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MILITARY GAZETTE

SUCCESSOR TO THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE

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NEWS OF THE SERVICE.

Our readers are requested to contribute promptly to this department all important items of Military News affecting their own corps, districts or friends, coming under their notice.

Commanding officers and adjutants should see that full particulars are promptly sent of anything out of the ordinary that may be done in connection with their corps. All members of the force are invited to express their opinion on subjects under discussion or to make suggestions that may improve the efficiency of the service. If news items are not inserted—and this may frequently happen—it will be because other and perhaps more important matter has come in ahead of it, or the news may be stale. Lack of space usually prevents the publication of full scores at other than the larger matches.

Opinions expressed in correspondence are not necessarily the views of THE GAZETTE—in fact we often materially differ from our correspondents.

Address,

THE CANADIAN MILITARY GAZETTE,
Montreal.

CHANGE OF D. O. C.

MONTREAL, Nov. 14.—“THE CANADIAN MILITARY GAZETTE’S Montreal correspondent makes the charge in the last issue that many of the companies of the city corps were plugged for the last inspection with men from other corps. The writer had evidently not investigated closely, for very little of this went on, but what did occur, a large number of men who had served out their time turned up for inspection to help out their old corps, and what could otherwise be expected? The militia, and especially the Montreal force, has received scant support in the past from the Government, and men would not join or stay in the ranks, that is, in large numbers.”

The above paragraph appeared in the military column of the Montreal Herald. The item which appeared in THE GAZETTE gave cause for a good deal of talk among both officers and men, and instead of it being denied it was freely commented upon as being correct in every detail. As a matter of fact, the writer of the above paragraph would appear to be trying to back up the fact that they were plugged, for it will be noticed he says that very little plugging was done. The very fact of the admission of a little being done proves that the statement was correct. He also says that many of the men whose time had expired assisted their late companies at inspection. Is that not plugging? Is it the proper thing to allow those men to fill the ranks of a company when they are really civilians? If these men have such a desire to help their old corps, why should they not rejoin and attend drill during the season? There are captains who would give a good deal to have a full company at inspection, but would scorn to use unfair means to have it so. It is not by these means that the Montreal corps will secure greater support from the Government. It is just the opposite way. As long as the regiments are returned about full up to strength less attention will be paid to the petitions for greater facilities to popularise the corps, as it would be natural for them to suppose that with full strength there could not

be much cause for complaint. On the other hand, if matters were done in a fair and above-board fashion they would be able to judge more fully of the requirements of the corps, as they would then see that some corps were away down in the matter of strength. It is to be hoped that by next season better facilities will be granted the force, so that this will be done away with.

THERE is nothing going on at all just now in drill. There are non-coms. and recruit classes being held at several of the armories. The Vics. started a recruit class a short time ago under Sergt. Rivet. It is very well attended, and the non-coms. class of this corps is making good progress. Major Lydon, of the Scots, has still a number of probable non-coms. under his instruction.

MANY of the officers of the different corps think that now would be a good time for the Government to issue some of the new rifles, so that they might have a knowledge of it before the drill season starts. There is a good deal in what they say. An officer is more or less a conspicuous individual both to the spectators and the company. If he does not do his work just as it should be done he is looked upon as having no right to hold the position he does. If they are not given the opportunity to post themselves in the new arm before drill begins it means that much valuable time will be lost, for they will be as backward as the men. It would be well for the authorities to send a supply to each regiment and have a qualified instructor from the permanent force to instruct them as to the different parts of the rifle. Officers, as a rule, get very little instruction in this way, and it would be well to have them thoroughly posted on the mechanism of the rifle.

MORRIS Tube work has commenced in many of the armories. Good work results from this practice, for when the young aspirant for honors at the rifle matches has put in a season's work at this, he generally gives a pretty good account of himself at the ranges. It is doing away in a great measure with the coachings of the young shot at the ranges, where he in times gone by used to suffer a good deal of chaff in his attempt to find the target. He can now go on the range, if not with the confidence of an old shot, at least with a knowledge of his rifle.

DADE RUMOR is having a busy time just now in Montreal military circles. It is going the rounds that before long there will be a change of D.O.C. Some have it that Major Bliss, D.A.A.G. at Ottawa, will be transferred to Montreal, and others that Lieut.-Col. Otter, D.O.C., Toronto, will come east. If it is true that Lieut.-Col. Houghton is to be retired, it means that an officer who has spent the best part of his life will have to go without recognition by the Government. There are no other officers in the service who deserve to be recognized more than district staff officers, on the ground that after having spent a certain number of years in the militia as staff officers, they are utterly unfitted for

any other employment by which they could earn a livelihood. While any of those officers mentioned will be heartily welcomed by the officers of this district, still they would be much better pleased if the officer whom they were replacing was recognized by the Government as that rank should be.

THE season's socials of the different corps have now started. The sergeants' mess of the 6th Fusiliers were the first to open the ball, and had a most enjoyable affair. The Field Battery opened their season on Wednesday, and on Friday the artillery started their monthly hops. The cavalry intend opening about the 1st of December. The quarters of this corps have undergone a complete change for the better. They have been newly furnished and by the time their socials start they will have a pleasant surprise for their many friends.

THE Victoria Rifles Bowling Association held their annual meeting on Saturday night. There was a large attendance and everything looks well for a good season's work. The secretary's report was very favorable; the officers for the ensuing year were appointed, and votes of thanks awarded to the retiring officers. They are engaged for a number of league fixtures. Last year they made a very good showing, having tied with Quebec for second place, and making very few points less than the Ottawa club, which secured the League Cup.

THE present quarters of the Montreal Military Institute are far too small. It has been decided to look out for more commodious and suitable premises as soon as the finances of the institute will warrant it. At present there is a notice of motion for the next annual meeting to increase the subscription fee to \$7. This will not come into force until the first of the year, so that all those who wish to join between now and the first of January should do so at once, as it is understood that they will be admitted at the old rate.

WHAT are the authorities going to do about the Cote St. Luc ranges? Unless something is done, and that very soon, the Montreal corps will have no range for the new rifle next season. In the state they are at present they are none too safe for the Snider and utterly unsafe for the new rifle. It is about time that a move was made in the matter if this district is to enjoy the privilege of handling the new rifle next year at the ranges.

IT is to be hoped that the officers of this district will take up the encouragement of route marching and shooting competitions. This competition was ably carried out in No. 2 District by Lieut.-Col. Otter, and there is no reason why it should not also be carried out here. Besides being of great benefit to all concerned it would be the means of training the men to work which they would have to go through if ever called upon to go to the front.

THE Prince of Wales' Rifles celebrated the Prince of Wales' birthday on Monday night. Never since 1860, the year after the Prince's visit to this country, has such an enjoyable evening been passed. Either the officers or non-coms. have never allowed the event to pass without some celebration. The honor fell this year on the sergeants, and certainly they fully maintained the praiseworthy custom. The recreation room of the armory was beautifully decorated with bunting, etc. Sergt.-Major Watson presided. On his right sat Lieut.-Col. Butler, and on his left Lieut.-Col. Bond, an ex-commanding officer. Lieut.-Col. Butler proposed the health of H. R. H. the Prince of Wales. He gave it in a few appropriate and graceful sentences, and boasted that no regiment had a more constant and interested patron than the 1st P.W.R. of Canada. Deputy Surgeon-General Campbell, replying to the toast of the guests in a splendid speech, recounted the many matters of interest that had occurred since he donned the uniform of the P.W.R., 41 years ago. A number of other toasts followed. Songs and story

passed a most pleasant evening. During the day Lieut.-Col. Butler sent a cablegram congratulating him on his natal day, to which came a reply thanking them for their loyal and true sentiments.

COL. MITCHELL FLOYD, a veteran of the 7th Regiment, New York, and now of Boston, came to the city for a few days' outing. He is charmed with its people, delighted with its clubs, and almost willing to become a citizen. He says many kind words with regard to his reception. In the course of conversation he stated that he would make it his pleasure early in the summer to return and spend a few months with his family.

FORT GEORGE.

INSPECTION OF THE 62ND FUSILIERS.

ST. JOHN, N.B., Nov. 11--The inspection report of the 62nd St. John Fusiliers, inspected on September 17, has been issued by Lieut.-Col. Maunsell, inspector of infantry, and is as follows: "62nd St. John Fusiliers, Lieut.-Col. Tucker, St. John, N.B. Present on parade, all ranks, 238. Drill: This is a fine city battalion. Owing, however, to the wet weather, the inspection was in the drill hall, and the battalion having drilled previously on the barrack grounds, appeared somewhat at a disadvantage in the limited space. Manual and firing exercises under Major McLean and battalion drill under Major Sturdee, the adjutant and several captains, was well performed, except as regards the tendency to crowd in the ranks at times for want of space. Officers mostly qualified. Non-com. officers should, I submit, be afforded an opportunity to qualify at local school of instruction; the officer commanding established such a school at his own cost two years ago with excellent results. The length of service of the men of the different companies is above the average. Discipline, good. Interior economy, very good. This battalion makes a specialty of the efficient working of the section system. Arms, accoutrements and clothing, well kept. The drill hall is too far from the homes of the men to be useful in winter."

THE comparative efficiency returns show the total points gained by each company as follows: "A" Company, 113.45; "B" Company, 116.03; "C" Company, 104.72; "D" Company, 103.71; "E" Company, 120.22; "F" Company, 115.41, and battalion drill by commanding officer, 28, making battalion figure of merit 140.25. This is a high figure and will be found higher than any corps in the Maritime Provinces, and probably in Quebec.

IT will be noticed that the inspecting officer calls attention to the unsuitable situation of the drill shed, which it is hoped will have some weight with the Government in considering the application of the St. John militia which will be made in the near future for a new shed. One meeting in this connection has already been held, and in continuation of the object a largely attended meeting of the officers of the militia of the city was held last evening at the regimental rooms of the 62nd Fusiliers to further consider the question of having a new drill shed. Lieut.-Col. Armstrong, 3rd C.A., was in the chair, and Major Sturdee, Fusiliers, acted as secretary. A general discussion in regard the needs of the force was indulged in, and several sites were discussed. The committee appointed at the last meeting reported, but not having had time to procure all information, were granted further time. Great interest was manifested in the matter and the discussion by all present showed the earnest feeling in favor of a new hall. On motion the meeting adjourned to meet again at the call of the chairman.

REGULATIONS and orders, were, it was stated some months ago, being revised and we were to have a new edition. What has become of it? Have the authorities been waiting to put in the new brevet regulations, and are any dress regulations to be included

in the new book? By-the-bye, will someone tell me when the newly authorized blue serge jacket is to be worn; is it compulsory or only optional? I will not ask all the questions I would like to on dress regulations as, if I did, I would monopolize all the space of THE MILITARY GAZETTE.

THOMAS ATKINS

EFFICIENCY RETURNS.

HALIFAX, N.S., Nov. 12—The publication in your last number of the efficiency returns of the Montreal regiments brings up the subject of the comparative merits of the different city corps. From what I can learn from the reports of the inspections of the Montreal and other Upper Province regiments, the comparative part of the returns, as far as this district is concerned, might as well be left out.

WHEN an inspector of infantry was appointed some hope was entertained that the same system of awarding the points for efficiency would be followed out in all the districts within his command, but when we read of a battalion of six companies being inspected in a few hours and others inspected in two ranks, instead of (as called for) in single rank, and again others openly charged with having men of other corps in the ranks to help them through, it is very hard for us down by the sea to say in what way we are to be compared.

THE 63rd Rifles finished their inspection on Friday night, the 6th inst., and as an account of it might be of interest to our comrades in other cities, you may find space for it. The battalion was paraded at 7.45 Wednesday evening and received the inspecting staff, the regiment being in line in single rank. I say the inspecting staff because a doubt still exists as to who or what constitutes the inspecting officer. Besides Lieut.-Col. Maunsell, inspector of infantry, Lieut.-Col. Irving, D.O.C., Major Black, D.S.O., and Capt. Curren, district paymaster, were present. The staff inspected the line down the front rank and up the rear. Owing to the strong muster there was not room enough for the whole line in the drill yard.

AFTER the manual and firing exercises by the C. O., there not being room to handle the six companies, No. 3, Capt. Dixon's, was marched off to the drill shed for detailed inspection by the D.O.C., and battalion drill under the inspection of Col. Maunsell was gone on with. After the C. O. came Major J. N. Crane, then Major Cunningham, Major Twining, the adjutant, Capt. Hechler, Capt. James, Capt. Sircom and Capt. Gunning. Nearly two hours were taken up with battalion drill. I need hardly say that the officers commanding companies have very little chance to handle the battalion; in fact, so much importance has been attached to the company work at inspection that in this regiment battalion drill has been made to give way to company work. There could be no doubt, however, in the inspecting officer's mind that there are plenty of officers in the 63rd able to command it on parade. The battalion was marched into the drill shed and the district paymaster called the rolls of those companies which were not detailed for inspection on this particular night. It took the D.O.C. nearly two hours to get through with No. 3 Co., starting with the practice of extension motions and ending with extended order by signal, every section called for by the G.O. having to be done in detail. After squad drill the company was dismissed, and immediately fell in by sections under section commanders, who were each examined by the D.O.C. as to his knowledge of his duties. The roll books of each section were also examined, and the rolls called by the section commanders.

THE company was now closed, and arms, clothing and accoutrements minutely examined. Company drill was then proceeded with, all the sections called for by the G.O., and many others not mentioned in the regulations for inspection, being thoroughly gone

into, the extended order movements being done by signal from the captain, who was at one end of the drill yard, with his company at the other. An unusual and unexpected feature of this inspection was the calling of non-commissioned officers to the front to give the detail and commands for volley firing and other firing exercises. Fortunately, our non-coms. are well posted, as, before a stripe is given, the man must hold a certificate from our regimental school.

FROM this outline of the company inspection it can be easily seen that two hours per company would be pretty well taken up. Nos. 3, 4 and 5 companies were got through with Wednesday night, the last not being done until about midnight, the order in which the companies were called having been decided by lot. Considerable rivalry existed as to the company standing, the C.O.'s cup being awarded on the points obtained at company drill, combined with the best average attendance at parades during the season.

ON Friday night the other three companies, Nos. 1, 2 and 6, were inspected, nearly all the officers of the battalion being present to watch their comrades being put through the trying ordeal, the last company finishing at 11.30.

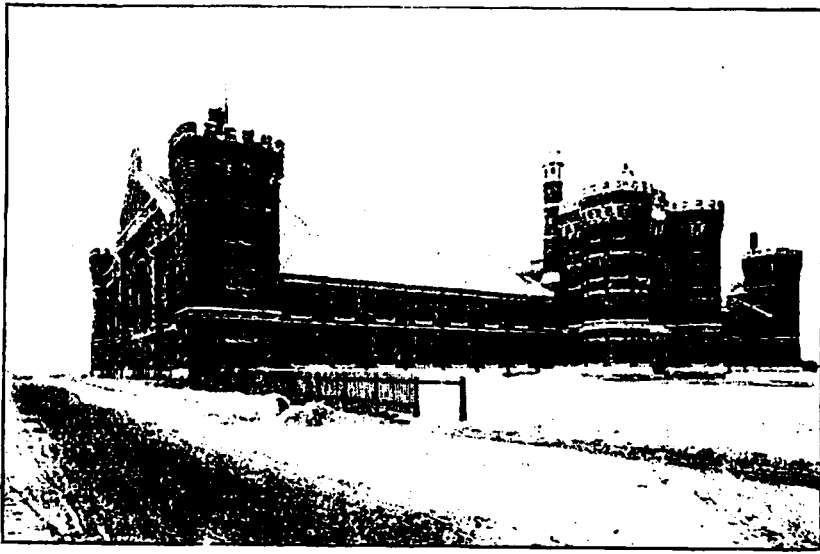
THE opinion is pretty freely expressed that the D.O.C. of this district is too particular, and looks for more perfect work than can be expected from citizen soldiers, and considerable complaint is being made at the large amount of work called for at our inspection compared to other city corps. This is not satisfactory, for while the D.O.C. may consider he is doing right the regiment does not get any higher rating than other corps inspected in one-half the time and with about one-quarter the detail. Inspection in single rank must necessarily be much more difficult and hard on the company, as every man is in the front, and every individual defect is shown. The inspecting officer was quick to note, and charge to each company, any individual error. For instance, the manual in one company (No. 4) was pronounced "absolutely perfect," but in the present the sling caught on a button on one man's tunic. Off came a point of the company's score. This was pretty hard. Another company lost by one of the men, when going through the turnings in squad drill, not having his foot drawn back quite far enough. Several of the companies also lost points in the firing exercises by not resting solid on the heel, and others from not having the elbow well down on the knee.

THE comparative efficiency is a good idea, if it can be carried out, but the comparison under present circumstances is entirely local, for, with the extremely minute detail carried out by our D.O.C. and his very high standard of proficiency, it would be impossible to compare with the regiments of other cities. Of course, the inspector of infantry (Col. Maunsell) would be able to compare the different regiments within his command, but his inspection did not take in the detail on which the efficiency returns are made up.

OUTPOST.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

We are in receipt of a very handy little book, entitled "Changes in the Newly Revised Infantry Drill, 1896," compiled by Capt. W. Plomer, 2nd Batt. Royal Irish Fusiliers. It is very often the case that when a new infantry drill is issued it is found difficult to remember what has been omitted so as to learn what is new. In this publication, however, it will be found that most of the changes, omissions and additions have been noted in the order of the sections as they appear in the fresh edition. It will be found very serviceable indeed to all ranks. The general rules for physical training are also given, and those who intend going in for this work will find them very useful. Copies of the book may be had from T. C. Elliot, Drill Hall, Montreal.



TORONTO ITEMS.

TORONTO, Nov. 13—All members of the various city corps are now busy calculating who is to have the honor of heading the list in the comparative efficiency competition now drawing to a close and the pros and cons are weighed very minutely by the calculators. There is a great deal of rivalry among the corps, but it is rivalry and not bad feeling, as someone suggested, in one of the dailies the other day. No doubt feeling does run strong at times such as this, and opinions are expressed on all sides not calculated to any increase of brotherly love and affection, but when the excitement of competition dies any ill-feeling which has arisen dies also and the winter will see the corps harmonizing one with the other just as if nothing had happened. Any bad feeling that does exist is in the minds of a few who have left one of the corps through fancied wrong, and who carries the same in his inside pocket so that it will keep warm, and brings it forth only when the atmosphere is propitious, which is the case when he meets some other disgruntled being with whom he can exchange his vaporings without their vanishing altogether. Of course there are always those who are looking for trouble, and, as usual, they find or imagine it and make the most of it. If such talk as this were discouraged by those in authority there would soon be an end of it.

THE four companies of the Highlanders inspected on Friday, October 30, did not come up to the expectations of their friends. The remaining four companies were inspected on Monday, the 9th inst., and did much better as a whole than the others, although some points will be lost by reason of absences. The 13th Batt. has heretofore, since the organization of the Highlanders, put off their inspection to another night to oblige the latter, and now the compliment is being returned. The 48th paraded for inspection in white jackets and kilts, and certainly they bear the palm for neatness of dress when in this order. The commanding officer thinks that he has the advantage of the inspecting officer in this, but he lays himself open to loose points on account and of the numerous articles of apparel which have to be pipecleaned. A class of instruction should be formed to teach the members of all the corps, both officers and men, the meaning of the various bugle calls. Judging from the way many of them are responded to, but few must know them.

IT is about time the commandant of the Bisley team was chosen from Toronto, which has some claim to it. Major Delamere, of the Q.O.R., would be an acceptable man, as would also Major Cosby, of the 48th, who was a defeated candidate for the position last year.

THE city is practically owned by the cavalry officers who are attached for a special course of instruction at Stanley Barracks. The course ends to-day, and these officers, who come from all quarters, will return to their various corps with the new

cavalry drill made clear and plain to them by Major Lessard and his staff. The officers have been looked after by the local cavalry, and many a jolly night has been spent with them, and many happy remembrances of their short stay in our city will be retained.

THE Grenadiers are coming up well this inspection. Four companies were inspected on Thursday, the 5th inst., and four more last night. The remaining two companies will be inspected next Thursday evening. They have taken more time than the others to get ready, and it should be a great advantage to them, as they have seen about all there is to be seen in those who have been inspected already, and have had time to brush up those points in which they noticed a weakness. Some of the other officers are sorry that they did not take an extra week as offered, as, besides giving them more time, they would have had the advantage of seeing for themselves what would be expected of them.

THE orders for the field day to be held on 26th inst. were issued on Wednesday, and many heads are now busy calculating and figuring. Lieut.-Col. Mason will command a force consisting of the Q.O.R., 10th R.G., and No. 2 Company R.R.C.I., assisted by one squadron R.C.D. and one section No. 9 Field Battery. This force advances from a point north and east of the city, which is to be protected by the 13th Batt., of Hamilton, and the 48th Highlanders, assisted by a half squadron G.G.B.G. and one section of No. 9 Field Battery, under the command of Lieut.-Col. Davidson. All arms of the service are thus taken in, and it remains to be seen how these two forces will come out of the fight. The territory to be covered is large and very rugged, and flanking parties will be of great service, and no doubt many remarkable things will happen to these parties. The southern force is supposed to retire, but the commanding officer of the Highlanders says that such a thing is impossible, as the Highlanders never retire before an enemy, and he does not propose to set the example.

THE orders issued give merely a general idea of the manoeuvres and "special ideas" will be issued later on. If the weather proves favorable Toronto will have the opportunity of witnessing a sight worth seeing, as if the movements are carried out well the Don valley will be the scene of a bloody hand-to-hand conflict between the most bloodthirsty of foes. The forces pass two cemeteries, and arrangements have been made with the authorities for the burial of the slain at once. Some of those who will take part, though unasked, are the farmers and residents of the territory to be covered, and many a conflict will be waged around the farm yards of these unlucky individuals whose very subsistence is like to be driven away by a hostile foe. Twenty-five rounds of ammunition per man will enable the most timid of recruits to become acquainted with the smell of gunpowder and the noise and confusion of warfare, as well as afford the small boy infinite delight. Lieut.-Col. Otter will be umpire-in-chief, and has surrounded himself with a good number of assistants, who will receive instructions to stop any undue slaughter.

SOME of the visitors at the Armory wonder what a certain non-commissioned officer of one of the city corps would do if the end galleries had been built overhanging as the others and without posts, and also what the buglers of the same corps would do if their bugle-major happened to be lame in the right arm, thus disabling him from beating time for the calls.

THE Queen's Own Rifles finished their inspection on the 4th inst., and on Wednesday night practised battalion drill on the University campus preparatory to their inspection. The parade was small, owing to the reaction after inspection setting in, as it always does. Many complaints are made at the undue protraction of the drill season this year, and the company officers are not inclined to ask too much of their men. Muster parade will see a full turn-

out, as every available man will be paraded. This is the night the corporal's guard is resorted to, and the delinquent brought down from a pleasant seat at home or in the club to answer his name and help draw six good dollars for his regiment. In fact, it would be better if this means were adopted at all times rather than the remedy provided by the Militia Act, as it has a moral influence on the men which is altogether wanting in the Police Court.

MUCH interest centres in the drill of the ambulance corps. The regularity of their drill and the preciseness with which every movement is done is marvelous, and one wonders, if in actual use, if they would be so particular as to how a certain strap was placed before they would carry off a wounded comrade, or if they would wait until they had gathered sufficient to fill all the stretchers and then move off together at the carry. The corps which claims the biggest men have the smallest and apparently the weakest men in their ambulance corps, and many have wished to see if they would be equal to the task of carrying a six-footer. This has not yet been proved, but if these people are around on Thanksgiving Day an opportunity will no doubt be given of satisfying themselves on all these points.

OF all attachments to a battalion the hardest to keep in hand are the pioneers. In times of trouble these men are invaluable and absolutely necessary, but in times of peace there is nothing for them to do save act as a kind of police and pose for admiration. One would think that until active service does come they could stand in abeyance, and thus diminish by one the number of appendages which make the real working part of a regiment so small.

MANY are the questions asked as to when the new rifles are to be issued to the corps, and rightly so, for it would be well if it were done as soon after fall drill as possible, so that the men may become acquainted with them before spring drill commences, and instructors may get up the new drill applicable to them. Now that drill is practically over, there is a need of something to keep the men in hand during the winter, and what better than a few practical lessons in the mechanism of the new arm, which, we understand, is delicate, and needs to be handled with care. It would pay the Government and the corps themselves to have a practical man come and give instructions in this respect to the various companies by taking the rifle apart and allowing everyone to see just what he has got to handle and the points which need special attention.

THIS day week will mark the fifth anniversary of the coming into existence of the 48th Highlanders and the appointment of Lieut-Col. Davidson as their commanding officer. The regiment deserves credit for the way in which it has progressed from nothing to about one hundred over strength. The road has not been an easy one for these gay laddies, and when it is remembered that they are practically out of debt, and have an equipment in the way of uniform equal to that of Highlanders in the regular army, one must admire the enthusiasm, pluck and sticktoitiveness which they have shown. That element of the Scottish character, which I am told, predominates in the corps (notwithstanding what is said otherwise), is responsible for some part of their success, but the commanding officer is deserving of a great deal of it, as on him the responsibilities mainly fell, and to him would have been imputed the fault if it had not been successful.

NOW that the rifle question is settled, the busy-body is stirring up an agitation about equipment for the field, and when one looks into an armory and sees those old knapsacks, which ought to wear many medals (it is said they were used in the Crimea) one does not wonder. In fact, it would be difficult for any person to devise a more outlandish way for the soldier to carry his necessaries, other than a bundle slung on his rifle. The Venezuela scare was the means of providing new rifles, and it is to be hoped that the other

requisites of the soldier, and those which tend to his comfort, will be looked after before the militia authorities have finished. They are not wanted at present, but no one knows when they will be and it is best always to be prepared, so we are told. "In pace paratus" is a good motto, but it does not apply if these knapsacks are taken into account.

OFFICERS of Toronto companies are wishing that they could see some of those arms and armories in Montreal, which, according to the efficiency returns, must be perfect, as full marks indicate. No such thing is known here, as never were full marks obtained for such in this district, and they think that they are about as good at cleaning up and having things right as anyone else. Every company in Montreal received full marks, and truly they must be a wonderful lot. The same remarks apply to books and records, and yet Toronto boasts of the best educational system in America. What a striking sameness there must be about those companies when on parade! All with an equal number of dirty buttons, badges and buckles, or all in an equal state of uncleanness. No person can judge from the returns as published from the various districts what regiment is entitled to first place in Canada. Of course this information is not proposed to be given or to be obtainable, for returns are to be issued from the District Office, but still it would be a good thing if it were possible to give it. Probably no regiment in this district will receive as high as 139.12, the mark reached by the 3rd Vics, and some of the corps think they are about as good.

SOME objections have been made to my remarks about the benefits of paid instructors, but I cannot see yet that my ideas on the subject are incorrect, and I think that when the efficiency returns are handed out it will be found that the one officer in the corps mentioned, who employed only himself to instruct his N.C.O.'s and men, heads the list with his company.

MAJOR MACDONALD, of the Highlanders, is on leave for six weeks. He has gone to the West Indies on business. Capt. Adams, of the same corps, is out in Rosslands looking for a site to erect a Q.M.S.

THE GAZETTE is in receipt of a letter from Lieut. C. A. H. Maclean (Pennyross), 93rd Highlanders, late of the 48th Highlanders, Toronto, asking for a copy of the daily paper which published a notice of his death. Mr. Maclean has just arrived home in England, and is at present recuperating in Kent. He was five months in hospital in Central India with fever. Another well-known officer, invalided home on same steamer with Mr. Maclean, was Capt. Laurie, who was stationed with his regiment at Malta.

MULVANEY.

GENERAL NOTES.

About 200 non-commissioned officers and men under the command of Major St. J. J. Leger, of the Leinster Regiment, will leave Tipperary to reinforce the 2nd Batt. at Bermuda.

In the Warren Challenge Shield, presented by Major-Gen. Sir Charles Warren, open to teams of six men of any rank, at 200 and 500 yards (rapid) and 600 yards, 23 teams competed, and the trophy was won by the 34th Co., Royal Engineers, commanded by Capt. Ridout, R.E., who is a graduate from the Royal Military College, Kingston.

Gen. Cavaye, the oldest general in the British army, died in Edinburgh the other day, aged 95.

Mr. L. G. Grant Duff gave two illustrated lectures on the subject of "Smokeless Powder: its Appliances, Practices and Purposes," at the Museum of Practical Geology, Jermyn street, W., on the evenings of the 28th Oct. and 4th Nov. The lectures were given under the auspices of the Institute of Secretaries.

WITH THE ARMY.

LONDON, Eng., Oct. 20.—The general annual returns of the British army, which have just been issued, show that the average effective strength during the year was 220,309. This is the highest average during the last 20 years. Only in five branches of the regular army were men required to complete establishments. The number of recruits that enlisted last year was 29,583. A very gratifying feature, and which shows the conditions of the soldier are being improved upon, is the fact that there have been a much larger number who rejoin at the expiration of the period for which they originally enlisted. Crime has taken a sudden drop; but there is still room for improvement in the matter of drunkenness. There were only 9,189 court martials—the smallest number since 1876. The number of men securing good conduct badges has gone up by leaps and bounds. The physique of the army has shown a marked improvement.

THE return of the Army Reserve was not quite so strong as on the corresponding date of the preceding two years. On paper the militia still maintains its numbers. This, however, cannot be relied upon, for it is often the case that the men have their names on several pay rolls, and many of the reserve men, it is claimed, fraudulently enlist in the militia corps. An inquiry into this state of affairs has often been asked for. To identify a man is no doubt a difficult matter, but things have been brought down to such a fine point as should make it dangerous for a man to attempt it. The united strength of the army last year, which included the army at home, the Army Reserve and the auxiliaries in the United Kingdom was 543,506 officers and men.

THE supply of rations to the British and Indian armies will come under the consideration of two committees in India at an early date.

THE parade of old soldiers the other day at Edinburgh was inspected by Gen. Chapman, commanding the forces in Scotland. The parade mustered 458, and the medals worn were an index to the wars of the last fifty years. There were several present who had enlisted 65 years ago. There were several thousand spectators who witnessed the march past, which was taken part in by the troops of the garrison. In addressing the veterans Gen. Chapman said that two days previous he had had the honor of dining with Her Majesty, who, when told that this meeting was to take place, wished him to convey a message from her. She had the most cordial sympathy with them, and she felt pleasure in the desire that they had expressed of meeting together as old servants of the Queen and country. Her Majesty wished him to convey all the good wishes it was possible for her to express.

THE volunteers cannot say but what attention has been paid them during the past year. Yet another allowance is made them, in that it is intended to extend the grant of the extra half capitulation allowance made in March last beyond the limit originally laid down, and to give it in respect of every volunteer who qualifies as an efficient during the current volunteer year.

THE volunteer army order will bring about a great change in the physique of the volunteers. The minimum height standard has not been altered, but to those who are five feet six inches the chest measurement has been increased. Some inconvenience will be encountered in district corps some distance from the headquarters medical officer, but as the sergeant-instructors and adjutants are pretty well up in the examination there is not much fear of a recruit being accepted by one and rejected by the medical officer.

IT was feared that the new "Infantry Sword Exercise" would conflict with the scheme of instruction laid down in the last edition, but it is not materially affected. What should prove useful is the scheme of progressive exercise in lunging and cutting.

Directions are given to officers, when saluting, how to carry the sword, and it is laid down that non-commissioned officers and men on duty, with drawn swords, will "carry swords" to all officers.

THE distribution of the medals granted by the British South Africa Company to the Imperial officers who took part in the fighting in Matabeleland has been delayed pending the result of the recent operations and until it is proven that matters are in a state of quietude in that quarter.

LORD WOLSELEY commenced his tour of inspection of the military centres. Officers and men would have much preferred had he started a week earlier, as the furlough season is about on, and they will have to wait until the inspections are over. This will not, however, delay the route marching, which commences all over the country this month. A leading service paper says that the commanding officers will be careful not to let Lord Wolseley see the seamy side of the exercise. It is well known that men to avoid fatigue and blistered feet will wear old boots at the risk of their health. Lord Wolseley has but to see how it is done and the settlement of the military boot question will not be far distant.

A SERVICE paper asserts that the Admiralty and War Office will substitute the Royal Marine garrison for the military garrisons at Aden, Halifax, Hong-Kong and St. Helena. If this should be consummated it will affect the marines by increasing that branch of the service. The entire force at present is only 16,000 officers and men.

VIRDEN'S CRACK TROOP.

VIRDEN, Nov. 8.—The third annual dinner of "A" Troop, Manitoba Dragoons, was held in the fire hall last Tuesday evening. Nearly all the leading merchants of the town responded to the invitation to be present. The occasion was taken advantage of to give a general idea of the work and progress of the troop, and there is no doubt that the information given will awaken the town to the fact that they have a really valuable asset in their midst in "A" Troop, Manitoba Dragoons. Sergt.-Major Joslin was in the chair, and opened the toast list by proposing "The Queen," which was received with all due loyalty and enthusiasm. Then followed "The Manitoba Dragoons," responded to by Capt. Hosmer and Lieut. Ramsay; and "The Non-commissioned Officers," responded to by Corp. Jolliffe.

In replying to these toasts the speakers gave a general review of the troop and its work. For three successive years they have gone into camp, and for the first two years they have succeeded in capturing the highest marks in the Dominion for general efficiency, thus earning a widespread celebrity. This year they were handicapped by the new drill, but although the marks have not been made known, they have every hope of still retaining the proud position of the premier cavalry of Canada. This efficiency was due to the interest taken in the work by the men, and especially to the series of winter drills held in the town hall, the use of which has been so kindly donated by the Town Hall Company. Considerable attention has been given to the shooting of the troop, several valuable trophies having fallen to their share. Among others, they won the silver salver given by the Dominion Rifle League for team shooting with the Winchester carbine, Pte. C. E. Ivens securing the Dominion Badge as best shot. They also sent a team to the Winnipeg meeting and secured the Cavalry Cup and second prize in the Skirmishing Cup. The finances of the troop were briefly referred to, and it was shown that they spent over \$1,000 per annum in the town.

The fourth annual ball under the auspices of "A" Troop Manitoba Dragoons was held on Thursday night in the Town Hall. This ball is now considered the opening event of the social season,

and this year it was evident that it had, if anything, increased in popularity.

On Thursday Col. Holmes, D.A.G., inspected the troop armory. Lieut. P. B. Hamilton Ramsay takes command of "A" Troop, in place of Capt. E. A. C. Hosmer, absent on leave. Capt. Hosmer left for England Sunday night on a five months' trip.

"MAXIME LABELLE."

A Canadian Voyageur's account of the Nile Expedition. By William H. Drummond, M.D., in Massey's Magazine.

Victoriaw : she have beeg war, E-gyp's de nam' de place—
An' neeger peep dat's leev'im dere, got very black de face,
An' so she's write Joseph Mercier, he's stop on Trois Rivieres—
"Please come right off, an' bring wit' you t'ree honder voyageurs.

"I got de plaintee sojer, me, beeg feller six foot tall—
Dat's H'Englishman, an' Scotch also, don't wear no pant at all ;
Of, course, de H'Irishman's de bes', raise all de row he can,
But nobodee can pull batteau lak good Canadian man.

"I geev you steady job for sure, an' we'n you get 'im t'roo
I bring you back on Canadaw, don't cos' de man un sou,
Dat's first-class steamboat all de way, Kebeck an' Leeverpool,
An' if you don't be satisfy, you mus' be beeg, beeg fool."

We meet upon Hotel Dufresne, an' talk 'im till daylight,
An' Joe he's treat so many tam, we very near get tight,
Den affer w'ile, we mak' our min' dat's not bad chance, an' so
Joseph Mercier he's telegraph, "Correc', Madam, we go."

So Joe arrange de whole biznesse, wit' Queen Victoriaw ;
Two dollar day—work all de tam—dat's purty good l'argent !
An' w'en we start on Trois Rivieres, for pass on boar' de ship,
Our fren' dey all say, "Bon voyage," an' den, Hooraw ! E-gyp !

Dat beeg steamboat was plonge so moche, I'm 'fraid she never
stop—
De Capitaine's no use at all, can't kip her on de top—
An' so we all come very sick, jus' lak' one leetle pup,
An' ev'ry tam' de ship's go down, de h'inside she's go up.

I'm sorry spoke lak' dis, ma fren', if you don't t'ink it's so,
Please h'ax Joseph Mercier heseff, or Aleck De Coteau,
Dat stay on bed mos' all de tam', so sick dey nearly die,
But lak' some great, beeg Yankee man, was never tole de lie.

De gang she's travel, travel, t'roo many strange contree,
An' ev'ry place is got new nam', I don't remember, me,
We see some fony t'ing, for sure, more fony I can tell,
But w'en we reach de Neel Riviere, dat's feel more naturel.

So many fine, beeg sojer man, I never see before,
All dress 'im on grand uniform, is wait upon de shore,
Some black, some green, an' red also, cos' honder dollar sure,
An' holler out, "She's all right now, here come de voyageurs !"

We see Boss Generale also, he's ride on beeg chameau,
Dat's w'at you call Ca-melle, I t'ink, I laugh de way she go !
Jomp up, jomp down, jomp ev'ry place, but still de Generale
Seem satisfy for stay on top dat fony an-i-mal.

He's holler out on Joe Mercier, "Comment ca va Joseph,
You lak' for come right off w'it me, tak' leetle ride youseff ?"
Joseph, he mak' de grand salut, an' tak' it off he's hat,
"Merci Mon Generale," he say, "I got no use for dat."

Den affer we was drink somet'ing, an' sing "Le Brigadier,"
De sojer feller's get prepare for mak' de embarquer,
An' everybody's shout 'im out, w'en we tak' hole de boat,
"Hooraw pour Queen Victoriaw !" an' also "pour nous austres."

Bigosh ; I do hard work meseff, upon de H'Ottawa
De Gatineau and' St. Maurice, also de Mattawa,
But I don't never work at all, I 'sure you dat's a fack
Until we strike Neel Riviere, an' sapre Catarack !

"Dis way, dat way, can't kip her straight," "look out, Bateese,
look out !"

"Now let her go"—"arrete un peu," dat's way de pilot shout,
"Don't wash de neeger girl on shore," an' "prenez garde behin' "
"Wat's matter w'it dat rudder man ? I t'ink he's goin' blin' !"

Some tam of course, de boat's all right an' carry us along
An' den again, we mak' portage, w'en current she's too strong
On piace lak' dat, we run good chance, for sunstruck on de neck,
An' plaintee tam we wish ourseff, was back on ole Kebeck.

De seconde Catarack we pass, more beeger dan de Soo,
She's nearly t'orty mile for sure, it would astonish you,
Dat's place t'ree H'Irishman get drown, wan day we have beeg
storm,
I s'pose de Queen is feel lak cry, los' dat nice uniform !

De night she's very, very cole, an' hot upon de day,
An' all de tam, you feel jus' lak you're goin' melt away ;
But never min' an' don't get scare, you mak' it up all right,
An' twenty' poun' you los' dat day, she's comin' back sam' night.

We got small bugle boy also, he's mebbe stan' four foot,
An' first t'ing ev'ry morning, sure, he mak' it toot ! toot ! toot !
She's nice enough upon de day, for hear de bugle call,
But w'en she play before daylight, I don't lak dat at all.

We mus' get up immediatement, dar lettle feller blow,
An' so we start 'im off again, for pull de beeg batteau,
De sojer man he's nice, nice boy, an' help us all he can,
An' geev 'im chance, he's mos' as good lak some Canadian man.

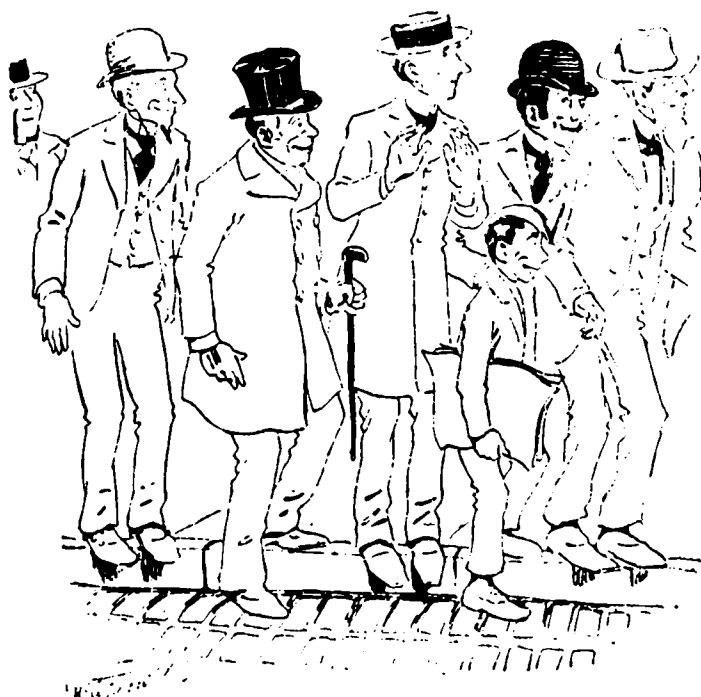
Wall all de tam, she go lak dat, was busy every day,
Don't get moche chance for foolish-ness, don't get no chance for
play,
Dere's plaintee danger all aroun' an' w'en we're coming back
We got look out for run 'im safe, dem sapre Catarack.

But w'ere's de war ? I can't mak' out, don't see no fight at all !
She's not'ing but une Grande Piquique, dat's las'in all de fall !
Mebbe de neeger King he's scare, an' skip anoder place,
An' pour la Reine Victoriaw ! I never see de face.

But dat's not ma biz-nesse, ma fren', I'm ready pull batteau
So long she pay two dollar day, wit' pork an' bean also ;
An' if she geev me steady job, for mak some more l'argent,
I say, "Hooraw ! for all de tam', on Queen Victoriaw !"

ROYAL MILITARY COLLEGE.

A notice was issued some time ago of a supplementary examination to be held on the 17th inst for admission to the Royal Military College, Kingston, but notwithstanding the great cost to the country the inducement held out for those seeking a military career is not sufficient to attract candidates. Not one candidate had applied for admission on the 5th, which was the last day for receiving applications. The treatment that graduates have received from the Government in the past is sufficient to warrant this state of affairs. It is understood that at present there is a scarcity of cadets.



A snap shot at the last Church Parade.

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MONTREAL-TORONTO, NOVEMBER 15, 1896.

A HINT TO THE INSTITUTE.



THE Toronto Military Institute held a reunion, November 2, in honor of the following: The Minister of Militia, the Major-General Commanding, the Quartermaster General, the Adjutant General, the past presidents Canadian Military Institute, the presidents Dominion and Ontario Rifle Associations and the Dominion and Ontario Artillery Associations, the commandants and adjutants of Wimbledon and Bisley

Teams, 1890-6, and the commandant and adjutant Shoeburyness Team, 1896. The attendance was somewhat limited.

Anticipating the presence of these distinguished guests, a number of Montreal officers went to Toronto, and some of them were more than disappointed to find that the Minister, the General, the Quartermaster-General, the Adjutant-General, and many other gentlemen were not there and had not even accepted the invitation. They were most hospitably received and spent a most enjoyable time. It is to be hoped that the Toronto Institute may before long gather these officers from Ottawa under its roof, but the president should not allow the announcement to be made until he is sure they are to be present.

EXPRESS YOUR OWN VIEWS.

We want again to impress upon the readers of THE CANADIAN MILITARY GAZETTE the fact that the committee who are responsible for the editorial views given utterance to in these columns are not to be held accountable for the views expressed by the regular correspondents at the different military centres. THE GAZETTE recognizes that greatest good can best be done for the militia by opening its columns for a free interchange of opinion. It may differ, and often does very materially, from the views of its own correspondents. They are all men intimately connected with the militia, and are supposed to give the views of representative officers in their own district. Readers who may differ from these views are invited to write THE GAZETTE and present their experiences and opinions. In doing so it is not necessary for them to spend time on an effort to turn out a literary composition. It is facts we want—brief and to the point. This is not a literary magazine.

In a recent issue of THE GAZETTE a correspondent criticised

the use of non-commissioned officers of the permanent corps as instructors to militia battalions. While there is something in what he said, his views are not by any means the views of THE MILITARY GAZETTE. On the other hand, it is strongly in favor of employing men from the schools. If some of these officers who are always ready to impute improper motives and talk of persecution would refer to back numbers they would see that THE GAZETTE has always favored the use of instructors from the permanent corps when it is at all possible to call them in.

THE PERMANENT CORPS.

A WELL-KNOWN reader of THE GAZETTE wishes us to express our views on the permanent corps. He points out the enormous sums of money they cost the country and the comparatively little return we get for it, and advocates their disbandment, the expenditure of that money on the active militia, and a return to the old system of education. We understand this view has been strongly urged upon the Minister of Militia by leading officers and one or two influential members of the Liberal Parliament.

We cannot agree with our correspondent. It is quite true that the Schools have not by any means fulfilled the purposes for which they were organized. This has been due to the fact that the majority of the men appointed as officers are inefficient and incapable of performing the work expected of them, and to the fact that the late G.O.C. unfortunately failed to recognize that they were intended as Schools of Instruction and not as a regular army. These officers insist that they were organized for garrison duty, and that the work as Schools is incidental. If, however, they will refer to the reports of the late G.O.C., Sir E. Selby Smythe, they will see that he recommended the organization of such corps for instructional purposes only. The only corps that seem to have been primarily organized for garrison purposes are the artillery at Quebec and Kingston. The infantry officers unfortunately, but especially many of the non-combatant and combatant officers, have fallen into the habit of correcting any who may by chance call them Schools. At London, where new barracks were erected, the words "Military School" were inserted by the contractor over the gate, but, as a local officer writes us, these words were obnoxious to some officers and were soon after cut off.

THE GAZETTE is strongly in favor of continuing these corps as Schools. We do not agree with the view offered by some that every man connected with them should be purely and simply a schoolmaster, but that a combination of soldier and instructor is what would be in the best interests of the force at the present time. The chief aim of the officers should be to give the best possible instruction. To do so to the best advantage they must have officers and men well trained in drill, in interior economy, in rifle practice, and everything else that goes to make a perfect soldier, so that they will be examples to the rest of the militia. Every N.C.O. and man should be capable of instructing a regiment or smaller unit. If we cannot get them for 50c. a day, let us pay more. We can never have such Schools with present officers. Many of them will have to go.

The appointment of a Board of Visitors has done a great deal of good to the Royal Military College. A similar board should be appointed for the militia to look after the permanent corps. Perhaps a board for each arm of the service would do the most effective work. They should go carefully into the personnel of the Schools and weed out those officers whom everybody knows are useless as instructors. They should arrange the work to suit the convenience of those wishing to qualify. It should be much more practical. It is generally admitted that too much time is now spent on unimportant work.

THE BISLEY COMMAND.



THE force generally, and riflemen in particular, will be pleased to hear that Major "Johnnie" Mason is likely to be sent as commandant of the Bisley team next year. Few officers of the militia have spent as much time and energy in the interests of rifle shooting as the gallant major of the Thirteenth of Hamilton, and the splendid shooting of his own battalion is largely due to his care and instruction. When brevet promotions are so plentiful, no one would complain at Major Mason receiving the rank of lieutenant-colonel in view of this appointment.—Toronto Telegram.

Major Cosby, 48th Highlanders, is said to be pulling the wires to secure the position for himself. Such an appointment would certainly be an unpopular one. He has been but a few years in the militia and has never done anything to qualify himself for this honor, by long services or by liberal contributions to Dominion Rifle Association matches. If the officer commanding his regiment, Lieut.-Col. Davidson, would consent to go, his appointment would be enthusiastically received. Until Major Cosby has been longer in the force, and has done half as much for rifle shooting as have Major Mason, Major Delamere, Lieut.-Col. Tucker, Lieut.-Col. Davidson or two or three others who have been mentioned for the command, it would be a very much more graceful thing if he would use his social and political influence in favor of one of these gentlemen. We merely make the suggestion, as it may not have occurred to Major Cosby.

A DOMINION RIFLE RANGE.

A SUITABLE site for a range for the Dominion Rifle Association at Ottawa has again become a live question. At a recent meeting of the council of the association the members visited two sites which are being recommended to the association.

The majority, if not all, seem to think the Rockcliffe range is the best. It can be reached by electric car and water. It runs parallel to the river, and is about 20 feet above it, and just a short distance beyond New Edinburgh. From the Russell House it takes about 15 or twenty minutes to get there. It is long enough for a 3,000-yard range if necessary, with room for sixty or more targets. The sun will be behind the competitors all day, and, in the opinion of experienced riflemen, it is altogether an ideal range.

The other is at Hintonburg, just beyond the West End Park, and convenient to the electric cars. It gives a range of only 1,200, and is altogether too narrow for the work of the Dominion Rifle Association.

It is generally understood that the District Officer Commanding supports the latter, as he considers it more suitable for the Ottawa corps, and he explains that he has nothing to do with the Dominion Rifle Association, as he has only to consider what is best suited for Ottawa riflemen. This is how matters stand at present. Some thing definite will be done very shortly.

THE HEADQUARTERS STAFF.

A C.O. and one of the best officers in the force makes a serious complaint against the Headquarters Staff. He has had occasion in the last couple of years to be in Ottawa frequently on militia affairs. By the G.O.C. and the quartermaster general he has been treated with the greatest of courtesy, and they have done their best to assist him in every way. The same applies to one or two other officers, but the majority have thrown every obstacle in his way. One senior officer, who should have known better, replied to a suggestion—and one which is endorsed by the majority of C.O.'s: "We do not propose to take suggestions from militia officers, but intend to

run affairs as we think best." Coming from a junior this might be overlooked, but from an officer high up in the service it surprises us. Our informant says he has left Ottawa on more than one occasion with his mind made up to resign. And we know that it was only through the strong appeals made to him by his field officer that he remained.

It is too often the case with public officers that they consider themselves the masters not the servants of the people. We have had many similar complaints of the Headquarters Staff, civil and military, and have accumulated a considerable amount of information, but lack of space has prevented its use.

We publish this in the meantime as a hint to the Minister and the G.O.C. to keep an eye on their subordinates. In the off season, when our space is not so crowded, we will have something further to say if things do not show some improvement.

A COMMANDANT RECOMMENDED.

LONDON cables say that Major Kitson, 4th Batt., King's Royal Rifles, formerly the 60th Rifles, has been recommended for the position of commandant of the Royal Military College of Canada by Lord Lansdowne, to whom the Canadian Government applied. Lord Lansdowne is Secretary of State for War, and no doubt the selection was made on the recommendation of the Commander-in-Chief.

Major Kitson is well spoken of as a clever, ambitious young officer and should work a great and needed improvement in the College. He was born on October 6, 1856, and consequently is barely 40 years of age. He entered the army on February 11, 1875, joining the 1st Foot, better known as the Royal Scots. On January 29, 1876, he transferred to the King's Royal Rifle Corps, the old 60th Rifles. He attained to his captaincy on January 1, 1885, and his majority on July 27, 1892. He is one of the eighteen majors which that corps possesses, belongs to the 4th Battalion and is borne on the strength of the depot. He has passed the Staff College, the training academy which exists to qualify officers for executive work and command, and has a good deal of staff experience. He was in 1884-5 A.D.C. to the Brigadier-General at Aldershot, in 1885-6 A.D.C. to the General Commanding the western district, and in 1890 district-staff-officer of Bengal. He served in the Manipur campaign in India in 1891 as deputy-assistant-adjutant general to the force; he was mentioned in despatches and is entitled to wear the Manipur medal with clasp. He can thus be described as an unusually young officer for such a position, belonging to a crack regiment and possessing a good deal of staff and some war experience.

THE COMPARATIVE EFFICIENCY.

AN excellent letter from "Outpost" appears in this issue. It still further emphasizes the fact that the efficiency competitions, as carried out in the infantry, are far from being satisfactory. The plan followed this year is an improvement on previous competitions, but it is still far from perfect.

The details of this year's efficiency inspection, it is said, were practically arranged by an officer who has never been in the active militia.

Officers commanding regiments and companies readily see the many weaknesses. They generally agree that, as a test, the competition is of very little practical use. When next year's scheme is being prepared let the G.O.C. take the matter up himself and call the inspectors of infantry and half a dozen up-to-date officers commanding regiments and companies to make suggestions to him.

POLITICS IN THE MILITIA AGAIN.

A REPORT is current in Montreal district that Capt Brown, of the Royal Scots, and a graduate of the Royal Military College, has been deposed from his position as district architect to the Militia Department and a layman appointed in his place. The feeling is consequently very intense in Montreal. Nearly all of us were very kindly disposed towards the new Government, because the actions of the late Government in military affairs were so thoroughly disappointing, and so much better things were promised by this Government that better things were expected. The sacrifices made by officers and men in the militia are very great, and they are prepared to make more, but they expect some sort of recognition. If this may be taken as the policy of the new Government, then the proposition made some time ago that the military men organize to work and fight against men supporting a Government which gives them this treatment will no doubt be carried out. We have already pointed out that the Conservatives in a bye-election were taught a very healthy lesson. When, on that occasion, they were asked to canvass and do other work during the contest, without exception every old-time worker in the Conservative interests informed the leaders that they were military men before politicians. The Conservative Government was treating the militia badly, and they would not only do nothing for, but would work against them. They kept their word. They voted as they said, and on two occasions Liberals replaced Conservatives. This is simply a hint as to what will be done.

It is not charged that Capt. Brown is incapable or that he has been an objectionable party worker. He supported another military man—Dr. Roddick—in the election. But suppose he was, there are any number of graduates of the Royal Military College and others quite capable of taking over the work. There is Armstrong, of the Royal Scots; Pope, of the Victoria Rifles; Heriot, of the 6th Fusiliers; Amos, U.L., R.M.C., all of them well-known architects and engineers and several of them Liberals. Any one of them is quite capable of filling the position.

What value will a report by a layman without military experience be on the rifle ranges and similar important questions, which are likely to come before the department at an early date?

The feeling runs very high, and when Dr. Borden passes through here he will hear pretty strong expressions of opinion. In justice to the Minister, it may be said that he is not blamed. He has been away from the department for some weeks, and another member of the Government has been acting Minister.

THE SURGEON-GENERAL.

THE position of Surgeon-General of the Canadian Militia, now vacant, has hitherto been somewhat of an honorary one. It should be so no longer. Those who have followed recent campaigns will have observed that more and more depends upon the medical staff. Work in the field is quite different from a general medical practice in the city or country. Years of experience have developed a system for use in the field of which the ordinary doctor is entirely ignorant. In consequence the United States and European countries, and even Japan, provide a special training for military medical officers.

Canada so far has done nothing. Other colonies have sent their senior medical officers to take the special course prescribed for the British Army. As far as we know Deputy-Surgeon-General Ryerson is the only Canadian who is properly qualified, and he went to England and studied at his own expense.

The new Surgeon-General should be Dr. Ryerson, or one of his seniors who would undertake to qualify. He must be a man with untiring energy, for there is a great deal of work to do, and he will

have many sacrifices to make. There are many prejudices to overcome before the department can be organized as it should be.

Some think the senior medical officer should get the appointment. We agree with this, provided he is the best man, but we noticed some months ago in reading the service papers published at home that the man appointed to the head of the department in the Imperial army was not the senior, but was selected from the seniors because of his ability and merit.

HOW TO ENABLE THE CANADIAN MILITIA TO TAKE THE FIELD.

We are glad to announce that the General Officer Commanding has taken the suggestion made in THE GAZETTE and has ordered Capt. A. H. Lee's lecture on "Mobilization" to be printed and distributed for the information of such officers as were not present at its delivery at the camps this fall.

It is to be hoped that the Department will also see its way to printing it in French.

FIRST DUMBARTON VOLUNTEER REGIMENT.

BY a recent mail we have received copies of The 1st Dumbarton Regimental Gazette, the official organ of the magnificent volunteer regiment of that name.

The 1st Dumbarton is the volunteer battalion of the Argyle and Sutherland Highlanders and is a strong battalion of twelve companies of an average strength of one hundred men each. The battalion is organized something on the plan of our rural battalions, having companies organized at twelve different points in the vicinity of Glasgow. For instance, "A" company is stationed at Helensburgh, "B" Company at Cardross and "C" Company at Dumbarton, and so on, down to "M" Company, at Renton.

Each company has its own headquarters and armory, and the battalion assembles once a year for a course of instruction under canvas after an arduous period of company drill at company headquarters.

This year the annual inspection was held at Balloch, and the parade state of the regiment on that day, 6th June 1896, showed present on parade 1,105 of all ranks, and drilling with other corps and on leave, 79, making a grand total of 1,184 men.

We regret that want of space forbids us reprinting an excellent photograph of the regiment, drawn up in quarter column, preparatory to inspection, as it is not often that we in Canada see a regiment 1,200 strong, complete with band, pipers and drummers, cyclists, mounted infantry section and ambulance corps. The full dress uniform of the corps consists of doublet, trows and glengarry with black cock feathers, while the officers wear the plaid in addition. The men are all equipped with the valise equipment and Martini-Henry rifles, and certainly make a magnificent appearance on parade.

The writer remembers with pleasure a visit paid to the armory of "A" company, at Helensburgh, under the guidance of Lieut. Duncan, who was in Montreal a year ago on his return from the scene of the Cuban rebellion. The equipment in the stores was found neat and clean, and everything ready to permit of the company taking the field at once with water-bottles, mess-tins, valises and all. The armory hall can be converted into a capital gymnasium, and a good-sized stage permits of concerts, theatricals, etc., being held there; all of which has a tendency to popularize the force with the public.

We hope, under the new regime at Ottawa, to soon be able to point with equal pride to the stores of our own volunteers—all ready for immediate use and everything of the latest pattern and most suitable design.

BREVET PROMOTION.

WE hear that there is a great deal of dissatisfaction in Quebec re the brevet rank amongst the permanent officers of "B" Battery, owing to the fact that the change will cost them about \$50 for uniform, and, as there is no pay attached to the new order of things, they object to having to pay out money in this way. They say that as there is no pay attached to it they do not see any great advantage in the new scheme. With the new order Lieut.-Col. Wilson, R.C.A., will go about 50 up the seniority list. It is also stated that action will be taken by the active militia officers in Quebec to request the Minister to cancel the order.

* * *

A Subaltern writes: Col. Turnbull says the order re brevet rank should be extended to the whole militia. In the United States there are many colonels. As Max O'Rell says, "Few escape it." Shall we have the same state of affairs here? What is the object of the order, anyway? Does it carry increased pay? Why doesn't the Government do something sensible, like increasing the pay and reducing the uniform bills, instead of raising the pay by keeping the present rate and raising the rank. We have too many illusions in the militia. Too much "keeping up appearances," and too little reality. I suppose nothing less than war will bring us down to facts and common sense.

* * *

An officer in No. 1 Military District writes: The G.O. recently issued, providing for brevet rank of officers in the permanent corps, does not meet with any degree of approval amongst those interested in militia affairs in this vicinity. The opinion prevails in some quarters that the brevet rank should be given only for some unusual service rendered. If, however, the plan is really to go into operation there should be some degree of equality between the permanent corps and the militia regiments. As pointed out in the editorial columns of THE GAZETTE in last issue, the honors should be shared equally by both. Just here it might be said that there is an idea prevalent that the permanent corps is away above the "volunteer" force. The idea is a great mistake. The only difference that the writer can see is that the former are in the "force" solely as a business and the latter for love. Do not let my remarks in this particular be misunderstood. What I desire to impress is that the permanent force officers are expected to devote all their time to military matters, while those in the "volunteer" force have other businesses to attend to, and the military matters are more of a secondary consideration. But nevertheless, amongst them will be found officers thoroughly posted and, indeed, from the writer's experience in some particulars, better posted than the "cads" who are desirous of lording it over the "poor fellow in the volunteer corps." There are, no doubt, many who will disagree with me in this particular. But such is the opinion of the writer, and, I am happy to say, likewise the opinion of a very large percentage of the "poor fellows" who are not so fortunate as to hold appointments at regimental depots.

* * *

"Thomas Atkins" writes: Regarding the remarks in your last issue with reference to brevet rank and qualifications of officers of the permanent force, I wish to point out that they do an injustice to at least two officers, viz., Major Wadmore and Capt. Eaton. The former passed a splendid examination at Halifax with the Imperial troops when the Infantry School corps was organized, and later on spent some months in England, where he qualified for any field rank at Aldershot and Hythe, etc. Capt. Eaton holds a first-class, grade A infantry certificate, long course, including Kingston, has all the artillery certificates he can get, and has also passed in equita-

tion, so that no complaint can be made against these two officers for not being qualified.

* * *

AN interesting contribution on brevet promotions appears in The Toronto Telegram from Lieut.-Col. J. F. Turnbull, late officer commanding Royal Canadian Dragoons, in which he says:

"I quite sympathize with the officers of the militia generally on the innovation just made, and the distinction drawn as regards promotion of the officers in the permanent corps, as compared with their brother officers of the active militia—which is really introducing into the Canadian force one of the worst features that used to exist in the British army—when brevet rank was accorded to the officers of the Household Brigade—until it was swept away with other unjust privileges by Mr. Cardwell's famous commission of re-organization.

"I do not know who is responsible, but I think everyone will admit that the change has been made hastily and without due consideration for the welfare and interest of the force at large, and that the only course now possible, in order that justice may be meted out to all, is to make the rule operative throughout the whole force without distinction.

"I fear the harm that General Herbert introduced and endeavored very insidiously to inculcate into the permanent schools of instruction, lives after him; and while I was not surprised to read in the English newspapers an account of his speech to the Bisley Team, in which he said he hoped to see the day when a Canadian regiment might exchange duty with his own regiment in London, I was more than amazed to read that this suggestion was received with cheers from those present—for while I can quite understand that any British regiment would gladly exchange for three years' service in Canada in preference to the monotonous daily routine of guard mounting over public buildings in London, I do not believe that any number of Canadians could be got to enlist for such work, nor do I think it would be in the interests of Canada nor in the welfare of our young men to encourage such injurious dreams. The fact cannot be too persistently kept before the public that the whole question of our militia organization has out-grown its original conception where a British garrison existed in Canada, and that it should be made the subject of an official enquiry, and I was sorry to see Col. Domville's suggestion for a royal commission not taken up in the House of Commons, and also to hear that Major-General Gascoigne was not in favor of such enquiry, while the Minister of Militia in his speech at the Garrison Club dinner here was not very encouraging, as he told us plainly that militia expenditure was not looked upon favorably by the people of Canada, who were indifferent to militia matters in general, except in their determination to see and get full value in return for every dollar expended. This latter view I certainly endorse, and 'so say we all.'"

LORD WOLSELEY ON THE CHINESE.

Lord Wolseley in an interview said: "The Chinese are the coming nation. The Chinese will, I think, overrun the world. There will be, I assume, another war between France and Germany, and it will be about the bloodiest war, or series of wars, we have seen in Europe. But, some day, a great general, or law-giver, will arise in China, and the Chinese will take to the profession of arms. They will hurl themselves upon the Russian Empire, and before the Chinese armies—as they possess every military virtue, are stolidly indifferent to death, and capable of inexhaustible endurance—the Russians will go down." Lord Wolseley even believes that the Celestials will overrun India, and thinks English statesmen should strain every nerve to keep on good terms with China.

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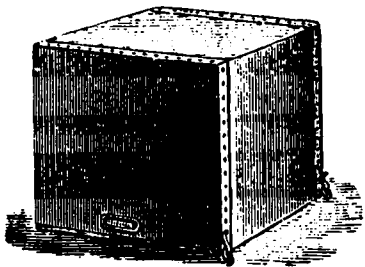
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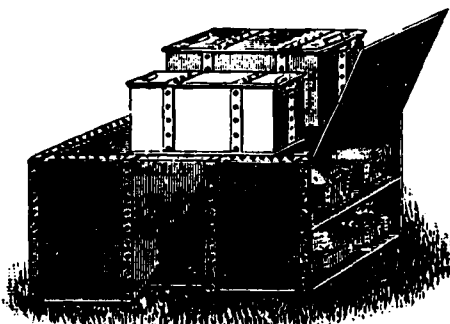
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LEINSTER REGIMENT ROYAL CANADIANS (100TH).

THE Morning Post says: "There is in our regular army one regiment—and only one, more's the pity—which bears as part of its territorial title the name of a British colony. The regiment alluded to is that which was formed in 1881, when the old numbers were finally abolished, by the amalgamation of the 100th and 109th Regiments into the Prince of Wales' Leinster Regiment (Royal Canadians). It might have been thought, especially at a time when the rage for territorial names was so prevalent, that this unique instance of a regiment with a colonial connection would have been singled out for special distinction. On the contrary, everything seems to have been done to overshadow the Canadian connection and to bring into prominence the Irish battalion, which, after all, was one of the East India Company's old regiments, and not an Irish regiment at all. To this end apparently the depot of the regiment was planted at Birr, and the short title (it needed a short title) was officially declared to be 'The Leinster Regiment.' During the last 14 years repeated offers of assistance have been received by the Mother Country from her colonial forces, and in some instances they have actually been utilized; but no colony has been quicker to offer help in all emergencies than Canada. Individual officers, whole regiments, and even brigades, have been offered whenever Great Britain has been involved in a 'little war,' and it is not surprising, therefore, to hear that the Canadians are sincerely desirous of sending recruits to the regular army, and of being absolutely represented in that army by a regiment bearing their name and having its territorial depot in their midst. With this object a memorial has been prepared, and is being extensively signed, for presentation to the War Office, through, it is hoped, the Prince of Wales, whose name is amalgamated in the present long title of the old 100th

Foot. It is to be hoped that no mere red tapeism will be allowed to interfere with the fulfilment of so laudable a desire on the part of our kin across the Atlantic, and when once official sanction has been given to so excellent an arrangement in one colony there is little doubt but that other colonies will express a desire to follow so good an example, and thus will be created a bond of exceeding strength between the scattered portions of the British Empire such as it would be difficult to form in any other manner."

ENGLAND'S PREPAREDNESS.

PEOPLE who talk at the present crisis in the east about England's unpreparedness for a great war ought to contrast her present position with that of forty years ago. When the Crimean War broke out there were scarcely shells enough in Woolwich Arsenal to furnish the first battery of artillery that was sent out, and the fuses in store were those which had been in use forty years before. We had very little gunpowder, and were consequently compelled to take 12,000 barrels from Liege, and 20,000 barrels more from the United States. We had no adequate provision for meeting our wants in regard to small arms, and were compelled to purchase 44,000 Minie rifles and 3,000 cavalry swords in Liege. At that time the resources of Woolwich Arsenal and the other Government establishments were miserable, indeed, when compared with what they are now. The Government of the day had to pay £73 per ton for diaphragm shells of the kind that were made a few years later in the Royal Laboratory at a cost of £14 a ton. It has been estimated that the shells for the Baltic fleet cost fully £100,000 more than they would have done if we had possessed the requisite machinery for manufacturing them ourselves. England now employs over 23,000 men in her arsenals and dockyards, and cannot be said to be unprepared for war. But a war with all Europe is a contingency never thought of by English statesmen.

CANADIAN CAVALRY.

It would be hard to over-estimate the importance to cavalry men of the proceedings of a meeting that was recently held at Stanley Barracks, Toronto.

It has long been felt by those interested in the mounted branch of the service that it would be desirable to have some sort of an association that would be to the cavalry what the artillery association and rifle association are respectively to the artillery and infantry.

Obstacles to the scheme having happily been removed, we are pleased to be able to state that a cavalry association is now an accomplished fact. The gratitude of all concerned is due to the Major-General Commanding for the patronage he has bestowed on the project.

To the inspector of cavalry undoubtedly all cavalymen are indebted for the practical handling of the affair. Through his indefatigable efforts, a special course was arranged to be held at the Royal School of Cavalry, it being an understood arrangement that while the officers attending the course were together for the purpose of acquiring under the supervision of himself and staff a few practical hints on the new drill of 1896, if possible a cavalry association should be formed. Consequently, on Thursday at 2 p.m. the following influential gathering met to discuss the plan of action: Lieut.-Col. Denison, commanding G.G.B.G., Toronto; Lieut.-Col. Duff, commanding 4th Hussars, Kingston; Lieut.-Col. Rogers, commanding 3rd Dragoons, Peterboro'; Lieut.-Col. Domville, M.P., commanding 8th Hussars, Rothesay, N.B.; Lieut.-Col. Buckner, 2nd Dragoons, St. Catharines; Lieut.-Col. Taylor, 5th Dragoons, Cookshire. Majors Ryan, Knight, Learned, Gregory, Campbell, Wedderburn, Baldwin, Hall. Captains Barr, Macfie, Brown, Pomroy, Stothers, Denison, Turner, Whitley. Lieutenants Merrison, Lempriere, Cockburn, Powell, Layborne. Also Captains Heward, Forester and Pearse, R.C.D. Major Lessard, inspector of cavalry, was unanimously voted to the chair, and Capt. Whitley kindly consented to act as secretary. Expressions of opinion on the subject were invited. Each lieutenant-colonel in turn expressed himself in favor of the project.

It was then decided that the association be organized and the following officers were elected: President, Lieut.-Col. Denison, G.G.B.G.; first vice-president, Lieut.-Col. Duff, 4th Hussars; second vice-president, Lieut.-Col. Rogers, 3rd Dragoons; third vice-president, Lieut.-Col. Domville, M.P., 8th Hussars; secretary, Lieut. Peters, G.G.B.G.; council, the inspector of cavalry, (ex officio); Lieut.-Cols. Gartshore, Buckner, Taylor and McArthur; Majors Ryan, Hetherington, Evans; Captains Brown, Knight and Woodside.

It was resolved to submit the bylaws to the General Officer Commanding for approval. The membership fee, \$1; date of next annual meeting to be fixed by the council. Major Lessard then vacated the chair and was succeeded by the newly elected president, who in an able speech returned thanks for the honor he received in being made president.

Several officers then spoke and it was evident from the way their remarks on the feeling that existed between the permanent corps and the rest of the militia were received, that as regards the cavalry, at least, there are none except the kindest feeling of mutual regard. In view of the recent spiteful ebullition of childish jealousy as evinced by a small clique in their communications to the press on this subject, it is gratifying to all concerned to see that when a representative gathering of militia officers of the cavalry were assembled together, they were as one man in their cordiality towards their brother officers of the permanent corps, and all seemed to appreciate to the full the efforts made on their behalf by Major Lessard and his officers in what was to them the pleasant task of imparting such few hints as they were enabled to give on professional subjects.

We give below the "routine of the special course." It will be

seen that they were well occupied during their week's stay. It is hoped that somewhat similar courses will be held at each annual meeting of the association, and, as every regiment is represented, there will doubtless be a most beneficial result in keeping each regiment up to date in many minor details, besides giving the officers of various corps the chance of meeting and knowing each other. A step that the association would view with much pleasure would be the appointment of an officer at Headquarters to look after the interest of their arm of the service. It is felt, and with reason, that hitherto it has been neglected for the want of such an official, and as the other two branches are so represented, why not the cavalry?

It was most gratifying to all the officers of the Royal Canadian Dragoons to find how much their instructional efforts were appreciated. It came as a pleasant surprise in these days of "Down the Permanent Corps" to find that such was not the sentiment in reality through the country, as represented by so many officers from all parts.

Major Lessard, commanding the R. C. D. in Toronto, is officially, as inspector for the Dominion, the head of the cavalry. He showed by the manner he arranged the programme for this course and by the able way he handled practically or treated theoretically his professional subjects, that he is eminently the right man in the right place.

Capt. Forester's suaveness of manner, clearness of expression and comprehensive knowledge of his profession quickly made his way into the good graces of his pupils, who were the more eager to learn from this officer, knowing that he has just returned from England, where he spent some months with advantage to himself and his brother officers in this country.

Cpts. Heward and Pearse, in accordance with orders from their commanding officer, lectured to appreciative audiences, who were kind enough to express themselves in complimentary terms to their lecturers.

The regimental sergeant-major, Sergt.-Major Dingley, R.C.D., gave an instructive lecture on care of arms and packing kits. He is such a general and well-known favorite that all were glad to listen to his able remarks.

Before the final breaking up of the course a dinner was given by the V.R.I. mess at the barracks, to the cavalry, as represented by the senior officer from each regiment present during the course. With the attached infantry at present in barracks the number who sat down amounted to about 33.

SPECIAL COURSE, OFFICERS—9TH TO 14TH NOVEMBER, 1896.

Monday, 9th. — Arrival of officers. 2 p.m. — Officers' report. Explanation as to object of course, by Major Lessard. Lecture—"Drill," by Major Lessard.

Tuesday, 10th, 9.30 to 11 a.m.—Parade—*One half mounted, half dismounted, for field movements. 11.30 to 12.30—Lecture—"Fitting Saddlery," by Capt. Heward. 2 to 3.30 p.m.—Parade—*One half mounted, half dismounted, for field movements. Lecture—"Lee-Metford Carbine."

Wednesday, 11th, 9.30 to 11 a.m.—Parade—*One half mounted, half dismounted, for field movements. 11.30 to 12.30 —Lecture—"Detached Duties," by Capt. Forester. 2 to 3.30—Parade—*One half mounted, half dismounted, for field movements.

Thursday, 12th, 9 a.m.—Parade—Detached duties, half mounted. 9.30 to 11 a.m.—Parade—Half dismounted, for field movements. 2 p.m.—Lecture—"Military Law," by Capt. Pearse; meeting of proposed Cavalry Association.

* One half officers mounted in morning, other half in afternoon, owing to there not being a sufficient number of horses available.

Friday, 13th, 9 a.m.—Parade—Detached duties, half mounted.
9.30 to 11 a.m.—Parade—Half dismounted, for field movements. 2.30 p.m.—Parade—All dismounted, for parade and field movements.

Saturday, 14th, 9.30 a.m.—Lectures—"Characteristics and Employment of the Three Arms," "The Different Methods of Transmitting Intelligence in the Army," by Major Lessard. 2 p.m.—General kit inspection "A" Squadron R.C.D., all to attend.

THE DUFFERIN MEDAL.

THE most coveted prize for rifle shooting in the Dufferin Rifles of Canada is the medal presented each year to the regiment by Lord Dufferin. This medal is of bronze, two inches in diameter. On the obverse side are the heads of Lord and Lady Dufferin, with the inscription, "Earl of Dufferin, K.P., K.C.B., G.C.M.G., Governor-General of Canada—Countess of Dufferin, 1876," and on the reverse, the Dufferin coat of arms, with the inscription, "Presented by His Excellency the Governor-General." The medal is awarded to the members of the Dufferin Rifles of Canada obtaining the highest score with ten rounds at 500 yards, using a rifle of regimental issue, and only the winners in the regimental match are entitled to compete (winners are barred for five years from again competing) so that the fortunate possessor is undoubtedly entitled to the distinction of being the best shot in the regiment for the year. The medal was presented first in 1882, when Lord Dufferin wrote the following autograph letter to Lieut.-Col. Jones :



Bugle-Major Oxtaby, winner of Dufferin Medal for '06.

the inscription, "Earl of Dufferin, K.P., K.C.B., G.C.M.G., Governor-General of Canada—Countess of Dufferin, 1876," and on the reverse, the Dufferin coat of arms, with the inscription, "Presented by His Excellency the Governor-General." The medal is awarded to the members of the Dufferin Rifles of Canada obtaining the highest score with ten rounds at 500 yards, using a rifle of regimental issue, and only the winners in the regimental match are entitled to compete (winners are barred for five years from again competing) so that the fortunate possessor is undoubtedly entitled to the distinction of being the best shot in the regiment for the year. The medal was presented first in 1882, when Lord Dufferin wrote the following autograph letter to Lieut.-Col. Jones :

Constantinople, April 26, 1882.

My Dear Col. Jones,—I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of April 1, and to say that I shall be too happy to comply with your request, and I have ordered a bronze medal to be sent each year to the officer commanding the regiment, so as to reach its destination in time for August competitions.

I assure you I feel very much honored by your desire to maintain your connection with me, and I shall always take a lively interest in the welfare of the regiment. I like the badge you have adopted very much indeed.

With Lady Dufferin's and my own kindest regards to your brother officers and yourself, believe me, my dear Col. Jones,

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) DUFFERIN.

The first year it was won by the late Surgeon-Major Harris, to whom Lord Dufferin wrote an autograph letter of congratulation, as follows :

Constantinople, Oct. 10th, 1882.

My Dear Dr. Harris,—I am much obliged to you for sending me the paper announcing that you had won the Dufferin Medal. I congratulate you on your success, and am

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) DUFFERIN.

The winner of the '96 medal is the debonair bugle-major of the regiment. For several years Bugle-Major Oxtaby, who is also steward of the officers' mess, has come within a point or two of the coveted decoration, so that his win was a most popular one.

Corporal (to soldier)—"Why is the blade of the sabre curved instead of straight?"

Private—"It is curved in order to give more force to the blow."

Corporal—"Humbug! The sabre is curved so as to fit the scabbard. If it was straight how would you get it into a crooked scabbard, blockhead?"—Fliegende Blätter.

What Are Your Ideas

as to the most suitable design for title page of this journal, in which the words "The Canadian Military Gazette" could be worked in? We will pay FIVE DOLLARS for the best accepted design or suggestion; if this price is not high enough we will pay more.

Size of space to be occupied by title cut, 2 x 7 $\frac{1}{4}$ inches.

Militiamen, we want you to help make this journal, typographically as well as editorially, a credit to the service; so please let us hear from you at once with whatever ideas you may have.

THE CANADIAN
MILITARY GAZETTE

TORONTO

MONTREAL

REGIMENTAL NOTES.

QUEBEC, Nov. 12.—The Quebec Garrison Artillery, under the command of Major Hudon, was inspected by Lieut.-Col. C. E. Montizambert, R.C.A., who congratulated the officers on the work done by them and he specially mentioned the good work rendered by Sergt. Sutherland, R.C.A., who was acting as drill instructor.

Regimental Sergt.-Major A. Lyndon, R.C.A., who is well known to the force, celebrated the twenty-fifth anniversary of his joining the Canadian Artillery, on the 30th ult., having previously served in the Royal Artillery. He is one of the oldest N. C. O.'s in the permanent militia and well known as a thoroughly competent drill instructor. When in Kingston he was well known to the cadets of the R.M.C. who had the advantage of his instruction in their successful competitions in artillery.

The Quebec Association Football League have arranged for ten matches, to be played in the drill hall.

The twenty-fifth anniversary of the first parade of "B" Battery was recently celebrated by a dinner at the officers' mess. After the toast of "the Queen," the health of Lieut.-Col. Montizambert was proposed by Lieut.-Col. J. F. Wilson, R.C.A. This was received in a manner to show the popularity of the officer in question, the company joining in singing "For He's a Jolly Good Fellow." Numbers of changes have taken place in this period of years and Col. Montizambert is the only one left of the original staff.

The first dance of the R.C.A. Club took place recently and proved most enjoyable for all in attendance. The music was supplied by the R.C.A. orchestra.

On the 30th ult. a dance was given at the Citadel, at the sergeants' mess, and proved, as usual, most enjoyable. The officers of the club carried out their duties in a manner to satisfy everybody.

The Hon. Dr. Borden, M.P., Minister of Militia and Defence, is expected to reach this city on the 14th inst. and it is anticipated that he will spend several days here, before leaving for Ottawa. He will doubtless make a thorough inspection of the place and it is hoped take means to have the fortification walls attended to. Their condition is disgraceful and requires immediate attention.—PATROL.

25TH ELGIN BATT.—We recently received from the manufacturer, through a local firm, the ribbon of special design to be worn by such members of the corps as may desire so to do. The colors are sage green and scarlet, the background being of the former color, and the latter is so woven as to represent the number of the regiment—two bars, and then five, viz., 25th.

It may be of interest to the readers at large to know that the 25th Batt., at its own expense, leased a piece of property adjoining the drill shed for a parade ground. This fact is mentioned simply to show what interest is taken in military matters in St. Thomas city.

The annual inspection will take place Nov. 16, 17 and 18.

It has been a great source of disappointment that a proper range has not long ere this been provided for the militia of this city, but happily the proper authority has been issued and the construction of the most approved range possible will be gone on with at once. Lieut.-Col. Stacey, commandant of the 25th, has, with characteristic energy, kept the idea of a proper range well to the front and ere many days go by, the 25th Batt.—the pride of St. Thomas—will be peppering away on an excellent range. There are some rare good shots in the corps, and 1897 will, no doubt, see representatives at both the Ontario and Dominion Association matches.

Less than half a dozen years ago the 25th Batt. was a rural corps. The Elgin Infantry has gone through all the vicissitudes

incidental to such organizations. But the battalion, as a city corps, has a reputation that is not confined solely to this city, but throughout the whole of the district. A public holiday brings with it many requests that the corps should visit this or that town. This year has been a record breaker in that respect. No less than five invitations were received for the last Queen's Birthday outing, which is our annual affair. Dominion Day brought more requests, and likewise Labor Day. These could not all, naturally, be accepted. May 24 was spent at Simcoe, and the three days under canvas in that pretty town were voted as the banner days in the corps' history. When the Governor-General made his western tour, in September, the regiment had the privilege of turning out two guards of honor, one in St. Thomas and one in Dutton. At the latter place the whole regiment was in attendance, a portion doing guard of honor duty. The presence of the corps was a feature of the Caledonian celebration.

It is the general desire that the corps should be granted an increased establishment. At present the 25th Batt. is but four companies, but is over strength, and two more companies could be formed inside of two weeks. It is expected that before the annual inspection of 1897 the increase will be granted.

The commencement of the next course at Wolseley Barracks will see a number of officers from the 25th Batt. in attendance for a course of instruction.—WILL DABEE.

ST. THOMAS, Oct. 29.—Every one holds in high esteem the prowess and bravery of our citizen soldiers, and it will therefore be a surprise to learn that the whole company was knocked out by a cow. But it is the fact, however, and this is how it came about. The 25th Batt. the other night marched down to the M.C.R. commons to drill. A resident in that locality had tethered his cow on the commons. For fear the bovine would wander away he drove a stake in the ground, and attached a long and a strong chain to cow and stake. While "A" Company were being drilled the cow became frightened at something, perhaps the warlike tone of the commander's voice, and started off on a wild run, the chain tightened and the whole company was mown down. However, they soon lined up and were at work again. Needless to say, "A" Company now comes in for a considerable amount of guying from their comrades as a result.

38TH DUFFERIN RIFLES—The fall drill is progressing most satisfactorily. Inspection will be held on November 19. The battalion is drilling assiduously and will be in good shape for the ordeal.

Dr. Palmer, a rising young physician of the city, has been appointed surgeon. It is rumored that the ambulance corps have already been awakened to the fact.

No solution of the band problem has as yet been arrived at, although the committee who have the matter in hand are sanguine of ultimate success.

The officers of the regiment are discussing with considerable interest the possibility of holding a big military gala day in Brantford on Dominion Day or Queen's Birthday.

Col.-Sergeant William Strachan has been appointed instructor of musketry.

Capt. Gibson, who won recognition at the D.R.A. matches as a rising shot, is gathering about him one of the best and strongest companies in the battalion.—SUBALTERN.

R.R.C.I.—Capt. Hemming, of Wolseley Barracks, will assume the duties of staff-quartermaster, vice Capt. Denison, who has gone to Toronto.

Previous to Capt. Denison leaving London for Toronto he was entertained to dinner by the officers of Wolseley Barracks. He

has been connected with Wolseley Barracks for the past eight and a half years, being the first officer to arrive after the appointment of Lieut.-Col. Smith. Capt. Denison was greatly esteemed by the officers and men and citizens, and his removal to Toronto is generally regretted. There was a number of prominent officers from outside battalions present. Capt. Wadmore, who goes to London to take the place of Capt. Denison, was tendered a complimentary banquet by his many friends in Ottawa.

8TH HUSSARS—The report by Major Lessard, inspector of cavalry, of his inspection of the 8th Hussars while in camp at Sussex, N.B., shows that the efficiency of the four squadrons is as follows: "D" Squadron (Capt. A. J. Markham), "C" Squadron (Capt. Macdougall), "B" Squadron (Capt. McRobbie), and "A" Squadron (Major Campbell). Capt. Markham thus wins the silver trumpet presented by General Herbert. Major Lessard reports the shooting as being of a very high average, which is no doubt due to the Lee-Metford carbine being a much better weapon than the old Snider.

A WORLD-WRECKER.

THE astonishing progress of electrical science is neatly satirised by a Parisian paper, which imagines Mr. Edison in his laboratory hearing the news of a declaration of war between Great Britain and the United States. A young man—his assistant—rushes in, pale and out of breath, and exclaims to the great electrician:

"Oh, master, war is declared! It is terrible!"

"Ah!" says the master. "War is declared, eh? And where is the British army at this moment?"

"Embarking, sir."

"Embarking where?"

"At Liverpool."

"At Liverpool—yes. Now, my friend, would you please join the ends of those two wires hanging there against the wall? That's right. Now bring them to me. Good. And be kind enough to press that button."

The assistant, wondering and half-amused, presses the button.

"Very well," says the inventor. "Now, do you know what is taking place at Liverpool?"

"The British army is embarking, sir."

The inventor pulls out his watch and glances at the time.

"There is no British army," he says coolly.

"What?" screams the assistant.

"When you touched that button you destroyed it."

"Oh, this is frightful!"

"It is not frightful at all. It is science. Now, every time a British expedition embarks at any port, please come and tell me at once. Ten seconds afterwards it will simply be out of existence; that's all."

"There doesn't seem to be any reason why America should be afraid of her enemies after this, sir."

"I am inclined to believe you," says the master, smiling slightly. "But in order to avert future trouble I think it would be better to destroy England altogether."

"To—to destroy England, sir——"

"Kindly touch button No. 4 there."

The assistant touches it. The inventor counts ten.

"——, eight, nine, ten—it's all over. There is no more England."

"Now we can go quietly on with our work," continues the master. "And if we should ever be at war with any other nation, you have only to notify me. I have an electric button connected with every foreign country which will destroy it when pressed. In ten minutes I could destroy every country in the world, the United States included. Be careful, now, that you don't touch any of those buttons accidentally; you might do a lot of damage." —Tit Bits.

THE LORD HIGH EXECUTIONER.

At the inaugural breakfast of the sheriff of the City of London, held in Clothmakers' Hall, the splendid vintage of 1889 "G. H. Mumm & Co.'s Extra Dry," was specially selected for the occasion. This is the same vintage as is now being shipped to Canada, and it speaks volumes for the quality. The importations into the United States for the nine months ending October 1st, 1896, of "G. H. Mumm & Co.'s Extra Dry" champagne were 50,573 cases, or 29,965 cases more than of any other brand. Remarkable quality, natural dryness and purity are responsible for such popularity.

A story that may or may not have appeared in print before is a good one. During the American Civil War an officer in face of the enemy said, "Men, there's the enemy on top of yonder hill; attack them and drive them out of their position. If you find that they are too strong for you turn around and run, and as I am a little lame you'll excuse me if I start for the rear now."

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THIRTY YEARS AGO



CORRESPONDENT who joined the Queen's Own Rifles about 1865, just when Capt. Murray, of No. 5, was about to resign, sends the following account of the regiment while at Ridgeway, June 2nd, 1866. He says:

I was the youngest private on the field that day, not being quite 16, and carried a rifle, accoutrements and ammunition without flinching all through the campaign, although many older men were left on the roadside done up.

Being a Canadian, of the third generation, my parents and grandparents having been born in Canada, I was full of patriotism and the only thing I have to complain of is the want of commissariat. Being afraid that my parents might object to my going along with my comrades on account of my youth, I left home about daylight without a cent in my pocket, or without taking as much as a drink of water or a crust of bread in my stomach, expecting that the military authorities would supply the necessary food, etc., but I was doomed to disappointment. After manoeuvring us in the drill shed for a couple of hours we were addressed by General Napier, who impressed us with the idea that we would have every provision made for our welfare, etc. We were then marched on board a steamboat and started across Lake Ontario in the teeth of a fresh breeze. No commissariat showed up, consequently towards noon, or long before it, your correspondent began to feel the pangs of hunger. On arrival at Port Dalhousie we were kept waiting an hour or so until some box cars could be got together to haul us to Port Colborne. Passing through St. Catharines we got a newspaper extra, stating that some 1,000 or 2,000 Fenians had crossed from Buffalo into Canada, but this news did not disconcert us at all as we were beginning to feel the pangs of starvation, which attracted our attention more than the presence of the enemy. Upon reaching Port Colborne, at the mouth of the Welland Canal on Lake Erie, we noticed that the butchers, bakers and storekeepers were excited, and their shops were mostly locked up, and the owners running around with rifles, shot guns, etc., and the chances for getting food appeared to be very distant. After a couple of hours more manoeuvring a squad of us were finally billeted upon a third-class hotel keeper, who was gloriously drunk, probably celebrating the occasion. But the chances of getting bread and beef to feed us appeared slimmer than ever. It was now getting towards evening and about six o'clock a light meal of fried potatoes and tea was served out to us. Your correspondent felt in better spirits and was then in a position to be imposed upon, which was done soon after, in this way: Altogether his name begins with M, and there were names beginning with all the letters in the alphabet upon the roster of our company; a sergeant warned him for picquet that night. The enemy were supposed to be approaching the town, which contained valuable Government works, large canal locks, etc., and the picquets were obliged to keep upon the alert all night in order, if necessary, to alarm their comrades, who slept soundly. Next morning at daylight, without breakfasting, we were moved towards Ridgeway, where we met the Fenians, and had two hours hot skirmish with them. Nine or ten of our men were killed and thirty or forty wounded. All that eventful day was, of course, one of hard work and excitement and when evening came we found ourselves once more having passed a day without proper nourishment. Next day we marched the whole day and in the evening found ourselves

camped at Fort Erie, remaining there two or three days. No proper commissariat arrangements were forthcoming. We remember when we arrived in Stratford, after enduring such hardship for four or five days, that we thought we had been transferred to a paradise. In my youthful ignorance I thought that we had just left a barren country, and had dropped into a land overflowing with milk and honey. After this we were all right, but we endured as much hardship for five or six days, probably through want of management, as the brave boys who went to the Northwest in 1885 could possibly have done. We have not the first scrap of anything to show to our families that we took part in the defence of our country upon that occasion, but we feel that we are as much entitled to some mark of recognition for our services as were our comrades of 1885, because many of us still belong to the force, but in a rural battalion who, although ready, were not called out in 1885.

The recent visit of a delegation headed by Col. MacMillan to Ottawa, it is to be hoped, will terminate with good results for the veterans of 1866 and 1870.

THE SEVENTH FUSILIERS' INSPECTION.

THE 7th Batt., of London, according to Lieut.-Col. Otter, the inspecting officer, will have to improve greatly before it can take its place alongside the other battalions in the country. The inspecting officer, in the course of his remarks at the close of the inspection, commented upon the weak state of the battalion and the lack of military enthusiasm shown by the fact that there was only one officer per company and the battalion reduced one-third. No doubt, there is a great lack of enthusiasm on the part of the men, and many improvements could be made in the battalion, but when it is known how little encouragement is given, the cause of this want of enthusiasm may be accounted for in no small degree. At all the chief centres the troops have comfortable quarters, easy of access and with every modern convenience for the comfort of the men and for the promotion of efficiency. In London this is not so. The drill shed is not centrally located and is not a convenient place to get at. It was erected when London was half the size it is now, and is not by any means fitted as a modern armory should be. The late Government spent money on property which should have been spent for the good of the active militia in that city, and for five years spent money in repairing an old building which was supposed to have been used for a military store. Thus money was spent needlessly, and the corps to-day have to pay the penalty of the Government's policy in directing militia affairs. There is no reason why a battalion like the 7th should not be able to hold its own with any other battalion, but certainly until the Government take steps to treat them properly, this cannot be accomplished. The regiment requires new life and vigor to bring it up to anything like what it should be. It should be reorganized and placed on a proper footing. London should have a crack corps, for the material is there for one.

BY THE WAY.

It was in the year 1932 that I was strolling across the magnificent bridge which spans the St. Lawrence at Quebec, watching the fast Atlantic line steamers rushing to and fro at express train speed, when I met a man who was obviously an old soldier.

"Ah," said he, "it takes brains to do all these things, brains, sir, and it was brains that saved Canada from the invader in the war of 20 years ago."

"Why, how was that?" I asked, for I was a stranger in the country, and hadn't heard anything about it.

"Well," said the old man, "it must have been about the year, 1906 that they disbanded the militia. You see, the force wasn't any use, for it was made up of a whole lot of chumps, who spent their own time and money on it; so the only troops left in the country was Gen. Herbert's Own Patent Permanents, and a fine corps they was, too. I belonged to 'em. You see, they was different from any other corps. There was a man up at headquarters

in Ottawa, who had a great idea. He saw how unfair it was for officers to have to wait for promotion in the ordinary way, so he had a scheme for giving them a step of rank every two months. This worked so well among the officers that it was introduced among the men, and it pleased everybody.

"At the time I'm telling you about, we had about a hundred men in barracks. The regimental sergeant-major was a brevet-field-marshal and the battery sergeant-majors were all brevet-lieutenant-generals. That's the way it went on all the way down. We had twenty-seven brevet-major-generals, and I don't know how many brevet-colonels. I hadn't been in the corps long, so I was only bombardier and brevet-lieutenant-colonel. We hadn't a man in the regiment under a brevet-major, except a trumpeter, and he was a brevet-captain, having only just joined. Say, you ought to have seen us on church parade! Talk about gold lace, why, we looked like a brass foundry with the back door open!"

"And how about your officers?" I asked the old man.

"Oh, yes, I forgot them, but they didn't count for much," replied the narrator. "You see, they were promoted so rapidly that they all became field-marshals in a very little time, and then they were retired on full pay or else made D.O.F's."

"And what's a D.O.F.?" I asked.

"I dunno," answered the old soldier, "but it's something or other. So our officers were changing all the time, and just at the period I'm speaking of, we had three little boy officers. They were only captains, just having come out of the Military College.

"Well, the war broke out, but, of course, as there was no force to oppose the enemy, except here in Quebec, they had a cinch, marching all over the country, giving five o'clock teas, and at last they came marching down here to Quebec. They could have come on the train if they'd wanted to, but the story wouldn't have been such good stuff for the war correspondents. One day a brevet-colonel, who was on sentry-go, saw the enemy's advance guard coming along the Plains of Abraham, so he locked the gate and turned out the guard.

"The general of the attacking force came galloping up and rang at the bell.

"What do you want?" asks one of our little boy captains.

"I want you to surrender," says the enemy's general.

"Not on your life," replies the little boy captain.

"You might as well be decent," says the enemy's general. "If you surrender right away, I'll buy beer for the crowd."

"But we weren't going to sell our country for beer.

"Who's that I'm talking to?" says the enemy's general again.

"Oh, I'm a captain," replies our little officer.

"Well, I don't want to waste time talking to captains," says the enemy's general. "Can't you trot out a general, and we'll have a talk over this matter."

"All right," says the little boy captain, winking at the Regimental-Sergeant-Major-and-Brevet-Field-Marshal, and with that he opens the gate, and out marched all our generals, with their cocked hats and feathers and everything.

"You ought to have seen the enemy's general; he was clean knocked out! 'Hully-gee!'" says he to his chief-of-staff, "if they've got all these generals, how many men will they have?" And with that he galloped away, and his army retreated back across the border that very afternoon. We had a rare old time that night up at the mess, that is, all except the captains. There wasn't room for them, so they had to dine at a restaurant down town.

"And that's what I say," concluded the old soldier, solemnly. "It takes brains to think these things out. If it hadn't been for that man up at headquarters thinking of that brevet-rank racket, where would Canada be to-day? There's his statue down where the Wolfe and Montcalm monument used to stand. That's his name on the pedestal."

I looked in the direction indicated, but the distance was too great for me to decipher the name, and, anyway, it didn't matter, because there isn't a word of truth in this story.—Montreal Herald.

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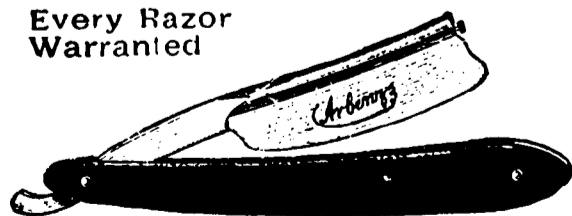
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A WORD FOR THE PERMANENT CORPS.

Editor MILITARY GAZETTE:

SIR,—As a reader of THE GAZETTE, I write to say that I am getting tired of the frequent and senseless railings upon the permanent force from your staff correspondents and others given space to in your otherwise pleasant journal. It is an easy pastime no doubt, as the members of that force, being soldiers, are not supposed to answer for themselves.

As an instance, your Toronto correspondent, in your issue of the 1st November, while screeching about brevet promotion, goes out of his way to deride the permanent force as "merely militia" and to accuse them of drawing pay. Two most atrocious crimes, truly! I have known, in my time, men who were proud of being militiamen, but your Toronto correspondent, with his "merely militia," seems to have a fine contempt for that status. As to the second accusation, it must be admitted that the permanent force do draw pay, but I submit, in palliation, that there are precedents for this in every walk of life, and I would venture to say that even your "Mulvaney" himself does it, when he can, unless he lives upon vapor, which would require to be more substantial than the stuff of that ilk which he has served up in your number of 1st November.

But, in passing, is your "Mulvaney" writing English when he describes the permanent force as "militia"? I think that if he refers to a standard unabridged English dictionary for the meaning of the word "militia," he will find that the definition therein given in no way fits the permanent force, and that he has, along with others, been writing, not English, but nonsense.

You also reprint from The Toronto Telegram an article which, in criticizing the General Order giving brevet promotion in the permanent force, refers to "the latest method of favoring the former (the permanent officers) at the expense of the latter (active militia officers)," and, Bryan-like, taunts the permanent officers with being "salaried."

It would be difficult, I fancy, for the author of The Telegram's article to mention any cases where the permanent officers have been favored at the expense of the officers of the active militia, but, if he knows whereof he speaks, I hope he will enlighten us. As to being "salaried," does he expect permanent officers to get no pay? If he does not so expect, what sense is there in the reference?

But why on earth should all this scolding at the permanent force be carried on in your journal and in part (a very small part) of the Ontario press? What good can it do? Does it tend to obliterate the "line of cleavage" that The Telegram refers to? Does it foster the spirit of mutual respect and comradeship that is so desirable between all officers who have the honor to wear Her Majesty's uniform? Does it do anything but stir up angry feelings?

If one were to trace this one-sided crusade to its source, it would not be surprising to find that it had originated with a few who had been disappointed by not getting commissions in the permanent force and otherwise, and who, in order to be "nasty," had set themselves the task of proving that a spade is not a spade, and that they are not satisfied with their success, for facts are stubborn things.

Yours,

SOLID-DRAWN.

November 5th, 1896.

BOTH JACKETS WILL BE WORN.

Editor MILITARY GAZETTE:

DEAR SIR,—I see by G.O. 87 of October, '96, that a new style of blue patrol jacket is ordered for the Canadian infantry for officers. Does this take the place of the scarlet serge patrol jacket for wear in camps of exercise, or is it in addition to the latter? As a number of officers of my battalion intended to order the scarlet jacket for next June camp, they would like some information on the matter, so that if the new blue jacket takes the place of the scarlet one I would wish to warn them in time. By answering in the next issue of THE GAZETTE you will greatly oblige

Yours truly,

CAMBRIDGE.

Cookshire, P.Q., Oct. 26th, '96.

[According to the order, the new serge will take the place of the present blue mohair braided patrol only. The scarlet serge will still continue to be worn.—Ed. CANADIAN MILITARY GAZETTE.]

CAPTAIN COLLINS' GREAT SCORE.

Editor MILITARY GAZETTE:

SIR,—Permit me to offer the following with reference to Capt. Collins' letter in your issue of the 1st inst.

Before leaving Canada in 1883, the Marquis of Lorne, Governor-General, gave us "a parting gift, the sum of \$500, for the encouragement of military rifle shooting at the Dominion meetings amongst those who attend from the distant provinces," and the amount was divided into five sums of \$100 each, to be competed for only by members from British Columbia, Manitoba, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia.

According to the programme for 1884 (when the first competition was held). Each \$100 was divided into three prizes of \$50, \$30 and \$20, for the best individual score, the firing to be done between 300 and 400 yards, kneeling, at targets 6 ft. by 2 ft. 6 ins., each target to be exposed for 15 seconds at a time, with 10 seconds interval between exposures, the number of rounds to be such as each competitor could fire in the three minutes allotted to the competitors, but not to exceed 15. Competitors to be dressed, etc., as in the Gzowski and B.C. Shield matches.

But this order, owing to a want of time, was not carried out, the distance being fixed at 200 yards; position, kneeling; number of rounds, 7.

Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Manitoba entered, and Capt. Collins—then gunner (sic) 90th Winnipeg Rifles—won the first prize of \$50 allotted to Manitoba with a score of 29, the two next winning scores being 26.

It may be remarked that the Nova Scotia winners made 31, 29 and 29 respectively, and the New Brunswick winners 28, 27 and 26.

HENRY F. PERLEY.

Ottawa, Nov. 11, 1896.

Editor MILITARY GAZETTE:

SIR,—I have become deeply interested in the controversy regarding the score made by Capt. Collins some thirteen years ago, and I am glad to find that gentleman correct the statement which I, for one, certainly heard him make, that he had won the standing match in question at Ottawa in '83, with a score of 34 points out of 35, in heavy marching order. This score certainly would be a remarkable one under the circumstances, and I do not wonder at "Youngster" asking for further particulars of the same. Had Capt. Collins stated the figures correctly, as he now, no doubt, does, no wonder would have been expressed, as although 30 points is a very good score, it is not a remarkable occurrence. Old hands like Capt. Collins should always be careful in relating their former experiences to beginners, as figures of this sort cannot be juggled with.

Yours, etc.,

QU'APPELLE.

Montreal, Nov. 4, 1896.