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Topics of the Week.

It is proposed to establish shortly a Royal Military College Gazette, to be edited by a committee. Such a publication would no doubt serve a useful purpose in helping to educate the public up to a proper appreciation of the usefulness of the College, and the scheme deserves the support of every well-wisher of this model military institution.

"Doubting Thomas," who writes concerning the New Year's scores reported from Fenelon Falls, cannot surely be acquainted with the Fighting Major who commands the Victoria *Warder*, whence the scores were obtained. We leave our correspondent and his request for information to the tender mercies of the *Warder*, only expressing our own conviction that the Major is not so fashioned as to be unduly influenced by New Year or other festivities. We trust the Fenelon Falls marksmen will show up on the range next summer.

Canadians who look forward to the time when the British War Office will turn to Canada for a regular supply of army remounts may find satisfaction in the reports just made to the Imperial authorities for the past year. From these it appears that though considerable efforts have been made to increase the reserve of horses for army purposes, the stock of animals actually trained as Cavalry troopers has not been augmented during the year. At the beginning of the year it was reputed that during 1887 a thousand horses had been added to the Cavalry requirements, and that addition has been maintained; but the present stock of trained and training animals is still not sufficient to mount two-thirds of the men.

The correspondent who writes in disapproval of the idea promoted by Lieut. Col. Otter, of having the city corps drilled in camp, in all probability expresses the opinion of nine-tenths of the members of such corps. Soldiering is popular with them as a pastime, a profitable and pleasant way of spending spare hours; and the pleasure is no doubt largely enhanced by the knowledge that the training being acquired is preparing the volunteer to render valuable service, if need be, in the defence of his country. But the moment volunteering takes a man away from his business at inconvenient hours or for inconveniently prolonged periods; the moment, in short, it interferes with his means of livelihood, that moment it must begin to lose popularity. We would be sorry to see any attempt at compelling city corps to go to camp. If there are any whose members, or a sufficiently large proportion of them, can make arrangements for a brief camping experience, well and good. By all means encourage them to go under canvas. But

take no regiments, or fragments of regiments, out unwillingly. After all, would not the purpose be served by having the officers and non-commissioned officers only, for instruction in the practical work pertaining to camp life? It is of comparatively little importance how much or how little the men know of such special duties, provided their natural intelligence is such that they are able to execute directions given them, and their officers and non-commissioned officers are sufficiently well posted to know what instructions to give. A painful experience often met with in connection with the training camps for the rural corps, is to see untrained officers mystify and distract the men of their companies by giving them all sorts of absurd commands.

"In the best informed Service circles," says the *United Services Gazette*, "there is a pretty general opinion that the adoption of such a small calibre as .303 for the magazine rifle of the British Army is unwise. The bullets of the new cartridges are very little thicker than an ordinary pencil, and it is considered that the shock of their impact will not be nearly so disabling to a man as that of the larger and heavier Martini bullet. The fiat of the Ordnance Committee has, however, gone forth in favour of the smaller bullet. Is there no time to alter it, and must it be regarded as final?"

We congratulate Lieut.-Col. J. M. Gibson, the gallant commanding officer of the 13th Battalion, Hamilton, on his well deserved political promotion to a place in the Ontario cabinet. On Friday last he was sworn in as Provincial Secretary, vice Hon. A. M. Hardy, who has become Commissioner of Crown Lands in place of Hon. T. B. Purdee, resigned on account of ill health. The new Minister is one of the most popular officers in the militia. Col. Gibson's name is familiar to every rifleman as that of one of Canada's crack shots, and one who has keenly interested himself in the management of the business of the Dominion and Provincial rifle associations, in addition to taking part in their competitions. Amongst his achievements in the way of marksmanship may be mentioned the capture of the Prince of Wales Prize at Wimbledon upon one of the three occasions when it has been won by a member of the Canadian team.

Reprinted from *The Week* there appears in this issue an interesting article from Rev. K. L. Jones, Professor of English and German at the Royal Military College, on the subject of the Canadian defensive force. The Professor undoubtedly voices the sentiment of the average Canadian when he condemns as calamitous the suggested substitution of a standing army for the present militia system. Canada must continue to have men permanently embodied to form classes for the officers receiving instruction to practise upon, but she needs a standing army for no other purpose. There is other and more profitable work to be done by her hardy sons. Prof. Jones' suggestion that drill should be made a part of the school system, will we are sure meet with favour. In fact the boys of many of the public and high schools of the province are already being drilled, and the Government has marked its approval of such early training by the provision made for the equipment and instruction of associations for drill in educational institutions.

Having so often levied upon that brightest of the English service papers the *United Service Gazette* for material with which to interest the readers of this paper, we are pleased to have now the opportunity of making a quotation showing the prosperity our contemporary enjoys. This is from the issue of the 5th January:

"On the 9th of next month the UNITED SERVICES GAZETTE will complete its fifty-sixth year of existence, having been started on February 9, 1833. We are thus the senior of the oldest of the existing Service papers by twenty-seven years.

"In our 2,922nd number, the first of the year 1889, we wish our readers the compliments of the season, and at the same time draw their attention to a very slight but important addition to our title.

"In future we shall be known as the UNITED SERVICES GAZETTE. The addition of the letter "S" makes a vast difference, for it causes to be included the *whole* of Her Majesty's land and sea forces, Regular and Auxiliary. * * *

"At the present moment there is undoubtedly existent among a large and influential section of our Citizen Army the conviction that the Volunteers are not *efficiently* represented in the Press devoted to the Services, and it will be our aim to supply the want in a very practical and efficient manner."

The Drill of the Garrison Artillery.

The ponderous volume recently issued containing the report of the Committee on the Organization of the British Royal Artillery, has many passages bristling with pointers for the artillery branch of our Canadian force. The committee report, for instance, upon "The want of a proper system of instruction for Garrison Artillery, and the absence of modern *materiel* for carrying out such instruction," and they say:

"The suggestions of the committee with respect to the establishment of auxiliary schools of instruction at the great centres, separate from, but affiliated to, the School of Gunnery at Shoeburyness, meet with the warmest approval of the present committee, and they most cordially recommend them.

"The absence of *materiel* of recent pattern the committee feel to be a great misfortune, and they strongly urge its supply, not only at home, but abroad, and in India, where, as it has been represented to them, the obsolete nature of the armament in the inland forts is a fruitful source of deterioration to the garrison artillery.

"Another point connected with this subject has attracted the attention of the committee. They are informed that garrison artillery in addition to their peculiar work, are constantly called upon to take part as infantry in the movement of field days, &c., and that, further, in order that they may creditably discharge these duties it is found necessary to practice them in battalion drill during hours which would otherwise have been devoted to their special exercises.

"They learn, moreover, that even at this cost, it is impossible for a corps of which the duties are so numerous and so onerous, to find sufficient opportunities to achieve perfection in infantry movements, and that both officers and men feel bitterly the fact that they are called upon, on the only occasions on which they appear before the eyes of the public, to invite comparison between themselves and the more practised regiments of the line.

"Without desiring to enter into details of drill, which more closely concern the administrative authorities, the committee desire to enter a forcible protest against this use of a specially important arm, and to record their unanimous opinion that nothing beyond what is necessary for their inspection by batteries on parade, should be demanded from garrison artillery save such knowledge as they are likely to use in time of war. The garrison artillery should be trained only in their own duties, be inspected only in the discharge of them, and be judged only by their efficiency in them."

Military College Ex-Cadets.

The annual meeting of the Royal Military College Ex-Cadet Club was held at Montreal on Friday last. There were present: Mr. W. M. Davis, Woodstock, president; Mr. Fred. W. White, Ottawa, secretary-treasurer; Capt. Wise, A.D.C., Ottawa; Capt. E. T. Taylor, Royal Cheshire Regiment; A. K. Kirkpatrick, Kingston; Capt. G. H. Ogilvie, "C" Battery, Victoria, B.C.; H. H. Hogan, G. R. Hooper, D. Macpherson, Montreal; Dr. F. Powell, N. W. M. Police, Regina; B. W. Yates, Detroit; W. R. Leonard, Springhill, N.S.; R. B. Jack, Moncton; A. E. Hodgins, Toronto; Capt. E. F. Wurtele, Quebec; E. H. Drury, St. John; C. R. Coutlee, Aylmer.

Considerable discussion took place on the subject of appointments to commissions in the permanent corps. The militia regulations promise these appointments to graduates of the Royal Military

College, and the club are going to urge the militia authorities to respect this regulation. The secretary-treasurer's report was very satisfactory, showing an increase in the membership, and the finances were in a prosperous state, showing a good cash balance in hand. The election of officers for the year resulted as follows:—President, W. M. Davis, C.E., Woodstock, re-elected; vice-president, A. K. Kirkpatrick, C.E., Kingston; secretary-treasurer, Fred. W. White, C.E., Ottawa; managing committee, L. H. Irving, Toronto; D. Macpherson, C.E., Montreal; S. W. Leonard, C.E., Springhill, N.S.; B. W. Yates, C.E., Detroit; Capt. S. A. Denison, London. The next annual meeting will be held in Toronto.

THE ANNUAL DINNER.

The annual dinner was held at the Windsor in the evening. The chair was occupied by Mr. Davis, president of the club; the vice-chair by Mr. D. Macpherson. Among the guests present were Messrs. R. S. White, M.P.; R. G. Leckie, of Springfield, N.S.; Lieut.-Col. Henshaw, Victoria Rifles; A. D. Taylor, H. B. Yates, and Surgeon Corsan, of Fifth Royal Scots. After dinner the usual loyal toasts were proposed, and with songs and speeches the evening was pleasantly passed. Letters of regret at their inability to attend were read from Sir A. P. Caron, Gen. Sir Frederick Middleton, Col. Panet, Deputy Minister of Militia, and Col. Powell, Adjutant-General.

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.]

REFERRED TO THE "WARDER."

EDITOR MILITIA GAZETTE,—Kindly give us a little more information concerning the wonderful scores made at Fenelon Falls on New Year's day.

Was the match shot before or after the banquet? What was the size of the bulls-eye? Do you think the markers were "fixed?" Or do you think the festive season of the year had anything to do with it? Do your best to answer us in the next GAZETTE, and oblige a

DOUBTING THOMAS.

Toronto, 21st January, 1889.

PRACTICAL TRAINING FOR CITY CORPS.

EDITOR MILITIA GAZETTE,—It seems to be the general impression among the members of the corps here that our D. A. G. has not by any means given up the idea of getting the city corps of his district into camp during the coming summer.

Perhaps it may seem presumptuous for one in my humble position to give an opinion, but a long connection with the force as a private and non-commissioned officer, gives one opportunities to judge that some of the officers never get.

Various are the reasons for which a young man joins the militia. As a rule it is because his chums or particular friends belong, or perhaps because he becomes suddenly enthusiastic over a march-out, field-day or such like. A few, very few I am sorry to say, join from the pure love of it. These are the men who make our efficient volunteers, and are ready to break any engagement or put themselves out in any way for the sake of their corps, but the great majority would sooner not take any holidays at all than put them in at camp; besides it would not meet with the approval of the employers, as in a great many cases it would leave them short-handed in their warehouses, offices and workshops at a busy season of the year.

It is well known that for many years the plan adopted of forming company funds out of the men's annual pay has helped the city regiments more than can be imagined. Send them to camp and that source of revenue is done away with, as the men would naturally want their pay.

It would be a long stride in the right direction if the city corps could be got into brigade camp, if only once in three years; but my firm belief is that practically it could not be done. Theoretically it might by inducing as many as possible to go, and filling up the blanks with substitutes, but that would place us in as false a position as the rural corps, who only get about twenty or thirty of their old men for two consecutive camps.

Would it not be well to adopt a plan something after that followed at Aldershot for the volunteers. That is to raise a provisional battalion from the different corps. We have in this district the 2nd, 10th, 13th and 38th Battalions. Take one hundred men from each, with a proportion of officers and non-commissioned officers, and you have an eight company battalion four hundred strong; this would be practically—I wish to emphasize "practically"—a better plan than attempting to get the different regiments separately, and I do not think there would be any trouble in getting one hundred men from each of the regiments mentioned.

MILITIA MAN.

Toronto, 21st January, 1889.

The New "Red Book."—IV.

(Volunteer Service Gazette.)

Except that the movements in double companies and double columns and those of advancing in column from either flank and retiring in column from one flank in rear of the other are done away with, there are few changes in the regulations for Brigade drill in close formation. Wheeling from line into mass and from mass into line of quarter columns may be done on the march. And the few pages on the drill of divisions or larger bodies require no comment. But we now come to the important second division of the book, styled "Manœuvre," which is prefaced by the following remarks:

Application of Drill to Manœuvre.—Manœuvre represents the application of the drill to the circumstances of supposed or actual conflict with an enemy. The only means by which officers and men can become efficient in readily adapting drill instructions to the varying conditions of the field manœuvres, is by the constant exercise of companies acting independently.

A marked difference should be made between parades for drill and those for field manœuvre. In the former, great accuracy should be insisted on; in the latter, the delay, and fatigue to the men, caused by minute dressing and correcting intervals, should be avoided.

Exactitude should never be permitted to impede the execution of a movement when rapidity is essential; nor should too rigid an observance of the regulated intervals be allowed to destroy the elasticity of the movement for which those intervals provide. Accuracy of alignment should unhesitatingly be sacrificed where configuration of ground can advantageously be followed in the disposition of troops. Tactics should be studied rather than drill, accidents of ground rather than precision.

Each file, or in rank entire, each man is to have a front of 30 inches when manœuvring—*i. e.*, there is to be no "touch." And in closing the formation of fours, &c., the side step and the covering pace must be adjusted to this increased front. "Otherwise the instructions for drill are applicable to manœuvre. If men at drill are required to take the increased front allowed for manœuvre or *vice versa*, they will do so on the march."

When a company has been carefully instructed in Part II. (Company Drill), it is to be exercised in the various movements with the increased front and actual points. "Generally speaking, the duties of guides in manœuvre are as described in Parts II. and III. (Company and Battalion Drill), but they will give the words *Eyes front* to their companies in line formations immediately the alignment is attained. Markers will not give points unless specially ordered."

The duties of the officers and markers in a "battalion" "manœuvring" are also quite different to those they have to perform at "drill." "Points" are to be given up altogether in "manœuvre." The Major, instead of covering guides and markers, is to "be responsible that all movements are correctly executed." In the rest of the "General Rules" which open the chapters on "Manœuvre" there is not much that is novel. And the same may be said of the chapter which follows, on "Route Marching."

The next part is on "Tactics as influenced by fire." It appears to be excellent and deserving of close study, but it would be useless to give extracts from it. We may, however, quote the first paragraph, which is as follows:—

Necessity of peace training for War.—The more carefully troops are trained to do during peace what will be required of them in time of war, the more efficient they will prove when they take the field. It is a recognised fact that men who are in ordinary times taught and frequently practised to act in a particular manner, will, from acquired habit, under somewhat similar conditions, do the same in moments of great mental strain, and will, even under heavy fire, act, as it were instinctively, according to well-established custom."

The above statement is, we believe, quite true; but it seems to us that it is impossible to harmonise it with the principle laid down earlier in the book, by which the training of the parade ground is made quite different from that of the field of manœuvre or of battle.

We then come to Advanced and Rear Guards and Outposts, which are dealt with at considerable length, and very clearly. Part VIII. is on Skirmishing, Attack and Defence, and Umpire Regulations. The word "skirmishing" is, it will be observed, re-introduced, and the system seems very much that in use many years ago. The skirmishing drill (if we may venture to call anything in the second division of the book by that name) is, of course the basis for the fighting formations which are described in the next chapter on "Attack and Defence." The scheme of attack appears to be substantially the same as that tried by Sir A. Alison at Aldershot last autumn, and described in the *V. S. G.* of September 8th, 1888. "Operations by Night," take up a great deal of space in the new book, and are described with the most careful minuteness. The book ends with a bulky "miscellaneous" section, which

opens with the directions for Reviews, Trooping the Colours, etc., quite in the old shape. There are chapters on shelter-trench exercise, and on the annual course of "military training," which every company of Regular Infantry needs to undergo under its own officers.

The book will, it would appear from the Army Orders of this month, be speedily issued, if it has not yet been issued, to all her Majesty's Infantry. In these articles we have addressed ourselves less to criticism than to the task of telling our readers what they will really find in the new work. But we cannot end without expressing our great admiration of the very thorough way in which the compilers of the book have done their work. The principle on which the system of training is based appears to us to be a wrong one, but too much praise cannot be given to the accuracy and clearness of the descriptions, the exhaustiveness of the regulations, and the valuable little treatises on fire tactics in "la petite guerre" which are contained in the fat little volume before us.

THE NEW RIFLE AND BAYONET EXERCISE.

The new "Rifle Exercises" is to contain "Physical drill with arms," as worked out in the Gymnasium at Aldershot; and a new bayonet exercise devised by Col. Fox. The "physical drill" without arms, which takes the place of "extension motions" in the new infantry drill-book is a preparation for the "physical drill with arms," the object of which is to supple and straighten the whole frame by using the rifle as a bar-bell.

In the new bayonet exercise all the guards and points are of a practical nature. The old head parry has been done away with, as it only left the soldier in a position of defence for the head, and exposed his body for a point. The shorten arms has been changed. In the new position the soldier has more chance of defending himself, and greater power in delivering his points. Some people consider the throw point too much for a young and weak man, but it must be clearly understood that before using this (especially with a fixed bayonet), he must have strengthened his arms by the preliminary exercises in physical drill with arms, especially fifth practice. The object of the throw point is to gain greater reach, and is used when by using the ordinary point the adversary is out of reach. It has generally been considered that after the recruits (all of whom have to go through a three months' course of gymnastics, one hour a day), have finished their course of gymnastics, and go back to their regimental drill, their physical training and condition is neglected. This physical drill with arms, together with quick marching and running drill, keeps them up to the mark as regards wind and condition generally, and is to be carried on regimentally.

THE PROMULGATING ORDER.

The following is the text of the "Army Order" announcing the new Manual of Infantry Drill:

1. A revised edition of the "Field Exercise and Evolutions of Infantry," which will in future be styled the "Manual of Infantry Drill," has been published, and will shortly be issued to all concerned.
2. His Royal Highness the Commander-in-Chief has received the Queen's commands to require of officers a scrupulous adherence to the system of drill and manœuvre now promulgated. The careful training of the soldier in ordinary times by those whose duty it will be to direct his fire and lead him in action has become of paramount importance.
3. These regulations are based on the principle of demanding great exactitude in the simplified movements still retained for drill, while conceding the utmost latitude to all commanders, of however small a unit, in manœuvre. The first must be carried out literally, the second must be observed in the spirit more than in the letter.
4. The very process by which the rank and file are gradually imbued with a feeling of confidence, when called upon to act more or less upon their individual judgment, will create the discipline essential to success.
5. It is to the appreciation by General Officers Commanding of these vital points, and to their realising the altered conditions of modern warfare, that his Royal Highness looks for the efficient preparation of Infantry for the practical requirements of the battle-field.
6. General Orders 28, 41, and 94, of 1885, are hereby cancelled. Regulations for Musketry Instruction, 1887. Alterations and additions.—Alterations in, and additions to, the Regulations for Musketry Instruction, 1887, have been approved, and will be issued to all concerned.

Major-General Oliver, the new C. M. G., is an Englishman by birth. He was born at Ashby-de-la-Zouch in 1834. He became a professor at the Royal Military College at Kingston in 1877; colonel in 1885, and in the following year Commandant of the college, and subsequently a major-general. Major-General Oliver's term of office as Commandant of the college expired last mid-summer, when Major-General Cameron was appointed to the post.

Regimental News.

Ottawa.

The officers of the New Edinburgh Company of the Guards, No. 5—Capt. H. W. Bowie and Lieut. Geo. Bowie—after the drill on Friday evening, entertained their command at supper at the Queen's Restaurant. Besides the company there were present Major Todd, Capt. W. E. Hodgins, the adjutant, Capt. John Hodgins and Lieut. P. B. Taylor of No. 6, and Staff-Sergeant Gallwey, formerly of No. 5. After supper an hour was very pleasantly spent in song and speech. The company—always a credit to the corps—is cosmopolitan in its composition, and the songs given were in three languages—English, French and German. Nearly every man has his song, which he is not too bashful to parade on these occasions. The toasts to the officers of the company were very heartily honored, showing the popularity they enjoy with the men. As an evidence of the *entente cordiale* which the Guardsmen desire to maintain between themselves and their Rifle-green rivals, it may be noted that when towards the close of the proceedings a solitary Rifleman made his appearance at Capt. Bowie's invitation, a toast to the 43rd was proposed by the Guards' Adjutant, in a neat complimentary speech, and drunk in the most cordial manner.

The concert given last week by No. 5 Co. G. G. F. G. in the Albert Hall, New Edinburgh, was an unqualified success. The hall was crowded beyond its seating capacity. Among the good things of the evening was the Indian club swinging by five members of the Ottawa Amateur Athletic Association, Mr. C. W. Badgley's performance in particular being excellent. Mr. James Lawson delighted the audience with a "humorous recitation" which proved however to be more pure "business" than reciting. Miss Taylor, Miss Wilson, Madame and Mr. Belleau, who were on the programme for songs, rendered them in very good style, particularly Miss Wilson who sang "Marguerite" in beautiful taste. "The Spy" a military tableau in three acts by members of No. 5 Co., was very effective, more especially the last act. At the close of the first part of the entertainment, Captain Bowie stepped on the stage and thanked the audience for their attendance, also saying that he hoped the hall would be as well filled at the second annual concert of No. 5 as on the occasion of this, their first annual entertainment. The farce "Who's Who" brought the performance to a close. Members of No. 1 and 6 were present in uniform, the former in white fatigue jackets, and the members of the New Edinburgh company of the 43rd supported the entertainment en masse.

The first parade of the Governor General's Foot Guards for the season took place on Friday evening, the 18th instant, and was well attended, the parade states showing 178 of all ranks. The officers present were Lieut.-Col. Tilton in command; Majors Todd and Toller; Dr. Horsey, surgeon; Captains Hodgins (Adjt.), Bate, Coté, Bowie, John Hodgins; Lieutenants Winter, Taylor, Jarvis, Watters, Bowie and Fairweather, and Assistant Surgeon Grant. The regiment was put through the manual exercise and battalion drill by Major Todd, and the manner in which the movements were made showed that the men had not fallen off in their proficiency during the long interval which had elapsed since last inspection. At the conclusion of the parade Lt.-Col. Tilton, who had been suffering from a severe cold, addressed a few words to the men, expressive of his pleasure at the large muster, the first which had taken place since he had assumed command of the regiment, and said that the large attendance augured well for the future, and that he felt sure from what he had seen that they would have a most successful drill season. He regretted that the state of his voice prevented him from taking the command himself on that evening. It must have been most gratifying to Col. Tilton to find the order for parade so well responded to, and also that every officer of the regiment was on hand, excepting those absent from the city. The adjutant announced that the regiment would be required to furnish a guard of honour for the opening of the House on the 31st instant, after which the parade dismissed.

Toronto.

The annual meeting of the Sergeants' Mess of the Queen's Own Rifles of Canada, was held last week. There was a large attendance, over 40 members being present. After the usual business had been got through with, the election of officers took place, as follows: President, Staff-Sergeant Wm. Harp; Vice-President, Staff-Sergeant James MacDonald; Secretary, Sergeant George; Treasurer, Sergeant Higinbotham; Supt. of Refreshments, Sergeant Cauldwell; Committee, Col.-Sergt. World, Sergt. Bowden and Sergt. McKinzie.

Before the meeting adjourned the Sergeant-Major, on behalf of the members of the mess, presented Staff-Sergeant Strachan, the retiring president, who has recently taken unto himself a wife, with the following address, which was beautifully illuminated and framed:

To Frank W. K. Strachan, Staff-Sergt. Queen's Own Rifles of Canada

DEAR COMRADE,—We, your fellow-members of the sergeants' mess, take this opportunity of tendering to you our congratulations upon the occasion of your marriage. We also desire to mark our appreciation of your services as president during the past year, and also the able manner in which you have discharged the several duties attendant upon other offices which you have so satisfactorily filled since your connection with the mess. It is our very pleasing duty to ask your acceptance of the accompanying present as a token of our esteem and regard and our hearty wishes to yourself and wife and that you may have many years of happiness and prosperity.

A very handsome chair accompanied the address. It was carried into the room by Staff-Sergts. Walker and Medland, and Sergt. Strachan was then carried over and placed in it. In a neat little speech he thanked the members for their handsome present. Refreshments were then served up and a very pleasant evening was spent.

BOOMER RIFLE ASSOCIATION.

The annual meeting of the Boomer Rifle Association, in connection with "A" Co. Royal Grenadiers, was held at the Bay Horse hotel Thursday evening. The president, Sergt. Mowat, was in the chair. Secretary-Treasurer A. Henderson as usual presented a very complete report. It showed that the association had been gradually improving each year, the one just closed being the most successful in its career. Reference was made to the work done by members of the company at the principal rifle matches. Pte. Davis was shown to be a remarkably good one. The following is his Wimbledon record: 1876, St. George's Gold Badge; 1878, International; 1879, International; 1880, St. George's Gold Badge; 1881, Queen's Gold Badge, St. George's Gold Badge, International Badge.

The association affiliated with the Dominion Rifle Association, but owing to the illness of one of the members they were not represented by a team at the annual matches of that association. They had the satisfaction of knowing that they were represented on the Royal Grenadiers' team, the members of which proved themselves to be the best shots in Canada. At the regimental matches the company won the first prize for volley firing and the second in the company match.

The following officers were elected for the ensuing year: Hon-President, Capt. J. I. Davidson; President, Sergt. Wm. Mowat; Sec.-Treas., Pte. A. Henderson; Rifle Committee, Sergt. A. Curran, Col.-Sergt. N. Cusick, Corp. George Stemmen, Ptes. C. E. Langford, Wm. Towers, and Wm. J. Urquhart; Auditors, Capt. J. B. McLean and Lieut. W. G. A. Lambe. A committee was appointed to revise the constitution. It was decided the Boomer medal should go to the member winning it three times. It was also agreed that teams representing the company should go to the D.R.A. and O.R.A. matches.

Brantford.

The annual meeting of the officers of the 38th Battalion Dufferin Rifles was held on the 14th inst. in their rooms, Lieut.-Colonel Jones in the chair. The following officers also were present: Majors Rothwell and Jones; Capt. Harris, Quartermaster; Captain Hamilton, Paymaster; Captain Wilkes, Adjutant; Assistant-Surgeon Bishop, Captains Leonard, McLean, Christie, Stratford, and Lieutenants Ruddy, Frank, Kilmaster, and Park.

The annual reports of the Regimental and Band Committees and Quartermaster's report were submitted and adopted without amendment. According to these reports the finances of the regiment are in good shape, and the affairs managed in an economical and business manner. There are several features in connection with the working of the regiment somewhat out of the usual run, and one is the printing of all the regimental reports, and the placing of the same in the hands of the officers prior to the annual meeting, so that every facility is given to the officers for the thorough understanding of all matters pertaining to the work of the regiment. This practice has prevailed for some years, and has been found to work admirably. The regimental Christmas card was also inaugurated by the Dufferin Rifles, and has now been taken up by a great many other corps. The custom has a tendency to heighten the *esprit de corps* of the different regiments.

The following resolution was unanimously adopted: Moved by Major Rothwell, seconded by Captain Stratford, "That the sympathy of the officers of the Dufferin Rifles be conveyed to Mrs. Gough in the sudden and unexpected death of her late husband, Staff-Sergt. Gough, and that the letter of sympathy be accompanied by a cheque for \$25.

Arrangements had been made by the Entertainment Committee with Mr. Frederick Villiers, the renowned artist and war correspondent of the London Graphic for an illustrated lecture, entitled "War on a White Sheet," to take place in Stratford's Opera House the next Monday evening. He lectured in Toronto that week under the patronage of General Middleton, Colonel Otter and the officers of the Toronto Garrison. He was with Lord Wolseley on several expeditions.

The following are the standing committees for the year: Regimental—Major Rothwell, Captain Stratford, Captain Hamilton; Band—Capt. Wilkes, Capt. McLean, Lieutenant Kilmaster; Mess—Major Jones, Capt. Christie, Capt. Stratford, Lieut. Ruddy; Rifle—Col. Jones, Major Jones, Surgeon Harris, Capt. McGlashan, Asst. Surgeon Bishop; Excursions and entertainments—Surgeon Harris, Capt. McGlashan, Captain Christie, Capt. Stratford, Lieut. Ruddy, Lieut. Frank, Lieut. Park; Auditors—Major Jones and Surgeon Harris.

It was ordered that the list of committees be printed, and a copy forwarded to each officer. At the close of the business of the meeting, Col. Jones, on behalf of the officers, expressed to Capt. Hamilton, the popular Paymaster of the regiment, their best wishes for a prosperous and successful voyage to England and the continent. The Colonel's remarks, it is needless to say, met with the hearty approval of the officers, and the gallant Captain was given "three times three." He responded and thanked the officers for their good wishes and afterwards entertained them with his usual hospitality. Capt. Hamilton intends calling on Lord Dufferin while in Rome, and will take with him a photograph of the regiment for Lord Dufferin, and convey to his Excellency the good wishes of the regiment so justly proud of its distinguished patron.

The regiment now are in a very flourishing condition, and when their new armory is erected during the coming summer greater facilities will be afforded the members for perfecting themselves in drill and other matters pertaining to the welfare of the corps.

In Peace Prepare for War.

[From The Week—by K. L. Jones, Royal Military College, Kingston.]

In the October *Century* is an able article by Brevet Major-General August V. Kantz, of the United States Army, entitled, "What the United States Army Should Be."

He first tells us what it is. It is, by the law of 1869, limited to 30,000 men; but the annual Appropriation Bill has of late years contained the proviso that not more than 25,000 should be recruited. Of these "a large proportion are foreigners who are not sufficiently acquainted with the country to find other employment. Many have found out their incapacity to make headway in civil life, the causes being as different as the characters and circumstances of the individuals. Too many belong to that large and unfortunate class known under the generic name of "tramps," wanderers by nature, and who become the deserters from the Army. Many are illiterate; few are educated and capable, and the great majority lack the talents and capacity to take care of themselves and to advance in life. The smart and apparently capable man, when found in the ranks, is generally suspected of some moral taint or intemperate habit not tolerated among his friends, and the number who attain distinction in the army or after leaving it are few indeed. There is no opportunity afforded the enlisted man to become qualified to take command in case of war, and the number who rise to a commission is remarkably small."

Gen. Kantz then tells us that it costs \$40,000,000 a year to maintain this very doubtful army—that is, about \$1,200 a man, or, in other words, more than it does to make an officer at West Point—and continues: "For this sum one hundred West Point Academies could be maintained, educating 30,000 students, and graduating annually from 5,000 to 7,000. Would not the substitution of the method of making officers for the one of maintaining enlisted men, since it can be done cheaper, give the country a much greater military strength, in the event of war, than any result we get out of the army as it is now constituted?"

This estimate of the maximum of result for the minimum of cost is important, as bearing upon the question of the defence of Canada, and it is gratifying to know that our military authorities have had the wisdom to anticipate the very method here indicated. We have a West Point in the Royal Military College at Kingston, which is rapidly gaining a world-wide reputation. News comes to us, from time to time, that the graduates of this institution not only hold their own in the Imperial Army, among the officers trained at Chatham, Woolwich and Sandhurst, but that they occasionally step over the heads of these men into honourable and lucrative appointments. Indeed, so well satisfied are the home authorities with the men we have sent them that they last year offered more commissions than could possibly be accepted. Instead of the usual *one* no less than seven commissions were offered in the Royal Engineers, the highest branch of the service.

While then a number of competent officers is sent out by this well-equipped Military Academy, to become still more capable in the large school of the Imperial Army, and to return, no doubt, when their own country is in danger and needs their service; a still larger proportion remains at home, in various civil pursuits, attached to the militia and ready to respond to the call to arms. Such good work does our Canadian West Point in preparation for that day, which we trust may be far distant, but which universal experience teaches us will, sooner or

later, come, when men must be brave and defend their rights, or pass under the yoke of the conqueror.

And while the Military College is doing the work for which it was founded, our small standing army, if indeed it can be dignified by that title, is following very much the lines laid down by Gen. Kantz, for the ideal army of the United States. We have three batteries of artillery, three companies of infantry, one troop of cavalry, and one company of mounted infantry, and they not only form a reliable force to be used in any emergency, but they are all schools of military instruction, receiving every year a number of officers and men for a long or short course of drill and study, and sending them back to their posts in the active militia. This certainly seems a wise expenditure of the money annually voted for defence.

What a nation wants most, in case of war, is a body of competent officers, who can command their men, and in whom the men will have a reasonable confidence. Any one who has followed the war articles in the *Century* must have read the account given by a General, of the battle of Bull Run,—terror stricken officers galloping hither and thither and shouting incoherent orders to their men and to each other. Our own Bull Run, Ridgeway, was history repeating itself on a small scale. There was not the same confusion, perhaps, nor the same occasion of it, but the disaster was owing to officers losing their heads, and even after the panic had set in, making little or no attempt to rally the flying men. Some of these officers, indeed, did not know their drill well enough to command their companies on a field day, with no enemy in sight, and no greater danger than a bolting horse or the possible bursting of a rusty rifle.

Our present military system aims, then, to have in readiness, whenever they may be called to arms, a sufficient body of well-trained officers. This is in the right direction, but I imagine the system admits of, and indeed absolutely requires, a great deal of development before it can be said to be doing its work efficiently.

There seems to be a growing sentiment that a larger standing army than our present force is even now necessary; and there are some who advocate the establishment of such an army at the sacrifice of our active militia. This latter idea, however, is not likely to become a popular one, and it would be a great calamity if it did. It would not only be a retrograde movement, as far as Canada is concerned, but it would be in direct opposition to the mature wisdom of other countries. England was never so secure from foreign invasion as she has been since the organization of her present militia; and every year the country is learning to appreciate the value of that branch of the service, and is willing to spend more money on it. No country is safe that is defended only by mercenaries. The people must be taught to bear arms. They are the natural defenders of their altars and their hearths, and will fight with such bravery and endurance as can hardly be expected from men who have no interest in the country, and only the honor of their profession to maintain. I remember hearing Emerson, in one of his afternoon lectures at the Boston Athenæum, say that the reason the Provincial troops beat the British regulars in the Revolution, was that every man could not only read, but he could probably write as good a despatch as the British general officer. This is no doubt an epigram, and deals in hyperbole, but it has the true ring for all that. Other things being equal, intelligence in the ranks will win the day; and if that was true then it is doubly true now, when the improvements in firearms have almost destroyed the old formations of line and column, and the latest system of tactics depends upon the intelligence of the individual. It stands to reason, therefore, that the *materiel* of our militia force must be infinitely better than anything we could expect from such a standing army as it would be possible to recruit. A few months' drill under competent officers would turn out now undisciplined battalions into splendid soldiers; a few engagements would make them veterans, and there would then be no better army in the world.

But there is another point which I think deserves careful consideration. Why should not drill be made a part of our school system? It would be valuable simply as a matter of physical development, and the old adage, *mens sana in corpore sano*, teaches us that mental and physical culture should go hand in hand. I am sure it would do the pupils in our Public Schools more good than the superficial and useless knowledge they obtain in some of the branches which are now taught. During the four years I have been on the staff of the Military College I have seen such marvellous results from our fine system of physical culture that I would heartily recommend it to all the schools and colleges in the country. Now, I would suggest that every male teacher should be made to qualify as a drill instructor as a condition of obtaining a certificate, and that he should be required to drill his boy pupils half an hour every day. District instructors could be provided for schools taught by female teachers. A cheap rifle, small and light, with all the mechanism necessary for the manual and platoon exercises, and intended only for drill, could be supplied to the schools

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1st May, 1886.

ONTARIO Artillery Association

THE FOURTH 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, the 5th day of FEBRUARY, 1889, at 11 o'clock a.m.

L. HOMFRAY IRVING, Secretary.

Toronto, 15th December, 1888.

ONTARIO ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION.

PROPOSED ALTERATIONS IN CONSTITUTION.

In conformity with Section 8 of the Constitution of the Ontario Artillery Association, notice to members thereof is hereby given that I am in receipt of a notice of motion, that it is intended to propose the following changes in the Constitution at the General Meeting to be held at Toronto on the 5th February, 1889.

"That all the words in Section 5 from 'and shall be entitled' to the end of the Section be omitted, and that 'the affiliation fees of Batteries must be paid on or before the 1st June of each year, to entitle participation in any prize offered by the Association' be added in lieu thereof.

"That the last clause of Section 9 be amended so as to read 'The President, Secretary and Treasurer shall be ex-officio members of the Committee.'

And "That Section 25 be amended so as to read 'that officers of the Association, and members of the Committee, not being life members, must pay the annual subscription to remain as such.'

L. HOMFRAY IRVING, Secretary.

Toronto, 10th January, 1889.

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