

The Canadian Militia Gazette

THE POPULAR ORGAN OF THE ACTIVE FORCE OF THE DOMINION.

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GENERAL HERBERT'S FIRST SCHEME.

The first fruits of the study which the new General Officer Commanding has given to the affairs of our militia with the object of increasing the interest taken in military work not only by those enrolled but on the part of the general public as well, has appeared in the form of a scheme of holiday parades and voluntary camps. Major-General Herbert has issued a circular to the Deputy Adjutants-General urging them to enter into communication forthwith with the officers commanding corps of city militia, within the districts under their command, with a view to organizing beforehand military instructional work to be carried out on public holidays. General Herbert considers that such opportunities should be employed wherever it is possible, not merely to hold parades or reviews, but for field-days in which officers commanding corps of active militia may gain some experience of the tactical use of the three arms, by being placed in command of a mixed force, and given a clearly defined tactical problem to carry out. He thinks it may further be possible, by means of previous arrangement, to secure the presence in camps of a large proportion of some corps for the nights preceding and following the days fixed for public holidays, and thus to give the men some instruction in the daily routine of camp life.

In order to encourage such instruction the Minister of Militia has authorized the issue of camp equipment for this purpose under certain conditions. At stations where permanent school corps are quartered, the officers and men of those corps will be employed in pitching and preparing such camps, so that they may be available for occupation by the active militia corps on the eve of the holiday. After consultation, as above directed, with the officers commanding corps, the Deputy Adjutants-General are expected to report for the information of the Major-General the probable number of men of each corps that will turn out on each holiday, and submit a programme of instructional work to be carried out, with a view to every facility being obtained for its execution.

That the militia may be expected to enter heartily into the proposed operations may be inferred from the success attending affairs of the kind undertaken in the past without even the slight public assistance now offered. The Thanksgiving Day parades at Toronto have been notable examples.

It is to be hoped that the answers received from the commanding officers will show a general concurrence in General Herbert's scheme, and that a successful inaugural may be held on the Queen's Birthday, for which occasion rumour fixes upon Quebec as the probable scene of military operations on a large scale.

THE MILITARY RIFLE LEAGUE.

As an outcome of the recent meeting of the Ontario executive at Toronto, something definite may now be stated relative to League operations for the season of 1891. Important changes are proposed in the rules governing the competitions, and the League contests seem likely to increase in popularity by reason of this action.

With respect to the composition of the teams there remains to be adjusted a difference of opinion as to their numerical strength, some holding out for an increase from 10 to 15 or 20 men, and others advocating two distinct competitions, one series of matches for teams of 10 and the other for teams of 20. It is, however, generally conceded that the rule providing that men having once shot on a team shall not be eligible for any other that season, should be done away with.

Sighting shots will probably be no longer forbidden, and competitors will thus be at liberty to practise at other than the League ranges during the matches: the contests will also be made more a test of relative skill when the riflemen shooting on habitually difficult ranges are allowed to verify their calculations as to elevation and windage before proceeding with their match scores.

Further to equalize the conditions, it is proposed that only canvas targets should be allowed. To ensure confidence in the scoring reported, it is intended that where single teams are shooting a representative of the League shall be present in the butts (the expense to be borne by the League); and when more than one team is competing on the same range a representative from each corps participating is to be in the butts to check the marking. The bullseye and rings are to be measured by those chosen to check the marking. The range officers and their duties will be as heretofore.

The order of shooting is left to the team captains, no restriction being proposed as to firing in the same order at

the different ranges, or as to which of the several ranges shall be fired first.

Last year's arrangements as to telegraphing are expected to hold good, with the possible exception of some of the more remote localities, for which whatever arrangements are found to be necessary will be duly made.

The matters of entrance fees and of prizes and badges remain unsettled, but there seems to be a general feeling that it is not advisable to spend much money on trophies to be contested for under conditions at the best very uneven; and that the funds realized from entries should be applied mainly in the encouragement of the attendance of the teams at the Dominion Rifle Meeting, there to contest on common ground for the main trophy of the competition.

The dates proposed are the 16th and 30th of May, the 11th and 25th July, and the 8th August—five matches in all. There is still a wide difference of opinion as to ranges, one proposition being 200, 400 and 500 yards, 7 shots, for all five matches, and another, strongly advocated, being the above ranges for the first, second and fourth matches, 200, 500 and 600 yards for the third; and 200, 400, 500 and 600 yards for the fifth match, with only five shots at each of the four ranges of the last match. It will be noticed that one of these schemes drops 600 yards altogether, whilst the other gives but twelve shots at that distance.

It is expected that the friends of the League will again be to the fore with special prizes to add interest to the shooting. Sir Adolphe Caron, Minister of Militia, announced at last year's presentation that he would offer a trophy; and Lt.-Col. the Hon. J. M. Gibson has promised a President's prize, so that the list is well started. A suggestion which met with much favour at the Ontario Executive meeting was that the Caron trophy should be competed for at the Dominion Rifle Meeting, to be awarded to the League competitor highest in the aggregate of the Snider matches exclusive of the Standing match; and also that in this match an entrance fee should be charged by the League, the proceeds to go towards providing other prizes than the Caron trophy.

The Government's liberal grant of free ammunition made last year standing good for this season also, commanding officers all over the country should make an effort to have their corps well represented by League teams. Last year's experience in connection with the League matches, where all the ammunition was free, and also with respect to the increased grant for class-firing purposes, showed rather a lack of appreciation of the efforts made by those in authority to assist in the development of rifle practice. Possibly there was not time to make proper preparation for availing of these grants of ammunition, but there can be no excuse for not making use this year of the opportunities afforded.

Through the courtesy of the publishers of *Outing*, we are permitted to print the interesting if brief story of the Monreal corps told by Capt. Thos. S. Blackwell (54th) in that

enterprising publication. In the January number, there appeared the opening chapter of a series he is to contribute on the Canadian Militia; and February brought a generous second instalment, even more interesting than the first. The matter is handsomely illustrated with portraits of commanding officers past and present, of other noted men of the force, and of buildings, trophies and military scenes, the pictures alone making it well worth while for any military man to possess himself of the numbers of *Outing* through which Capt. Blackwell's article will run. The magazine well maintains its widespread reputation for general excellence, and deserves from the reading public generally the hearty support and encouragement which the military features of the current numbers should elicit from the friends of our militia.

We have been favoured with a copy of the menu and invitation cards for the first annual dinner of the Sergeants' Mess of the Fourteenth Princess of Wales Own Rifles, Kingston, and have great pleasure in offering congratulations to the Mess upon the happy design and skilful execution of the cards. They are the handsomest we have seen for a good while, and the poetical sentiments accompanying the toasts have been very happily chosen. By all accounts the Sergeants' Mess of the P. W. O. R. is a lively institution, and we hope the correspondent who has kindly reported the dinner proceedings will be heard from often in the future.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

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

THE TRAINING OF OFFICERS.

EDITOR MILITIA GAZETTE,—I have just read C. F. C.'s letter, and it made me feel a little as if I were on a jury and listening to counsel for the prosecution, who was determined to secure a conviction at all costs.

It is of course very deplorable that there should be over 800 unqualified officers in the militia; but "what are you going to do about it?" What is the remedy? Striking them all off seems too drastic. Neither is scolding likely to improve matters. Isn't it better, as Major Mayne says in his lecture, to "make the best use of the material you have." It must be remembered that the fact that they have not yet taken out certificates is only *prima facie* evidence that they are not qualified. Many of them, I have no doubt, are, as officers should be, leaders of their men in the best sense of the word. In the same way possession of a certificate does not prove that a man is qualified to lead. It merely proves that he has passed a certain examination. A few officers (and the possession of a certificate gives them the right to assume the airs of an imperial officer, and to enforce the customs and discipline of an imperial army in what is practically a republican militia; but we are not troubled with them long; they soon resign.

The point I wish to make, however, is, how does C. F. C. propose to fill the vacancies for officers? There isn't a battalion that I know of with its full complement of officers. Surely an uncertificated officer is better than nothing at all. As I know him, instead of being a jay in peacock feathers, etc., he is usually a popular man, and always to be depend

ed upon for a good subscription to the company rifle match, the battalion match, the band fund, etc., etc. I am familiar with the officer who says, "Where must I go now?" or "What command shall I give next?" but I can easily forgive him that if I respect him otherwise.

Purchase may be abolished in the British Army, but it takes a man of independent means to be an officer just the same. Here a man practically buys his commission. I have served now in the ranks over six years; my pay goes into the company fund, and I have spent about \$15 per annum, exclusive of rifle shooting expenses, and exclusive of \$50 or so for a sergeant's outfit. I think I have done it pretty cheap. I could be an officer if I chose to increase my expenditure. I am told that in one of our cavalry corps it costs a trooper about \$100 for his uniform on joining, and an officer at least \$400. It is absolutely necessary that a Canadian officer should be popular, and he must also have a pretty fair income, I should say at least \$1,200 a year to spend on himself. He should know enough to prevent him making an ass of himself on parade, and he soon learns that. If it is asked that he be qualified to lead against regular troops, that is a standard that will never be attained in Militia, unless we adopt the Swiss system of conscription and six or eight weeks compulsory drill every year, and the Canadian taxpayer would kick about that.

Anyway, the company officer, especially in rural battalions, does not get any credit for qualifying, and he can get along almost, if not quite as well, without. I know a captain who a couple of months before camp got his men together and drilled them once or twice a week until the camp. He took out a smart company, but on reaching camp he began with the others at squad drill, in accordance with brigade orders. Seeing that his men were bored and discouraged by having to begin over, he went on to something else (skirmishing, I think), and got rapped over the knuckles with considerable force by the Brigade Major. The next camp he went to he took no trouble whatever beforehand. Why should not the captain and his staff be the instructors of the company, be held strictly responsible for its efficiency and get full credit for it? The company is the modern unit. Company drill and target practice could be done cheaper at the company headquarters than at camp. The work of the camps (which could then be shortened) would be (1) a very strict inspection in company drill; (2) battalion drill; (3) "manœuvre." This is practically the German system.

You cannot *compel* the men of the Militia to be efficient. They must be led by various means. For instance, large sums of money are spent in prizes of various kinds. The fact of the matter is that city battalions at least are military athletic clubs, and the men would not join in time of peace if it were otherwise. In the same way it is all rot to talk about compelling the officers to do anything. You can't drive any Canadian. The officers spend a lot of time and money now and are as efficient as other Militia officers in the Empire. If more is asked of them more must be given to them in the shape of honour and credit for what they do, if nothing can be done in a more material way.

Yours respectfully,

SERGEANT.

Toronto, 9th February, 1891.

EDITOR MILITIA GAZETTE.—I in common with C. F. C. often observe and peruse paragraphs in the various papers on Militia subjects, although I cannot say that they always afford me "great pleasure," but I have failed to observe any "apparently dull, stupid sleep of ignorance there is in respect to any serious evil existing in the Militia Force." That our Militia system is not perfect, and that it is desirable to improve it, I think no one will deny, but in suggesting schemes of improvement one must take into con-

sideration the varying conditions of climate; requirements, temperament of the inhabitants, end to be attained, "defence, not defiance," and the amount of money at the disposal of the Department. One must look beyond one's own little village, and not argue, because there may be a little sore there, that the whole system is rotten to the core. Even if it be a fact, that there are eight hundred commissions held by Militia officers who have no *certificate* of qualification, I am not prepared to admit that there are eight hundred unqualified officers, but rather agree with "Beaver" that many of them may be "far better up in all details of drill and discipline and better instructors" than some who have certificates. The regulations require that every officer should have a *certificate* of qualification, and it is desirable that the regulations should be complied with or cancelled. The country has, I think, provided as well as it can afford at the present time for the attainment of the qualifications required of officers, and the number must be very small indeed who cannot afford at some time during the year to spend seven days at some one of the military schools to obtain the required certificate. I think that the Regulations and Orders, para. 72 to 88, fully provides a remedy for the "serious evil" pointed out by C. F. C., and contains (if he will pardon me the opinion) in better language than his own, all that he suggests; and it only needs that commanding officers and the district staff should insist on the observance of the "first duty of a soldier"—"obedience to orders."

C. F. C. appears to think it was a "wise provision abolishing the purchase of commissions in the army by those who possessed more money than military qualification," and that it "was enacted with a view to exclude these unqualified persons," etc. I fail to see the connection between that and our Militia system, as we have had no purchase here; but even admitting that he is correct, perhaps he will permit me to hazard the opinion that the most glorious actions recorded in the annals of British military history were fought by officers a large number of whom had purchased their commissions, which would seem to show that because a man purchased his commission he was not necessarily unqualified. A thorough knowledge of mere barrack yard drill does not of itself qualify a man for command. It is possible for one to creditably command a brigade who is not thoroughly posted in all the minutiae of the latest approved squad drill and extension motions. To become an expert in military science requires as long and serious study and as much experience as is required in any of the learned professions, and it is possible for one to have all the necessary knowledge and yet not hold a certificate.

"Beaver's" suggestion that branch schools be opened in the different towns, would, I think, be found to be very expensive, and the officer who cannot find time enough to take a special course of seven days, is not likely to have time enough to spare for military duties to be of any service to the country. "Any drill is better than none; let us have the best that we can get; but let us have some, however poor," once said a C. O., and I think he was right.

As to the rifle question, the old answer still holds good, that the aim of the military authorities is not to encourage target practice *per se*, but to teach the militiaman how best to use the arm that he will have to carry into action.

With reference to the editorial comment, I cannot see why any one really desirous of being instructed for the purpose of obtaining a commission should object to accepting a provisional appointment and then entering some one of the schools, as already established. The acceptance of an appointment and the purchase of a uniform is a mild sort of guarantee that the country will derive some immediate benefit from his instruction.

And now, Mr. Editor, having had my "growl," I will leave the parade, promising, if not utterly annihilated, to call again.

ACDACE.

THE MILITARY RIFLE LEAGUE.

EDITOR MILITIA GAZETTE,—We notice in your paper that interest is beginning to wake up about the "League." Having the purest of motives in regard to rifle shooting, I trust it will not seem like presumption in suggesting a few things to assist in the coming season's competitions. In the first place I would say that the teams (as last year) be ten men. It is impossible in cities of small population and in rural districts (except in a few cases), to get together a larger team who could hope to cope with more favoured comrades in our big places. It is also undesirable to have teams of more than ten competitors, because the great interest that now exists from ocean to ocean (emanating and radiating of course from the bull's eye Winnipeg!) would be split into two factions should there be two classes, say teams of ten and also of say twenty men. I think the great incentive to shooting is the unity and evenness of aim, the perfect equality of the participants, and the unfettered and perfect freedom of the course from the greenhorn to the Queen's prizeman, and I am also strongly convinced that any bolstering or artificial means used to assist the beginner not only detracts from the glory of success, but in a great measure deters him from success itself. A man is never strong who needs a stimulant except it be emulation, therefore let the teams be ten men, let them stand equal. Then hurrah for first place.

I would also suggest that the markers be chosen outside of the corps of the team. This is, I think, the great point in this match. The rifleman at the butts is largely at the mercy of the marker at the targets, and the markers should have no sympathy with the firer. As he can make or mar any score, he should be chosen for his intelligence and his character, and be remunerated for his services through the officer who superintends the shooting; also that a special prize be given the marker who gives the greatest satisfaction to the executive of the League, the said officer giving each marker a percentage of marks for efficiency. Then, brethren of the rifle, let us entertain the greatest respect and confidence in one another. I believe firmly that in no pastime the world over does there exist the purity that we have in our favourite sport. Our competitions in the League introduce the names of the crack shots of Canada; and our great yearly gathering at Ottawa bring together in friendly rivalry as fine a lot of fellows as ever found a bad cartridge in their ammunition. We venture the assertion that our Dominion matches is a convention at which a consensus of opinion is expressed unsurpassed in the line of sports. The League is allied to our best shooting interests; it deserves our best encouragement. Let our teams of last year and many more get ready for the coming season, and make this a more successful year than any preceding one.

It was my intention to say a few words about the situation of shooting affairs here, but my pen gets rather wayward sometimes and walks more than was intended, but rifle shooting is a pleasant topic, and an engaging one. I see a requisition is going around calling a general meeting of all who are interested in rifle shooting, to be held in the City Hall here on the 17th inst. You may take my word for it, Winnipeg is not to be held back in shooting this summer. We have the stuff here to make this place a shooting centre, and shame to us if we don't do it. Pardon my long, windy effusion, Mr. Editor, it is often the way with

BUCKSHOT.

Winnipeg, February 6th, 1891.

REGIMENTAL.

Staff-Sergt. Thos. Mitchell, of the Tenth Royal Grenadiers, is reported to have in contemplation a change in residence from Toronto to Vancouver, B.C., on his return from Bisley this year. "Tom" will be greatly missed in Toronto, where he has many warm friends in every corps; but all will agree that the Pacific Province affords great opportunities for men of his energy and ability.

Preparations are being made for a great military parade at Berlin, Ont., for the Queen's Birthday, when it is expected the Thirteenth Battalion of Hamilton will visit that town. They will reach Berlin on Saturday evening, 23rd May, have church parades on Sunday, and on Monday there will be a parade and grand field day sham fight. A local committee are arranging for a programme of sports. A feature of this will be a sword and lance combat (mounted) between Prof. Fred Brooker, late Trumpet Major 5th Royal Lancers, and Prof. Bell, late of an Imperial regiment of Dragoons.

The non-commissioned officers of the Halifax Garrison Artillery participated in a sleigh drive on the 3rd inst. Five four-horse teams, headed by the band of the corps, left the drill shed at 2.30, and after going through the principal streets took the upper road for Wilson's, Bedford, arriving there about 5 o'clock. The drive up was enlivened by songs. After a warming up Host Wilson announced that dinner was ready, and at 7.30 o'clock the boys sat down to a bountifully supplied table. The table was beautifully decorated. In addition to flowers, etc., the following silver cups were displayed: Quebec Challenge Cup and Montreal Cup; the Gun trophy, won at Quebec in 1884, Jubilee Cup, won at Halifax in 1887, and the trophy won in the Canadian Rifle League matches, and which was displayed for the first time, all having been won by the brigade. After the toast list had been gone through with the company repaired to the various rooms of the hotel and engaged in games. At 12.15 the teams were again on the road and arrived in the city in good time, without a mishap occurring. Those present voted the drive one of the most successful they had ever attended. The committee who had the affair in hand was composed as follows: Brigade Sergt. Major Gibbs (chairman), Battery Sergt.-Major Case, Battery Sergt. Major Kiddy, Sergt. Marshall, Sergt. Frawley, Sergt. Broadhurst, Sergt. Doane, Corp. Marshall.

THE GRENADIERS.

The sergeants of the Royal Grenadiers, who have been having card parties in their comfortable mess room once a fortnight during the last two months, thinking a change desirable decided to have a smoking concert, which took place on Thursday evening, 5th inst., and was, considering it was their first attempt at anything of that sort, and that the performers were all members of the regiment, a great success. Major Mason, Capt. Trotter, Capt. and Adj. McLean, Lieuts. Cameron and Stimson, of the Grens, and Lieut. Windeyer, of the 36th Battalion, were present, and the sergeants with their friends mustered in full force and filled the large room to the door. Quartermaster-Sergeant Dale, who has been laid up with inflammatory rheumatism for the last four months, made his appearance for the first time since his illness and received a hearty welcome from the boys. The programme, which was divided into two parts, consisted of songs, recitations, clog dancing and instrumental music, the first and last songs being regimental ones, and sung by Sergeant Scully and Drum Sergeant Bewley respectively. Between the parts, the secretary, Sergeant Brooks, read letters of regret for non-attendance from Col. Dawson, who was dining with His Excellency the Governor-General, Capt. Greville Harston, Capt. Hay, Capt. Tassie, Mr. Barlow Cumberland and others. Sergt.

For Lung Diseases only those Emulsions which are scientifically prepared can expect to succeed. SLOCUM'S OXYGENIZED EMULSION OF PURE COD LIVER OIL, compounded at their manufactory in Toronto, Ont., has, from the start, won a place in public confidence which surpasses any success achieved by a like preparation. It is handled by all druggists.

Major Cox, who presided, and was ably assisted by Drum-Sergt. Bewley and Paymaster-Sergt. Johnston, in a few appropriate words welcomed the officers and visitors, and then called upon Sergt. Scally to commence the concert by singing the song entitled "The 10th R. G." The singing of Lieut. Cameron, Staff-Sergt. Hutchinson and Mr. Harris, the clog dancing by Mr. Pratt, and the cornet solo by Mr. McKendrick, were all very much admired. Before the performance closed with the singing of the national anthem, Major Mason congratulated the sergeants upon their success at their first smoking concert, also upon the progress they had made with their mess, which was only started in April last.

PRINCESS OF WALES OWN RIFLES.

The annual dinner of the Sergeants' Mess of the 14th Princess of Wales Own Rifles of Canada was held at the British-American Hotel, Kingston, on January 22nd, 1891. Sergt.-Major R. D. Baker occupied the chair. On his right were Lieut.-Col. H. R. Smith, Major and Adjutant J. Galloway; on his left were Mayor W. M. Drennan (also Major Kingston Field Battery), Sergt. W. P. Hewgill representing the Sergeants' Mess of "A" Battery, R.C.A., Col.-Sergt. H. M. George representing the Sergeants' Mess of the Queen's Own Rifles of Canada. Staff-Sergt. F. A. Birch occupied the vice chair, and on his right was Col.-Sergt. Brumell, of the G. G. F. Guards.

After the good things of life had been disposed of, etc., Sergt.-Major Baker proposed the health of Her Majesty, which was drunk with enthusiasm, the company afterwards singing "God Save the Queen." Staff-Sergt. Birch proposed "Our Regiment," which was responded to by Lieut.-Col. Smith and Major Galloway, who complimented the sergeants on the efficient state of the mess in its short existence, and hoped it might have a bright future, etc. Staff-Sergt. J. McIlroy proposed "Sister Regiments," which was responded to by Col.-Sergt. Brumell on behalf of the G.G.F.G.; Sergt. W. P. Hewgill on behalf of "A" Battery, R.C.A., and Col.-Sergt. H. M. George on behalf of the Queen's Own Rifles. "Our Guests" was proposed by Col.-Sergt. H. M. Jack, and responded to by Mayor Drennan and Mr. H. Redmond. "The Ladies" was proposed by Sergt. T. B. Ross, and found nearly every one eager and anxious to respond, among the foremost being Staff-Sergt. W. O'Shea, Col.-Sergt. J. H. Sutherland, Lance-Sergt. R. S. Minnes, Sergt. J. T. Sutherland, Sergt. A. D. Shibley, and Col.-Sergt. H. M. Jack. One of the speakers, in replying to this toast, said that whenever the 14th visited any city they always found the ladies of those cities good soldiers, because they invariably "flew to arms"! "The Press" was proposed in an eloquent speech by Staff-Sergt. F. J. Hoag, and was replied to by "Tommy Green" for the *News*, and Sergt. A. D. Shibley for the *Whig*. During the evening Staff-Sergt. J. McIlroy sang "Mother I Have Come Home to Loaf." Major Galloway sang "Glory and Victory" from the opera "Leo, the Royal Cadet." Staff-Sergt. Birch sang the "Old Brigade." Sergt. Sutherland favoured the company with several selections from "Leo, the Royal Cadet." Lance Sgt. A. W. McMahon favoured the company with a song. Mr. H. Redmond favoured the company with an acceptable song. Col.-Sergt. J. Watts favoured the company with his experience in Fort Henry on Christmas Day, 1885. They were very humorous for the company but very disappointing to him. At an early hour the assemblage sang "Auld Lang Syne."

THE PRINCE OF WALES REGIMENT.

At last, after a hard struggle, the Prince of Wales Regiment have had restored to them the space taken from their armoury in the Montreal drill shed for brigade offices. The keys were handed over to Lieut.-Col. Butler on Monday morning of last week, and at 1.30 the same day a meeting of officers

was held on the premises to determine what alterations should be made to adapt them to the requirements of the corps. The first thing ordered was the taking away of the partition wall so as to place in position at once the Morris tube range, which was ordered some two years ago but which could not be used until the remainder of the space belonging to the regiment had been restored.

The order restoring this space to the Prince of Wales, it seems, requires them to make the alterations at their own expense, which they think unfair inasmuch as the Government fitted up each armoury according to the suggestions made by the different corps before handing them over; and it is therefore rather hard that the Prince of Wales should not only have been deprived for some four years of one-quarter of their whole space, and, amongst other annoyances, because the space remaining was insufficient to place a Morris tube range, were obliged to see their best shots leave for other corps (there being no less than three in the Vics' team of ten which won the Carslake trophy), but are now obliged, at their own expense, to take down a partition which should never have been put up, and put up others to meet their wants.

It will be learned with regret that Capt. Cooke, who was to have been gazetted Major of the Prince of Wales, but who was a year ago prostrated with la grippe and has not yet recovered, is not likely to be able to proceed to the school for the necessary first class certificate, and that Col. Butler will therefore be obliged to fill the vacancy by the appointment of another officer.

THE OXFORD RIFLES.

(Woodstock Standard, 28th January.)

The event of the season in the social life of the county was the banquet given by the Lieut.-Colonel and officers of the 22nd Battalion Oxford Rifles at the O'Neill House last night. The gathering was one of the most representative of the various interests of the county that could well be gathered together, composed as it was of the members of the county and town councils, county and town officials, prominent citizens of the towns and villages, and representatives of the county press. In addition there were present Lieut.-Col. Smith, D.A.G. of District No. 1, and his able Brigade-Major, Lieut.-Col. the Hon. M. Aylmer, and members of neighbouring corps. The scene presented in the dining-hall was most pleasant and calculated to inspire the utmost conviviality. The tables were arranged and decorated in fine artistic taste, the Union Jack of Old England being conspicuously displayed, while the handsome Ellis trophy occupied a position in front of the chairman. The *menu*, which bore the crest of the corps, was a neat souvenir of the occasion.

The chair was occupied by Lieut.-Col. Munro, who had on his right Lieut.-Col. Smith, D.A.G., Mr. John Barwich and Mayor Douglas, and on his left Mr. Warden Durkee and Col. Cowan, of the 29th. The first vice chair by Major Hegler, with on his right and left Col. the Hon. M. Aylmer and Major Wilkes of the Dufferin Rifles, Brantford. The second vice chair was presided over by Lieut. Revell, chairman of the Mess. The toast list was announced by the vice chair proposing "The Queen," which, as might be expected in such a gathering, was right loyally received, the company singing the National Anthem. "The Governor-General and Lieut.-Governor" from the chair also brought forth loyal manifestations.

"The Army, Navy and Canadian Militia" brought forth appropriate responses from the Deputy Adjutant General and the Brigade Major. Col. Smith commended the Oxford Rifles for their good sense in holding such a dinner, as it had the effect of educating the public as to the capabilities and needs of the militia. He reminded those present that the militia were not organized for their own benefit but for that of the public, and as such they should be en-

couraged. Col. Aylmer said that the Oxford Rifles had the reputation of being the best officered regiment of the most intelligent and patriotic county of the Dominion, and he would not say it was undeserved. He considered it a privilege for any gentleman to belong to such a corps. Col. Aylmer made a very happy response, and the hearty applause which greeted him gave evidence of his popularity with the corps.

"The House of Commons" being proposed, Jas. Sutherland, M.P., Capt. and Paymaster, responded, and expressed his gratification at seeing the D. A. G., the members of the County Council and so many other friends of the regiment present. In commending the remark of the D. A. G. that the militia was for the people he expressed the opinion that the militia had not been treated by the government as they deserved. The militia was maintained at the price of great sacrifice in money and time by officers and men and they should at least have proper equipment. If the force was too large it should be reduced and made efficient and worthy of the people of Canada. He heartily thanked the County Council for their liberality and hoped that the government would so increase the men's pay that such grants would not be required in the future. If it were not for the generosity of the Council in the past the officers might long ago have lost all heart.

The toast of the "County Council" was proposed and received with applause. Warden Durkee in responding said that when he first went to the County Council he had opposed the \$500 grant, not because of any antipathy to the force, but because he believed the volunteers were deserving of a fair day's pay when in camp—\$1 at least—and it should be provided by the government.

Ex-Warden Anderson believed it was a good thing that the county should contribute a portion of the expenses of the volunteer force because such created a local interest that otherwise might not be developed. He thought the officers should not have to beg for such a grant but that the grant should be an understood thing. He would like to see it enacted that the government give one portion and the municipalities another.

R. A. Duncan, the youthful Reeve of Embro, agreed with previous speakers that the pay of the men in camp should be equal to that of their regular avocations, and that it should come from headquarters, but until that was secured he favoured an ample grant from the county. He was proud to say that Embro furnished the pioneer company of the corps and was the home of the champion tug-of-war team of the world, and they could provide a regiment of such stalwart men if such was required. (Applause)

Captain McGlashan, of the Dufferin Rifles, Brantford, sang "The Un on Jack of Old England" and was loudly encored, to which he responded with a comic song, which convulsed the company with laughter. Before sitting down he remarked that the Oxford Rifles should thank God for such a county council. He wished that Brant Council was equally generous.

"Our Agricultural Interests" brought forth an eloquent response from Colonel Cowan, of the 29th, who said that the agriculturists were the backbone of the volunteer force. With regard to the pay he said that the Government allowance in Canada was the same as that of the militia in England, and it was all the same whether the money came from the Government or the municipalities. He warmly approved the action of the Oxford County Council, and said the Oxford Rifles was the most hospitable corps in the district, if not the most efficient.

Several other toasts were given and heartily honoured.

The Argentine army is well officered; it has 42 generals, 123 colonels 111 lieutenant colonels, 149 majors, 219 captains, 222 first-lieutenants, 235 second-lieutenant, and 249 sub-lieutenants and ensigns. Total, 1,373 officers for about 5,500 rank and file.

MONTREAL'S FAMOUS MILITIA.

(CAPT. THOS. S. BLACKWELL, IN OUTING FOR FEBRUARY).

With its picturesque costume and in various ways the Fifth Royal Scots is one of the prominent regiments of the Canadian militia. This corps sprung into existence about the same time as the Victoria Rifles and Sixth Fusiliers, of Montreal, in 1861-2. Among the regiments then formed in that city none attained completeness and proficiency more rapidly than the Fifth Royal Light Infantry, by which title it was at first known. The Colonel, Haviland L. Routh, selected for officers men like himself, of wealth, position and education. They in turn chose men with the greatest care, and the regiment made very rapid progress in drill and discipline, being assisted and encouraged by the regular troops then in garrison.

They formed a fine and steady body of men, a proof of which may be referred to in that Colonel Stephenson, of the "crack" Grenadier Guards, then stationed in Montreal, on his first inspection of the Fifth said that they reminded him very much of his own regiment. The military enthusiasm continued long after the war clouds of 1861 which had blurred the azure skies of peace had blown past, and received new life when the Fenian movement began to assume formidable proportions. The first active service done by the Fifth was in frontier duty at this time, when several companies were stationed all winter on the Canadian border to prevent raiders infringing on the neutrality laws. In 1866, when the Fenians actually invaded Canada, the Royals were encamped at Hemmingford, close to the frontier, but did not have any fighting. In 1870 again, during the second Fenian raid, the Royals were out and were brigaded with the regulars in camp at St. Johns.

Up to this time the Royals were uniformed like the British line regiments, in scarlet tunics, dark-blue facings, blue trousers, with shako for head dress in summer and fur cap in winter. Even then there was a decided tinge of the Scotch element apparent—many of the officers and men were Scotch and the left flank company wore tartan trousers and tartan round the shako. A dull and peaceful time succeeding the stirring events of the Fenian raids, all the volunteer regiments became limp and weak, and this continued until 1877, when a few enthusiasts, some of them old officers of the corps, made an effort to restore it to its old-time form, and they succeeded beyond all expectations. To make the corps more attractive it became a fusilier regiment, wearing the bearskin, and the name was changed to the Royal Fusiliers. It had two Highland companies, uniformed like the regular non-kilted regiments. The physique of the men was good, none but well-grown men being allowed to join. When measured for uniforms the average height was found to be five feet nine inches. The Scotch element became so pronounced that very soon all the companies became Highland ones, still wearing the "trews" and tartan plaid. Nothing but the expense prevented the adoption of the kilt, and that in time was overcome and the regiment came out at last in all the glory of philabeg, sporrans and all the paraphernalia peculiar to the Highland dress.

The Royal Scots of Canada is the title by which the Fifth is now known, and the regiment takes a high stand in the Canadian militia. Efficient as any corps in the Dominion, popular in the extreme, of very fine physique, strong in *esprit de corps*, and passing every year exceedingly creditable inspections, it holds a high place in the community and is a source of pride to many who have followed its colours in the days gone by.

The regiment, by special permission of the Marquis of Lorne, wears the Lorne tartan. It has a full military band, seven pipers, drum corps and ambulance corps. The badge of the Scots is a boat's head, with the motto "*Ne obliviscaris*" in the garter under it. Col. Frank Caverhill is a most popular commander. The cadet corps of the

Royal Scots is a splendid one. Under the adjutant of the regiment, Capt. Fred. L. Lydon, it has obtained a proficiency in drill which would put a veteran battalion to shame. The cadets wear the full Highland costume, but in gray and red instead of the scarlet and tartan of the parent regiment.

The Sixth Fusiliers of Montreal is another regiment which comes in for a large slice of favour with the people of the city. It sprung into existence during the exciting times of 1862 as the Seventh Volunteer Militia Rifle Company of Montreal, but other companies being quickly raised, the title of "rifles" was discarded, and the battalion gazetted as the Sixth Battalion (Hoch laga) Light Infantry, under the command of Lieut.-Col. Ashley Hibbard. At first nothing but the accoutrements were supplied by the militia authorities, clothing, etc., having to be supplied by the men themselves. In 1864, 1865, 1866 the Sixth saw a good deal of active service, being constantly employed on frontier service. In 1876 the designation of the battalion was changed to the Sixth Battalion Fusiliers, with permission to adopt the "bearskin" and uniform as worn by fusilier regiments of the imperial army. Within the past year they have discarded the blue facings hitherto worn, having received permission to don the white facings, so that the dress now corresponds in every particular with that of the fusiliers of Her Majesty's Army. Like the other Montreal battalions, the Sixth is a six-company regiment. It is recruited largely from the artizan classes, and can turn out a body of men that for physique and smartness it would be hard to beat. The Sixth is a favourite regiment with the old soldiers; as many as six or eight bronzed-faced veterans, with two and three medals on their breasts, may be seen in some of the companies—medals that have been won on the sands of Egypt, in the mountain passes of Afghanistan and other parts of the world. This regiment has always held most friendly relations with its fellow comrades of the United States.

On the Fourth of July, 1878, in response to an invitation from St. Albans, Vt., they took part in the national celebration there and received a most enthusiastic reception. The Adjutant General of the State of Vermont, in addressing the Sixth after the review, said "the men of it were every inch soldiers." On May 24th, 1879, the regiment took a prominent part in a grand review held in Montreal before the Marquis of Lorne and H. R. H. Princess Louise, in which the Thirteenth (Brooklyn) Regiment, 550 strong, took part. The Sixth has on many occasions done excellent service in aid of the civil power, the good discipline and steadiness of the corps making it peculiarly well suited for such a duty. As marksmen the Fusiliers have always been highly distinguished. In October, 1883, they won the "British Challenge Shield," which was presented by the forces of Great Britain to be competed for by the Canadian militia. At the annual meetings of the National Rifle Association in England members of the Sixth have always been on the Canadian team, and have invariably done well. On the regimental color is: "Badge quarterly: First, *or*, a beaver proper on a mount, *vert*. Second, *gules*, a lion passant, *or*. Third, *azure*, a grenade, *argent*, embellished, *or*. Fourth, *argent*, a sprig of three maple leaves proper. The whole within a garter, *azure*, buckled and fimbriated, *or*." The crest worn on cross belts, etc., is: "An Indian warrior proper, holding a bow in his dexter hand and having a quiver of arrows over the sinister shoulder."

The motto of the regiment is "*Vestigia nulla retrorsum*."

The commanding officer, Lieut.-Col. Frederick M. Sney, takes the greatest interest in his regiment. He is an excellent drill himself, and with the assistance of Major Atkinson, the acting adjutant, has made the Sixth what it is: one of the best and steadiest corps in the Canadian militia. The regiment has a fine brass band, capital drum and fife band, and ambulance and signalling corps.

Of the other Montreal corps the First Prince of Wales Rifles, which at one time was the crack regiment of the city, for a time seemed to have fallen away from some reason, and the proud motto borne by it—"Nulli secundus"—hardly stood good. At present it has again, however, taken a front place.

The Sixty-fifth Battalion, Mount Royal Rifles, is altogether composed of French-Canadians. It is a good, smart regiment of eight companies, and did excellent service in the North-West during the Riel rebellion. Judge Dugas, the commanding officer of the Mount Royal Rifles, is a most popular man.

The Montreal Brigade of Garrison Artillery, commanded by Lieut.-Col. Thos. Turnbull, which served in the North-West during the rebellion, is a splendid corps, the men being of fine physique, and while well up in big gun drill are equal to any of the regiments in infantry drill. It has a very fine cadet corps, wearing the same uniform of blue and red, with buff belts.

The Montreal Field Battery is a smart, well-appointed corps. Their armament consists of four nine-pounder rifled guns. Col. "Smurty" Stevenson has been long and favourably known in connection with the battery.

The Montreal Troop of the Sixth Regiment of Cavalry, organized in 1809, and now under Major Colin McArthur, and the Montreal Company of Engineers, under Lieut.-Col. Kennedy, make up the city corps. All the corps have commodious armories and quarters in the splendid new drill hall on Craig street. There is ample space for two or three large bodies of men drilling in the hall, and the close proximity of the fine Champ de Mars, which is now brilliantly lighted by electricity, is constantly taken advantage of for parades on fine evenings.

In his annual report of last year the Deputy Adjutant-General of the Fifth (Montreal) District says of the corps of that city: "I think I am justified in stating that all are in a good state of efficiency and capable of taking the field at the shortest notice should their services be required at any moment, and as the athletic associations of Montreal are the principal source of supply for the material of these corps, I am further induced in the opinion that should they be so called upon they would render a good account of themselves, both on the line of march and in the field."

Militia General Orders (No. 2) of 30th Jan., 1891.

No. 5—CERTIFICATES GRANTED.

Rank, Name and Corps.	Class.	Course.	Grade.	Percentage of Marks obtained.		
				Written.	Practical.	Aggregate Percentage.
<i>Royal School of Artillery.</i>						
2nd Lieut. P. P. Boulanger, Quebec F.B.	1	S	A	70	70	70
<i>Royal Schools of Infantry.</i>						
Captain H. Payne, 7th Bn.	1	Sp	A	76	75	75
do J. S. Dunbar, 8th Bn.	1	Sp	A	92	88	90
do J. Stoneman, 13th Bn.	1	Sp	A	79	72	75
do E. E. W. Moore, 13th Bn.	1	Sp	A	79	74	76
Lieut. O. B. C. Richardson, 8th Bn.	2	Sp	A	70	67	69
do P. P. Myles, 8th Bn.	1	S	A	85	83	84
Sergeant G. Roussel, 9th Bn.	2	S	B	72	80	77
do E. C. Clowe, 54th Bn.	1	S	B	69	75	71
do G. de Montigny, 65th Bn.	2	S	B	50	80	65
do A. Barbeau, 87th Bn.	2	S	B	40	63	53

Gleanings.

As a result of the encouragement given to the study of language in the British service quite a number of officers of the Indian army now understand Russian, a language almost unknown a few years ago among British officers. Ten more have just been declared qualified to act as interpreters.

To protect every £100 worth of sea-borne trade cost. Russia £8.2 a year; Italy £7.8 a year; Germany £5.03 a year; France £3.05 a year; and the British Empire £1.3 a year. To protect each ton of merchant shipping under the national flag costs Russia £9.1 a year; France £7.8 a year; Italy £5.07 a year; Germany £2.3 a year, and the British Empire £1.1 a year.

The Duke of Wellington once remarked that "people with nice notions of religion ought not to enter the army." Evidently the same idea prevails in Germany, with the difference that there the doctrine of free will is outside the argument. At any rate this must be the reflection of the two young German soldiers who declined to attend reserve drill and demanded their discharge, quoting the sixth commandment as their justification. The authorities were not to be convinced by this scriptural logic, and decreed thirty-four days to be spent by these religious enthusiasts in the seclusion of a fortress, where possibly their views on the immorality of soldiering will undergo modification.

The War Office has it in contemplation to issue an improved cavalry saddle for experiment shortly. One has already been submitted, and meets with a certain amount of favour. Its merits are not accepted, however, with that unanimity with which they might be; many officers holding that the present saddle has not been properly tested, and that

the defects which are brought to notice in the report on the cavalry manoeuvres are not due to inherent defects in the saddle itself. Major Hegan, in his "Notes on Manoeuvres of the Prussian Guard Cavalry Division, 1890," writes:—"All regiments use blankets under the saddle. They are of two sorts—a white and a grey one. The former is not liked, and will not be issued any more. It is worn folded in four, hangs low, and sweats the horse unnecessarily. The grey blanket is the last issued, and is found very satisfactory. It is used with the new saddle, and folded in nine—first in three lengthways and then again in three. It is laid on the horse's back with that end to the front which shows three edges together—consequently there are no edges to the rear. No straps or contrivances of any kind are required to keep it from slipping." This is a practical detail. We should at least subject the German system to a fair test, and modify our arrangements for issue, etc., before wasting large sums of money on a new saddle, simply because the old one failed under the very peculiar circumstances of the recent Berkshire manoeuvres.

ONTARIO ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION.

The annual general meeting, for receiving reports, electing officers, and transaction of business will be held at the Canadian Military Institute, 94 1/2 King Street West, Toronto, on Tuesday, the 24th February, at 2 o'clock p.m.

Members are reminded that it is intended, notice thereof having been given, to move a motion to the effect that Clause 5 be so amended as to permit Field and Garrison Batteries to affiliate on payment of \$5 and \$3 per annum, respectively.

L. HOMFRAY IRVING,
Secretary.

Toronto, 26th January, 1891.

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