association, but this is very doubtful, for while it might give a few more entries from local corps, it would very probably decrease the number of affiliated associations, as more than one affiliates now merely to enter a team, but whose members could probably fire as members of some other association already affiliated if allowed to enter as a second team.

3. To improve the value of the extra series prizes.

I pointed out the necessity of this last year, and my contention was fully borne out by the fact that during the last meeting the targets were more than once not half engaged during the hours set apart for extra series shooting, although the meeting was cut down to three days instead of four.

The men would not waste time or money trying for the prizes offered, and they were quite right.

How to improve this? My idea is, the Council do not give half enough display to the gifts they receive or pay sufficient attention to the donors.

I would advocate that the prizes be sought for early in the season, and all entered with the name of the donors in the programme, and that all who give prizes above a certain value be given a free ad. somewhere in the programme.

Merchants cannot always be expected to be contributing without receiving some return. It would, however, pay many of them to give handsomely for a good advertisement.

I would advocate having all the prizes on the ground before the meeting opened, in the exhibition tent especially set apart for them, each prize labelled with the names of the various firms or individuals from whom received, and I would

have invitations sent to every one of them for the "At Home." Let them see their gifts, and what others have done. Those who have been backward in coming forward will very soon want to get equal with the others.

4. This should never have been begun, and the sooner it is ended the better. No more certain evidence of the existence of dry rot can be adduced than to find one portion of a body benefiting at the expense of another portion of the same body, while the part despoiled is too indifferent, apathetic, or possibly too much afraid to object. Do not let us lose the lunch, though! It is always one of the most pleasant hours of very pleasant days, and I am sure no one will object to paying for it. Indeed I know several who would prefer to be allowed to do so.

5. To increase the individual membership.

A thing there ought not to be the least difficulty in doing, if gone about in an energetic systematic way. What is everybody's work is unfortunately seldom anybody's, and consequently falls to the ground. I would advocate that a sub-committee of council be appointed to deal with this. That each member of this committee apportion to himself a certain portion of the province, and that he should endeavour to secure the cooperation of at least one officer in every battalion in his district who would undertake to canvass the other officers of his regiment. Not one officer in fifty would refuse if properly approached and the membership might be increased by hundreds. The Montreal brigade ought to furnish 100 members at least.

6. Requires no comment. Very desirable if it can be accomplished, but doubtful unless some new means be devised of interesting the public in the force.

7. Make as much as possible of the At Home, but do not bother about the presentation of prizes. The men do not come prepared for it, will not do so, and will not wait for it if they can get away home before it takes place.

So much for the recommendations. Now for an idea or two I would like to suggest to the consideration of council.

Arrange to give more body to your programme, to keep the competitors more fully employed at the regular matches than at present. If the extra series will suffer by doing so, get up an additional eight or ten targets for extra series, and discontinue interrupting the regular programme for that part of the matches.

Men do not like to travel a long distance at considerable expense, and dawdle away a day or two firing seven shots a day. Every competitor should have at least twenty-one shots in the regular matches to fire every day.

Improve your office staffs. The statistical department is desperately slow, and not exceedingly correct although so slow.

I know it is difficult to interfere with so old, so true and faithful a friend to the

association as the present statistical officer but the exigency of the case demands it. It is absurd that the results of a match finished at two o'clock cannot be announced before six o'clock, yet such has been the case, and men have had to leave town both this year and last without their prizes on account of this dilatoriness.

I assume that an improvement in the statistical branch would enable the treasurer to act with greater despatch, and therefore assume that the delay in paying the prizes would be righted by a change in the other office.

Though I have not written all I had in mind I shall stop here as I fear I have taken up too much space already. I may, however, resume in a later issue.

MUSKET.

VOLUNTEER CYCLING.

At a meeting of the committee appointed by the donors of the Volunteer Cyclists' Challenge Cup, which has been competed for over a distance of one hundred miles, held recently the claims of the competing teams, of which eight entered, were considered, and the ride performed by B Troop (Captain R. E. Phillips), of the 26th Middlesex (Cyclist) R. V., in 9 hrs. 55 mins. 50 secs., was fully substantiated. This being the fastest time by upwards of an hour, the committee awarded the cup to the B Troop team. Each rider was dressed in marching order, and carried a rifle, bayonet, cape, and weight of 10 lbs. to represent ammunition. In the opinion of the committee the ride was an exceedingly good one. Several alterations in the conditions of the competition for next year were decided upon. Amongst these, the following are the most important: Distance to be 80 miles instead of 100 miles; no ride to be performed on Sunday; unlimited number of entries by a team allowed; that portion of the Great North Road between Hitchen and Peterborough is barred; only Cyclist Volunteers who have made themselves "efficient" in 1892 may ride; spare men are allowed in fixed proportions, according to the strength of the team. The committee for next year is composed of Lieut.-Colonel A. R. Savile, Commanding 26th Middlesex (Cyclist) R.V., Major E. J. A. Balfour, London Scottish R.V., and Major T. Knox Holmes, late Royal Bucks Yeomanry. The cup will be presented to the winning team at the annual dinner of the 26th Middlesex (Cyclist) R.V. -- *Volunteer Service Gazette*.

Admiral Montt, who is now President-elect of Chili by the unanimous vote of the electors, was 26 years at sea as a naval officer, rising through all the grades - cadet in 1858, midshipman in 1861, lieutenant in 1865, commander in 1873, captain in 1877, full captain in 1881, and now vice admiral, and, by virtue of the Presidency, Admiral of Chili.

Regimental News.

THE SEVENTH FUSILIER'S.

London, Ont., 22nd December.—The Non-Coms' entertainment at the Grand Opera House last evening was safely one of the best amateur shows ever seen in this city. From the time the curtain was rung up until the band played "God Save the Queen," every one of the large audience present appeared to enjoy and appreciate to the fullest extent the programme as it was unfolded, piece after piece. Not alone to the fact that the soldier boys of the crack Seventh are, and have always been prime favourites, could the oft-repeated outbursts of applause be attributed, but rather because the marked evidences of approval were all merited.

In a brief address, Capt. Payne, the energetic head of No. 1 Company, opened the proceedings. The object in view by the non-commissioned officers in projecting the affair, he said, was not so much one of pecuniary gain as it was to bring more prominently before the citizens of London, the Seventh Battalion. That this was accomplished in a perfectly satisfactory manner by the performance no one can gainsay. Features in the programme were too numerous, really, to permit of them being particularized. But perhaps in the drill exercises the most hearty approval was shown by the audience, especially the physical drill to music, under Sergt.-Instructor Anderson, after early morning parade, in the scene from camp life, and the drill superbe, by the Invincible Guard, under Staff-Sergt. Pugh. In both instances the intricate moves were gone through with scarcely a noticeable miss of any description.

The whole scene from camp life was pleasing. A sentry is first seen on duty in the grey of the morning, pacing to and fro before the tents, in which lie the sleeping soldiers. Next the reveille sounds and the guard turn out. Sleepily the whole camp begins to arouse itself. The wash and early morning parade follow, and then the physical drill, in which the effect of careful training was shown to advantage the men keeping excellent time to the music, while the swinging arms and swaying bodies, moving simultaneously, made a striking picture that was again and again applauded. The attack on the cook house door by the hungry soldiers was succeeded by a topical song by Corp. Wyatt, entitled "The Grub they give out to the Soldier," (words by Mr. Archie Bremner.) Twice was Corp. Wyatt recalled. The scene concluded with the elevation of a "feather bed" soldier, an unpleasant imitation for a recruit too tender for the hard fare the veteran is at times called upon to meet. A duet, "The Old Brigade," by Sergts. Milligan and Lyon, was good. Then a character song by Sim Fax, of Toronto, was encored, as was also the splendid sword dance, in costume, by Lon-

don's favourite, Miss Alice Galbraith. Bayonet exercise by the Non-Coms. was well done. Mrs. A. D. Holman sang a solo in good voice. The full band of the 7th, under Bandmaster Hiscott, played their second selection, both of which were received with the acclamations, as usual. The drill superbe required some fifteen minutes to complete, yet a portion had to be repeated to satisfy the audience, even in a measure. The Guard wore magnificent costumes, and certainly appeared to be a fine body of men. Sim Fax's character song, "Drum Major of Schneider's Band," was encored, and as before, Miss Galbraith, in a sailor's hornpipe, was recalled. A duet in character by Sergt. Milligan and Sim Fax received an encore, to which the latter responded by some evidences of his powers of "ventriloquism." This portion of the programme was concluded by a tableau, "Saving the colors at Alma," which, shown by calcium lights, made up a novel and intensely pretty scene.

"Laughable, farcical, nonsensical, musical operetta" the programme described the last number—and the description was apt. The piece was entitled "Jenny Lind," or, "The Troubles of an Amateur Vocalist," and in its performance the principals did their work most creditably. Mr. and Mrs. A. D. Holman, old-time stage favourites with London audiences, took the leading parts while Sergt. Milligan and Mr. W. Thorn took their less important parts well. Other performers in the farce were Sergt.-Inst. Anderson, Color-Sergt. McCrimmon, Sergt. Hayman, Color-Sergt. Goodburn, Corp. Shullington, Sergt. Craine, Staff-Sergt. Pugh, Sergt. Bell, Sergt. Robinson, Corp. Harding and Corp. Miller. Mr. Kingsley Evans played the accompaniments in an accomplished manner.

Months of hard work culminated in the affair of last evening, and the Non-Coms. deserve the very highest praise from all classes of citizens for the energy they have shown. The proceeds from the entertainment will net a handsome sum, which the Non-Coms. purpose expending judiciously in making their mess-room still more attractive than at present.

THE AUSTRIAN MILITARY RIFLE.

A recent press dispatch, published in the London Times, says that the Austrian government has decided to reduce the calibre of its military rifle. The present calibre of the Austrian military rifle is 8 millimetres, or .31496, and was at the time of its adoption, the smallest calibre of any military rifle in the world. The new calibre is reported to be 5½ millimetres, or .21653, a great reduction from the present one in use, and by far the smallest bore of any military weapon yet adopted.

It may be of interest to trace the changes which have been made in the calibres

of Austrian military rifles since 1855. In that year the one in use was termed a chamber rifle, and was constructed on the Delvigne-Augustin system, .713 calibre, and rifled with 12 grooves, making one turn in 50 inches; charge of powder, 55 grains; weight of bullet, 680 grains. The experiments which were then being carried on by the various European governments soon caused a radical reduction in the calibres of most of the military rifles in use by the various governments.

The calibre adopted in 1885 was .55, and was rifled with four grooves, and had one turn in 74 inches; charge of powder 62 grains; weight of bullet, 450 grains. This latter calibre was retained in the breech-loading rifle musket the necessity, of which was made apparent by the events of the war of 1866. The altered musket was still in the hands of the Austrian troops as late as 1873. A new rifle in reduced calibre had been adopted at this time, but had not been made in any large quantities then. The new rifle had a calibre of .425, was rifled with six grooves, with one turn in 28½ inches. The cartridge was loaded with 63 grains of powder and a bullet of 313 grains. This calibre was retained until superseded by the present calibre of .31497. This rifle is rifled with four grooves with one turn in about 9½ inches. The cartridges as first designed were loaded with 61.7 grains of compressed powder and a jacketed bullet of 243 grains. The advent of smokeless powders, however, has demonstrated that some changes were necessary in the construction of the Austrian military rifle, because of numerous failures which have occurred with the present arm when fired with smokeless powder cartridges. That such a radical reduction in calibre has been made as has been reported, will require more than the ordinary press despatch to confirm the truth of it in the minds of most military experts. *Shooting and Fishing*

The reorganization of the Greek army involves the transformation into 16 regiments of two battalions; the creation of a fourth regiment of cavalry, increasing the effect of that arm from 12 to 16 squadrons, and the addition of another regiment to the field artillery, bringing up the number of batteries from 20 to 24, of which six will be allotted to each regiment.

General Fevrier, in whom the supreme command of the French armies would vest in case of war, is sixty-eight years old and a veteran of the Crimea, where he was badly wounded; of the Italian campaign, and of the Franco-Prussian war, where he was so badly cut up that when he was taken prisoner at Metz they sent him home to be nursed, where he quickly recovered under homeopathic treatment. He is regarded as the legitimate successor by right of valor, prudence, and tactical ability, of the late General Chanzy.

ATHLETIC

Sports and Pastimes

CRICKET.

Last week I called attention to the suggestion of the secretary of the Ontario Cricket Association, for the formation of a Dominion Association, and in the innocence of my heart was unsuspecting enough to commend it as a worthy idea and one which would be worth trying to carry to a successful issue.

I find, however, that the scheme as propounded has not met with the approval of all cricketers, and one gentleman attacks it in the *Mail* with considerable ire, attributing to the secretary of the O. C. A. a desire to put the Ontario Association on a different basis to the other Provincial organizations, and obtain presumably for his own association undue advantages thereby.

I do not know of anyone who would take more pleasure than myself in attacking any proposition which would be inclined to give one Province or association undue advantages over the remaining ones, but I fail to see in the scheme proposed any evidence so far of a desire to take undue advantage.

It is true it is suggested that the Ontario Cricket Association shall form a "nucleus" to the Dominion union, and it is upon this clause the writer mentioned bases his supposition that greater advantages are being sought for Ontario than she is entitled to. He claims, moreover, that Winnipeg is the true centre of cricket in the Dominion and that the Northwest can boast of more and better cricketers than all of Eastern Canada combined.

His statements may be quite accurate, but there is this one disadvantage about the Western clubs. They have no organized associated interests. As far as I am aware the only two cricket associations in the Dominion are the Ontario and Eastern Canada, and as the latter includes the Maritime Provinces as well as Quebec, the Ontario association may be said to be the only Provincial association in the Dominion. The present scheme proposes the establishment of Provincial associations, and as the Ontario is the only Provincial association now in existence it does not appear to me to have been amiss that the secretary of it should propose that it should form a nucleus to the proposed organization.

Until stronger evidence can be adduced of ulterior designs on the part of the O. C. A. I think every encouragement should be accorded to the proposition of her secretary to form a Dominion Cricket Association, with the Ontario Cricket Association forming a nucleus thereto.

The writer above mentioned alluded to the fact that a Winnipeg eleven had on two occasions made tours through Eastern

Canada. This is a fact which ought to be borne in mind by Eastern cricketers, and a strong effort should be made to return the visit.

Of course, it will be said that the expenses of such a trip are too heavy. Undoubtedly they are heavy, but if they were not too great to debar the Western men from coming east, they ought not to be sufficient to frighten the Eastern men from going West.

The gate money at cricket matches is unfortunately not large in Canada, but if properly managed there can be little doubt that a portion of the cost of the trip could be defrayed by the gate, and there must be many a good man who would be prepared to stand a considerable portion of his own expenses.

There is no better man in Eastern Canada to organize a team and carry to a successful issue such a tour than Mr. F. Stancliffe, of the Montreal Cricket Club, and if he could be persuaded to undertake the task, it is very probable the trip would give a new impetus to the game which in some parts of the Dominion is sadly needed.

LACROSSE.

TO BOOM THE GAME IN THE WEST.

A scheme is on foot at present to send a Toronto lacrosse team through Manitoba, the Northwest Territories and British Columbia next summer to properly boom Canada's national game and place it on the same grand basis in the West that it occupies in Ontario. Lacrosse already in the West occupies the premier position among out-door sports and all the cities and towns from Winnipeg to Vancouver Island have their enclosed grounds, grand stands and crack clubs of players, principally from the East. The most prominent organization in the West is the British Columbia Lacrosse League, comprising Nanaimo, Victoria, Vancouver, and New Westminster. Hankan and O'Connor were present at a championship match in the last named place last summer along with 5,000 other persons, and saw Vancouver beaten in a close and exciting struggle. Crowds universally turn out well at all these contests. Archie Mackerzie is thoroughly in sympathy with the scheme and will make every effort to complete the plan. Here is a list of cities and towns that would make a grand tour for a Toronto twelve, all possessing teams of exceptional ability: Winnipeg, Rat Portage, Medicine Hat, Calgary, Donald, Kamloops, Nanaimo, Victoria, Vancouver, New Westminster. A match between a picked B. C. team and Toronto would likely result in a victory for the West is a prevailing opinion out there. After completing the Canadian route it is proposed to take the picked B. C. aggregation with the Torontos and play exhibition games in Port Townsend,

Seattle, Tacoma, Olympia and San Francisco, on the coast of Oregon, Washington and California and thus introduce the game where it has hitherto been unknown. -- *Toronto World*.

LAWN TENNIS.

I am very glad to be able to inform lawn tennis players that an effort is about to be made to establish a racquet manufactory in Canada, most probably at Ottawa. This venture will not be undertaken unless it is ascertained beyond a doubt that an article equal to anything imported can be turned out.

Of our ability to do this I have little doubt, as I have played with Canadian made racquets, which for balance, gut, springing, and general appearance were equal to anything I have handled, and what has been done once ought to be able to be done again.

I heartily hope that the venture may prove successful, for I am a Canadian of Canadians, and would be delighted to see a native weapon supplant all foreign competitors. If the undertaking becomes an accomplished fact, I trust that all true Canadians will give the home made article a trial before condemning it because it is Canadian made.

HOCKEY.

A Kingston correspondent asks me to recommend to him a place where he can buy good hockey sticks. It is against our practice to recommend the wares of any particular dealer, but if he cannot obtain sticks in Kingston to suit him, he might try Fotheringham & Popham, or J. Jackson, both of Ottawa, who have constantly on hand large supplies of sticks.

The present season has been a most depressing one for hockey players, and their hopes have been so often raised only to be dashed to the earth again by rain and thaw, that it is to be hoped their share of trial and disappointment for this season has all been endured, and that the months before them may be full of good hard frost.

The game arranged to be played in Toronto on the 1st instant, between the staffs of the Dominion Bank and Bank of Montreal, Montreal, had to be abandoned, owing to the absence of ice. I hinted last week that there was a probability the game would have to be played on boards if it took place at all.

The Ottawa Hockey Club last year succeeded in getting only one chance at the M. A. A. Club of Montreal for the championship of Canada, and failed, being beaten by three goals to nothing. This

year they determined to put in a challenge as early as possible, so that if defeated, they might manage to get another chance towards the close of the season. Accordingly they sent in a challenge last week. Answer has been received that the Montrealers will play them on Friday evening in Montreal. This is even shorter notice than expected by the Ottawas, as they have only had two practices so far. They have, however, played every evening this week. The seven for Friday's championship match will be chosen from the following: Russell (captain), H. Kirby, C. Kirby, Morel, Kerr, Young, Grant, Jenkins and Bradley. It is proposed to run an excursion from Ottawa to enable citizens of the capital to witness the match, and as it is proposed to have a special return the same night after the game is over, there can be no doubt it will be liberally patronized.

Hockey is rapidly working its way westward, and I hear of clubs actively at work in Winnipeg, Moosomin, Port Arthur and Fort William. A match is on the tapis between teams from Moosomin and Fort William, the latter club being captained by Mr. C. C. Abbott, the manager of the branch of the Bank of Montreal in that town.

CURLING.

The Canadian Branch Royal Caledonian Curling Club held a meeting on Saturday last to arrange the Branch competitions for the season, Mr. George Brush, president, in the chair. Among those present were Messrs. R. M. Esdaile, Lt.-Col. Stevenson, S. C. Stevenson, J. B. Hutchinson, Jas. Rodger, J. Williamson, C. W. Dean and Alexander Murray. The preliminary competition for the Governor-General's prize and the Branch tankard were arranged for the last week of this month. The Stanciffe cup was set for the first week in February. Dr. George Hutchinson, of the Ottawa Curling Club, was elected second vice-president, after which the meeting adjourned, and then they watched the caretaker sprinkle the sheets with but little prospects of freezing that night.

The drawing for the Royal Caledonian Curling Club medals has yet to be announced.

The Manitoba Branch Royal Caledonian Curling Club have issued a circular announcing the date and particulars of their fourth annual bonspiel, to be held in Winnipeg on Tuesday, 9th February, and following days.

They announce that arrangements are being made with the different railway authorities for cheap excursion rates to and from Winnipeg, and that every effort is being put forth to make the bonspiel a success.

The Ontario Branch will have to make haste in order to obtain ice for the International Bonspiel to be held in Toronto on the 7th inst.

"Weather permitting," says the New York *World*, "the big international curling match, United States v. Canada, will take place at Toronto next Thursday. The advance guard of New York curlers will leave here Monday morning. They will be under the guidance of George Grieve, of the American club, and will play games at Albany and Utica on the way. They will arrive in Toronto Wednesday morning. The other curlers on this side of the border will reach there the next day. It is estimated that between forty and fifty rinks will participate."

The Canadian curlers will entertain their visitors at a banquet Thursday evening, to be given at the Walker house Toronto.

The following National club medal matches for the season of 1892 have been arranged by the Eastern and Western executive committee:—

North and South of Scotland match for Western Dalrymple medal—Milwaukee, Monday, January 4, at 10 a. m.

Champion club match for Mitchell medal—Milwaukee, Tuesday, January 5 at 10 a. m. United States vs. Canada International match—Toronto, Thursday, January 7.

North and South of Scotland match, for Eastern Dalrymple medal—Central Park lake, New York, Thursday, January 14, at 12 m.

Champion rink match, for Gordon medal—Van Cort and Lake, New York, Tuesday, January 19, 1892, at 10 a. m.

Scotch vs. All Nationalities, for McIntock medal—Tuesday, January 26, or within two weeks from that date. Can be played by clubs from Boston to Minneapolis.

International two-rink match, for Gordon medal—New York, date not agreed upon, but will probably be about February 4th, 1892.

SKATING.

A despatch from Hamar, in Norway, gives various records made in the international skating contests which have come off there of late. Hagen, the Norwegian skater, is credited with breaking the world's record for three miles, his time being 8 minutes 46 2/5 seconds. He broke the miles record also. Time, 2 minutes 49 seconds.

GOLF.

The Montreal Gazette says: Scotch and Canadian weather reversed. Recent advices tell us that they have been playing golf at St. Andrew's, Scotland, the home of golf, with red balls upon snow, while here we have had no snow and have been

playing upon the green continuously with the exception of one week up to New Year's day. On the 1st of January 1892 the links were in fair order and quite a number of golfers played the royal game. In 1891 the golfers have had nine months play—a pretty good record for Canada.

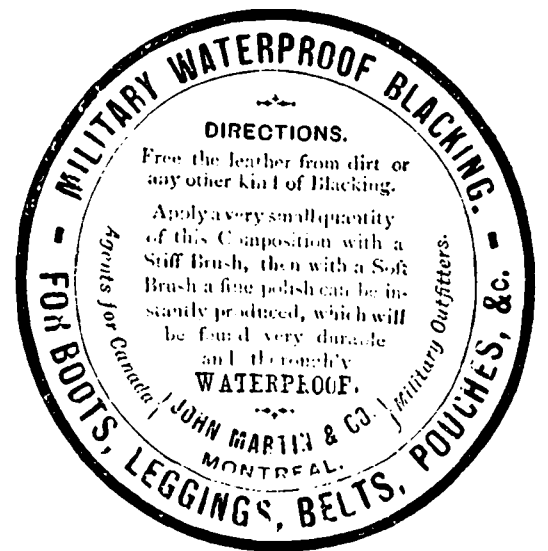
GLEANINGS.

The Spanish Government has decided to disband a portion of its standing army in order to reduce expenses.

It is reported that the British Admiralty will ask for 5000 more marines. They have also decided to abolish the Royal Naval Artillery Volunteers.

Lieutenant Fred. Wm. Bayley, a retired officer of the British Army, who died Nov. 16, was over one hundred years old, having been born July 14, 1791.

There was a flurry in military circles at Buda Pesth, Dec. 1, caused by the arrest of two sergeants, who are charged with allowing reservists to escape duty in the army. The sergeants it is said would accept bribes ranging from 50 to 100 florins from members of the reserve who were desirous of escaping military duty. They would then falsify the service books, and by this means, it is estimated, they enabled over 400 men belonging to the reserve to escape performing the service they were supposed to render.



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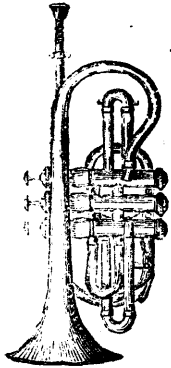
Any active boy can make plenty of money in this neighbourhood by re-plating tableware and jewellery with one of the Magic Electric Plating Outfits. Those who have already secured one of these machines are making from \$20 to \$25 a week. The price of the plating outfit is \$10, but we have arranged to supply it to one boy only in each neighbourhood free for a few hours' work, which can be done after school or on Saturday. No capital required. Any boy sending his address and referring to some merchant in his town as to honesty will receive full particulars by return mail. This is a permanent money making business for the right kind of boy. Apply at once. Address LADIES PICTORIAL CO., Toronto, Ont.

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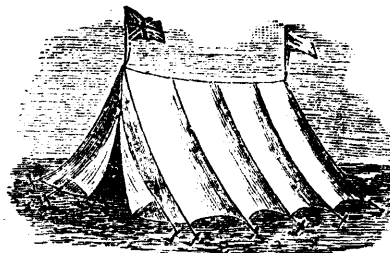
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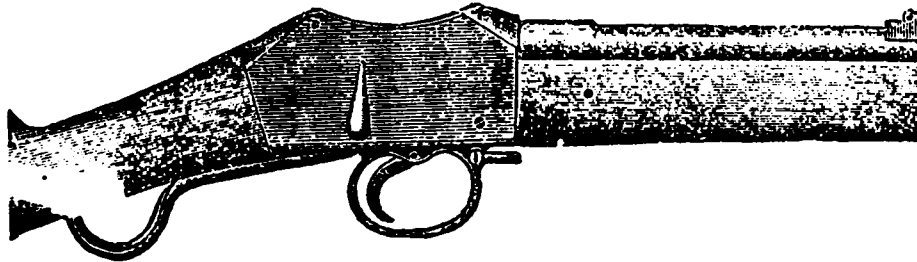
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