

# THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE

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MILITIA GENERAL ORDERS.  
No. 8, of 27th April, 1888.

### MILITIA NEWS AND NOTES.

MISCELLANEOUS.

## Current Topics.

BY the militia general orders in another place in this issue, relative to the district changes, it will be seen that there is an important difference between the arrangements made for districts 3 and 4, and what we announced last week. These districts have been combined, and Lt.-Col. Van Straubenzie will be Deputy Adjutant General for both. He will have his headquarters at Kingston, in No. 3. The Brigade Major, Lt.-Col. Lewis, will be stationed in No. 4, but at Brockville in place of Ottawa as at present, as the corps at the capital will, as stated last week, come under the immediate supervision of the headquarters staff.

A FEW unimportant changes have been made in the National Rifle Association regulations applicable to the Wimbledon meeting in July next. One is in the direction of stricter attention to dress, as follows: "Whenever a competitor fires in uniform his tunic frock or jacket must not be unfastened below the highest fastening." Another makes it an offence to neglect to hand in an aggregate ticket: "In aggregate competitions in which scores at more than one distance, or in more than one competition are included, each competitor will be held responsible for handing in his aggregate ticket in accordance with the regulations laid down. In case of failure, he will be liable to a fine of 10s." The Spring General Meeting of the association is fixed for Tuesday, the 29th May, at the Royal United Service Institution. H.R.H. the Duke of Cambridge, the President of the association, will take the chair.

ELSEWHERE in this issue there appears several letters on the subject of rifle practice in the permanent corps, which are well worthy of attention. While they establish that the ruling spirits of that branch of the force are fully alive to the importance of efficiency in shooting, they serve to emphasize the fact that the government allowance of ammunition is too small to permit the theoretical knowledge imparted to the men to be given practical illustration, except to an extent so limited as to be little better than none at all. It is out of the question to suppose that these men with no resources but their very small daily pay, will themselves purchase ammunition, as the volunteer militia do, and it is evident that until the government issues very much more than twenty cartridges per man per annum the men of the permanent corps cannot be expected to become good shots. In the United States the regular soldiers receive six hundred rounds each per annum; as against the twenty furnished ours. We should issue at the very least two hundred

rounds a year to each man in the Infantry or Mounted Infantry corps, and then we would have a right to look for a majority of sharpshooters in their ranks. The extra annual charge upon the country this would involve would be less than fifteen hundred dollars.

A CLEVERLY executed and exceedingly realistic painting representing the pow-wow between Major-General Middleton and Poundmaker, at Battleford, after the Indian chief's surrender, has just been put on exhibition in the Library of Parliament. It is from the brush of Capt. R. W. Rutherford, of B Battery, Quebec, whose taste and skill as an artist have long been recognized, and whose latest work adds not a little to his already high reputation. The central figures of the painting are Major-General Middleton and the Chief, who are conducting their conversation through Interpreter Hourie. In the circle of volunteers gathered about, there appear most prominently the officers commanding the several corps then camped at Battleford, including Lieut.-Col. Montizambert, of A Battery, Major Short of B Battery, Lieut.-Col. Otter commanding the Battleford column, the late Lieut.-Col. Williams of the Midlanders, Lieut.-Col. Herchmer, Mounted Police, Lieut.-Col. Miller, Queen's Own, Lieut.-Col. Grasett, Royal Grenadiers, Major Todd, of the Ottawa Sharpshooters, and a score of other well known faces. Those interested in the event which the painting commemorates, will be glad to learn that photographic copies of it have been taken, and may be procured for a trifle from Mr. J. E. Livernois, photographer, St. John street, Quebec. The largest size, 17½ by 21 inches, well mounted, may be obtained for \$1 each, while the cabinet sizes are only 25 cents. These photographic groups form an invaluable souvenir of the brief reunion of the main and Battleford columns of the North-West field force of 1885.

LORD MELGUND, military secretary to Lord Lansdowne during the initial period of his term as Governor-General of this Dominion, has an interesting article on "The Auxiliary Cavalry" in the last number of the *Nineteenth Century*. Lord Melgund now commands the Roxburghshire Mounted Rifle Volunteers, the only branch of that arm still surviving. Having stated that his opinions on the subject "deserve to be treated with much respect," the *Volunteer Service Gazette* proceeds, in a notice of the article: "In early life he held a commission in the Scots Fusilier Guards, but he has commanded the Border Mounted Rifles for the last fifteen years. Moreover, though then only a Volunteer officer, he served in the recent campaign in Egypt (we believe with the Mounted Infantry), for which he received the rank of Major. So far as the Yeomanry and Mounted Infantry are concerned, Lord Melgund takes the same view that we have always taken—viz., that long rifles should be carried in place of carbines; that the uniform and equipments should be of a practical character, fitted for rough work; and that no attempt should be made to emulate the organization and training of the Regular Cavalry. He also, we are glad to see, agrees with us in deprecating the notion of turning our Yeomen or Mounted Rifle Volunteers into mere "Mounted Infantry." In fact, we only differ with Lord Mel-

gund on one point. He believes that the British Regular Cavalry may be, and ought to be, kept as it is as regards, apparently, dress, equipment, armament, and training—should remain, in fact, the *Cavalry* pure and simple of old time, and that “Mounted Riflemen” are “a cross” between Cavalry and Mounted Infantry, “an organization which neither the Cavalry nor the Mounted Infantry of the Regular Army need attempt to adopt, but one particularly suited to the irregular horsemen of a rifle shooting nation, to men who naturally spend much of their time on horseback, but who cannot be kept together for a sufficiently long time to produce good Cavalry.”

WE must adhere, continues the above paper, to the opinions we have so often expressed—first, that whatever may be the case in countries which possess large armies, the small force of British regular cavalry ought to be trained and equipped virtually as “mounted riflemen”; and secondly, that it will never be found possible to keep up in any numbers auxiliary troops trained and equipped on a model not to be found in the regular army. With regard to the first point, we may remark that it has always been found in recent European wars that the cavalry, whatever they may have been called—Cuirassiers, Lancers, Hussars, or Dragoons, have had to be “maids-of-all-work,” and, indeed, we believe that Lord Melgund himself would admit that in Egypt the mounted infantry, whose functions he would theoretically limit very severely, had practically to perform all the duties of cavalry except charging. We hold, therefore, that without taking away in the least the “pomp and circumstance” of our regular cavalry, it is desirable that their dress and equipment should be made more workmanlike, and, above all, that they should be armed with a firearm with which they can on occasion face infantry; in a word, that whatever they may be called, that whatever head-dress or lace they may wear, they should be virtually “mounted riflemen,” or, as Colonel Bower would prefer to call them, “rifle cavalry.” As regards the second point, we cannot, indeed, bring any direct evidence to support our view except the fact that all the corps of mounted rifle volunteers, save Lord Melgund’s have gradually died out; and this may be at least partly accounted for on other grounds.

BUT, the *Volunteer Service Gazette* concludes “there is a strong and natural feeling among amateurs of all kinds to do things as much in the professional style as possible, and we fear that the yeoman will never take kindly to the rôle of “Mounted Rifles” until the regular cavalry set the example or until a regular regiment of the new arm is raised. The same sentiment may perhaps account to some extent for the reduction of the force of the Mounted Rifle Volunteers down to its present small number, but here the question of cost comes in, as has been pointed out by Colonel Acland on many occasions. Lord Melgund sees this clearly. It has been, he says, “the absence of some small daily payment to the volunteer cavalry,” when out for drill, “which would have enabled the men partially to meet the heavy expense necessarily entailed upon them by ten days in quarters, that has been the chief reason for the collapse of so many corps.” It should be explained that he holds that volunteer cavalry and mounted rifles cannot be satisfactorily trained like volunteer infantry and artillery on named days at headquarters, but must, like the yeomanry, be called up annually for some ten days permanent duty. Altogether, Lord Melgund’s paper is very thoughtful and useful, and we strongly recommend the perusal of it to all those who are interested in the organization of auxiliary cavalry.

### Correspondence.

#### DEFICIENCY OF HORSES AT ARTILLERY SCHOOLS.

To the Editor of the *Canadian Militia Gazette*:

SIR,—I understand that the number of horses at the artillery school at Kingston has been increased to 18. Now, if these unfortunates are always sound and fit for duty they have to do the following work: haul four guns at battery drill in the morning and in the afternoon; probably are used for instruction in equitation by the R. M. C. cadets, by the Long Course officers and the attached officers and men of the field artillery.

Surely a country that can afford to spend \$35,000,000 per year can spare money to purchase and keep 30 horses at this school for the instruction of field artillery. I believe it costs, or ought to cost, 30c. a day to feed a horse, and as the average life of usefulness is 8 years, an additional 12 horses would cost about \$1,500 per annum. The increased expenditure might be met by reducing the establishment of the school by four men.

A CHEVALIER.

#### PROPOSED CONCENTRATION OF ARTILLERY AT NIAGARA.

To the Editor of the *Canadian Militia Gazette*:

SIR,—The general results of the Niagara artillery camp, 1887, were in every respect most satisfactory. The batteries seemed to vie with each other in the efficient performance of their various drills and camp duties. The discipline maintained was extremely good, and the presence of so many batteries enabled combined brigade drill to be carried out with manifold advantage (Lieut.-Col. Irwin’s report). The camp season for 1888 approaches; if such satisfactory results were obtained by brigading five batteries together, why not repeat the experiment on a much larger scale? The expense would not be much greater. Niagara is the best camp ground in Ontario, pleasantly situated, healthy, and a very dry parade ground. Welland, Toronto and Hamilton batteries will naturally again be brigaded there. The two Guelph batteries are within reasonable distance, “B” will, no doubt, like to show off its new (?) 9 pr. M. L. R. guns. London battery can reach Niagara in seven hours by special train; Durham, by embarking from their headquarters, Port Hope, on the “Norseman” could reach Niagara in six hours; another steamer could bring up the mounted division of “A” along with the Kingston battery. We would thus see nine field batteries concentrated at very little expense to the government, and the militia department would be amply repaid by the increased efficiency. In the very limited stay at camp, the artillery has no time to do any work with the infantry, excepting the march past, so no good purpose is gained by sending one battery to camp with two thousand infantry. The digging of gun pits and a march might be practised and a few artillery manoeuvres on a large scale attempted, if there were no lame horses.

#### SHORT COURSE.

N.B.—“If no good purpose is gained by sending one battery to camp with two thousand infantry,” why put Ottawa Field Battery in that position?—S. C.

#### ANOTHER PLEA FOR PAID ADJUTANTS.

To the Editor of the *Canadian Militia Gazette*:

SIR,—Practically speaking it is allowed on all hands that this force in Canada is too much neglected, neither to the advantage of the active militia nor the country itself. If the Government wish to cut down expenses in the force, my impression is that it is wrong to do it wherein it visibly affects the main body of her defence.

If they wish to please the economists there are lots of little billets that could be discarded in toto, and lots of other snug little berths that could be rolled into one, and thereby all the parts in the active and reserve militia be more likely to form a harmonious whole. I am told that the active militia is gradually decreasing and that the military enthusiasm amongst the people is by no means so lively as it used to be. For why? In my opinion it is because of not receiving encouragement to enlist at the hands of the Government, and enough encouragement after they have enlisted.

The place I write from has a population of 23,000 people, yet they can only muster a battalion 300 strong, and one corps has recently been disbanded really for want of men, as I gather that those who were enrolled were nowhere to be found, that is the majority of them, being very widely dispersed. You can see that the place is not even able to keep up one decently strong regiment. If the other is ever revived again I hope it will be as a second battalion to the one existing.

There is something wrong in the system, somewhere, when men and citizens cannot be got to come forward to fulfil the duty they owe to the state they live under.

It may with some be the hope that there never will be a war, or it may be with others for seemingly good reasons likewise, but one thing I do know, and it is that while mostly everyone whom you sound on the subject, recognizes one general idea, that personal service by all men should be considered as a duty to the State, but few recognize it as it should be, an honour to the individual. It is the duty then of all parents to see that their sons should join their local corps if only to receive setting up drill and a manly bearing. Judging from what I have seen here when the local corps turns out for a parade, all the people turn out to admire, I fancy, the gifts and the training of the soldiers.

Allowing then that there is a military enthusiasm amongst the people, what is to be done to heighten this enthusiasm? Here is a force that might be made more popular and more efficient by giving a little more money and encouragement. First of all the officers of the corps must exert themselves more and encourage the men to enlist, the Government on the other hand must back them up and offer more inducements, encourage rifle shooting and give more prizes to be shot for, and improve the quality of the weapons they use etc. Each regiment should have a permanent staff consisting of an adjutant and a drill instructor, the former to do his own office work and also that of quarter-master when necessity required. The only thing to be said against such a staff is the expense, but only give such a staff to a regiment that could muster for inspection say 600 officers n. co.’s and men. Battalions with less than 300 men should be amalgamated with others or be disbanded. By this means the cost of such a staff would be considerably reduced. Say you gave your adjutant \$1,000 per annum and his sergeant \$400. It would be the duty of this staff always to be on the alert, not only inducing young men to come forward for enlistment, but coaxing them and their officers to attend parades oftener; and last but not least, they would receive proper instruction.

Being passionately fond of drill and having had the honour of acting adjutant to my own regiment when they numbered 1,000 strong, out of curiosity I have been several nights to the drill shed here; seeing what I could see. I don’t want to tell all I saw; but I saw a company in line, representing the battalion, under the adjutant, and the right-guide and marker were both in rear. Again I saw several young officers drilling some men, and all they did was to march those unlucky fellows from one side of the hall to the other at the devil’s own pace, ten or twelve times, then halt for a breath and crack a joke, then for variety’s sake he would start some front form, left, and right, and right about form squad, etc., nearly every time getting his right hand man where his left should have been. As the adjutant was present I concluded that the performance met with his complete approval.

Now, putting out of the question what has been allowed: that everyone owes in purse or in person a contribution to the defence of the country, my ideal principle is this, that as local volunteer militia cannot give the whole of their time to soldiering, what time they do give, that instruction should be in the hands of an efficient adjutant. It can’t be expected that an adjutant who is in civil employment all day can give the time and attention to the practical studies necessary for the forming of a professional military spirit; he can’t be both a soldier and a business man at the same time to have any remarkable knowledge of his profession. One thousand dollars a year of course is small pay, but what with the special privileges attached to his military rank, and with an equal amount of private means, there are plenty who would accept the honour and the post.

27th April, 1888.

IMPERIAL RIFLEMAN.

## Modern Tactics.

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

(Continued from Page 341.)

“WHILE this was doing, the King, on his side, lays over his bridge. Both sides wrought hard all day and all night, as if the spade and not the sword had been to decide the controversy, and that he had gotten the victory whose trenches were first ready. In the meanwhile cannon and musket-bullets flew, and both sides had enough to do to make their men stand to their work. The King, in the hottest of it, animated his men by his presence, and Tilly, to give him his due, did the same. The execution was so great that many officers on both sides were killed and wounded. Tilly was obliged to expose himself.

“And here, about one o'clock, much about the time that the King's bridge and works were finished, and just as Tilly had ordered his men to fall upon our ravelin with 3,000 foot, was the brave old Tilly slain with a musket-ball in the thigh. He was carried off to Ingolstat, and lived some days afterwards; but died of that wound the same day as the King had his horse shot under him at the siege of that town.

“We made no question of passing the river here, having brought everything so forward, and with such extraordinary success; but we should have found it a very hot piece of work had Tilly lived one day more; and, if I may give my opinion of it, having seen Tilly's battery and breastwork, in the face of which we must have passed the river, I must say that whenever we had marched, if Tilly had fallen in with his horse and foot placed in that trench, the whole army would have passed as much danger as in the face of a strong town in the storming of a counterscarp. The King himself, when he saw with what judgment Tilly had prepared his works, and what danger he must have run, would often say that day's success was every way equal to the victory of Leipsic.

“Tilly being hurt and carried off, as if the soul of the army had been lost, they began to draw off; they drew off by degrees, sending their cannon and baggage away first, and leaving some to continue firing on the bank of the river to conceal their retreat.

“The river preventing any intelligence, we knew nothing of the disaster befallen them; and the King, who looked for blows, having finished his bridge and ravelin, ordered to run a line of palisades, to take in more ground on the bank of the river, to cover the first troops he should send over; this being finished the same night, the King sends over a party of his guards to relieve the men who were in the ravelin, and commanded 600 musketeers to man the new line of the Scots brigade.

“Early the next morning a small party were sent out to learn something of the enemy, commanded by Captain Forbes, of my Lord Reay's regiment, the King observing that they had not fired all night; and while this party were abroad the army stood in battalia, and Sir John Hepburn, whom, of all men, the King most depended upon for any desperate service, was ordered to pass the bridge with his brigade, and draw up without the line, with command to advance as he found the horse, who were to second him, came over.

“Sir John being passed, meets Captain Forbes, and the news of the enemy's retreat; he sends him directly to the King, who was by this time at the head of his army, in full battalia, ready to follow his van-guard, expecting a hot day's work of it. Sir John entreated the King to give him orders to advance, but the King would not suffer him, for he was ever upon his guard, and would not venture a surprise. So the army continued on this side of the Lech all day and the next night.

“In the morning the King ordered out 900 horse and 800 dragoons, and ordered us to enter the wood by three different ways, but so as to be able to support one another, and then ordered Sir John Hepburn with his brigade to advance to the edge of the wood to secure our retreat; and at the same time commanded another brigade of foot to pass the bridge, if need were, to second Sir John Hepburn, so warily did this prudent general proceed.”

### *The Passage of the Danube.*

The passage of the Danube by the Russians in 1877 affords a striking example of how a formidable river should be crossed.

By the end of May the Russians had concentrated four corps at a central point in the vicinity of Bucharest, with one corps at Slatina; but their preparations for crossing the river were, from various causes, delayed until the 26th June.

Meanwhile the Turks occupied the fortresses of Nikopolis, Rustchuck, and Silistria, and collected some troops at Turtukai. They also had standing camps of observation at Sistova, Parapan, and other places along the southern bank of the Danube, which commands very considerably the northern, or Roumanian, side throughout.

The Russians had brought up their pontoon-trains, and had also collected a considerable number of boats. Between the 20th and 24th of June the various corps in the neighbourhood of Bucharest had moved down, and were concentrated between Beia and Segaricha, a position threatening Rustchuck, Sistova and Nikopolis, and leaving the Turks in ignorance as to their real intentions.

After the completion of a final and personal reconnaissance on the 24th June, the Grand Duke decided to cross at Zimnitza-Sistova, and on the same day he gave orders for the siege-batteries in position before Rustchuck and Nikopolis to begin the bombardment of those two fortresses, and issued secret orders that Zimnitza-Sistova was to be the actual spot where a crossing was to be attempted, directing the IXth Corps at Slatina to co-operate by making a feint at crossing at Nikopolis.

A Division of the 8th Corps with some light guns, and the whole of the pontoon trains and boats, were told off to form the covering party.

This division, composed of 15,000 infantry under General Dragomiroff, arrived at Zimnitza on the afternoon of the 26th of June, and, as soon as it was dark, launched their pontoons and boats on the stream at Zimnitza. Meanwhile, during the launching of the boats five batteries were placed in position on the north bank, to the east of an island, behind which was the point of embarkation; these guns were directed to cover the passage of the covering party of infantry destined to land at the mouth of a small stream on the Turkish side, opposite to where the Russian batteries were in position.

This was about the only available landing-place, and was well chosen, as the southern bank completely commands the northern, and a small force might hope to be able to protect itself on the banks of this stream, if attacked, until reinforcements arrived.

The first detachment, 2,500 men, started to row over at 1 a.m. on the morning of the 27th of June, and landed at the mouth of the above-mentioned stream. The Turkish outposts discovered them just as they reached the shore; but too late to prevent their landing. The Turks had in the immediate vicinity two camps, computed at about 5,000 men each, and from the most easterly of these camps they advanced to oppose the covering party, when some severe fighting ensued.

The Russians being steadily reinforced by fresh boatloads of their comrades, after advancing slowly up the stream, by 8 o'clock a.m. secured some heights on its right bank or east side, which protected them from the Turks on that side. Meanwhile, General Dragomiroff was collecting the remainder of his division as it got over, and by 11 a.m. he had about 10,000 men on the west bank of the stream, and ordered a general advance against the Turkish troops occupying the heights directly facing the island, while the troops who had first landed held the ground they had captured, and protected Dragomiroff's left flank during his advance which was also covered by the fire of the guns in position on the north side of the river.

The result was that the Turks were divided and retreated in a south-easterly direction to Tirnova. By 3 o'clock the Russians had established themselves on the heights held by the Turks in the morning. The Russians lost 800 men and 31 officers killed and wounded, of whom the greater portion belonged to the regiment which landed first, and fought its way up the little stream in the morning. By dark the same evening the 2nd Division of the 8th Corps had been ferried across the stream, making in all about 25,000 infantry, under General Radetsky, and the passage was secured. Next day the bridge was commenced which was completed on the 2nd of July, when the army at once marched over.

In this crossing many of the most important principles of river tactics were triumphantly demonstrated.

1. The collection of pontoons for bridging the stream.
2. Concentration of troops at a strategical point equidistant from several likely crossing places.
3. Secrecy, up to the last moment, as to the actual place of crossing.
4. Careful reconnaissances.
5. Selection of point possessing the following tactical advantages, viz. a tributary stream, which was utilized for conveying the pontoons and boats down to the point of embarkation, the presence of two islands, which covered the movements of the invaders for a considerable portion of their passage, and lessened the labour of constructing the bridge.

6. The selection of a favourable point to land at, in spite of the natural difficulties of the situation, owing to the entire command of the banks being on the Turkish side.

The arrangements for the embarkation of the covering troops, and for the co-operation of the batteries placed in position on the assailants' side of the river, were all very complete, and apparently everything was timed in such a manner as to ensure success.

Although the Turks did not offer a desperate resistance, still the loss incurred by the regiment which was the first to land was very severe in proportion to the number of men engaged (2,500), and at one time the opposition it encountered must have been considerable.

For a detailed account of this interesting passage, the student is again recommended to read *The Russian Army and its Campaign in Turkey in 1877-8*, F. V. Greene, U.S.

### *Bridges and Fords.*

Unless surprised or turned, to attempt to force the passage of a bridge, or a ford, in the presence of an enemy who still commands the passage with his guns in position, and his infantry entrenched or provided with cover, in these days of improved fire-arms is such a dangerous operation as to be practically almost an impossibility. It is now considered absolutely necessary to subdue the enemy's fire before a bridge or a ford can be attacked by infantry.

Forcing the passage of a river in retreat in presence of an enemy is, perhaps, the most hopeless operation that an army can be called upon to attempt.

(To be continued.)

Lieutenant Chamberlain, R. N., has recently invented a new game called “Naval Blockade,” a kind of backgammon in which the dice, when thrown, are found to give hits, misses, and “Ram, oh!” thus imparting the necessary element of chance; while rules determine the movements of the two ships, one of which is attempting to break blockade, the other to prevent the accomplishment of this object. The paraphernalia of the game takes up about the same space as that of a chess-board and men.

## The Militia Pastime.

"Smoothbore" in your paper of the 19th April, calling attention to a letter in the *Mail* on the subject of rifle shooting in the permanent corps, states that "notwithstanding the importance which was attached to rifle shooting as part of the modern soldier's education and the large sums of money offered in prize competitions, the men of our permanent corps were noticeable only by their absence from the Dominion and Provincial gatherings."

Being a "man by the sea," one of the soldiers of the "lower Provinces," so called; I can only speak in whispers of the "higher education" of the permanent force (A Company and staff I. S. Corps) in the Maritime Provinces, and of the steps taken annually to ensure good shooting. This is done, not by the firing of any number of rounds by the few (which few have their breasts covered with shooting medals without any great advantage to the corps), but by carrying out target and judging distance practice in the corps, as a whole, after careful attention to preliminary drills—recognizing the fact that "too much care and attention cannot be given to musketry training," chiefly in preliminary drills, "of recruits, as on its soundness will depend to a very great extent their efficiency as soldiers."

In short, avoiding the taking up one particular drill or practice and dropping another (the development of the head at the expense of the feet), but instead taking up each in turn, drill and practice, target and judging distance practice, in order to secure general efficiency.

This course of drill and practice has been carried out with the best results annually in the musketry camp of the above corps since its formation in 1884.

Nor, in carrying out this systematic course both with the recruit and the trained soldier, is competitive shooting outside the corps neglected (would that competitive judging distance practice received attention at the Dominion and Provincial gatherings referred to). The corps sends a batch of marksmen annually to compete with the rifle at the county and provincial matches, where they hold their own in friendly rivalry with their brethren from whatever corps.

And while a "Heaven-born marksman" cannot be produced at the sweet will of mortal man, one marksman sent by the above corps to the Dominion matches in 1884, (Sergeant O'Shaughnessy) was himself so charmed with the ranges, and he, in turn, so charmed (with magic influence of hand and eye in using the rifle) the "fish-tail" winds which have on occasions been observed at the Rideau, that he obtained the highest possible score of 50 in shooting for the Macdougall cup.

It may be interesting to your readers to know the details of the course of preliminary drills and practices to which I have referred. They are as follows:

### Preliminary Drills.

1. Theoretical principles.
2. Care of arms and ammunition.
3. Aiming drill.
4. Position drill (firing exercise substituted).
5. Blank firing (miniature cartridge practice will, I hope, be added).
6. Judging distance drill.

### Target Practice.

#### (1.) Individual firing.

Every n. c. o. and man to fire 10 rounds at 200 yards standing; 20 rounds at 400 yards kneeling, and 10 rounds at 500 yards, any military position.

Those who obtain 80 points will be classified as first-class shots and marksmen; those obtaining 60, but failing to obtain 80, as second-class shots, and those failing to obtain 60 as third-class shots.

#### (2.) Independent firing—5 rounds at 300 yards, six targets.

#### (3.) Volley firing—5 rounds at 300 yards, six targets.

#### (4.) Skirmishing—10 rounds, between 400 and 200 yards, single target.

Judging distance practice, four exercises of four answers each; between 200 and 800 yards, four answers to each register; not more than one exercise to be executed in a day.

Within 20 yards, if not over 500 yards, 2 points.

    30                    "                    "                    "  
If over 500 yards, within 30 yards, 2 points.

    40                    "                    "                    "  
Those who obtain 16 points and upwards will be classified as first-class, those failing to obtain 16 points as second-class.

Six prizes are given, as follows: Best shot in the corps, who obtains highest aggregate score in the individual practice, prize by the commandant; best shot in company, gold company badge; best shot in each squad, \$4; second best shot in each squad, \$3; third best shot in each squad, \$1; skirmishing, best target, \$5; skirmishing, 2nd best target, \$3; best at judging distance practice in each squad, \$2; second best, \$1.

"THE MAN BY THE SEA."

### Toronto Heard from Also.

Mr. Linch-pin, the MILITIA GAZETTE's friend in Toronto, forwards the following letter which has been sent to him in connection with "Smoothbore's" plaint:

DEAR LINCH-PIN,—Did you see "Smoothbore's" letter in the last GAZETTE? He says that "no satisfactory explanation has been given" for the absence of men of the permanent corps from the Provincial and Dominion rifle matches. As for not being at the former gatherings I myself have seen them there. The reason for their non-appearance at the Dominion matches is not far to seek—consider their assets and liabilities!

Tommy Atkins' pay is forty cents per diem, and fifty cents per annum for alteration of clothing, and he is issued a free kit on joining. His daily pay is subject to certain constant and inevitable small deductions for regimental and other purposes; his fifty cents per annum has to be reinforced by about eight dollars from his forty cents per diem to pay his tailor's bill; and, as an instance, the serge jacket and trousers, that are to last him a year, wear out in six, and in many cases, four months; he then has to purchase new ones.

Now—even supposing that he has not to spend another cent on necessaries and that he does not go in for "baccy, beer or beauty"—how is it possible for him to pay his way to Ottawa, board and lodge while there, purchase ammunition and pay fees!

As regards the extract from correspondence in the *Mail*, in the same issue, I think it hardly fair to draw comparisons between men who only fire 20 rounds annually and men who fire 600, and that without stating this difference of circumstances. Further on, surprise is expressed that thirty-eight men of the permanent corps at the annual target practice made less than 20 out of a possible 100 and "Smoothbore" says he could hardly believe it. Who but a Heaven-born marksman, I should like to know, makes much more than 20 per cent. at his first or second or even his third target practice? These men could not have had more.

The present state of rifle shooting may easily be explained. The doors of the school of musketry at Hythe, I am sure, would be thrown open to Canadians if the

proper authorities were asked. Then let an officer and a sergeant be sent there from each school and be trained as instructors; and increase to 600 or more the number of rounds to be fired annually. Then let comparisons be drawn. 'Tis a cheap scheme and would pay.

CANADIAN THOMAS ATKINS.

### Interesting Proposition from the Pacific.

VICTORIA, B.C., 16th April, 1888.

To the Editor of the *Canadian Militia Gazette*:

SIR,—I would like to write a few words in regard to a subject that at the present time is being greatly considered by all classes of military men in all European, and I may say American, armies. I have had the honour and pleasure of serving Her Majesty in uniform something over fourteen years, and in the corps to which I belonged was considered a first class shot. Yet I know that every man in the service should be a better shot than I am or was. I saw a report in *Forest and Stream*, the other day, re the shooting abilities of the American army. Now, the Americans are given to blow, but in many things they have the advantage of the English, and Canadians too. In regard to the manufacture of rifles, they certainly are not ahead of English manufacturers, either as regards range, force, trajectory, or workmanship. Indeed, though I have handled and fired a large number of American rifles, I have never seen one with the fine gunny finish of some of the English makes. In regard to heavy ordnance, they cannot compare with English manufacturers. But in rifle shooting they are certainly far ahead, that is the army. The scores made by the different "Posts" in competition for the "Nevada Trophy" are something to be wondered at (and appreciated) when it is considered that 80% of the whole strength of a company, officers and men, present and absent, must be reported to be considered as competing. Company B 21st U.S. Infantry, 36 men firing, made an average percentage of the possible of 87.75, in their competition for this trophy last year. I have not yet heard whether this was the winning company or not, but the year previous, 1886, this company won the Trophy with 87.40%, 38 men firing.

Now, sir, I would like Canadians to take this matter up, and the authorities to give more attention to, and make more provision for shooting with the rifle. I saw, a short time ago, in the *Colonist* our leading city paper, an article, complaining of the hardships of the local militia here, in being unable to obtain long rifles for practice, though they needed them for the D. R. A. matches at Ottawa, and there were plenty of them lying idle in the district stores. I am credibly informed that the officers of "C" Battery, stationed here, have offered subscriptions, and invited the officers of all permanent corps to co-operate with them, for a trophy to be fired for annually, and awarded to the corps making the highest percentage for that year. This, Mr. Editor, is taking hold of the subject in the right way, and, though I have not heard the result of these gentlemen's endeavour, it cannot fail, if carried out, in making a great difference in the shooting of these corps. I have met some of these gentlemen, and I feel and know that it will not be their fault if they do not develop a taste for rifle practice in their corps which will be a credit to themselves and to the service, for there is no doubt of the result of intelligent instruction and practice.

I was a witness, on Good Friday last, of a team shoot in response to a challenge from the city brigade to the regulars, and it would have done a shooting man good to have seen the interest exhibited by those present, and the care taken by the officers and n.c.o.'s to coach and instruct their men. (The-regulars' team, was, I believe, a scratch one, as they had not then found out their best shots.)

I would ask, through your paper, first, that the Government make a larger allowance of ammunition for practice (to the permanent corps especially) as their pay of 40c per diem from which they pay for messing, washing, library, hair cutting, etc., will not allow them to purchase much ammunition for practice) and to furnish ammunition at a lower price (I am informed that the charge is 16 cents per package of ten rounds), or, if possible to furnish corps re-loading tools similar to the plan adopted by the Americans, whose allowance gives them something like 600 rounds per man per annum, as against 40 issued to the Canadian regulars. Either of these plans would be an improvement on the present system.

Secondly—Amongst all the militia of Canada there are hundreds, I hope thousands, who would subscribe to a suitable trophy, to be shot for annually by any troop, battery or company in the Dominion, under conditions to be arranged by the donors, or a committee appointed, to consist of practical shooting men, who could judge what would be for the best interests of the service.

I am willing sir, to aid in this last proposal, and if it will be taken up by some of the leading shooting men of the forces, I feel that I can prophesy success, and a gain in rifle shooting such as has not been dreamt of by those at present uninterested. Of the good done by the Dominion and Provincial Rifle Associations already, I need not speak, but I think my plan would, to a certain extent, appeal to a far greater number of men, in that every troop, battery or company in the Dominion would be eligible for competition, and it would engender a greater amount of practice by all ranks. Then the country corps would feel that they did not intend to let their city comrades have a walk over them, and metaphorically speaking, would put their best foot forward. Rifle ranges would multiply rapidly, Government, of course, granting aid as approved by competent authorities, for their maintenance, and if necessary for construction. Then in a couple of years, I may safely say that the country would have twenty or more good shots for every one now, and by officers and n.c.o.'s taking an interest, commanding officers in their battalions or batteries, and captains and subalterns in their troops, batteries or companies, in five years we would have an army of sharpshooters, able to hold their own with the best.

I see that shooting is to be made the subject of more special attention in the British army. We should follow the lead.

I would that every one in Canada, who has the honour of wearing Her Most Gracious Majesty's uniform, might read Major-General Middleton's recommendation that more attention be paid to rifle practice and less to marching past, etc., and act up to it. Then there would soon follow a revival in shooting that would astonish even our neighbours the Yankees.

I send you enclosed the article I mentioned from *Forest and Stream*, published March 22nd, 1888, for perusal, or publication if you see fit, pointing out as it does the attention which is being paid to the use of the rifle across the border.

I would like to hear from shooting men in general. Many may be able to advance opinions and offer plans superior to mine, and I shall feel well rewarded if the result should appear in greater facilities for and interest in this, to Canadians, important subject.

Practice in the United States Army.

The following is the article in *Forest and Stream* to which our British Columbia friend refers in the above letter:

"Another interesting talk on topics connected with the rifle was with Capt. Chas. R. Huntington, of the regular army on post in Arizona. He pointed out that, within the last three years most noticeably, the soldiers of the regular army have developed a skill in marksmanship which makes them the best shots of any military force in the world.

"Since the concentration of troops at a few large posts, and the opening of sources of supplies by the railroads, it has been possible to devote a great deal of time to rifle practice, and the result is as stated. At long ranges, 800, 900 and 1,000 yards, the best men are still inferior to the Creedmoor small-bore riflemen, but at military ranges, from 300 to 600 yards, the position being either kneeling or erect, they are far superior shots to any other body of men in America, or indeed elsewhere. The scores made in the post contest compare favourably with those made in New York or at Wimbledon, in England, while the division matches, not to speak of the annual competition between the chosen men of the entire army, show an average far better than that made by any troops in the world.

"This is the fact touching shooting at fixed distances, and on the Western posts the men have gone further, and their particular excellence is in skirmish firing, where they have to alternately advance and retreat over a space of ground several hundred yards in extent, firing twenty shots in sets of four, at different ranges, and at distances which they must judge for themselves. This is far more difficult than fixed-distance firing, and the best Eastern shots failed lamentably when brought into competition with the soldiers, trained as they now are. Some of the scores made in skirmish firing are wonderful, being nearly as good as the best made at equal measured distance, and the general proficiency of the men is most admirable.

"The result of this training was strongly manifest in the last Apache campaign. In the old days the Indians had but little fear of the marksmanship of soldiers at long range, and ventured on very daring ambushes, trusting to their superiority as shots to save them from serious loss. But one or two experiences of the sharpshooting abilities of the troops effectually cured them of any such idea, and the consequence was that in a country probably the most favourable in the world for ambuscades, but one was attempted, the Indians never daring to come within range of the military rifles."

### Militia General Orders (No. 8), of 27th April, 1888.

#### No. 1.—ROYAL MILITARY COLLEGE OF CANADA.

*Annual Examinations for Candidates.*—Adverting to the subject numbered (8) "Elementary Geometrical Drawing" in the "Voluntary or Further Examination" as published in No. 1 of G. O. (1) 12th January, 1888, candidates are permitted to use at their examination on that subject a drawing-board and such instruments as they choose. The instruments considered as necessary, but not indispensable, are: a pair of compasses with shifting-leg and pen and pencil points, a flat ruler, a pair of parallel rulers and right-angled triangle.

#### No. 2.—REGULATIONS AND ORDERS FOR THE MILITIA, 1887.

*Royal Schools of Military Instruction—Discipline.*—The following has been added to sub-section 42. paragraph 1041 of the Regulations and Orders, 1887: "If attached officers are detailed as members of such courts, they are entitled to seniority according to their militia rank. No attached officer must be detailed who is senior in rank to the president of the court.

*Organisation, Commissions and Promotion of Officers.*—The following has been added as sub-paragraph (2) to paragraph 75 of Regulations and Orders, 1887:—

"(2). The rule with respect to promotions in corps of the active militia is as follows:—

City corps where officers are not gazetted to a troop, battery or company in such, and independent corps, by seniority of eligible officers; city and rural corps where officers are gazetted to a troop, battery or company in such, promotion is by seniority in the troop, battery or company. In the latter case recommendations for promotions and appointments originate with the commanding officer of the troop, battery or company, who signs the list and forwards it to the officer commanding the regiment, brigade or battalion, as the case may be. Promotion or regimental field rank is by seniority of officers of the corps eligible under regulations."

#### No. 3.—ROYAL SCHOOLS OF INSTRUCTION.

*R.S.A., Victoria, B.C.*—The instruction at the Royal School of Artillery, Victoria, B.C., will until further orders be confined to candidates admitted for "Short" or "Special" courses.

#### No. 4.—DISTRICT STAFF.

1. No appointment to the District Staff of the Militia shall be tenable for a longer period than five years, and during that time any such appointment must be subject to the powers of the Governor General in Council and to the exigencies of the service, and no such appointment shall be held by an officer above the age of sixty three years. Par. 9, R. & O. 1887.

##### *Deputy Adjutants General.*

The following officers have been appointed Deputy Adjutants General of the military districts specified opposite their respective names, to take effect from 1st May, 1888:—

District No. 1, Lieut. Colonel Henry Smith, commandant of the Royal School of Infantry at London, will take over until further orders the duties of Deputy Adjutant General in addition to those of commandant, vice Lieut. Colonel Jackson whose services will be discontinued in consequence of the reduction in the staff which this arrangement will permit.

Districts No. 3 and 4. Lt. Colonel Bowen Van Straubenzee, from Military District No. 5, vice Villiers appointed from District 3 to District 10, and Lamontagne from District 4 to District 6. Headquarters of the amalgamated districts to be Kingston, Ontario, until further orders.

District 5. Lt. Colonel Charles Frederick Houghton, from Military District 10, vice Van Straubenzee appointed to Districts 3 and 4.

District 6. Lt. Colonel Lamontagne, from Military District 4, vice Harwood, retired, he having attained the maximum age for service, viz.: 63 years.

District 10. Lt. Colonel Henry V. Villiers from Military District 3, vice Houghton appointed to District 5.

Lieut.-Colonels Jackson and Harwood will be available until 30th June, 1888, for such duties as they may be detailed from headquarters to perform.

The attention of the officers interested is called to par. 111 of the Regulations and Orders, 1887:

111. When any officer of the District Staff is relieved from duty or is transferred to another station all public property, books, records and documents in his possession belonging, or relating to the Military District or Brigade Division, as the case may be, the appointment to which he had heretofore held, with a schedule of such property, books, etc., together with a statement in writing, giving detailed information relating to the force and to militia affairs in the district or division, are to be transferred to the officer appointed to relieve him and for duty therein.

The changes of stations are to be made with the least possible delay after 1st May, 1888.

## GOSSIP OF THE MILITIA.

### Preparations for a field day at Ottawa on 24th of May.

### A BUDGET FROM THE MILITARY CENTRES.

#### Ottawa.

A GRAND military celebration is on the tapis for the Queen's Birthday, the Queen's Own Rifles, of Toronto, having signified acceptance of an invitation extended by Mayor McLeod Stewart that they should visit Ottawa on that date. Several corps have received invitations, but no others have accepted so far. The Governor-General's Foot Guards had intended to have an outing to Montreal on the 24th, but it may be taken for granted that they will forego this trip in order to assist in the entertaining of the visitors.

The annual meeting of the Guards' Rifle Association was held on Monday evening at the drill hall. The following officers were elected for the ensuing year: Hon. president, Lieut.-Col. Macpherson; president, Major Todd; vice-president, Capt. Toller; secretary-treasurer, Lieut. Winter; assistant-treasurer, Private Fairweather; committee of management. No. 1 Co. Corporal Watts and Private Nutting; No. 2 Co. Colour-Sergt Maillieue and Sergt. Codd; No. 3 Co. Colour-Sergt. Heinrichs and Pte. Morrison; No. 4 Co., Corpl. Carroll and Corpl. Behan; No. 5 Co., Colour-Sergt. Ross and Sergt. McCarthy; No. 6 Co., Lance-Corpl. Shea and Lance-Corpl. Pegg.

A committee was appointed to draw up the programme for the season and report at the next meeting. Arrangements have been made whereby the association will secure four targets on the range for their exclusive use. Special attention will be paid this year to prizes to induce the younger shots to show their ability. The association has a small cash balance on hand, and the prospects for the season are good.

The Guards' Bugle Band held a social in the drill hall on Tuesday evening. About 75 couple were present and dancing was indulged in till a late hour. Music was furnished by the regimental string band.

A former bandmaster of the Guards, Mr. Arthur A. Clappe, has just been chosen bandmaster of the New York Seventy-First Regiment, formerly under the direction of Signor Liberati, the famous 'cornet virtuoso'. Mr. Clappe is a graduate of Kneller Hall, London, Eng., was bandmaster of the 3rd Battalion 60th Rifles, from 1873 to 1878, and Brigade Bandmaster at Aldershot; bandmaster of the G. G. Foot Guards, under the administration of Lord Dufferin and Lord Lorne. Mr. Clappe composed a "Marque of Welcome" to the Princess Louise and the Marquis of Lorne, which was performed at the Grand Opera House, Ottawa, directly after the arrival of their Excellencies, and received high encomiums from the press and critics generally. The Marque was a musical representation of the history of Canada, comprising solos, duets and choruses of the different prominent characters. Noticing his present preferment the *American Musician* says: Mr. Clappe is not only an executive musician, but a musician in every sense of the term. His knowledge is not confined to the manipulation of an instrument or the marking of time for a band performance, but he knows the compass of every instrument, and can write effectively.

Mr. F. Stuart, a popular member of the Princess Louise Dragoon Guards, is about to receive a commission in the New Edinburgh Ward company of the Forty-third Rifles in place of Lieut. B. T. A. Bell, resigned.

#### Toronto.

THE Queen's Own Rifles marched out for the fourth time this season on the 25th inst, Col. Allan in command. The *World* says: The regiment turned out 461 strong, and made a fine appearance. There was a full muster of officers, and the different companies showed by their excellent drill that they had completely got rid of their winter's rust. After the regiment had been dismissed at the drill shed the officers held a meeting to discuss the question of selecting a place to visit on Her Majesty's birthday. Nothing definite was done in the matter, it was generally understood that Woodstock will have the pleasure of entertaining the boys on the 24th. The following promotions were announced in regimental orders: Private Thomas Milner Harrison to be Second Lieutenant of "H" Co.; Private Thomas Denton Derwent Lloyd to be Second Lieutenant of "F" Co.; Corporal G. P. Ham to be Sergeant of "F" Co.; Corporal R. Baldwin to be Sergeant of "H" Co.; Privates C. A. Bogart, F. G. Mingay and W. T. H. Boyd to be corporals of the same company, and Corporal Arthur Torrance of "G" Co. to be Regimental Sergeant.

The following, who have been attending the adjutant's class during the winter, qualified as non-commissioned officers, have been granted first-class sergeants' certificates: Private W. S. Duncan, C Company; Private J. J. Langton, B Company; Private J. Althorne, G Company; Private C. W. McKin, I Company; Private A. R. Rodney, B Company; Private R. G. Doherty, G Company; Corporal C. J. Patterson, K Company; Private J. Miller, B Company; Corporal J. Pearson, E Company; Corporal H. F. Wyatt, F Company; Private H. Mortimer, H Company.

The following have been granted corporal's certificates: Privates J. Carnochan, C Company; H. E. Crate, F Company; T. W. Parke, H Company; J. G. Whittaker, D Company; —Bryant, F Company.

The Mayor of Ottawa having extended a cordial invitation, at a meeting of the Queen's Own Rifles on Wednesday night it was arranged that the battalion will go to Ottawa for the celebration of the Queen's birthday. The regiment will leave the city on the afternoon of the 23rd by the C. P. R., and returning will leave Ottawa on the evening of the 24th.

#### THE GRENADIERS.

Lieut.-Col. H. J. Grasset entertained the officers of the Grenadiers at dinner on the 25th at his residence, 66 Patrick street.

It is altogether likely, says the *Empire*, that the Royal Grenadiers will accept the invitation of the Mayor and citizens of Peterboro to spend the 24th of May there. The majority of the regiment favour that city. The Peterboro' people want the fine brass band of the regiment to play at a promenade concert on the evening of the 23rd and also in the park on the evening of the 24th. It is likely the regiment will leave here by special train about eight o'clock Wednesday evening, May 23, and arrive in Peterboro' about 11 p.m. They will be quartered in the rink during their stay.

It is expected that several new appointments will be made in the regiment. Among them is a distinguished graduate of the Royal Military College.

The regiment paraded for battalion drill on the 26th. Arrangements had been made to go to the Moss Park rink, but it was reported to be too muddy. In consequence the band was sent to practice, and the companies spent the evening in company drill.

#### RANK AND PAY IN THE MILITIA.

Once before I called attention to the absurdities in the Militia Regulations, and amongst other things to which I alluded was relative rank. This confers no military status, but gives a right to choice of quarters. By the imperial regulations—which, according to one paragraph, we should follow, and which, according to another, we do not—a Quartermaster on appointment ranks as a Lieutenant; after 10 years' service on full pay, as a Captain.

Our Quartermasters on appointment rank as Captains and after 10 years' service as Majors. Just look at the pull which one of these Quartermasters has over a Lieutenant in a Permanent Corps.

Our Veterinary Surgeons commence as Lieutenants, and after five years they rank as Captains—further promotion is not provided. An Imperial Veterinary Surgeon ranks as a Lieutenant to commence with; a Veterinary Surgeon, 1st class, as a Captain, and after 10 years' service as such, as a Major; he may eventually wind up as a Principal Veterinary Surgeon, ranking with a Colonel.

Chaplains, for whom there is no rank laid down in Canada, would rank according to imperial custom, unless a question of pension should arise, when the whole thing would assume another aspect.

The pay for the militia is given in full in paragraphs 835 *et seq.*, and there we also find many peculiarities. In fact "what is sauce for the goose is sauce for the gander" is not adhered to. Whenever the militia or any part thereof is called out for active service, the officers and men shall be paid at such rates of daily pay as are paid to officers of the same relative and corresponding rank in H. M. service, or such other rates as may for the time being be fixed by the Governor-in-Council.

The pay of the permanent corps is greater than that of the militia; but the permanent corps are also at the same time part of the active militia. The ordinary pay of a Captain is \$3 per diem, a Lieut.-Colonel \$4, 2nd a Lieutenant \$2. When on active service, the Colonel draws 87 cents extra per diem to bring his pay equal to other Colonels in the militia—quite right. But the regulations do not say that the Militia Captain is to receive 18 cents additional daily pay to make his pay equal to the P. C. Captain, neither does the Militia Lieutenant draw 42 cents extra pay to get even with the P. C. Lieutenant.

I cannot for the life of me understand why a provisional Lieutenant in the permanent corps should draw \$2 per diem when on active service, whilst his brother officer in the militia, with all qualifications necessary for his rank, receives only \$1.58. That is "one of those things which nobody can understand."

Talking of pay and long course officers receiving only \$1 per diem, reminds me that these officers would do far better, from a money point of view, if they were appointed Pages to the Honourables Messieurs the Senators. Pages, one can hardly say require a special education, but the country, or at least somebody, appreciates their services so much that they receive 50 cents more pay per diem than a long course officer. However, I am very glad to hear that the services of militia Lieutenants are considered of so much importance that they receive exactly eight cents more a day than a Page.

#### ANOMALOUS POSITION OF PAYMASTERS.

The relative rank of a regimental Paymaster on appointment is Captain, his pay being \$3.05 per day, or \$1,113.25 per annum, should he happen to be on active service for that time. He is further allowed a Sergeant to assist him as Clerk.

In the District Staff, there is an officer appointed to perform the duties of District Paymaster, and who is at the same time Superintendent of Stores. The Paymaster's duties make him accountable for every payment made; all accounts for ordinary service are required to be sent to him before payment, each account has therefore to be checked over personally; he is not allowed to correspond with officers on pay matters except through the D. A. G., he has no clerk to carry on even this writing with the D. A. G., nor even with the Director of Stores; he has, further, should a Permanent Corps be in his district, to act as their Paymaster; this alone is tantamount to putting him on active service for the whole time. He also issues "Drill Instruction and Care of Arms" money.

As Superintendent of Stores, he is responsible for all clothing, stores and properties committed to his charge, and for their safe keeping, issue and disposition. He is further responsible for the magazines, ammunition, &c. He keeps a daily journal and a ledger, in which he enters everything received and issued by him, and with these entries he must be careful to state whether the articles received are new, serviceable or unserviceable, thus necessitating a personal inspection. At the end of every month, he must make a return to the Director of Stores, showing all receipts and issues. He has also to notify the D. A. G. of all "issues" made. He also attends Boards to inspect stores supplied by local contractors. He has further to attend twice a year Boards of Inspection of barrack stores, etc., of Permanent Corps. He should be stationed at Kingston to inspect, as a member of the Board, the barracks and stores of the Military College.

He has, in addition, to pay militia pensioners, and needless to say this causes extra correspondence. He attends the annual camps and looks after the distribution of the shekels there, but it is remarkable that whilst the D. A. G. and Brigade Major receive extra pay for attending these camps, the District Paymaster does not.

The District-Paymaster-Superintendent-of-Stores is probably the worst paid man in the whole militia. He is responsible for large sums of money and valuable property. He must be a good book-keeper and a careful and painstaking man, otherwise both financial and store account would get in a very muddled condition, and for these services, from the time he is taken on until the time he grows grey in the service, he receives the extravagant sum of \$600 per annum. True, they occasionally get a step in "honorary rank," which, I would remind you, no officer has a right to claim on account of any length of service, and although the regulations do not say so, this rank won't pay the butcher's bill nor feed the babies.

The pay of an Imperial Staff-Paymaster, the equivalent to our District Paymaster, is about \$2,000 per annum. So you will immediately see the great difference between the pay of Imperial and Canadian Paymasters.

#### NEED OF A SUPERANNUATION SYSTEM.

Pay is the amount of money awarded to a man for certain services, and ought to be such that a prudent man can leave sufficient behind him to enable his widow and children to live, for some time at least, in comfort. Should an age retiring clause exist, with no gratuity for services, one would naturally consider that the daily pay of officers and men would be high.

An Imperial Captain may, if he retires at the age of 40 years, receive retired pay at the rate of £200 per annum. We have a different way of doing things in Canada. We give as a rule 2 years' pay to the retiring officer. We will say that the sum he re-

ceives is \$4,000, which at 6 per cent. will bring him \$240 a year. He may, by delivering telegraph messages, bring his income up to \$500 per annum. I knew an officer—he was from the ranks, more credit to him—who occupied a military position bringing him \$1,200 per annum. When he became too old, his services were dispensed with, and a gratuity of \$2,000—*very handsome* for 23 years' service—was, after a hard fight, gained for him. But if this officer had retired from the imperial service, while he was still a non-commissioned officer, his yearly stipend would have been larger than that received by him as a commissioned officer from the Canadian government.

LINCH-PIN.

#### Montreal.

THE first outside parade and drill of the Victoria Rifles was held on Monday, 30th April, and brought out a good muster, the march from the armoury to the drill hall making a splendid appearance on the streets. Lieut.-Col. Henshaw, in command, having put the regiment through some battalion movements handed it over to Major Radiger for manual and firing, on completion of which Major Atkinson followed with double column and review exercise. The latter, which is down as a special feature in the coming inspection, will have attention at the regimental parades from date.

By a regimental order recruiting will cease on the 10th of May, by which date it is expected that those companies not now full will be, as some of the others are over strength.

The 4th spoon match, Series B, was shot on Saturday last, and Lieut. Desbarats was the winner with 44 points.

The bowling team, looking for new worlds to conquer, met with a Sedan in the alley of Le Club Canadiene where they found balls with finger holes in use and such as none of the team were accustomed to. The victors, however, soothed their feelings by handsomely entertaining them at the conclusion of the match, and a return match, on the armoury alleys, was arranged for 3rd May.

BUSBY.

#### Quebec.

THE galleries of the new drill hall were taxed to their utmost capacity on Friday evening the 27th April, with spectators, the ladies predominating, to witness the commanding officer's parade of the Eighth Royal Rifles. The regiment mustered 252 strong and looked the pink of perfection, both as regards neatness and soldierly bearing. Lieut.-Col. H. J. Miller made a close scrutiny of the pioneers, signal corps, bands and the six companies of the corps, and felt thoroughly satisfied with the appearance of the men. Afterwards they were put through the manual and firing exercise by Major J. Elton Prower and the sword exercise by Captain and Adjutant Ernest F. Wurtele. The various manoeuvres were executed with creditable precision. The band discoursed some choice music under the leadership of Mr. Vezina.

On Sunday the 29th April, the 8th Royal Rifles mustered in strong force at the drill hall and marched to St. Patrick's Church, headed by their pioneers, bands, and signal corps, etc., to attend grand mass. The men made a splendid appearance and large crowds of their friends lined the streets through which they passed both to and from the church to witness their parade.

#### Gleanings.

It is stated that the 76th regiment, now in Bermuda, will arrive in Halifax about May 1st, to replace the York and Lancaster, which will either go to Victoria, B.C., or be divided, half going to Barbadoes and half to Jamaica.

The Krupp works are now turning out a 150-ton gun; it is similar to the 120-ton guns, but is longer, and will have a much higher range. Among the large orders on hand is one from the Australian government for 150 heavy siege guns. It is said that the 120-ton Krupp gun built for the Italian government, but left at Essen when the others were sent to Italy, has been fired more than 200 times, and is still in good condition.

The Paris *Gaulois* states that this year, even should peace be preserved, the armies and navies of the principal states of the world will cost about 7,000,000,000f., or \$1,400,000,000. It makes up its figures in the following way: Germany, army and navy, 914,000,000f., and pensions, fortress funds and Spaudau treasure, 830,000,000f.; France, in all, 1,037,000,000f.; Russia, 1,014,739,986f.; Great Britain (England and India), 1,247,000,000f.; Austria, 326,361,626f.; Italy, 382,924,000f.; Spain, 202,915,000f.; Turkey, 128,851,700f.; Holland, 69,952,000f., and other countries the balance between them.

It having been stated that the Thibetan troops in the Lingtu Fort were well armed with breech-loaders, the editor of the *London and China Telegraph* says: "It would be interesting to know the source of this information, for we have good authority for saying that they have no modern weapons whatever. A few old Chinese ginsangs may be found among them; but beyond these we believe they are armed only with spears, lances, and bows and arrows. This is what would be expected by any one knowing how remote Thibet is, and how comparatively few of even the Chinese troops have breech-loaders; our information, however, makes it quite certain that the case is as we have here stated it."

People have forgotten the nature of the service asked of and obtained from their soldiers. Let the reader think for a moment what sacrifices would be involved if he, now reading this magazine comfortably by his winter fireside, should feel it to have become his duty to drop his business wholly; to say good-bye to his wife and children, knowing the grave risks that he would never see them again upon earth; to leave his pleasures and home comforts, don a private soldier's uniform, submit to rigorous physical discipline, march by night and by day, be houseless in rain and snow often sleeping without shelter under a pouring sky; to live on the coarsest fare always, and frequently have an insufficient supply of that; to be posted as a picket by day and night in pestilential swamps and bottom lands, to risk the imminent peril of losing health and accepting the tender mercies of a field hospital; to enter upon campaign, skirmish, battle, day after day to see comrades drop down one by one; to take the chances of shell and bullet, of torture in a prison pen, and of death by any of these means—imagine all this, and then say whether he would consider that his country had redeemed a pledge of "eternal gratitude" as soon as it had paid him the princely sum of \$192 a year for this service! There is no need of rhetoric. This possible experience is what hundreds of thousands of our brave boys actually endured. There is not a dash of added sombreness to the colouring. Here, then, is precisely the question that is pleading for settlement at the hands of the American people of to-day.

—Col. E. H. Ropes, in *American Magazine*.



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

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