

# THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE

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### The Dominion Rifle Association Programme.

AT a meeting held in this city last Friday evening, the special committee of the Dominion Rifle Association agreed upon a programme for the annual competition to be held on the Rideau range commencing Monday 3rd September next. Several important departures have been made from the lines followed in previous years, and these are such as must meet with the approval of the great body of competitors.

In the first place the lottery element has been eliminated by doing away with Snider shooting at distances greater than five hundred yards, a solitary exception being made in the case of the Macdougall match, the conditions of which involve five shots with the Snider at six hundred yards, but having been fixed by the donor of the cup cannot be changed at the will of the association. The Dominion of Canada match will be fired at the same ranges as usual, but while the Snider rifle will be used at two and five hundred yards, the Martini will be substituted at six. The Rideau match at six hundred is changed from Snider to Martini. The Minister of Militia's match will be at four and five hundred instead of five and six. In making these variations the committee have given effect to the wishes of the great majority of the competitors, as expressed by them annually for two or three seasons past.

Perhaps the funniest thing in connection with last year's programme was making the Standing match at 200 yards one for the Martini, because there was a standing match at Wimbledon and the Martini was the weapon in use there. This anomaly will not appear in the programme for 1888, the Standing match being Snider.

Last year an important step was taken in the direction of popularising the military team matches, by remodelling the dress regulations so as to nearer approach the conditions of actual service. Now the prizes have been increased in value and number, from five to six in the British Challenge Shield, and two to four in the Gzowski match. And a further important and in our opinion wise change has been made by making it permissible for any corps to enter two teams in the competition for the shield. It is certainly desirable that as many men as possible in each corps should be trained in the practical style of shooting called for in these matches, but without opportunity to compete in the matches there was no incentive for more than half a dozen men in a corps to practise skirmishing.

The same matches are included in the Grand Aggregate this year as last, but owing to the changed conditions of the competitions the determining factors are widely different. There are 21 shots with the Martini, all at 600 yards; and with the Snider 5 shots at 600; 21 at 500 12 at 400 and 14 at 200 yards. A team aggregate competition has been in-

troduced, for the Lansdowne challenge cup, towards the purchase of which the parting gift of His Excellency was applied. The teams will be representative of affiliated associations, and are to consist each of five men, all of whom must have belonged to the association represented before the 1st of July preceding the match. A cash prize of \$40 will accompany the cup, and there are four other prizes offered ranging from \$35 to \$20. The matches whose scores count in this aggregate are the Rideau, Manufacturers, Ouimet, Minister of Militia, and Standing, these being all those of the Grand Aggregate which are open to all comers, military or otherwise.

In the Extra Series the Martini matches remain the same, and it is expected that additional accommodation will be provided so as to make the long range shooting more satisfactory than last year. The Snider extra match at 600 gives place to one at 500, there being thus two Snider extra series matches at the same range. The prizes for these have been increased in number from nineteen to twenty-nine. The total value of this year's cash prize list is \$7,158, an increase of \$520.

To prevent possible misunderstanding, it is announced that the sending of a team to England in 1889 will be dependent upon the action of the National Rifle Association with regard to the annual meeting, and also upon the place selected for the competition.

### The Militia Pastime.

Linch-pin has made some good suggestions, but his last (that we should send officers and men to Hythe for instruction) is not one of them. Does he know that the British regular is very little if any better than the Canadian permanent militiaman, as a shot? Of what use are the Hythe instructors to a man who never gets a chance to practise again. There are numbers of officers and non-com. officers in every part of Canada quite capable of training men to shoot accurately. I think to increase the allowance of ammunition to each man is a step in the right direction.

RIFLE SHOT.

Our Toronto correspondent forwards the following interesting letter he has received:—

DEAR LINCH-PIN,—I see you sent my last to the GAZETTE. In criticising it you give me credit for excusing Tommy Atkins' absence from the provincial rifle matches—I said *I had seen him at them*. I did not plead "baccy, beer, and beauty," as an excuse for his insufficiency of funds to take him "pot-hunting" to the capital, but I endeavoured to show that *without* those attractions acting upon his purse, he had far from enough to buy him a return ticket. I think there is *something* in the argument. You and I, dear Linch-pin, agree in the great point—sending Canadians to Hythe, where musketry instruction is reduced to a fine system, and where it is made a speciality of. My only reason for suggesting officers and non-commissioned officers of the permanent corps as the ones to be trained there, was that the knowledge acquired by them could be more generally diffused throughout the militia at large, but your suggestion "goes me one better."

I should be rather sorry to see Canada cease to be represented at the matches between the different parts of the empire at Wimbledon, but if a choice had to be made I should say "knock off swagger and go in for efficiency."

May 16th, 1888.

CANADIAN THOMAS ATKINS.

### The Shooting Powers of the Permanent Corps.

To the Editor of the Canadian Militia Gazette:

SIR,—I have read with the greatest interest the arguments regarding the shooting powers of the permanent corps, and must endorse the statements of those who say we can't shoot. For such is the case, and the reasons are fully explained in "Canadian Tommy Atkins'" letter in the GAZETTE, May 3rd, also in the exceedingly well written letter of "Feu-de-joie." How can we be expected to, when our yearly allowance is

not enough for *one day's shooting*. There is no doubt whatever that the American regular is the best shot in the world, for the British, from whom we take our lessons, can't well be worse, owing of course to the glorious British maxim-drill, dress and swagger are all that is required.

But I am amazed that a writer calling himself "Canadian Tommy Atkins" should be so utterly foolish as to suggest as a remedy "Hythe school of musketry." It certainly would be in keeping with the popular idea to send some of our non-shooting officers to England for a period of a few months, where they would *study*, and return primed with theory, black boards and snap-caps, to perpetuate the notions of General Hay that "snap-caps and lectures" will make a shot. The idea of any one suggesting an expedition to England to learn how to shoot is painful, and I call on all riflemen to bear me out that there is one way, and one way only—a cheap method in comparison with the results—and that is to supply the ammunition. If we can't then learn how to use it, no theory of Hythe will assist us. We Canadians are dull, I suppose, and may require home instruction as to the balance step, extension motions, march past, and the art of wearing a five-pound helmet and a tight tunic, but those who know what a rifle is and what stuff is contained in the Canadian soldier will support my theory, which is, have a little confidence in our own country, give us the bullets and let us alone. Then before long Canada will find in her seven hundred regular men a force more useful than seven thousand as they stand at present. I only ask the Hythe advocate to look round at our scouts, our militia, our hunters, trappers, and our *Half Breeds*, and then to spare us such advice, which may be well meant, but too foolish.

If Canada would say to her permanent force and militia "here is the ammunition, learn how to use it," what a force she would have. Many of us know that. But will it ever be done? I fear not. As long as soldiers are gauged by the tightness of their trousers and the antics of the drill shed, so will we be useful for just what we are. Give the permanent force even what the Americans allow theirs, and then we may be able to pose as instructors in an accomplishment that wins the day when we are wanted.

But spare us such advice as "Hythe." Such notions were exploded long ago. We don't send to the Tyne to learn rowing, nor do the Australians find it necessary to study the art of cricket from old country masters. And I may say that the Boers in South Africa did fairly well without "Hythe," and also our winners of the Kolapore cup, so let me advise all those who wish to do a good turn for Canada to altogether adhere to the one demand—"600 rounds a year," at least, and if necessary pay for it by taking off some of the gold lace.

J. PETERS, Major,  
Regt. C. A.

**Rifle Practice of the Rank and File.**

To the Editor of the Canadian Militia Gazette:

DEAR SIR,—Allow me to say a word with regard to the subject of rifle practice, which of late has occupied such a prominent place in your columns, in the hope that my suggestions may meet with your approval. It seems to me that the trouble lies not so much in the insufficiency of the sums granted and subscribed by the rifle associations, but in the striking lack of judgment with which these funds are applied.

The one object to be attained should be to make the rank and file of the active militia skilled riflemen. The bitter and shameful experience of our troops in the Boer war has taught us that in such service as our army and colonial forces are most likely to be engaged in, skill with the rifle is the *sine qua non* of success, and of far greater importance than excellence in drill. The best drilled troops in the world, if no better shots than the average "Tommy Atkins" of England or Canada, would in such a country as ours meet with certain and dire defeat from a totally undrilled and undisciplined foe, who were good riflemen and armed with breech-loaders. This admits of no argument. Had the Metis and Indians in 1885 been armed with Snider Enfields and well supplied with ammunition, Fish Creek, Cut Knife Creek, and Batoche would have told a very different tale.

What then is Canada doing towards training the rank and file in the use of the rifle? *Nothing*.

The rifle associations, it is true, have succeeded in making "crack shots" out of a limited few, of whom a large proportion are officers, and some only ex-members of the active militia. The members of these associations are in most cases men of means ample to buy all the ammunition they require, who take to the rifle as a pastime. Such being the case, they should themselves "pay the piper" and ask no aid. There is no necessity for an officer being a good shot, as his duties in the fighting line preclude him from handling a rifle. If he sees fit for his own sake and at his own expense to become a sharpshooter, no one objects, and his skill will aid him in instructing his men, but that officers should compete with the rank and file for cash prizes is not only decidedly *infra dig*, but tends directly to discourage the rank and file upon whose shooting the country's safety may one day depend, from trying their hand at the ranges. Tommy Atkins, who cannot buy ten cartridges to his captain's hundred, and cannot lose his day's work to practise without feeling the loss, gets faint-hearted, "gives it up," and leaves the militia when his time is up as bad a shot as he was on enlisting.

In this way I am satisfied that the encouragement given to rifle associations does actual harm. Officers, non-commissioned officers or men who can spare time and money to take an active part in these organizations should be permitted to do so, but whatever amount, be it small or large, the government has to expend in encouraging rifle practice should be spent exclusively upon the rank and file in camp and at local headquarters. Rewards for good scores at the range in camp should be given in the shape of ammunition, to be used at local headquarters under the control of the company officers. When "Tommy" gets his cartridges free, the credit of standing first, second or third in his company is the best reward he can get and will be as great a stimulus to exertion as a cash prize, which he will likely as not squander. In rural battalions every company should have a range, procured by government aid. Rifle practice should in short be a part and an important part of the *private's duty*, and not as now merely a pastime indulged in by a few officers and non-coms.

I may be pardoned for making a suggestion as to how my views might be carried into effect.

Let us suppose that the "highest possible" with the 20 rounds of ammunition fired in camp or at headquarters is 80. After each company has fired, let the non-com's and men be divided into four classes, thus:—

1st Class .....	those making over 60
2nd " .....	" " from 40 to 60
3rd " .....	" " 20 to 40
4th " .....	" " under 20

Give rewards as follows:—

Each 1st Class Man.....	100 Rounds.
" 2nd " " .....	50 "
" 3rd " " .....	20 "

The total earned by the company to be delivered to the officer commanding, who shall keep a record of the number to which each man is entitled. After returning home the captain is to fix a certain time or times at which the ammunition thus earned is to be fired under the direction of an officer or non-com. who shall keep a score book. Fourth class men purchasing their own ammunition, and men in the other classes purchasing an extra quantity, to be permitted to fire at these times subject to the same direction. Any ammunition not fired by those entitled to it within the time limited by the captain to be given in his discretion to such fourth class men as apply for it, and to be by them fired under his direction. A complete record of the scores made, with all ammunition thus fired, to be returned to the officer commanding the battalion and by him forwarded to headquarters. The men to be then re-classified as before:—

1st class, those averaging 60.....	to each 20 rounds fired.
2nd " " " 40.....	" " 20 " "
3rd " " " 20.....	" " 20 " "
4th " " " under 20.....	" " 20 " "

First class men only to be permitted to take part in battalion or brigade matches, and in such case, on production of a proper certificate from their captain, to be allowed to travel free in uniform to the place of such match. Money prizes to be given to the best shots in such battalion or brigade competitions.

I think the above scheme is perfectly feasible and the cost to the government in proportion to the benefits accruing would be a mere bagatelle.

Every inducement should be held out to good shots to remain in their respective corps, and with a view to this extra pay should be given, say:—

To 1st class men.....	10 cents per day.
" 2nd " " .....	5 " " "

I fear my letter is assuming unwieldy proportions and shall say no more until I see my views criticized by you, Mr. Editor, your friend Linch-pin, or some other.

CUIDICHN RIGH.

**The Ottawa Rifle Club.**

Saturday last this club's weekly competition was with the Snider rifle, at 400 and 500 yards, ten shots at each. There was again a large turnout, unprecedented interest being shown this season. The scores of those making upwards of fifty points were as follows:—

Hutcheson, J. E.....	44	42	86	Coste, E.....	37	30	67
Sherwood, Capt. A. P.....	46	38	84	McKay, H.....	38	29	67
Cox, Capt. C. F.....	39	42	81	White, G. R.....	40	27	67
Gray, H. H.....	41	37	78	Smith, F. W.....	38	26	64
Anderson, Major.....	42	36	78	Wright, Capt. J.....	31	31	62
Fairweather, J. H.....	38	39	77	Morrison, N.....	41	21	62
Marks, J. W.....	41	36	77	Perley, Major H. F.....	39	22	61
Nutting, J. P.....	42	33	75	McDonald, J. W.....	36	22	58
Sutherland, E. D.....	38	36	74	Pratt, H.....	33	23	56
Hutchison, Dr. G.....	37	36	73	Lightfoot, F. C.....	32	21	53
Ellis, J. H.....	37	36	73	Slade, T. C.....	36	16	52
McJanet, T.....	37	35	72	Moodie, R.....	34	17	51
Jamieson, W. A.....	34	35	69				

The regular spoons were both for the senior class on this occasion, and were taken by Mr. Hutcheson and Capt. Sherwood. A rule of the club provides that when there is no spoon reserved for juniors, an additional one shall be offered when there are more than seven entries in that class, and this condition being fulfilled on Saturday, a junior spoon was competed for, being won by Mr. Nutting. As the committee have classified Mr. J. W. McDonald, a new member, in the seniors, the junior spoon of the 5th May, for which he would otherwise have tied, goes to Mr. Nutting, and he in turn, having now won two spoons, becomes a senior also.

**Correspondence.**

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

**WHO SHOULD WEAR DRESS SPURS.**

To the Editor of the Canadian Militia Gazette:

SIR,—I shall be much pleased if you or one or more of your correspondents will kindly answer the following question: Should adjutants of infantry regiments wear dress spurs at levées, balls, etc.? Clause (g) of Section 266, R. & O., seems to indicate that they shall not be worn, but I find that there is a difference of opinion as to the interpretation of that clause.

May 16th, 1888.

**THE "NO RANGE" MUDDLE AT MONTREAL.**

To the Editor of the Canadian Militia Gazette:

SIR,—Allow me to offer some remarks which though perhaps of only local interest yet may serve to remind others what treatment they may expect to receive should they ever get into the same fix, or how they may avert it by putting not their faith in the circumlocution office.

The military district No. 5 this year is allowed to drill and draw pay for 3,076 men who are supposed to be efficient when through inspection. Let us see the arrangements provided for what every inspector, every c. o. and every military man worthy the name knows to be so essential to efficiency as target practice. At least 12 months ago the authorities were made aware that the Point St. Charles ranges were to be taken away from the shooting men here by the building of a flood preventive dyke. It was then looked upon as a settled fact that a new range would be provided—it is absolutely necessary and hardly anyone credited rumours that there might be delay. Towards the end of the season, when nothing had been done through all sorts of official delays, by dint of prodding the machinery was got to work, and surveyors

appeared, surveyed, departed and reported. Two desirable locations were offered and expectation of something coming of it almost amounted to a ray of hope, but between two stools one generally reaches the floor, and such has been the experience in this instance. Not a stick nor a stone has been turned, and the end of May is close at hand.

Volunteering is at no time, or in any particular point, a service of all apples and marbles, and the one bright spot to the majority in this city, is now rubbed out by carelessness or callousness somewhere.

Deputations have been humbugged and all fair means so far tried have miserably failed—promises and procrastination being the only outcome to date, and the treatment meted out to Montreal shooting men in particular, and the whole district militia in general, with regard to shooting accommodation, is an outrage on as deserving a body of volunteers as can be got together in the Dominion. They have had to put up with all sorts of makeshifts in the way of ranges, and have now some reason for the general feeling of indignation which has grown up, and also for demanding that there be a cessation of that masterly policy of inactivity so long endured, and one inaugurated where common sense and some idea of the necessities of the case can be brought to bear.

Just here I may say that it has a strange appearance with so many influential officers in this city and four members of Parliament on the whiphand side that nothing can be done to lash the department up to the breach. Is it a want of a pull together that leaves this matter in the slough of despond, or is it that such a trifling thing as making skilled marksmen is of even less importance than a dance or a dinner?

H. A. BROCKLESBY,  
(Secy. Montreal Rifle Association.)

#### STAFF UNIFORM.

*To the Editor of the Canadian Militia Gazette:*

SIR.—The Quebec Provincial Parliament was opened last week with great solemnity, the Lieut.-Governor being surrounded by a brilliant staff, and his aide-de-camp resplendent in a new staff officer's uniform, with captain's badges of rank thereon; cocked hat, and all complete. Now would you kindly inform your readers by what authority he wears such a uniform. Moreover his name is not visible in the last militia list, but that may be an oversight because Linch-Pin says it is full of mistakes, like the Army List. But is His Honour strictly entitled to a military aide-de-camp. Another question is, what kind of a dress is this, that His Honour's secretary has adopted? It is not to be found in the Canadian dress regulations, either military or civil, viz., black dress coat with brass buttons, and light blue lapels.

DRAGROPE.

#### SLOVENLINESS OFF PARADE.

*To the Editor of the Canadian Militia Gazette:*

SIR,—Having had occasion to visit one of our principal cities the other day, I was somewhat surprised to see a number of volunteers parading the main streets of the city, in broad day light, dressed in a very unsoldier-like and slovenly manner—some in regimentals minus a proper head gear (which was supplied by a broad rimmed felt), others, tunic only, whilst some carried waist belts in their hands, tunics flying open, with huge pipes in their mouths. Being something of a military man myself I must confess it does not in my eyes add to the dignity of the Canadian militia to see such lack of discipline shown by a supposed crack city corps. Now, sir, as the captains of companies I presume are responsible for the proper appearance of their men, don't you agree with me when I say, it would be much more to their credit to endeavour to have men when going to and coming from parade dressed as neatly as when in the ranks.

MARS.

Ottawa, 22nd May, 1888.

#### CANADIAN AMMUNITION.

*To the Editor of the Canadian Militia Gazette:*

SIR,—To the riflemen of Canada it must seem incredible that the incident referred to in your issue of the 10th instant could actually have occurred in the House of Commons. In reply to the direct inquiry of the Hon. A. G. Jones as to whether any changes had been made at the Quebec Cartridge Factory during the year with the view of improving the ammunition, I read that "the Minister of Militia, without answering the query as to the changes, read a letter he had received from Lt.-Col. Holmes, commanding C Battery in British Columbia." The substance of that letter was that C Battery had recently expended 4,000 rounds of Canadian ammunition in its target practice; that the writer had found it as good and reliable as any he had seen anywhere, even of English make, and that a brother officer in the battery spoke highly of it and considered all the fault hitherto found with it to be groundless.

In themselves such statements could only be a source of amusement to the active rifle shots of our militia. But what are we to infer from the fact that they were made by the Hon. the Minister of Militia as an answer to the inquiry thus made of him? Are we to understand that the militia department has accepted them in preference to the oft expressed conviction of our leading rifle shots to the contrary; in preference even to the earnest resolutions passed at the general meeting of competitors held at Ottawa in September last? And yet the use which was made of Col. Holmes' letter seems to warrant no other conclusion, the more especially as the Minister of Militia prefaced the reading of the letter by stating that its contents "would satisfy public opinion more than anything he could say from personal knowledge." How absurd this is, and yet if my conclusion is correct how serious a matter is it to the militia and our rifle associations? It looks very much as though we must despair of seeing any proper measures taken to save Snider shooting from continuing the farce we have known it for the past three years.

But, Mr. Editor, as these statements have commended themselves to the militia department, and are offered as a comfort to our disappointed hopes, we may perhaps be justified in examining them a little more closely, and endeavouring to find if there be any excuse for the favourable reception they have met with.

The first fact is that C Battery has expended 4,000 rounds in target practice, whether at distances greater than 400 yds. is not stated, and to the mind of Col. Holmes the results were satisfactory. It might be pertinent to inquire how many passable rifle shots C Battery contains, for it must be blessed far above the average battery or company if the majority of its members can do more than hit and miss. We may surely decline to accept the results of a "target practice" as proving aught in regard to ammunition. Fancy an officer decrying ammunition because his rank and file failed to make good average scores in target practice! The results either way

are simply worthless compared with the experience of a Dominion or Provincial meeting.

The commandant of C Battery next expresses his own faith in the cartridges, and I go so far as to assume, though he does not say so, that he bases his faith on the scores he has himself made, claiming to be a judge in such matters because of having 15 years ago won the 5th place on the Wimbledon Team, and since continued a fair average shot. What about the men who have repeatedly gained a place on the Wimbledon Team; who have year by year upheld their reputations at Provincial and Dominion gatherings, and whose frequent practice has proved to them that a defect there is either in ball or cartridge? One would think that these men had not offered any opinion on the quality of the ammunition. Moreover, the Minister of Militia chose to speak of Col. Holmes and Major Peters as being practical men and first-rate rifle shots. It would not be necessary or desirable to question the fact were it not for the weight which has been attached to their opinions. But if the Minister of Militia meant that these officers are equally so as the officers and men who are well known at Rideau, the remark must be taken as altogether too kindly and complimentary. Certain it is that neither of these officers has made himself known to Canadian rifle shooting during the past ten years.

Finally we are told that this is an opinion from British Columbia. I wonder if the gallant Major and member from Victoria (himself an actual rifle shot) accepted it as such, or if the association of that province will acknowledge it. Until the department is aware of the verdict of that association and its riflemen it should decline to accept the views of C Battery as in any sense those of the marksmen of British Columbia.

But was it necessary to go to British Columbia for a straightforward opinion on the Quebec cartridge, or was it accepted only because it was favourable? The eastern provinces have not been silent. The department must know that all the provincial associations, as well as the dominion, have substantially condemned the ammunition. The ridiculously low scores by which their prizes have been won gave them no option. From Toronto and Halifax, from Sussex and Montreal there has come the same story, and surely nothing can account for such a general falling off save a want of uniformity in the cartridges. To enthusiastic militiamen who have conscientiously endeavoured to do their best with these cartridges and yet have failed to make even average work with them, it is exasperating, as well as hopeless, to find that their experience has been ignored, and I doubt not they will join with me in protesting against the adoption of the idle, unwarranted statements which were read in the hearing of the House of Commons.

DROP-SHOT.

#### A Challenge Shield for the 43rd Rifles.

NUMBER 6, the New Edinburgh Ward company of the 43rd Ottawa and Carleton Rifles, were on Saturday evening last the recipients of a handsome silver challenge shield, the gift of their admirers amongst the ladies of the ward. The auspicious event occurred at the drill hall, where the company were present in full force, a great many ladies were in attendance, and amongst other friends of the company, Lieut.-General Sir Fred. Middleton was there to do them honour.

The presentation was made by Mrs. Bell, wife of Surgeon W. R. Bell, of the Ottawa Field Battery, and mother of Capt. B. H. Bell, of No. 6 Company 43rd. The accompanying address was beautifully illuminated on vellum by Mrs. F. T. Thomas, of New Edinburgh. It set forth the ladies' appreciation of their sons and brothers in their role of "defenders of the land," and asked the company to accept the shield as a stimulus to sustained efforts in the interests of No. 6, and the 43rd battalion generally, in developing skill in rifle shooting.

Capt. Bell thanked the ladies for their kindness in a neat speech. Afterwards he read to the men the terms on which the trophy is to be shot for, as follows:

1. The shield to be the property of the company and to remain in the company's drill hall, except when being engraved or on exhibition.
2. To be fired for on the following days, viz., The last Saturdays in June, July and August, but provided either of these days should prove unfavourable, a suitable day to be decided upon by a vote of the company.
3. The man making the highest aggregate score on the three above mentioned occasions, shall be considered the winner of the shield for the ensuing year, and will have his name engraved thereon.
4. The winner of the shield for each year will be presented with a badge, and the man winning the shield three years consecutively will be presented with a badge and also a trophy to the value of \$25.
5. If any year the drill should not take place till after the shield has been fired for, the winner thereof for the ensuing year will be required to put in above specified amount of drill before being permitted to have his name engraved thereon and before receiving the badge, failing to do so the man with the next highest score complying with the above rules will be considered the winner of the shield.
6. The shield to be fired for over the following ranges, viz., 200, 400 and 500 yards, seven shots at each range; no sighting shots or coaching will be allowed.
7. Position, 200 yards, standing or kneeling; 400 and 500 yards, any position with head to target.
8. Ties to be decided by three shots each at 500 yards, and then, if necessary, by alternate shots at the same range.
9. In all competitions for the shield, uniform shall be worn (drill order).
10. In the event of the company being disbanded, the shield to become the personal property of the man who has won it the greatest number of times; ties in this case to be decided by firing over the above ranges, as per clause six of these rules.
11. Any point arising not covered by these rules to be decided by the D. R. A. rules and regulations of the preceding year. The shield will be known as the "Ladies Challenge Trophy."

The funeral of the late Mr. D. A. Shearan took place from his residence, 161 Sumach st, Toronto on the 11th inst., and was attended by the members of the Army and Navy Veterans' Society, of which deceased was a member, having belonged to Her Majesty's Royal Artillery. The pall-bearers were Messrs. T. Tyler, Dunn and Curtis, late 30th Regiment, and McKay, King's Own Borderers. These, with about 30 other veterans who followed, wore the society badges, covered with black crape. This being the first death of a member of the society it is gratifying to know that the family of the deceased becomes entitled to a sum sufficient to meet funeral and doctor's expenses, which was promptly paid without materially injuring the society's funds. The old custom of the mourners filling in the grave was observed by Messrs. Gibbs (Seaforth Highlanders), Welton and Illingsworth (Princess Louise Highlanders), Wilson (Black Watch), and others.



## GOSSIP OF THE MILITIA.

### The Queen's Own Rifles have an outing at the Capital.

The Governor-General's Body Guard at drill—Promotions in the Grenadiers—  
Hamilton Field Battery preparing for camp—Smoking concert at  
Halifax—The city customs of the Dufferin Rifles—  
Miscellaneous notes.

ALL the Ottawa corps took part in the farewell demonstration to Lord and Lady Lansdowne Tuesday last. The Dragoons furnished an escort from Rideau Hall to Parliament Hill and thence to the Canada Atlantic Railway station; the 43rd Rifles furnished a guard of honour to their Excellencies on the Hill, whilst they there received the farewell address from the corporation, and the parting compliment was paid by the Governor-General's Foot Guards, who supplied a guard of honour at the Canada Atlantic station.

#### THE QUEEN'S OWN ON A VISIT.

The Queen's Own Rifles of Toronto arrived in Ottawa about five hundred strong at half past nine o'clock on the morning of the 24th, to spend the Queen's birthday in this city. They were received at the Union Station by a large reception committee with Mayor McLeod Stewart, a host in himself, as chief director of ceremonies, and led by the band of the 43rd battalion, the Queen's Own marched through the city to the drill hall, their headquarters for the day. The splendid appearance of this crack corps was a revelation to the citizens of Ottawa, and all along the route the visitors received applause from the enthusiastic spectators who lined the ways. After breakfast had been partaken of the Queen's Own paraded on Cartier Square, and having at noon fired a *feu de joie* in honour of the day, they gave a brief but satisfactory exhibition of their drill, thoroughly appreciated by the multitude of onlookers, especially the march past, in column, quarter column and at the double, these movements calling for well deserved applause. At the saluting point the senior officer in uniform was Lieut. Col. Wm. White of the 43rd, but Col. Walker Powell, Adjutant-General, and Lieut.-Col. John Macpherson, director of stores, were present in mufti, and were deeply interested spectators. The 43rd Rifles rendered valuable service in keeping the ground clear, so that the visitors might not be hampered by the crowding of spectators.

The Queen's Own were well looked after in Ottawa, officers and men alike expressing complete satisfaction with their reception. At the drill hall, three square meals were furnished at the expense of the civic corporation, and were evidently appreciated by those of the visitors whose healthy appetites banished fastidiousness for the day; the visiting sergeants were well looked after by those of the 43rd; and as for the officers, they were everybody's guests, the hospitality being only limited by time and capacity. They were breakfasted at The Russell by the 43rd Battalion officers; lunched by Mayor McLeod Stewart, and dined at the Rideau Club by Capt. Berkeley Powell, Paymaster of the Guards, on behalf of the officers of that regiment, which was holiday making in Montreal. Then in the evening Capt. A. P. Sherwood, of the 43rd, entertained the visitors and the officers of his own regiment at an "At Home" at his residence on Cartier Square. Major John Stewart and officers of the Field Battery and Capt. F. Gourdeau and officers of the Dragoon Guards, did their share in looking after the visitors throughout the day.

The visiting officers present were Lieut.-Col. Allan, and his predecessor in the command, Lieut.-Col. Miller, R.L.; Capt. Blain, Paymaster; Capt. Macdonald, Adjutant; Capt. Heakes, Quartermaster; Surgeon Lesslie and Assistant Surgeon Natress; and Dr. Bethune, formerly Surgeon of the regiment; and the following company officers: A—Capt. Thompson, Lieut. Rennie; B—Capt. Pellatt, Lieuts. Ince and Lwyd; C—Capt. Hughes, Lieut. Johnson; D—Capt. Mason, Lieut. Peuchen; E—Capt. Mutton, Lieuts. Knifton and Robinette; F—Capt. McGee, Lieuts. Lee and McLeod; G—Capt. Bennett, Lieuts. Mercer and Nelson; H—Lieut. Gunther; I—Capt. Murray, Lieut. Acheson; K—Capt. Greene, Lieuts. Baird and Coleman.

The Queen's Own left for home shortly before midnight.

#### Hamilton.

BATTERY orders were issued on the 15th as follows: The Hamilton field battery will proceed to camp, Niagara, on Tuesday, June 12 to put in their annual drill, 12 days. Members of the battery will govern themselves accordingly. The numbers one will make out list of sub-divisions and present it for inspection to their divisional officers next drill night. N.c. officers questions will be issued next drill night. Owing to the battery not having been provided with a sufficient number of knapsacks or valises, or squad bags, men will be allowed to bring their change clothing, boots, etc., in small valises, numbered. Numbers one will be held responsible that they have seven drilled men ready for camp and that their sub-divisions attend all drills. The commanding officer has been pleased to sanction the following promotions: Corpl. Charles Collett to be sergeant; Corpl. William Homer to be farrier sergeant; Bombr. Arthur McCarter to be corporal.

The battery require 29 horses for camp duty, so far 18 have been obtained. Sergt. Billy Kerley, who is horsing the battery, will doubtless have full strength of animals before going into camp.

#### THIRTEENTH BATTALION.

"B" Company have organized a rifle club. The purpose doing a considerable amount of shooting during the coming season. The officers elected were: President, Capt. P. B. Barnard; vice-president, Lieut. F. B. Ross; secty.-treasurer, Pte. Crawford; committee of management, Sergt. Madgetts, Corpl. Bettles, Ptes. Cleves, Dunn and Greenly.

If a proportion of the remainder of the members of the above club have the record that the committee have with the rifle, "B" company will certainly have a successful season. The first meeting of this company will be held on the 29th inst. I understand that the Victoria Rifle Club will allow members who cannot attend on Tuesdays to shoot with them on Saturdays. A. C. and D. companies will also form associations of a similar nature.

Col. Villiers arrived in town from Kingston last week, and was greeted by his many friends here in the most enthusiastic manner. The colonel appears to be as

cheery and hearty as of yore, our common enemy, Time, having apparently ignored him. On Saturday evening a dinner in his honour was given by the leading officers of the 13th Battalion, Hamilton Field Battery and 77th Battalion. Many old and interesting incidents were recalled, and altogether a most enjoyable evening was spent. The colonel's friends will certainly not have decreased on his departure for Winnipeg this week.

Toronto.

SECOND LIEUT. LAMBE has been transferred from "G" to "A" company, and 2nd Lieut. Mackay is posted to "E," and 2nd Lieut. Fitzgerald to "F" company of the Royal Grenadiers.

The work of the new bandmaster is very perceptible on the band. He is, however, working at a very great disadvantage. The music is all new to the musicians, and besides this, none of the new instruments have yet arrived, and some of those now in use are frightfully out of tune.

Three months leave of absence has been granted to Capt. W. B. McMurrich, Toronto Garrison Battery.

#### GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S BODY GUARD.

The Governor-General's Body Guard, who have been performing their weekly drills at the St. Lawrence Hall for the past month, have now taken to the Queen's Park, where they paraded on Wednesday evening last and went through sword exercise and some of the field movements. Their band was there and played several selections under the able bandmaster, Sergt. Williams, who deserves the greatest praise for bringing it to its present good standing.

Brantford.

AN enthusiastic meeting of the officers of the Dufferin Rifles was held Monday night at the quarters on Colborne street. Lt.-Col. Jones was in the chair, and everyone was glad to see the commanding officer again in a convalescent state after his recent severe illness.

A lot of private business was transacted. Among the items which will be of interest to the general public was the alteration of promotion as regards lieutenants. Heretofore, following the practice of rural battalions, when a captaincy of a company became vacant the senior lieutenant of the company was appointed to the position. In future the senior lieutenant of the battalion, as in all city corps, will be advanced to the captaincy of whatever company becomes vacant.

A letter was read from Lt. Alf. Jones, asking the acceptance of the officers of a handsome picture of the camp of the 7th Battalion at Clarke's Crossing, during the North-West rebellion. A resolution of thanks was passed to Lt. Alf. Jones for his gift, which has been placed in the quarters.

A resolution of regret was also passed at the removal from the city of Lieut. M. J. Ince, one of the most painstaking juniors in the battalion.

One or two alterations were made in the standing committees, Capt. and Adjutant Wilkes' name being substituted for Lt. Ince's on the rifle committee, and Lt. Ruddy's for Lt. Smith (removed) on the mess committee.

The date for spring battalion drill has not been decided upon.

At a meeting of the council of the D. R. Rifle Association, held prior to the officers' meeting, a letter was read from Lt. Ince, resigning his position as secretary, a post which he filled with great acceptance. A resolution of regret was passed at his withdrawal and Adjutant Wilkes appointed to the secretaryship.—*Courier*.

Montreal.

THE Victoria Rifles Armoury report this week is condensed into two words "Drill-Work." Large musters are the orders of the day with a warm rivalry between companies Nos. 5 and 6 for the highest drill attendance average. Monday night brought out 24 files in No. 6 and 21 in No. 5.

In consequence of the near approach of inspection day, and the evenings being taken up with drill the recreation department has had no competitions this week.

By the time this makes its appearance the visit of the G.G.F.G. to this city will be over. The Vics. are determined to have a share in the honours to them though it will be of an informal nature only.

BUSBY.

Quebec.

NOTWITHSTANDING the bad weather on Saturday 19th inst., about 40 members of the Eighth Royal Rifles, including an unusually large contingent of officers' turned up at the St. Joseph range for the weekly target practice of the rifle association. In addition to the usual practice, a team match between B and D companies was on the programme—ten men a side—Sergt. Goudie of B company headed the score list with 71 points, Corpl. Enright and Pte. Parke, both of D company, coming second and third with 66 each; D. company winning the team match with 93 to their credit.

On Tuesday evening the regiment had a full muster at the new drill hall for commanding officer's inspection. The D.A.G. and Brigade Major accompanied Lt.-Col. Miller through the ranks and expressed themselves as well pleased with the appearance of the men. Battalion drill was then proceeded with and a large number of movements were performed in a most creditable manner. The members of the regiment look forward to passing an exceptionally good annual inspection on the Queen's birthday, though all regret, that the Lieut.-General commanding will not be present on that occasion as was expected.

After the parade had been dismissed a "tug-of-war" took place between teams from A and C companies resulting in a victory for the former.

Halifax.

THE 66th P. L. F. gave "Smoking Concert" at Mason's Hall on Friday evening last which was a novel, brilliant and successful affair. The hall was beautifully ornamented with flags, and the stage, which was decorated with plants and flowers relieved with stacks of rifles with fixed bayonets, looked exceedingly pretty. Col. Macdonald did the honours of the evening, and was ably assisted in the performance of this pleasant duty by his officers' all of whom were in mess dress uniform. There were more than 200 guests present who were most hospitably entertained by their genial hosts, and who enjoyed themselves so thoroughly that they felt more at home than at any entertainment before given in this city. The band, which is under the direction of Bandmaster Carlton, and which is considered one of the best in Canada, gave some excellent selections. In addition to the music furnished by the band, songs were sung by Messrs. A. C. Edwards, E. McDonald, Guy Hart, F. S. West, A. D. B. Tremaine and Prof. Currie, each of whom received a hearty encore. Gatherings such as that of Friday evening last are very beneficial in welding the officers of the battalion together, in creating a fraternal feeling with rival services, and in enlisting the hearty good will of the outside public. The entertainment was carried out with taste and was entirely successful.

## Modern Tactics.

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

(Continued from Page 36a.)

ON debouching on the far side, the leading portion of the convoy should halt and park, while the remainder passes through and regains its position at the head, when the procession proceeds in its original order.

This arrangement, besides saving time, has the advantage of keeping the bulk of the escort concentrated and close at hand, to protect the passage of the wagons, &c.

There only remains to describe the different methods of parking.

### Parking Cattle.

Cattle, whether sheep or oxen, after a long tramp will seldom stray far, provided the last-mentioned have been watered; a stray beast will usually find its companions if left alone.

If unmolested and left alone, cattle, as a rule, quietly settle down for the night.

Horses, ponies, and mules should be picketed in rows, facing each other, with plenty of room to walk between for feeding purposes.

Camels rarely roam at night, and when once down, never stir till morning.

Animals of all descriptions, like men, are easier led than driven.

Soldiers, as a rule, are considerate to all dumb animals, and soon get to understand their ways.

Elephants are peculiar, and will only obey their own keepers.

### Convoys by Rail.

A convoy by rail is simply a train, and embarkation and disembarkation is the chief difficulty, for which suitable platforms must be provided.

A pilot engine, armour-plated, should be provided, and the escort distributed between head, tail, and centre of train.

### By Water.

A convoy by water is conducted on the same principles as on land.

Cavalry kept well in advance and on the exposed flank. Infantry in separate boats at head, centre, and tail, and only landed when an ambush is possible, or an enemy reported.

If attack be imminent, the escort must be landed, and their boats kept close at hand to retire to.

The loaded boats moving along the opposite side, with arrangements complete for sinking them if in immediate danger of being captured.

## CHAPTER XII.—INFANTRY TACTICS.

Successful as the German tactics proved themselves to be against the French in 1870, the experience gained in a more recent European campaign has shown that their adoption ought to be regarded as abnormal under circumstances when a commander, confident in the moral superiority of his troops, and calculating on the mistakes of his opponents, may discard a well-established maxim.

The wide and deep turning movements adopted by the Germans were only rendered possible by the bad generalship evinced by their opponents; and had the positions of the combatants been reversed at Spicheren, at Worth, and in front of Metz, the simple defensive checkmate to their own offensive tactics, studied in the German lecture-halls, would probably have turned the tables, and any wide and deep turning movements of the French, supposing them to have been so venturesome as to have adopted them, would have been attended with the fatal results usually entailed by a violation of one of the first principles of tactics.

In support of this conjecture, the student of military history will recall to mind the defeat of Frederick the Great's remarkable and astonishingly successful system of offensive tactics, the first time it was adopted by his opponents against himself at the battle of Rossbach, and its total collapse when opposed to Napoleon some years afterwards at Austerlitz.

As turning movements in the battle-field are most frequently executed by infantry, this preamble may not be considered out of place under the heading of the present chapter.

To pass for a moment from tactics to strategy, the next war between France and Germany will wear a different aspect. The popular notion that France is to be turned through Belgium is just what the French, by their forethought, and evident distrust of Germany, have provided against. Confident in the strength of her network of fortresses, France, if threatened from the north-east, is prepared, in the event of their violating neutral territory, to meet the invaders on a narrow front. France having taken the precaution to avoid as far as possible erecting fortresses round big cities with large populations, the next war between these two nations will probably be characterized by a succession of protracted sieges.

### Infantry Defensive Tactics

may be summed up in a few words—"Cling to the ground and dig." During the last fifteen years the defence behind hastily constructed redoubts and earth-works has gained enormously upon the attack. In a few hours a position which cannot be out-flanked, owing to the increased power of modern fire-arms, can be rendered almost impregnable against an attacking force, even though it be greatly superior in numbers. All cover for the enemy should be destroyed in front of intrenchments, and troops should never be posted where they cannot be supported.

One man per yard of intrenchment should always be kept in the firing line, with supports (one section per company) also intrenched if no natural cover exists close in

rear, to feed the firing line, and half of each battalion in local reserve to be ready to join in the hand-to-hand struggle if matters get so far that the assailants actually reach, and have to be expelled from, the trenches. The defence of woods, villages, defiles, bridges, etc., are all treated under their respective headings, but the principle in each case is the same, viz., to try and prevent the assailants reaching their goal, by overwhelming them with a steady, well-directed and constant fire, and to keep sufficient troops in hand to expel them the instant the first survivors of the attack reach it, and before they can be reinforced. The fire of the defence is effective for 2,000 yards; within 1,000 it is very destructive, and within 500 it is deadly. In order to develop this fire to its utmost, half the available troops of the first line ought to furnish the firing line and its supports, and the remainder be kept safe behind convenient natural or artificial cover, near enough to be introduced, well in hand, fresh and vigorously into the *mêlée* which may have to decide the final issue of the struggle. The two things most essential to a trained infantry soldier are—(1st) to be a marksman; (2nd) to be an expert in the use of his spade.

There is no reason why every soldier should not shoot at known and unknown distances as well as the Boers. If in these days of repeating breech-loading rifles, a soldier is not an expert with his weapon, he is worse than useless, for he expends so much more ammunition than formerly, all of which has to be carried for him. In every small army there might be twice the number of marksmen if men were only encouraged more. Extra pay, pension, privileges of every sort and kind, might all be made more dependent on a soldier being a good shot. It is impossible to have experts in any trade or profession without practice, and infantry are not exercised in hastily constructing field-works, and defending them, nearly enough. Twenty cool shots behind a trench are equal to 100, if not 200, excited men, hurriedly stopping to loose off their rifles outside it. To be an all-round steady shot, a man must be sober and temperate in his habits, and the good shots of a company are seldom the worthless characters.

(To be continued.)

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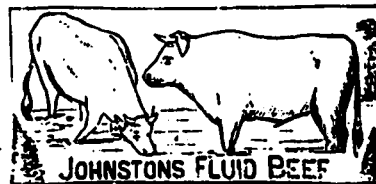


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The highest score at the North London Rifle Club meeting was made with one of these Rifles. The Lancashire County Meeting. These Rifles took the three top prizes. Altogether £140, besides Medals and Challenge Cups, was won at this meeting with these Rifles.

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