

THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE

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NOTE AND COMMENT.

The second session of the seventh parliament of the Dominion of Canada opened last Thursday. There is no reason to suppose that the Government will introduce any measures of momentous interest to the militia force of the Dominion, as the present Minister of Militia has too recently assumed control to be likely to take the responsibility for any new departures without more leisure than he will have during the session to carefully weigh the consequences of them, from a political as well as from a military standpoint.

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This being the case, it is all the more necessary that the military members of the House, irrespective of party, should urge seriously upon the attention of the Government the necessity of adopting such reforms as are admitted on all sides and by all shades of political opinion to be necessary for the well-being of the force.

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And the first and foremost of the absolute necessities is annual drill for the whole force. The need of this is conceded, and the only argument ever used against it is that of expense. The increase in expense might be materially lessened by decreasing the number of corps to assemble in brigade camps, which could be easily accomplished, as many corps hitherto assembled in camp could perform their drills more effectually and satisfactorily at regimental headquarters.

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Another matter which might fairly be urged upon the attention of the House is a more liberal allowance of ammunition for target practice. The militia expenditure for the year ending 30th June 1890 was \$1,287,000. The cost of the ammunition granted to the whole force—permanent as well as volunteer—amounted to the insignificant total of \$9,200. This amount ought to be doubled, and might

be trebled with highly beneficial effects to both the force and the country, if distributed under proper supervision.

* * *

To ensure a proper supervision of the use of the ammunition distributed to the force by the Government, we have already advised that an officer be appointed to act as inspector of musketry, and we now again draw attention to the desirability of making such an appointment, in the interest of the force at large.

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Evidence of the necessity of leaving home to hear news of oneself is afforded by the following from the Volunteer Record:—

“The military funeral of a Captain in the Canadian militia at Montreal last month, was the outcome of a new command being instituted in the field battery tactics, doubtless a necessary one in that part of the empire, but at the same time ludicrous. When the gun detachment were coming home, Sergt.-Major P—, in command, gave the order:—‘Detachment, halt! No. 6, dismount; take a handful of snow and hand it to No. 1, his ears are frozen.’ P— was No. 1, his ears soon got thawed out, and now the boys are having a good laugh over the innovation.”

We hardly thought it would have been possible to freeze any man's ears in Montreal on any day during this very mild winter, and our contemporary has certainly been imposed upon with respect to the fatality alleged to have been the outcome of the official treatment of the frostbite.

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At the annual meeting of the Ontario Artillery Association, held recently in Toronto, the statement was made that canvas tunics had been promised to the artillery officers by the Minister of Militia in 1888, but that as yet they were not forthcoming. We feel sure there must have been some misunderstanding on the part of the artillery officers with regard to

this, as it has always been a maxim with the late Minister of Militia, and a trait of character upon which he greatly prided himself, that a promise once made was never broken or forgotten. Of course, people will occasionally think they have a promise when really none has been made or intended.

* * *

The Army and Navy Gazette has the following:—

“The death of ‘Lieutenant’ Maurice Shea in Canada, at the age of 96, is stated to have removed the last of the Waterloo survivors. Shea may have been present in the battle, but a diligent search through old Army Lists and Gazettes fails to reveal the fact that anyone of that name was subsequently promoted from the ranks to a commission, and we can but state that so far as the British Army is concerned no such officer as Lieutenant Maurice Shea was ever possessed of a commission, but doubts as to the authenticity of this claim to Waterloo honours are also strengthened by the statement that the deceased had served in the Royal Irish during the campaign of 1815. Need we point out that the 4th Royal Irish Dragoon Guards, the 8th Royal Irish Hussars, the Royal Irish Regiment, and the Royal Irish Fusiliers, none of them took part in the Battle of Waterloo?”

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The Lee-Metford magazine rifles now in the possession of the British regular troops are to be exchanged for others of the same pattern, but sighted for use with Cordite ammunition. The issue of the rifles will be made as soon as sufficient numbers are ready.

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Lieut. Col. O'Brien recently lectured before the Canadian Military Institute, Toronto, taking as the subject of his address the “Growth of a military spirit in Canada”; and in the course of his remarks showed that both of the races who compose our Dominion possess a birthright of military spirit derived from

long lines of warlike ancestry. He is credited with the statement that the militia system of Canada is perfectly adapted to the wants and requirements of the country.

* * *

As the commander of a rural battalion, we would like Col. O'Brien to have added his opinion of the ultimate effect upon that system of the restriction to biennial drills to which country battalions are now subjected. The notices of the lecture published in the daily press are too brief to be satisfactory, and we shall endeavour to give our readers the benefit of a more extended report, which we are sure will be interesting, and none the less so by reason of Col. O'Brien's position as an influential and outspoken member of Parliament.

* * *

The Victorian military authorities hope that before long an English team may visit the colony to take part in military tournaments there. Colonel Price, the commandant of the Victorian Mounted Rifles, who competed at the Royal Military Tournament in London last year, says there are many difficulties in the way, as the War Office authorities are afraid that if a military team went to Australia the men would want to stop there. Probably, however, a team of picked men from the Yeomanry will take the trip to Australia.

* * *

Experiments are being carried out in Austria with a jointed cleaning rod, to be used as a support to the rifle when firing from shelter trenches, or when the men are lying down under cover. By jointing the rod in the middle, the upper portion can be made to drop down and rest on the ground, so as to afford considerable assistance to the soldier in taking steady aim.

THE WAR OF 1812-15.

The war of 1812-15 was by a strange coincidence the subject of two lectures last week by men of well known ability in their respective walks of life.

Mr. Benjamin Sulte, chief clerk in the Department of Militia at Ottawa, lectured at a meeting of the Canadian Military Institute, Toronto. After explaining the causes that led to the war, and the doubts and fears that may have arisen as to the issue of a conflict between a nation with 7½ millions of population, and a colony with a population of only half a million;

he proceeded to explain the situation of the province at the time war was declared, the confidence and unanimity that existed between the French and English-Canadians, and the way the former worked under the British officers by whom they were commanded, as well as under French officers trained in the British Army, among whom was the popular and renowned Colonel de Salaberry, the hero of Chateauguay.

Several interesting and some amusing anecdotes were given of Colonel de Salaberry, and an instance showing what a humorist he was.

Patriotic songs were written by French-Canadians, bonfires blazed everywhere, and enthusiasm and patriotism were abundant on all sides. These feelings were fostered and encouraged by a large number of able priests, who driven from France by the Revolution had found refuge in Canada, and incited the people to stand true to the monarchy and oppose the Americans, the allies of the revolutionists who had driven them from their homes.

The lecturer reviewed the different campaigns, and attributed to the action of the State of Massachusetts the continuance of the war, as that state benefited by the sale of stores to the army.

At the conclusion of the lecture, Lt.-Col. G. T. Denison moved and Major Mason seconded a vote of thanks to the lecturer, which was carried unanimously.

Colonel Denison in his remarks said the presence of the lecturer and the story of the loyalty of his countrymen still taught us that should Canada at any time require the services of her sons, the services would be freely given. He reminded those present that in Switzerland where there were several different religions and languages, the people all stood united for their liberties shoulder to shoulder, forgetting their racial and religious differences in the face of a common danger, and he felt sure such would also be true of this country and its people.

The other lecturer who chose for his theme this interesting subject was the veteran banker of the Dominion, Mr. James Stevenson, general manager of the Quebec Bank, who appeared before the members of the Quebec Literary and Historical Society, and spoke about the war of 1812-15 in connection with the Army Bills. He described how the exigencies of the army were provided for,

under circumstances peculiarly trying by the establishment of a temporary "Bank of Issue."

The bank was instituted by an Act styled, "An Act to facilitate the circulation of Army Bills." This act authorized the issue of £250,000 currency in notes of different denominations. All notes of \$25 or £5 and over were made to bear interest at a rate equivalent to 6 per cent. per annum.

These army bills, as they were called, circulated freely among merchants and others, and were redeemed at stated intervals by bills of exchange on London at 30 days' sight.

The present lecture only dealt with the establishment of the bank, and Mr. Stevenson proposes to follow up the subject on some future occasion.

THE NORTH-WEST MOUNTED POLICE.

As the "Herchmer" enquiry proceeds, evidence is daily forthcoming that whether the Commissioner is responsible for all or for much of what has been laid to his charge, he has had a most undesirable counsellor and friend about him in the person of a very ungovernable temper; and whatever may be the issue of the inquiry, it has been made very apparent that an officer of greater tact, suavity of manner and knowledge of "savoir faire" than the present Commissioner would be of decided advantage to the force.

There are men so absorbed in the one idea of maintaining strict discipline that their rule becomes little short of martyrdom for their subordinates, and they exact a strict performance of minutiae without consideration for extraneous circumstances, which may do little good but cause much misery.

There are on the other hand men who while never relaxing such strict rule as is necessary to maintain proper discipline, are possessed of a happy faculty which enables them to administer the most severe punishment with a tact which leaves the offender almost as sad for having caused his judge to worry as for the offence he has committed.

This is evidently the description of man who ought to be Commissioner of the N.W.M.P.—one who, while a soldier, would not be so wedded to one idea as to forget the semi-quasi character of judge which the appointment carries with it, and who would exercise his functions with a judicial frame of mind rather than as a soldier after sacking a town or village.

THE VOLUNTEER OFFICERS.

(St. John, N. B., Gazette.)

An Ottawa paper, which is supposed to represent the interests of the militia of Canada, states broadly the doctrine, that an officer of the Canadian militia ought to be a man of wealth and social position. This idea is one that could hardly be entertained outside of the sacred circle at Ottawa and which if carried out in practice would have the effect of sadly reducing the staff of our militia. By far the greater number of our officers of the militia are not men of wealth and we think that, as a rule, it may be said that their efficiency is in proportion to their lack of fortune. We do not need to go far to find examples to illustrate this great truth.

Our contemporary hardly does us justice in misquoting our remarks thus. What we did say was, that to properly fill the higher commands to which all officers eventually aspire they should have *means*—not wealth, as quoted—and good social position. And in this view we feel sure we will have the hearty approval of the whole force. One of the most frequent sources of difficulty in the militia is occasioned by men who, admitted as subalterns, without much consideration beyond the necessity of the moment, have been rapidly promoted until they reach the rank of field officer. Then it is found that the qualities which made them successes as juniors—energy, activity and bonhomie—are not what are wanted in the senior; and if they are not equipped with means to meet the expenses of their outfit, as well as the constant drain upon their purses for all manner of calls for the encouragement of the different interests of the regiment, it suffers accordingly, the dignity of the service is lowered.

The statement that as a rule the efficiency of the officers of the militia is in proportion to their lack of fortune, can only have been made in a spirit of recklessness utterly regardless of facts. There are very few officers of the militia whom we know of holding high commands, not possessed of either means or social standing, whom it would not be an advantage to the force to be free from.

While these requisites are not as essential in the subalterns as in the seniors, it must always be borne in mind that promotion is rapid in the militia, and a very few years' service frequently advances a second lieutenant to a field officer's rank, and it is then he begins to feel his disadvantages and his corps to suffer from them. It is therefore always to be borne in mind that as the Presidency is open to every citizen of the United States, so is the Colonelcy of his regiment open to every sub—if he lives long enough—and while all that is necessary to make a most valuable sub is zeal, energy and intelligence, more is required from a commanding officer, and the admission of every sub is the appointment of a prospective C. O.

A REMINISCENCE OF ACTIVE SERVICE.

Last September a portion on the militia force of Ottawa was ordered out to assist the civic authorities of Hull in preserving order during the strike of the Chaudiere millmen.

After one day's service in the millyards the men were marched back to Ottawa and dismissed. It was three months or more, however, before they were paid for their day's work in September, and when a couple of members of No. 1 Co., 43rd Battalion received their 50-cent pieces, they felt that such valuable curiosities ought not to be passed off as ordinary half dollars.

So taking them to a well known jeweller's they had the reverse sides smoothed and inscribed:

Presented to
Pte.
as a reward for services
rendered at the Strikers'
Riots in Hull.
15th September, 1891.

A small ring in the top and a good polish on Her Majesty's head completed very pretty little medals which it is their intention to hand down to their descendants to the tenth generation, as evidence of the prowess and martial ability of their forefathers.

Not the least interesting feature of one of these medals is that it had already cost its possessor four or five times its value, owing to the action of the government in docking the pay of the extra clerks who were absent on duty on that occasion.

NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION.

The annual report of the National Rifle Association for its thirty-second year has been issued by the Council. The financial statement says that the diminution in the attendance at the last Bisley meeting considerably affected the revenue of the year. There was a decrease in the receipts from all sources amounting to £2,391, and though this was partly met by a reduction in the charges against revenue account of £875, there is still left on the year's working the large deficit of £1,588. The items to which this falling off is most attributable are entry payment for the competitions and admission of the public, together with loss of the rent of the pavilion, from which the catering contractors were released on account of their considerable losses in the two years the prize meeting has been held at Bisley. During the past twelve months a large amount of work has been done upon the ranges and the Association's Bisley property generally which will be of permanent value. The receipts from all sources during the year were £22,724, and the expenditure £29,448, there being thus an excess of expenditure over receipts of

£6,724, this amount being due to the bankers. The Council state that all possible economy is being exercised, but that the financial success of the prize meeting must depend almost entirely upon the number of competitors; and therefore the friends of the Association are strongly urged to assist in increasing the number of members and of competitors in the many prize series. For the greater convenience of the latter and of visitors it is hoped to further improve the train service.

ONTARIO ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION.

The seventh annual meeting of the Ontario Artillery Association was held in the rooms of the Canadian Military Institute, at 94½ King street west, last week. Major J. H. Mead, of the Toronto Field Battery, occupied the chair in the absence of the president, Major King, of Welland, who was in Ottawa and found it impossible to attend. Among those present were Major Mead, T. F. B.; Lieut.-Col. W. E. O'Brien, M. P.; Major W. Nicol, Guelph; Capt. J. S. Hendrie, Hamilton; H. V. Knight, 22nd Battalion; Mr. R. Myles (treasurer), and L. H. Irving (secretary). The report was adopted as read. In the report was a proposition that the artillery officers be provided with canvas tunics for use in camp, as the wear and tear on their uniforms attendant on their duties while engaged with the artillery carriages was very great and soon destroyed the uniforms. These tunics they said, could be provided for about two dollars and a half per man, and had been promised them by the Minister of Militia in 1888, but as yet no action had been taken. They desired that the new committee would attend to the matter. The committee also thanked the various newspapers in the city for reports of meetings during the past year. The election of officers for 1892 was then proceeded with, and resulted as follows:—President—Major J. H. Mead, Toronto Field Battery. Vice-Presidents—Lt.-Col. F. C. Denison, C. M. G., Toronto; Lt.-Col. A. H. McDonald, Guelph; Major J. D. Stewart, Ottawa; Major F. King, Welland. Executive Committee—Major W. McLean, Port Hope; Major W. Nicol, Guelph; Major J. Davidson, Guelph; Capt. J. S. Hendrie, Hamilton; Capt. McNachtan, Cobourg. Hon. Secretary—Mr. L. H. Irving, Treasurer—Mr. Robert Myles. Auditor—Mr. S. V. Percival. The newly-elected president then in a neat speech presented the Association challenge cup to Major W. Nicol, of Guelph. The cup is awarded to the officer making the highest score in the matches during the year. Major Nicol in replying said what great pleasure it gave him to be the third Guelphite to win the much-coveted cup. Afterwards he filled it with sparkling champagne and all drank success to the victorious winner.

Letters to the Editor.

The 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.]

MORRIS TUBES.

SIR,—I read with much pleasure Capt. Wurtele's letter on the subject of Morris Tube Shooting in your issue of 18th inst., and with considerable surprise that of Lt.-Col. Martin in yours of 25th inst.

I fail to see the point of Col. Martin's criticism of your act in publishing Capt. Wurtele's letter. On the contrary I fancied that nothing could be better for the business interest of your advertiser than Capt. Wurtele's propositions. He may have been a little out as to who first used Morris tubes in Canada, even as to who is using them now, but that is a matter of little moment.

The point is how to increase the use of them, and this, I should fancy, is just what Lt.-Col. Martin ought to want, as he is general agent for them on this continent, and it cannot matter much to him whether he sells direct to the Government or to individual corps. I have seen his ads. for years in your paper, but could see no reason why I should expend money upon the purchase of Morris tubes and ammunition for the men under my command, although I fully recognized their value, and would cheerfully encourage the men to use them if furnished by the Government, and I have no doubt they would be the medium of a great improvement in the shooting strength of my company, as many of my men who cannot find time for regular practice during the day could easily be induced to practice with the Morris tubes in the evening, and thus get accustomed to the pull of their rifle, to holding properly, and other points which add materially to a recruit's shooting on an average fine day.

If, then, the Government would distribute a supply to the force, and furnish a reasonable amount of ammunition for practice, both your advertiser and the Militia would be benefited. What more can any of us want? CAPTAIN.

RE MORRIS TUBES.

DEAR SIR,—Messrs. John Martin & Co's ire seems to have risen most unaccountably, and had they, after reading the letter of the 15th February, taken a good dinner, smoked their pipe and gone to sleep over it, the CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE would very likely have been without their wrathful effusion, making this reply unnecessary.

The writer is an old subscriber and contributor to your valuable paper, and even has a complete bound file in his library; moreover the context will show he is a reader of the whole paper; even to all the advertisements.

The letter was written in the interests of the force, and no portion of your columns was dreamt of being monopolized

to John Martin & Co's imaginary detriment. That paragraph in their letter, "his references to Montreal, which are so absurdly incorrect," is perfectly unintelligible. What do they mean by it? There was nothing inaccurate in the letter of the 15th, nor even derogatory to the Montreal Brigade. On the contrary, it is said to the credit of the Brigade that their Morris tube ranges seem to be the most complete in the country. The Victoria Rifles may have instituted the first Montreal Morris tube range. All honour to them if they did. Nobody said they did not. The letter simply asserted that the tube was first in practical use in Quebec city by the 8th Royal Rifles; and moreover, some eighteen months before an energetic officer of the 6th Fusiliers thought of asking for information about it; and it is presumed if he could have got practical information in Montreal, or have seen a tube there, he would not have written to Quebec asking to borrow that tube for his inspection.

The National Policy was instituted to protect Canadian manufactures, which the Morris tube and its ammunition are not; and as our friends wander into airing their other military outfits, you should charge their letter as the advertisement which it very closely resembles.

The only way in which the Morris tube will come into general use is for the Government to deposit a stock of tubes and ammunition with the storekeeper of every military district; not a very extensive operation, as an average of say half a dozen tubes to each would likely be sufficient to start with, and a ten per cent. advance on cost and charges would surely cover the interest on the outlay, and the money would soon be returned to the Department. Whether this order went through the hands of their Canadian agents or went direct to the Morris Aiming and Sighting Apparatus Co. would not matter, for surely that company is honourable enough to allow their agents their rightful commission on such orders. Then any militia officer in the Dominion could deposit its value at the authorized bank, and, as is the case with all ammunition purchases, Morris tube included, get his tube at once by presenting his receipts to the district storekeeper; and I think the force will agree with that suggestion.

In 1883 the Morris Aiming and Sighting Apparatus Co. had no visible agent in Canada and as ammunition began to run out the question was where to get it. So inquiries were instituted and it was found that Messrs. S. Dowker & Co. of Montreal were agents for Kynock & Co., the Morris Tube Co's Birmingham Agents, who would be pleased to import to order. In 1885 it transpired that Capt. Bosse, 65th Rifles, Montreal, was an agent, who would also import to order. Therefore friends coming from London brought out necessary requirements.

Messrs. John Martin & Co. for the first time notified the force in your issue of 17th October, 1889, that they are the sole agents of this Company, and in that of January 14th, 1892, that they kept these goods in stock, evidently for the first time. Whether keeping a few tubes in the Montreal Customs Warehouse, the duty on which would be 85 cents each, is called keeping in stock for inspection and immediate delivery over the counter, will be left to the Trade to decide.

Showing that no ill will is intended, that old adage "Tis an ill wind that blows nobody good" may here be applicable, for this little breeze will surely ventilate the Morris tube, make the CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE more interesting, and maybe steer a few orders over to Messrs. John Martin & Co., which it is sincerely hoped will occur.

ERNEST F. WURTELE,
Captain R.I.

CANADIAN MUSKETRY PRACTICE.

SIR,—In the February number of Blackwood's Edinburgh Magazine is an article entitled "Memoirs of General Marbot," by Lieut.-General Sir George Chesney, K.C.B. The following paragraph is cited from General Marbot's fascinating description of the Napoleonic wars in his work which has just appeared, "Mémoires du Général Baron de Marbot." In summing up the causes of the French failures in the Peninsular War he says:

"But in my opinion the principal cause of our reverses—although it has never been pointed out by any of the military men who have written upon the wars of Spain and Portugal—was the immense superiority of the shooting of the English infantry—a superiority which is due to constant practice at the target, and in a great degree also to its formation in two ranks. I am aware that a great number of French officers have denied the truth of this last cause." Sir George adds, "This good shooting has been a distinctive quality of British troops from the days of Cressy and Agincourt. We venture to believe it is still in full vigor; and in no respect have the many measures taken by Sir Frederick Roberts—to call him once more by the old familiar name in which his eminent services have earned the recent distinction, as gratifying to his friends as honorable to himself—to improve the efficiency of the British army in India in every direction been more valuable or successful than in the constant attention and the marked impetus given by him to training in musketry."

Who can dispute the judgment of men like Marbot, Sir George Chesney and Sir Frederick Roberts, and who can dispute the fact also that musketry practice is sadly neglected at our camp drills? A good many of our officers can learn a useful lesson from the above.

SERGEANT.

Regimental News.

TORONTO.

A COMPANY ROYAL GRENADIERS.

The members of "A" Company Royal Grenadiers marched to the residence of Capt. J. D. Hay, 43 St. George St., Toronto, last Tuesday evening for the purpose of extending to himself and Mrs. Hay their congratulations on their recent marriage, and presented to Mrs. Hay a handsome silver salver as a token of the esteem in which they are held by Capt. Hay's comrades in the company. Lieut. Irving introduced each member and attaché of the company to Mrs. Hay, and then in a few well chosen words asked her acceptance of the piece of plate. Capt. and Mrs. Hay feelingly thanked the men for their kindness, and he went on to say that as the feeling in "A" Company was so strong, and as every member took such a personal interest in the company, it was intended to start company drill at once, and that the company was never in a more prosperous condition than at the present time, as one and all, from himself and Lieut. Irving down to the latest sworn recruit, worked together to bring the company up to be one of the best in the regiment. Incident to the changes a "company fund" had been formed, and a series of four entertainments a year had been instituted, and this spring they would have the satisfaction of seeing fifty men on every parade. They then sat down to light refreshments, after which an enjoyable programme was gone through. Mrs. Hay gave a reading; Miss Hendrie, Capt. Hay, Staff Serjts. Mitchell and Hutchinson, and Private St. Leger sang; and Corporal Weatherly gave an instrumental solo. Col. Dawson, A.D.C., dropped in on his way to the train *en route* for Ottawa, and addressed some very encouraging and complimentary remarks to the company. Sergt.-Major Cox accompanied the company, and added his congratulations.

QUEBEC.

Quebec, 27th February.—The event of the week was the grand military tournament held in the Drill Hall on the evenings of the 25th, 26th and 27th of February under the distinguished patronage of His Honour the Lieut. Governor of Quebec, Honourable Auguste Rea Angers; Major-General Ivor Herbert, C. B., commanding Canadian Militia, and Lieut.-Col. Duchesnay, D.A.G., 7th Military District.

Too much praise cannot be given to Lieut.-Col. Turnbull, officers and men of the Cavalry School Corps for organizing, and to the officers and men of the "B" Battery and the 8th Royal Rifles for assisting in making the tournament a success, and in giving the citizens of Quebec an exhibition of exercises which it is to be hoped may be repeated in the near future.

The building was beautifully decorated

with flags and banners, and the body of the hall duly prepared for the occasion by having the floor covered with sawdust and the necessary fence put up parallel to the sides of the hall, thus giving ample room for the various exercises in the centre. The grand stand built at one end of the building was so constructed as to give easy communication throughout the lengths of the seats, and the view from which was all that could be desired. Excellent music was furnished by the "B" Battery Band. The following events took place on the first evening:—

1st. Competition between two squads Field Half Battery, dismounting gun and carriage, 9-pr., by "B" Battery R.C.A. This was won by the second squad, the first having accidentally lost several points.

2nd. Physical drill competition by "B" Battery R.C.A. The squads were under the command of Capt. Rutherford, and in the opinion of the judges were so evenly matched that it was decided to divide the prize between the two.

3rd. Vaulting on horse by "B" Battery R.C.A.; This was led by a boy of some twelve years old, and proved very amusing as well as interesting.

4th. Musical ride by "A" Troop C.S.C. This was one of the prettiest sights ever witnessed in this city, and drew forth the applause of the house time and again. The men were well set up and the horses well trained, and the manner in which the various evolutions were performed could not have been surpassed. This lasted about one hour.

5th. Balaclava melee by "A" Troop C.S.C. This proved very amusing, and was won by the reds, although the others were not far behind.

The events of the second evening consisted of:—

1st. Lance and sword exercise (mounted) by "A" Troop C.S.C.

2nd. Sword and bayonet exercise competition by 8th Royal Rifles. This was under the command of Captain and Adjutant Ed. Montizambert, and was executed in a faultless manner.

3rd. Heads and Posts. Open. Prize won by Staff-Sergt. Widgery, of "A" Troop C.S.C.

4th. Tilting at the ring. Open. Prize won by Sergt. Laflamme, of B Battery.

5th. Tent-pegging. Open. The prize was divided.

6th. Jumping and cutting Turk's head. Open. This was one of the best contested events, and the prize was halved between one of the gunners of "B" Battery and a trooper of the Cavalry School Corps.

7th. Musical Ride, by "A" Troop C.S.C.

The third and last evening consisted of the following events:—1st. Platting the May pole, by "A" Troop C.S.C. Eight Troopers took part in this, and presented a very pleasing sight, first on the walk, then on the trot, and finally on the canter.

2nd. Wrestling on horseback, "A" Troop C.S.C. and "B" Battery R.C.A. There were six men a side, and it resulted in a victory for the Cavalry. A couple of the gunners made a very determined fight, and gave the troopers considerable trouble to dismount them.

3rd. Sword against sword (mounted), by "A" Troop C.S.C.

4th. Sword mounted against sword bayonet dismounted, "A" Troop C.S.C. against "B" Battery, R.C.A. This was won by the bayonet in each case, showing the disadvantage of the mounted party, who was in a great measure dependent upon the action of his horse.

5th. Musical ride, "A" Troop C.S.C.

6th. Tug-of-War, "B" Battery R.C.A. vs. 8th Royal Rifles. This was won by the former. The superior weight of the men was at once apparent, and helped in no small measure to their success. The 8th made a stubborn fight in the first pull, and no little excitement was caused at the end of same. The audience being at the end of the line of pullers were unable to tell who had won, and the impression for a few moments was that the riflemen had won, but it proved otherwise. The second and last pull clearly settled the matter, as the Battery had it pretty much their own way. The former were captained by Staff-Sergt. Lyndon, and the latter by Colour-Sergt. Goudie, of "B" Company.

The distribution of prizes brought to a close one of the best exhibitions of exercises witnessed in this city, and the unanimous opinion was that the officers and men are deserving of praise for the trouble they took in getting up and carrying to a successful issue the military tournament.

THE LATE LIEUT. MAILLOUX.

The funeral of the late Lieut. Mailloux, of the Quebec Field Battery, who died in Cannes, France, took place on the 26th inst. The solemn requiem services were held in St. Roch's Church, the interior of which was heavily draped in black cloth. The coffin was covered with the Union Jack, and on it were placed the hat and sword of deceased, together with the floral offerings. The pall-bearers were Lieuts. L. Hudon, of the Quebec Garrison Artillery, C. J. Dunn, of the 8th Royal Rifles, W. A. C. Baldwin, of the Queen's Own Canadian Hussars, O. C. Pelletier, of "B" Battery, R.C.A., W. Forester, of the Cavalry School Corps, and L. Stein, of the 9th Battalion. The band and firing party was furnished by "B" Battery, R.C.A. R. M. C. No. 47.

A FREE TRANSLATION.—The Sergeant: "Jack, what does *fin de siècle*, that the papers are always mentioning, mean?" Up-to-date Private: "Guard, turn out." The Sergeant: "That's curious, now. How did you make it out?" Up-to-date Private: "My girl knows French, and she told me it was 'End of the Sentry.'"

ATHLETIC

Sports and Pastimes

Athletic clubs in Canada receive as a rule very little support or encouragement from the wealthy men of the community. These men have in a majority of cases made their money by hard work and close application for years to business, and although not mean, have become so accustomed to saving that it is almost a second nature to them.

Moreover, years of neglect have dimmed any remembrance of the pleasure and profit they derived from athletic sports, if they ever took part or interest in them, and if they do feel inclined to spend their money it goes to encourage some object which has interested them in late years.

It is a great pleasure, then, to find one of our foremost citizens setting an example to the community in the matter of encouraging sport which we trust will be taken up and followed by many throughout the Dominion.

The gift of Sir Donald Smith of \$1000 in cash to the Shamrock Lacrosse Club of Montreal to aid them in liquidating the debt upon their grounds is an act of generosity which is worthy of record, and an example which might be followed by many with great advantage to themselves and the community at large.

There is no better school to be found on the face of the earth than the play ground, and the man who keeps himself in trim for athletic struggles of any kind is pretty certain to keep himself free from the greatest vice of the age, and will never be found muddling over his duties in a half imbecile manner.

The generous gift of Sir Donald to the Shamrocks was amply supplemented by a large number of the Citizens of Montreal, who gave generously according to their means. The contributions, however, were principally from men who have yet their fortunes to make, as is too often the case in these matters, and Sir Donald Smith stands almost alone among the rich men in his noble gift to encourage a very worthy object.

HOCKEY.

The development of hockey has been so marvellously rapid, and its elevation from the position of an amusement for boys into a game of skill and science for able-bodied men may serve as reasonable excuse for any little incompleteness in the rules as at present framed for the government of matches.

The rules of the game itself are quite well enough understood in the home of hockey, Montreal, Ottawa and Quebec,

although in the west it is still played more as a game for butchers than anything else, and the majority of players seem to have no idea of the meaning of offside, or evince a determined obstinacy to ignore the meaning of it.

There is one item, however, not yet laid down in the rules, which, as the game progresses, becomes a matter of paramount importance, and will have to be considered as such sooner or later, and that is as to the dimensions of rinks upon which championship matches may be played.

It is manifestly unfair to expect a team accustomed to play on a rink, say 200 ft. by 80, to meet a team on a rink 150 ft. by 60, and not find themselves at very considerable disadvantage owing to the cramped space into which they are huddled. Again, it is equally difficult for the club that has practiced on the small rink to put up a good game when they meet in the larger rink opponents accustomed to play on the big sheet of ice.

Sooner or later a standard will have to be adopted for rinks in which championship matches may be played, and the sooner this standard is settled the better, in order that the promoters of new rinks may guide themselves by the decision arrived at. The game is attaining a sufficient degree of popularity to make it desirable for proprietors to consider the requirements of it when building, and they doubtless would do so if warned beforehand.

It may be said that the adoption of such a rule would be a hardship upon the proprietors of rinks already in existence, but we fail to see that this would be sufficient cause for delaying action in a matter which will increase in difficulty every season it is left unsettled.

Moreover it is not necessary to at once lay down a hard and fast rule as to dimensions, and not allow any latitude from it.

It might be provided that there be a minimum in the size of rinks on which championship games may be played; also a maximum which shall not be exceeded. This rule to apply to all rinks in existence at the date of its adoption, and that all rinks erected subsequent to the adoption of the by-law shall be of certain dimensions, say 200 ft. by 80 ft.

The sooner this law or some such rule is adopted the better it will be for all concerned. A Dominion Hockey Association is mooted, and if formed this difficulty would at once become a prominent feature in the horizon, particularly if a system of ties was adopted.

Hitherto championship games have

been by challenge, and as the Montreal A. A. held the championship all games had to be played on their rink, the largest in Montreal.

This year the games have been in the Rideau Rink, Ottawa, since the O. A. A. C. secured the coveted trophy, and although the building is not as long as the Montreal ice, it is yet a respectable size. The Toronto rinks and others in the west are so short—not over 150 feet in length—that it is out of the question to play a pretty game on them, and brilliant runs or dashing play is out of the question.

The championship of Canada is again to be fought for, the M.A.A.A. having challenged the champions, and the game will be played on Monday night next in the Rideau Rink as usual.

SKATING.

The result of the champion figure skating contest of the Canadian Amateur Skating Association can scarcely have given satisfaction to Bacon, who had just recently been awarded a victory over Rubenstein. Each man appears to have found favor in the eyes of the judges of his own country, not that I would for an instant suppose that there would be any favoritism shown in the decisions at either competition.

But probably a style of skating which in Canada meets with approval is in the United States regarded with disfavor, and vice versa; and as each man skates according to what he thinks will meet with most favor from the judges he is accustomed to skate before, he naturally pleases pleases them more than a stranger.

CURLING.

In Toronto the finals for the Ontario Branch Tankard resulted in a win for the Toronto Granites after a close and hard struggle, the last club in being their old-time competitors, the Peterboro club.

The Toronto Granites by this win, gain the right to represent Ontario in the granite competition for the Governor-General's cup, a right which was won by Virden for Manitoba at the Winnipeg bonspiel. We have not learned yet what club is in to represent New Brunswick or Nova Scotia.

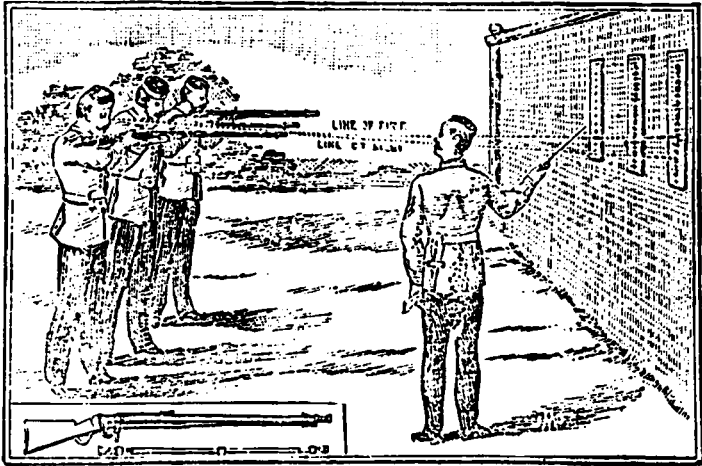
A curling match between rinks of the Victoria Rifles and Royal Scots regiments was played on the Montreal ice last week resulting in a victory for the Vics by a majority of two points. The scores and names were as follows:

<i>Victoria Rifles,</i>	<i>Royal Scots.</i>
Lt. E. H. Browne,	Capt. W. Foulis,
Lt. E. W. Wilson,	Lt. H. Sims,
Maj. G. R. Starke,	Maj. E. B. Ibbottson,
Col. E. A. Whitehead	Capt. G. W. Cameron,
	--Skip, 13
	--Skip, 11

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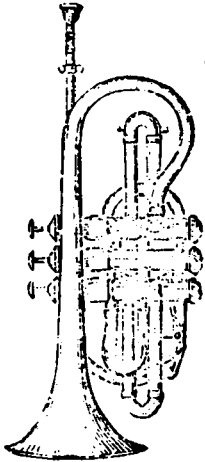
The following score was made by Staff-Sergeant John Ogg in a match at Guelph on the 13th June, with one of my Special Webley Martini Henry Rifles at Queen's Ranges and position:

200 yards.....	5 5 5 5 4 5-34	} 103
500 yards.....	5 5 5 5 5 4-34	
600 yards.....	5 5 5 5 5 5-35	

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R. McVITIE, 66 Harbord St. Toronto, Ont.

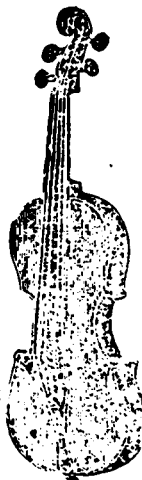
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999 " " 5.....	4,995
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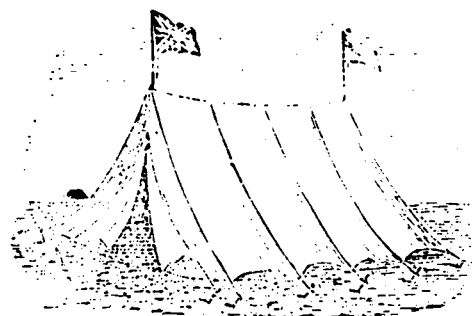
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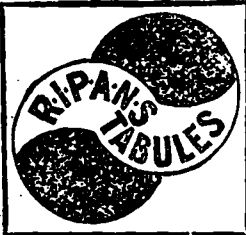
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