

THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE

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Comment and Criticism.

THE description of the first field firing practice of our Winnipeg School of Mounted Infantry in another column is particularly important, not only because it is, we believe, the first attempt at this style of firing in this country, but because it is in itself an interesting practice, combining skill in marksmanship and equitation with quickness of movement. For a first attempt, too, the scores made were excellent, especially in view of the rather long ranges. We are decidedly of opinion that a change should be made in this part of the regulations, for with short Sniders 500 yards is the greatest distance at which effective work can be depended on, as well as being in all probability the longest at which mounted infantry in this broken country would ever be called upon to go into action.

A LETTER from Colonel Ray, the commandant of the English volunteer artillery team that visited Canada two years ago, and a prominent member of the Council of the English National artillery association, to the President of the Dominion artillery association, will be read with interest; and pretty well disposes of the charge that there was any idea of taking an unfair advantage of the home volunteers by having permanent corps men on our teams, or that the English association did not understand the nature of our teams. The Dominion association deserves well of the country for having brought our artillerymen so prominently and favorably into notice, and we have never had the slightest doubt that its officials always acted in a straightforward way,

becoming to officers and British subjects, in their management of the association. Here is the letter to speak for itself:—

GROVE HOUSE, 19 Grove End Row, N.W., 29th Sept., 1886.

Dear Colonel Oswald—The observation attributed to me in the Canadian Militia Gazette of the 9th September by "Six by Nine" is substantially correct. But the feeling which prompted the remark he has entirely mistaken. It was really a feeling of regret (the only approach to regret that I felt the whole time I was in Canada) that my team were not to have a friendly contest with our old friends of A and B batteries as well as the other excellent detachments which confronted us. And I may add that it would cause profound regret at Shoeburyness amongst regulars and volunteers alike, if representatives of A and B batteries were not found amongst the Canadian team that visits England.

Yours very sincerely,

A. RAY,
Colonel English Volunteer Art.

CROWFOOT, Three Bulls, and some lesser luminaries from the North-west are now amongst us, having been brought down from their prairie homes that they might form a better idea of our civilization. That this object has been accomplished there is little doubt, but that their keener appreciation of our capabilities would have the effect of preventing rebellion in future we somewhat doubt. Such has not been the experience of the United States, for when excitement comes the young bucks are not controlled even though the old chiefs tell them they are kicking against the pricks. However, no harm can, and a measurable amount of good should, result from their visit, and everyone seems glad to have seen them.

THE *L'Original Advertiser* has been harping pretty persistently for some time past on the one string of the disorganization of the 18th battalion, and we only hope it has been harping loud enough to be heard to some purpose. We would welcome a good battalion in the County of Prescott, but the sooner every disorganized battalion in the country is exposed and struck off the list the sooner our Canadian militia will become thoroughly effective and properly respected.

THE *Broad Arrow* of the 25th September contains a very good editorial epitome of the Department of Militia's report on the operations undertaken in the far West for the suppression of Riel's rebellion. It includes a carefully correct account of all the operations, accompanied by pertinent running comments, and bestows a fair meed of praise on all concerned. The summary concludes with the remark that "the report gives a very complete account of the operations of each column, and is very clearly illustrated by sketches and plans. If one is inclined sometimes to smile at the precision of the plans when a certain mark is accompanied by a marginal note that 'A fell here,' 'B fell here,' allowance must be made for the pardonable vanity of a young nation having just successfully made its first campaign. The moral, to us who read the report in lesser Britain, is that the same spirit and same qualities animate all the races of greater Britain, and that if the forces of the whole empire could be united on a common system in a league of defence, not of defiance, the empire might face the remainder of the world in arms."

FROM all this the *Broad Arrow* is led on to reflect on the effect of the Canadian Pacific railway from an Imperial standpoint. Starting with the fact that it is only 2,895 miles from Montreal to Port Moody, it says that "from a military point of view the importance of this line cannot be over-estimated, and the erection of Esquimalt into a *place d'armes* at the joint expense of the Imperial and Colonial parliaments has brought its value prominently to notice. We have already seen its value in case of disturbances in the far West. To reach the Pacific our men-of-war have to go round the Horn, and if fresh crews have to be sent out to the ships on the station, or if the crews have to be reinforced, the reinforcements have to be sent via Panama. In case of war this route would be closed. The Suez canal might be closed to us or blocked. There would only remain for us the Cape route, or the route via the Horn, with its enormous distances. By means of the Canadian Pacific railway fresh crews can be sent to Esquimalt in less than three weeks, and we have a valuable alternative route to the far East. The position of Russia at Vladivostock, on the Amoor, has always been a menace to our power and trade in the Pacific. The menace is now destroyed, and it is Russia herself who is threatened. From England to Hong Kong, via the Canadian Pacific railway, is 8,738 miles, or twenty-eight days' sea and rail; via the Suez Canal, 10,162 miles, or thirty days. To the Amoor, via Canadian Pacific, is 8,238 miles, or twenty-nine days; via Suez canal, 13,900 miles, or thirty-five days. Whilst the distance to Hong Kong, via the Cape, is 12,300 miles, or forty days, and seven days on to the Amoor. And with regard to the Horn, the distance would be over 20,000 miles. Again, with regard to Calcutta, the distances are:—via Suez, 8,083 miles, twenty-four days; via Cape of Good Hope, 11,780 miles, or thirty-five days; via Canada Pacific railway, 14,689 miles, or thirty-seven days. Thus it will be seen that the Canadian Pacific railway offers a very good alternative route even to India, but it is especially valuable with regard to the Pacific trade, and the ports in the far East. A glance at the map will show its mercantile value. It opens up vast tracts of land in the far West well adapted for colonisation. Vast resources of land remain in the hands of the railway, which are offered to emigrants on easy terms. A visit to the Colonial Exhibition will show that the region of the far West is no longer a wilderness of forest and lake, inhabited only by such half-breeds and Indians as fought at Batoche. Where the railway whistle is heard, population springs up almost in the same magic way as the heather became thick with men at the whistle of Roderick Dhu. What a pity it is that government cannot see its way to transferring large numbers of our crowded population to the prairies of the West. There are the millions of acres, here are the millions of men—are they not made for one another, just as the claimant said, 'Men without brains were made for the use of those with brains'? It would surely be an economy to the state to give an able-bodied man and his family a free passage to Manitoba or Winnipeg, and start him afresh with £100 in his pocket, instead of having to support him and his family, and families of descendants, in prisons and workhouses, for the term of their natural lives."

New Publications.

WE have seldom taken more pleasure out of the perusal of a chapter on shooting than we have recently from reading Mr. H. C. Bliss' chat on wing and glass ball shooting with a small calibre rifle,* and principally because the author is an enthusiast, who writes about what he loves as a sport, and confines himself to what he knows. We have no doubt that many of his propositions will be disputed and his conclusions denied, but anyone who reads the book will learn something from it, and will lay it down with a wish to practise wing shooting with a rifle.

* Wing and glass ball shooting with a rifle, containing instructions for beginners in snap shooting, and an exposure of some of the popular fallacies in regard to it, by H. C. Bliss, Des Moines, Iowa. Franklin News Co., Philadelphia, 40 pp. oct., paper 50c.

He prefaces his work by saying that the few professionals who have practised this style of shooting have thrown such an amount of mystery around it that amateurs have thought the art entirely beyond them, and he proceeds to dispel that illusion, first by assuring us that anyone, no matter what his temperament, may become a good shot by practice, and then by pointing out the best way to practise. He lays great stress on the necessity to start aright:

"Your first lessons in snap shooting should be such that you will feel encouraged at the result and not get disheartened, as you are liable to do if you attempt difficult feats.

I think that this is one of the things that has spoiled many a naturally good shot. He would attempt some of the feats of professionals, and, of course, fail, and then give the whole thing up in disgust.

If you have patience to do it, you can take your first lessons in your room, without firing a shot, to very good advantage.

See first, of course, that your gun is not loaded, hold it in the position of 'ready' but do not raise the hammer, unless it interferes with your sights, fix your eye on some small object, either in the room or at something out of the window, and bring your gun quickly and firmly to your shoulder, trying meanwhile to have the sights aligned with the object you are looking at. Take it down, and try the same thing over and over again. At first, of course, the gun will not come where you want it to, but you will find that a half hour's practice a day (more if you can spare the time) for a week will do wonders for you, and that the gun will be almost where you want it the instant it strikes your shoulder.

The first target that I would recommend to the beginner is by all means one that swings, and is large enough and the range short enough so that you can see every time what you have done. A 12-inch target, and a 30-foot range are about right to begin on.

Then, when you begin to practise, do not hold your gun on your shoulder, aiming at one end of the space where the target swings and wait till it has come back to that point two or three times before you shoot. This is one of the most common errors that beginners are apt to fall into, and nothing could hurt you more.

Bring the gun to your shoulder and *try* to have the sights come to the right place, as I have said before, when it strikes the shoulder; but when it *does* strike the shoulder, don't fail to pull the trigger. If you fail to hit the target the first few shots, never mind, but go ahead. Get into the habit of firing when you ought to fire and this very thing will nerve you up to your work.

A great many will tell you that a good shot never sees the sights on his gun, but shoots by instinct. The instinct that all good shots have is the instinct of bringing their gun to the proper place when they try, and right there the 'instinct' part of the business ceases, and in one-quarter of a second they have time to adjust the sights and then pull the trigger. That is another thing that is done by instinct—pulling the trigger. You will find that after some practice you will pull the trigger without knowing it, and without any apparent effort, just as you would move your hand to catch a ball that was thrown to you.

A few hours' practice at a swinging target will show you that you can get nearer the 'bull's eye' each 100 shots that you fire, and you will soon want to try your hand at something else. Before leaving the swinging target, extend the range, if possible, to 75 feet, by degrees, say 10 feet at a time. Try hitting it at different points in its flight; I mean, say put in 10 consecutive shots just as it passes the center, and then try to hit it just as it is half way between the center and the end. This will show you whether you are falling into the habit of shooting at it at one particular point or not, and help to break you of that habit."

He next describes a simple target for a beginner, and a cheap trap for throwing balls, though he considers a companion's hand far preferable to a trap for this purpose, and advises the best means of practice at balls. Then going on to speak of wing shooting, he points out the difficulties in calculating for the motion of the bird and gives further hints:

"If you are near the water where birds are flying, one of the best ways in the world to post yourself is to shoot at them as they skim along the surface. Take swallows, for instance. They fly quite rapidly. Carry your gun along with them and fire point blank at them. As the ball strikes the water you will be astonished to see how far ahead of the splash the bird is.

Now, by successful wing shooting with a rifle I do not mean that you can go out and bag as many birds with it as you could with a shot-gun. This is out of the question. But it is more genuine sport for me to go out and get a brace of birds, killed with my rifle on the wing, than it would be to shoot a dozen with a shot-gun. Neither do I think you will be able to shoot many quail or ducks on the wing, although Miss Lilian Smith, of California, has made a big bag of ducks in a day, shooting many of them on the wing, with a little 22-calibre rifle; but she is probably the best shot with a 22-calibre gun living. There is no reason, however, why you cannot get so that you can shoot birds that fly more

slowly and are steady in their flight, such as prairie chickens, geese, brant, pigeons when sailing, crows and hawks, and very likely you can get such ducks as mallards, which fly slowly and steadily."

After giving a passing glance at the didn't-know-it-was-loaded idiot, Mr. Bliss devotes a little space to the care of a rifle, but though the space occupied is not great, it is used to the best advantage. He says:

"In taking care of a gun you can't keep it too clean. If it once gets spotted inside it will be likely to remain so. In shooting a 22-calibre rifle I use a magazine gun—I clean it out after emptying every magazine, if I am shooting right along. If I am going to lay the gun aside for a few hours, I clean it even if I have only fired it once. A good many will tell you that powder is a good thing to leave in a gun. If you fall into that habit you will find it the best excuse in the world for not cleaning your gun sometime when you are too lazy to do it, and the gun will stay with powder in it for a month.

If you want a gun to hang up in your room on a pair of antlers for an ornament, get some old Queen Anne arm that was used in the revolution. It will answer every purpose, and be a great deal better than ruining a fine gun."

Mr. Bliss discusses several makes of rifles, all, of course, of small calibre, but does not commit himself to recommend any particular make, in fact he acknowledges that any gun by a good maker will do good work, but he thinks the sights usually adopted could be improved on:

"I think that there is nothing worse in the line of rifle sights than a combination of a glittering sight in front that comes up to a knife edge at the top and the old-fashioned buckhorn sight for the back sight. Take such a set of sights as this and shoot five shots towards the sun, and as many at each of the other points of the compass on a bright day, and compare the targets and note the result. One way you will shoot over, another under, another to one side, and so on, all owing to the reflection of light from your sights. When a boy I used such a set, and I could 'bead' as fine as the point of a cambric needle with them. At least it would appear so, but I always had to make so much allowance for which side the light struck that my shooting was very uncertain.

You will probably get used to some set of sights and do good work with them, but keep your eyes open and be ready to adopt what is clearly proved to be in advance of what you have. A front sight should be broad, and especially in all quick shooting should you accustom yourself to a broad, large front sight. You can do just as fine shooting, and in quick shooting you can catch it much quicker. A good front sight is made from a piece from a silver quarter or half dollar filed down smooth on the sides and edges. The height will have to be determined entirely with regard to the shooting of your gun. Try the sights that come with the gun, and make your sights either the same height as these or higher or lower as may be necessary. The sides of this sight want to be perfectly black, so that the light will not reflect from them. This you can probably get a jeweller to do for you cheaper and better than you can do it yourself. Then the top wants to be bright. Do not burnish it, but have it white, I mean. If you were going to shoot on the snow all the time, a sight of the same shape made of pure copper would be much better.

For your back sight put on in place of the 'crotch' or 'buckhorn' sight a plain oblong bar of dead black iron, nearly as long as your gun barrel is wide, and about three-sixteenths or an inch deep and wide. Into the back side of this should be set a piece of platinum wire. It can be dovetailed in and flattened, coming to within a thirty-second part of an inch of the top, and running down to the bottom of the sight. The width of this sight will have to be governed entirely by the width of your front sight and the length of your gun barrel. It must, of course, be narrower than the front sight, as the intention is to have them *appear* just the same width when you look over the barrel of the gun at them. The line of dead iron at the top of the bar will always enable you to keep the two sights distinct, and they will never appear to be one and the same piece. The advantages of having a rear sight that is flat on top are manifold. One of the most important things in shooting at any distance is to have your gun level and with a flat sight to look over; it is much easier to accomplish this than with a sight that is notched. It is also much easier to tell just how much front sight you are using than with the old 'buckhorn.'"

After a good long, practical talk about sights and aiming, Mr. Bliss concludes his little brochure with an exposee of some of the humbugs practised by professional rifle wing shots, and an account of some fancy shooting done at moving targets, neither of which subjects is of as general interest as the body of the book. There is no doubt that the book will be a great aid to anyone having to use a sporting rifle, while to the long range, big caliber rifleman it is full of food for reflection, and well worthy of perusal. Its only fault is, it is too short, and we hope that in a future edition the directions to beginners will be amplified.

British Officers and their Weapons.

SPEAKING of the guerilla warfare now going on in Burmah, *The Times of India* says that proficiency in the use of the revolver has saved many an officer's life during the past few months. An officer who finds that a Dacoit is covering him with his musket, has only a second or two to decide whether he will shoot or be shot. When a stockade is taken at the point of the bayonet, there is very frequently a sharp set-to for three or four minutes, during which swords, bayonets and the butt ends of rifles all come into vigorous play. Under these circumstances it is interesting to inquire whether our officers receive that thorough training in the use of their weapons which alone would stand them in good stead at a pinch. And in dealing with this subject, we cannot do better than once again quote the opinion of Major King-Harman, of the Bengal Staff Corps, in his lecture on *British Officers and their Weapons*. The Major does not take a sanguine view of the advantages to be derived from the present system of teaching officers to fence. "We all know," he says, "that fencing is simply the art of using the small sword or rapier, which are weapons that can be used for thrusting only, but as none of our officers are armed with such weapons, unless, perhaps, a few have retained the small-swords of their fathers, of what use to them is fencing as now taught? Therefore, I would recommend, with due deference, that either the system and weapon of instruction should be completely changed, or else that the regulation sword for all officers and for cavalry soldiers should be altered so as to make it a thrusting weapon only. I should infinitely prefer the latter, for the simple reason that the point is so far more deadly than the edge." This view of Major King-Harman is curiously and very practically confirmed by the following personal experience of an officer whose fame and memory are dear to all Englishmen. It is Sir John Moor, who was the actor, and it is General Sir George Napier who tells the story. "Upon our arrival at Lisbon," says Napier, "I joined Sir John Moore, and commenced my duty as aide-de-camp. One day I was going to purchase a sabre, when Sir John Moore told me not to do so, but to buy a straight sword, sharp on both edges. The reason he gave was this. When a colonel he commanded a storming party at the Fort of Calvi, in Corsica, and just as he mounted the top of the breach, and was forcing his way in, a French grenadier, one of those defending the entrance, was on the point of plunging his bayonet in him, when Moore, seeing his only chance of life was to run his sword through the man, did so, and killed him on the spot. Now, if he had not had a straight sword, but a sabre, he would not have been able to run the grenadier through the body, but would have been killed himself. So I did as he desired me, and purchased a straight one;" but, continues General Napier, who was as modest as he was brave, "thank God I was lucky enough never to use my sword in the same way as Sir John Moore was forced to use his, for he told me he never should forget the horrid sensation it gave him when drawing his sword out of the man's body, and that it was always a painful recollection to him." This little story, so simply told, and bringing into such strong relief the brave and kindly character, both of him who was the chief actor in it, and of him who tells it, fully bears out Major King-Harman's opinion. He continues—"I think and hope that if he was armed with a really good reliable weapon and was well skilled in its use, he would wear it oftener and with greater pride and pleasure than he does now, and would pay more attention to the condition of the blade than he does now to the polish of the scabbard. Others may say, but what about the sword exercise which we are all constantly practised in? Well, all I can say about it is that the mounted exercises, especially the pursuing practice, are extremely pretty to look at and perfectly useless as a means of instruction in the real use of the sword; and as regards the dismounted practice, known as the infantry sword exercise, I do not think I know of a more affecting sight than a body of English officers going through that performance before the reviewing general at his annual inspection." Major King-Harman has decidedly hit upon a blot when he censures the custom of officers handing over their swords to their syces to carry. It is a curious and not very edifying sight to see an officer, sometimes a subaltern, sometimes a field officer, the moment parade is over, take off his sword and hand it to his syce, while he canters home. The syce, already encumbered with the horse's *jhol*, is puzzled to know what to do with the sword. However, he contrives to hang it round his neck, or to sling it over his shoulder, and then he trots patiently after his master, his unaccustomed sword jumping and jangling as he goes. It is not a very dignified or martial spectacle. And anybody who has seen a body of British officers drawn up in line to go through the infantry sword exercise before a reviewing general will quite agree that it is truly "an affecting sight." In a native regiment all the mounted officers do the infantry sword exercise, being dismounted for the purpose, so that it becomes absolutely pathetic to see a stout field officer get off his horse and put himself as gracefully as possible into the attitude of "guard," while the general and his staff look on without betraying any outward

emotion. We will conclude in his own words, which unite sound common sense with a little playful satire, all the more effective because it is without bitterness:—"We, officers of the army, are taken the greatest care of in some respects; our theoretical education appears to increase every year; we are dressed up in khakee so as to prevent the possibility of an enemy seeing us a mile or two off, and of our own men recognising us when close at hand, but up to the present time we are not provided with good weapons or taught the use of them."—*Broad Arrow*.

Common Sense on Parade, or Drill without Stays.

BY LIEUT.-COLONEL THE RIGHT HON. J. H. A. MACDONALD, M.P.

(*Commandant the Queen's Edinburgh R. V. Brigade.*)

(*Continued from page 509.*)

THE next thing necessary is that the character of drill shall be changed. Bodies of troops must be formed up at all times so as to be consistent in their formations with the conditions of modern warfare, and that the general character of the detail shall be suitable to these conditions. Movements must be minimised and simplified, everything being rejected that would be out of place in the field. This has for many years been urged, and for many years those who urged it were sneered at. When, exactly twenty years ago, in pleading for a step in this direction, the writer quoted from General Bell's "Rough Notes by an Old Soldier":—"Limit the manœuvres to five or six, and make it less complicated, and so distinct that every sub. may be able to handle a regiment after one year's service. If you attempted one-half of the present manœuvres in the battle-field . . . you would lose your men and your reputation as soldiers" (*General Bell*), a leading military critic in the press held Sir George Bell's views up to the contempt of his readers. Yet the main part of what was then proposed is now embodied in the field exercise; but unfortunately in several instances instead of the simple being substituted for the difficult, it was only inserted permissively, thus adding more manœuvres instead of substituting the convenient for the complicated. For example, "forming" is allowed instead of wheeling, but "wheeling" is retained and may be demanded at inspection, and therefore the simple and sensible substitute is almost never used. Improvements were also done by halves. Thus "front" was abolished as regards unchangeable order of companies but retained as regards the internal order of the company itself. No doubt "change ranks" is allowed and even enjoined, but is practically never practised, so that the arbitrary and artificial front still holds its own, hampering and complicating the exercises. But what a change has come over the views of military men. The deeply engrained view that a number of intricate, though unpractical exercises are essential for the training of troops, and against which far-seeing men long ago protested in such strong terms as these—"Why should troops be practised in what will never be called for" (*Captain Suasso, 1816*)? "Il y a des tacticiens que la pratique n'a point éclairés, qui veulent multiplier les évolutions à l'infini, qui en fatiguent continuellement les troupes, soutenant que toutes les évolutions sont bonnes" (*Guibert*). This absurdity is now dying out. The mode in which our drill system has been elaborated in the past is ridiculed by the adjutant-general himself. On all hands the cry rises up against the unpractical complications of the "Red Book." Who cannot picture to himself what denunciations would have met such declarations as the following if they had been uttered forty years ago? "Our drill should be made as simple as it is possible to make it. There should be only one way of doing each thing, and that should be the shortest and quickest" (*General Sir Daniel Lysons*). "We should simplify the drill book and go the opposite way to work to what we are doing now. . . . Let us decide what form of attack we want, and then simplify the drill as much as possible" (*Major-General the Hon. W. H. A. Fielding*). "There is no doubt that our drill book needs revising, and that it contains a good deal which is of little advantage in the training of our soldiers for active service" (*Lieut.-General Lord Chelmsford*). "With regard to simplification of drill, most people admit that it is advisable" (*Colonel Sir Lumley Graham*). "The easier you can make the drill, unquestionably the better it will be" (*Major-General Bray*). "The two principal books published by authority for infantry contain a good deal which is of no practical use in time of war" (*Major Baker*). "The drill book contains, to my thinking, much useless lumber" (*General Sir Donald Stewart*).

Lastly, the following occurs in the *Journal* of one who was a practical soldier to the backbone, writing of a force he proposed to organise: "All rubbish of goose-step, right face, left face, &c., in which our army drills delight, should be left out" (*The late Maj.-Gen. Gordon*).

Who can doubt that instead of such words being listened to with complacency in the theatre of the united service institution, the general opinion would have been that the very suggestions showed that the service was going to a certain gentleman who shall be nameless?

All this creates hope that the present system must soon be revised

with a bold and firm hand, particularly as the same views are expressed all over the world. "It is not necessary to practise numerous and complicated formations as valuable manœuvres" (*Prussian Drill Book*). "A few simple forms suffice for all purposes" (*Ibid*). The complicated formations "have outlived themselves as fighting formations, and are impossible of application" (*Timely Changes in the Exercise Regulations of the Prussian Infantry*). "Simplicity is more than ever desirable in our formations" (*Von Scherf*). "It is much better to have a few simple, easy forms, useful and applicable at all times and places, than a variety of complicated ones" (*Field-Marshal the Archduke John of Austria*). "Is it not plain that simplicity and clearness in theory, facility and rapidity in execution, are the absolute law of modern manœuvres and tactics" (*General Trochu*) "Simplicity, celerity and the least fatigue to the men are the grand elements of efficiency and success" (*Gen. Morris, U.S.A.*)

And these latter views of our neighbors bring out how damaging our system is, for they point to the necessity of a much greater speed than was formerly necessary in the execution, being in this in accord with the best authorities. "Movements on the field ought now to be executed more quickly by infantry than formerly" (*Colonel C. B. Brackenbury*). "Success of infantry depends on speed of marches, celerity of movements when going into battle, and physical endurance of the men" (*General Morris, U.S.A.*) "The second object that drill aims at is . . . to get at the enemy with as little loss as possible, and as quickly as it is possible to do so" (*Viscount Wolseley*).

Now nothing is more certain than this, that our mode of manœuvring men, as laid down in our text-books, is not suited for rapid movement. The speed has to be limited by the character of the detail, and needlessly so. The transition from the normal formation to a real fighting formation suitable to the time, is in itself a manœuvre, an abandonment of one principle of form to take up another. This should not be so.

But further, these same authorities press the necessity of greater saving of the soldiers' strength, looking to the strain of the actual fight as compared with former days. "All useless fatigue must be spared to soldiers" (*General Sir Patrick Macdougall*), it being a great object "to get over the ground with the greatest possible saving of the soldier's strength" (*Prussian Drill Book*).

This calls both for freedom from bodily harassment in the formation, and simplicity and directness of manœuvre—for the former an open formation, for the latter an abolition of all unnecessarily complicated and round-about modes, and of artificial fronts attached to mere units of a force as distinguished from the real "action front" of the whole force. "One cannot insist too much on marching easy" (*Kappel*). The demand must be for "total absence of constraint in the position of the soldier, both when halted and on the march, so that he may be able to use his arms and legs to the greatest advantage" (*Colonel Sir Lumley Graham*). And that there may be no harassment there must be no touch; and as no touch is possible in the advance to attack, so there must be no touch in drill, because a man who is always accustomed to touch "is apt to lose confidence in himself" when placed without touch, and "only constant practice in extended (or rather interval) order will ever make him self-reliant" (*Major Barker*).

Last, but by no means least, comes the question how the system of training is to be adapted to modern requirements, in regard to the use of breechloading long-range rifle fire.

Fire-discipline is the most important problem in modern infantry training. Just as in former days the restraint and wall-like immovability of highly trained troops gave them the power to overcome enemies who relied on excitement and *elan* rather than on drill, so now an infantry that is superior to its opponent in fire-discipline will have an enormous advantage. The testimony of a brave enemy shows how useless the noise of shouts was to shake the British line. "The English remained quite silent, with ordered arms, and from their steadiness appeared to be a long red wall. This steadiness invariably produced an effect on the young French soldiers. Very soon we got nearer, shouting 'Vive l'Empereur! En avant! à la baionette!' . . . shots were fired as we advanced. The English line remained still, silent and immovable, with ordered arms, even when we were only 300 paces distant, and it appeared to ignore the storm about to break. The contrast was striking; in our inmost thoughts each felt that the enemy was a long time firing, and that this fire reserved for so long would be very unpleasant when it did come. Our ardour cooled. The moral power of steadiness which nothing shakes (even if it be only in appearance) over disorder which stupefies itself with noise, overcame our minds. At this moment of intense excitement the English wall shouldered arms; an indescribable feeling rooted many of our men to the spot; they began to fire; the enemy's steady volleys swept our ranks; decimated, we turned round, seeking to recover our equilibrium; then three deafening cheers broke the silence of our opponents; at the third they were on us, pushing our disorganised flight" (*Marechal Bugeaud*).—*Colburn's Magazine*.

(*To be continued.*)

The Creedmoor Meeting.

THE scores in the last three matches were not included in our summary, given two weeks ago. We now give the principal prize winners in them.

No. 16. General Sheridan's skirmishers' match—Open to teams of six from the regular army, navy, marine corps, national guard, volunteers or militia of any country, state or territory, 600 to 200 yards and return, second class targets, adopted military rifle.

U.S. ENGINEER BATTALION.

	Shots fired.	Hits.	Score.	Penalty.	Total.
Lieut. Hale.....	39	39	164		164
Lieut. Gillette.....	40	36	148		148
Sergt. Doyle.....	40	36	148		148
Corpl. Boyle.....	36	35	128	5	123
Sergt. Barrett.....	30	27	112	5	107
Pte. Cavanagh.....	29	17	58		58
	214	190	758	10	748
5th artillery.....	236	193	696	5	691
4th artillery.....	236	198	704	15	689
13th regiment, N.G.....	170	86	287	30	257

No. 17. Steward match—All comers, 200 yards, sitting, kneeling or standing, any military or special military rifle, an allowance of 2 points will be given to competitors who use the Remington rifle, state model, the allowance to be added to the aggregate of three scores, aggregate of three scores to count.

F. J. Rabbeth, Sharp.....	25	25	25	75
J. F. Klein, Remington State.....	25	24	23	+2 73
Geo. Joiner, Remington State.....	23	23	25	+2 73
Geo. W. Lotz, Remington State.....	24	24	23	+2 73
W. M. Farrow, Farrow.....	25	24	23	72

No. 18. Revolver match—25 yards, all comers, Hinman target, 8 prizes.

C. E. Gillette, Colt.....	48	48	47	143
C. E. Taynter, S & W.....	48	47	45	140
P. U. Rower, M & H.....	47	45	43	135
G. Doyle, Colt.....	46	42	42	130
T. Hall, Colt.....				44
Lieut. Anderson, U.S.A., Colt.....				44
Rabbeth, Colt.....				44
Farrow, S & W.....				43

Lieut. Zalinski, the executive officer has been analyzing the results of the meeting, with a view to profiting by this year's experience in the future. Amongst other things interesting to all riflemen he says:

"The encouraging feature at this meeting has been the special interest shown by the men in the competitions, the increased readiness to take part in matches arranged on the ground, to take part in the pool firing, and in general to show an active appreciation of all means adopted to give them a chance to exercise and improve themselves with the rifle and also with the pistol. With regard to the latter weapon, now that non-commissioned officers are armed with the revolver, it is most important that opportunities should be generally provided for them to perfect themselves in its use.

"There is an important and very striking lesson to be drawn from the result of the newly arranged skirmishing competition. This was entered by four team, of six men in each, three for the army and one from the national guard. They started at 600 yards, with 40 rounds each in their pouches. Having gone a short distance, they were halted by bugle and began firing, fifteen seconds being allowed. They were then advanced again, halted, and so on down to 200 yards. They then retreated in like manner. The result is rather startling. The national guard is usually supposed to be equally skilled in the use of the rifle with the army. But the scores stood: engineer battalion, 748 points; 5th artillery, 691; 4th artillery, 689; 13th New York regiment of the national guard, 278. The reason for this inferiority on the part of the militia is obvious. They are as good marksmen as the others, but they never had any practice in firing at uncertain distances. As in real warfare almost all of their work would have to be done under just these conditions, the moral is plain, and I hope the result of this match will be to stir up the militia organization to give their members opportunities to practice in this mode of firing.

"To render this meeting a real success and get out of it all the benefit that should be obtained, it will be necessary to increase the prize fund very largely. The amount given in prizes at the National rifle association meeting at Wimbledon is \$60,000, and the highest individual money prize, the Queen's, is \$1,000. We have hard work to collect \$1,600 for prizes once a year, and the highest money prize is \$50. What is really needed is a series of prizes, the opportunity to win which will make it worth a man's while to do his utmost to perfect himself with the rifle."

Massachusetts has determined to do full honor to the team which has honored the old commonwealth. Adjt.-Gen. Samuel Dalton, by a general order, "directs that, as a suitable recognition of the achievements of the Massachusetts militia rifle team at Creedmoor during the past week, a commemorative medal be given to each member of the team. The winning of the several trophies in competition with the trained and tried troops of other states and of the regular army is an event in which the entire militia may take pride, as it marks conspicuously the rapid advance which they have made during the past three years in that most important part of militia instruction, the effective use of the rifle." The team members have been the recipients of special attention since their return home.

Mess Room Yarns.

"That reminds me."

The Colors.

Col. S— of the —th Foot was a peculiar man; he had quite peculiar ideas on the subject of his profession; when in camp at night he never took his boots off; his sword was always close to hand, and he used to pride himself that he was always ready for any emergency; but the real reason of this was, that he had "colors" on the brain! Since he was promoted, consequent on the death of his late commanding officer and dear old friend in India, the regiment was presented with new colors by royalty, and in that royal presence he was called upon, to keep them safe and guard them as he would his own life; he had, of course, spoken for himself and his regiment, and in his remarks had proudly declared that those colors should be his daily, nay, hourly care, that he would defend them, that his officers would defend them, that his men would defend them, and that the honor of his Queen, country, and regiment, were embodied in the emblems; he had no wife, no, he was a bachelor, his regiment was his wife and its colors her honor, and never should it be said of him that he was careless of it!!

Since that time the colors had always been taken into his own quarters, and when he woke in the morning his colors were his first thought, and his last at night.

One day orders came that he was to march by route to another garrison town, the distance was about 80 miles, so that it would take about six days before they reached their destination.

The day came, and the regiment marched, the proud old colonel at its head; it was of course accompanied several miles beyond the suburbs by boys, girls and sweethearts.

Nothing eventful occurred until the evening of the day before they reached their destination, but on this evening they were obliged to halt at a small village, boasting only two meagre public houses. There were, however, plenty of barns available, so that with the help of fresh straw the men were made very comfortable, but the officers had to put up at the two public houses.

The colonel had met a gentleman on the road with whom he was slightly acquainted, and, on his asking him as to their probable accommodation, had been told that only one of the public houses was available; as the other was infested by the "pestilence that walketh in darkness," so that the colonel, naturally shunned the Red Lion, as it was called, and prepared to put up at the Bull.

The regiment did not arrive at this village till dark, so that by the time the colonel got to his quarters it was pretty late. The colors were escorted to the Bull, and the colonel, of course, wanted them in his bedroom, but the staircase in the house was crooked, so crooked that it was like a dog's hind leg, and the headway so low, that the colonel could hardly get up it, and the colors would come up in no way; though he himself tried for fully a quarter of an hour, it was no good, so consequently he was obliged to have them placed in the passage, with a sentry over them. He took a last look at them before turning in, and sighed to think that they would have to be outside his own room for one night; however, there was no help for it, so he retired to sleep.

At first he could not sleep, but finally dropped off, and fitfully dreamt that he was defending his colors in a desperate hand to hand *melee*, with four gigantic negroes. He awoke with a start, but he could not get the colors out of his mind; he tried to sleep, but no, he felt he must go and see that they were safe; he got out of bed, opened the door, narrowly escaping braining himself against a huge beam just outside; he crept down stairs, and horror! saw the sentry to whom he had entrusted his sacred charge seated on the ground, his rifle leaning against the wall, discussing a game of cards and a bottle of whiskey, with, as he supposed, a native of the village. The colonel rubbed his eyes; could he be dreaming? no! he saw the stranger raise the bottle to his lips, and as he did so the colonel's anger overcame him and he roared out, "What are you doing, you blackguard?" Down dropped the bottle, away ran the friend, only returning to pick up the bottle and cards. Up jumped the sentry, who, seizing his rifle, turned on his colonel and literally drove the old gentleman up to his room at the point of the bayonet, pricking him behind to make him go faster. No sooner was the colonel up stairs than the sentry resumed his place by the colors, and when the other officers and household, being aroused, came down, they found him stolidly standing on duty. The colonel in a rage ordered the man to be confined and another sentry to take his place.

The next morning he was brought up before the colonel and charged with neglect of duty, but all he said when asked was, "I see'd nobody; the kennal must 'ave bin dreamin'; there war'nt no whisky, wuss luck," and as he stuck to this, and there were no witnesses, he escaped court martial; but the colonel declares to this day, that HE WAS NOT dreaming.—R.V.

Queries and Replies.

Will A. B. C., Erin, please read the very first paragraph in every issue of the GAZETTE, under the head "Correspondence," and if he wants to be attended to "act accordin'."

The Target.

THE MOUNTED INFANTRY SCHOOL'S FIELD FIRING PRACTICE.

The mounted infantry school at Winnipeg have just begun their monthly field firing practice, in accordance with the regulations for mounted infantry. The sections of four men gallop from a starting point 1,000 yards from the target (which is a first-class one), are halted by their section leader at the first flag, distance unknown, dismount, run 15 yards to the front (No. 3 holding the horses of the 3 dismounted men), fire 3 rounds per man in any position, run back to their horses and mount, and gallop to the next flag, where they again dismount and fire 3 rounds per man, and the same at the third flag; after firing the 3 rounds per man at each of the 3 flags, they again mount and gallop to a halting point about 150 yards from the target. Time is taken from the moment they start from 1,000 yards until they arrive at the halting point, and six minutes is laid down as a fair average time; one point is added to the score for every 15 seconds under the 6 minutes, and one point is deducted for every 15 seconds over the 6 minutes. Points from 1 to 5 are also given by the supervising officer for good riding in sections, and keeping together.

The target was placed on the prairie some three miles from Winnipeg, two mounted men being sent out to keep the cattle away from the range.

The distances of the three flags were about 750, 500 and 300 yards from the target (but were unknown to the men); the men used the short Snider, which is not

good at 750 yards. The 13 sections, which fired 351 rounds, made 117 hits or exactly one-third, and the average time per section was 6 minutes and 42 seconds; one section did their practice in 5 3/4 minutes, and put 12 shots out of 27 rounds in the target, another section did their practice in 5 1/2 minutes, putting in 8 hits out of their 27 rounds.

The wind was strong to moderate half side wind, day was clear.

The following is a tabulated statement of the record:—

Sections.	HITS.				Time taken in riding 1,000 yds. firing 9 shots at three different unknown distances.	Points deducted for being over 6 minutes.	Points allowed for being under 6 minutes.	Points given for good riding.	Total points of practice.	Total points made on target register.
	Pull's eyes.	Inners.	Outers.	Total hits.						
1st Section (4 men, 3 of whom fire 9 rounds each, while 1 holds the horses.)	4	6	3	13	m. s.	5	—	4	39	40
2nd do	2	0	3	5	7.15	4	—	3	13	14
3rd do	4	3	5	12	7.5	—	1	3	39	35
4th do	3	5	0	8	5.45	6	—	5	26	27
5th do	3	3	2	8	7.30	—	2	4	31	25
6th do	4	6	1	11	5.30	2	—	3	37	36
7th do	0	1	10	11	6.30	—	—	5	28	23
8th do	2	2	1	5	6.45	3	—	4	14	16
9th do	4	4	0	8	7.30	6	—	3	25	28
10th do	4	2	0	6	9.30	10	—	—	12	22
11th do	2	2	5	9	9.45	11	—	1	14	24
12th do	3	2	4	9	6.45	3	—	5	28	26
13th do	5	7	0	12	7.15	5	—	1	37	41
	40	43	34	117	6.42*	55	3	41		

* Time average.

Belleville.—The annual prize meeting of the 15th battalion A.L.I. rifle association was held here on the 6th inst. The shooting showed a great improvement over last year. The following is the prize list:

NO. 1.—BATTALION MATCH.

Seven shots at 200 and 500 yards.

\$9 Corpl. S. Vermilyea..... 49	\$4 Capt. J. Walmsley..... 40
8 Lieut. T. Monroe..... 46	3 Pte. T. S. Clarke..... 33
7 Capt. W. N. Ponton..... 45	2 Corpl. H. D. Hulme..... 29
4 Capt. W. W. Pope..... 43	1 Corpl. J. Williams..... 24

NO. 2.—ASSOCIATION MATCH.

Seven shots at 400 and 600 yards.

\$9 Capt. W. N. Ponton..... 44	\$4 Pte. T. S. Clarke..... 33
8 Lieut. T. Munro..... 42	2 Capt. J. E. Walmsley..... 20
7 Corpl. S. Vermilyea..... 42	2 Capt. W. W. Pope..... 19
4 Corpl. H. D. Hulme..... 36	

NO. 3.—AGGREGATE (4 RANGES).

Dominion rifle association medal, Corpl. S. Vermilyea..... 91
Ontario rifle association medal, Capt. W. N. Ponton..... 89
\$5 Lieut. T. Munro..... 88
Daily <i>Intelligencer</i> , one year, Pte. T. S. Clarke..... 66
200 rounds ball cartridge, Corpl. H. D. Hulme..... 65

No. 1 company challenge cup was finally won for the third time by Capt. W. N. Ponton.

Winnipeg.—The annual matches of F company, 90th battalion, were held at Kildonan on the 6th inst. The weather was delightful and there was a large number of the members present. Some good shooting was made, with seven shots at four ranges, Private McDiarmid making 34 out of a possible 35 at 400 yards, and 31 with an "outer" to finish at 500 yards. Color-Sergt. Mitchell captured the St. Andrew's Society cup this year and Capt. Clarke's prize, while Pte. McDiarmid takes the medal, having lost the tie on the shoot off. The following are the ten highest scores:

Col.-Sergt. Mitchell..... 200 400 500 600 T'l.	Pte. Brown..... 20 28 25 17 99
Pte. McDiarmid..... 24 34 21 22 111	Pte. Pitblado..... 23 24 28 19 94
Pte. McIntyre..... 28 31 23 27 109	Pte. Gillies..... 27 26 23 11 90
Pte. Murray..... 26 27 23 23 99	Sergt. Smith..... 26 25 20 15 86
Pte. Baxter..... 27 28 26 18 99	Pte. Ross..... 25 25 21 15 85

Next day the matches of D company were held. The wind was very high and the atmosphere smoky, which interfered greatly with the competitors. The following are the prize-winners; the ranges being 200, 300 and 400 yards, five shots at each:

Pte. Bathie..... 10 18 20 48	Pte. Gill..... 7 10 19 36
Pte. Richardson..... 21 15 8 44	Pte. Bush..... 11 13 10 33
Color-Sergt. Colgate..... 14 12 14 41	Bugler Griffith..... 13 19 9 32
Pte. Morgan..... 14 11 14 39	Pte. Dean..... 12 2 8 22
Pte. Cochrane..... 9 16 12 37	Pte. Graham..... 13 7 0 20
Sergt. Smeed..... 15 10 12 37	Pte. McLeod..... 11 7 0 18

Range prizes—200 yards—Pte. Richardson and Sergt. Meed.

“ 300 “ Ptes. Bathie and Cochrane.

“ 400 “ Pte. Gill and Col.-Sergt. Colgate.

No one was allowed to take more than two prizes—a range prize and one in the aggregate.

B company propose holding their matches on the 12th, to be followed by a dinner in the evening.

Ottawa.—Last Saturday afternoon the club held its ninth and last spoon competition for Sniders. The weather was the best for shooting that has been experienced this season, and consequently the highest scores of the season were recorded. The day was warm, the light good and there was little wind.

Mr. J. C. Chamberlin..... 31 29 29 89	Mr. Armstrong..... 29 12 24 75
Mr. E. D. Sutherland..... 30 29 27 86	Mr. Lightfoot..... 26 23 24 73
Mr. T. Carroll..... 28 32 26 86	Mr. R. Reardon..... 20 25 27 72
Capt. Sherwood..... 30 28 26 84	Mr. Morrison..... 26 30 16 72
Major Macpherson..... 28 23 30 81	Mr. McJanet..... 26 27 18 71
Mr. W. Short..... 31 25 22 78	Mr. G. Mailleue..... 28 26 16 70
Capt. Perley..... 28 23 26 77	Mr. Dawson..... 27 18 23 68
Major Todd..... 28 26 23 77	Mr. Fairweather..... 27 18 18 63
Capt. Wright..... 25 25 26 76	Mr. Slater..... 28 20 11 59

The aggregate prizes for the best five Snider scores during the season were won by Capt. Sherwood and J. C. Chamberlin.

The club has received a challenge from the Arnprior rifle association to fire a friendly match with Martini-Henry rifles. This will probably take place at the next and last spoon competition of the season, the 23rd inst.

On Saturday next the Guards propose holding their annual class firing, and with a view of swelling the attendance a free lunch will be given each competitor, and prizes will be offered, the men being divided into four classes according to their supposed merits as marksmen and prizes allotted to each class.

St. John, N.B.—The annual matches of King's County rifle association were held at Sussex, October 7th, commencing soon after 8 a. m. The day was very fine, but the light and wind not very favorable to high scoring. A new feature was the introduction of a nursery match, made possible by donations from the Hon. G. E. Foster, Minister of Marine and Fisheries, for that purpose, and by Capt. C. H. Fairweather. The rivalry between the cavalry and infantry was very keen, resulting in a victory for the latter.

COUNTY CUP MATCH.—QUEEN'S RANGES.

\$8 county cup, and provincial medal, Q.M. Langstroth, 74th battalion..... 82	\$4 Corp. Fowler, 8th cavalry..... 67
Sergt. G. Langstroth, 8th cavalry..... 74	2 Sergt. A. Langstroth, 8th cavalry..... 63
6 Lieut. C. W. Weyman, 74th battalion..... 74	2 Capt. W. Langstroth, 8th cavalry..... 61
5 Lieut. J. H. McRobbie, 8th cavalry..... 74	2 Major E. Arnold, 74th battalion..... 61
5 Lieut. W. Langstroth, 8th cavalry..... 73	1 Lieut.-Col. Beer, 74th battalion..... 60
4 Corp. W. Langstroth, 8th cavalry..... 68	1 Major O. R. Arnold, 74th battalion..... 59
	1 Capt. Fairweather, 74th battalion..... 59

DOMVILLE CUP.

Seven shots at 500 and 600 yards.

\$6 cup Major O. R. Arnold, 74th battalion..... 47	\$3 Sergt. G. Langstroth, 8th cavalry..... 38
5 Quartermaster Langstroth, 74th battalion..... 46	3 Corp. Fowler, 8th cavalry..... 37
4 Lieut. C. W. Weyman, 74th battalion..... 45	2 Sergt. W. Parlee, 8th cavalry..... 37
4 Corp. W. Langstroth, 8th cavalry..... 45	2 Major E. Arnold, 74th battalion..... 37
4 Lieut.-Col. Beer, 74th battalion..... 42	2 Capt. Fairweather, 74th battalion..... 36
4 Lieut. W. Langstroth, 8th cavalry..... 40	2 Sergt. A. Langstroth, 8th cavalry..... 36
4 Sergt.-Major Gray, 74th battalion..... 39	1 Lieut. Whelpley, 8th cavalry..... 36
3 Bandsman R. Arnold, 74th battalion..... 38	1 Lieut. McRobbie, 8th cavalry..... 34

BATTALION MATCH FOR ELDER CUP.

Seven shots, 200, 500 and 600 yards.

74th battalion, Elder cup..... 353	8th cavalry..... 338
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Individual Prizes.

\$3 Lieut. Weyman, 74th battalion..... 76	\$1.50 Corp. W. Langstroth, 8th cavalry..... 74
2 Quarter-Master S. Langstroth, 74th batt..... 75	1 Lieut.-Col. Beer, 74th battalion..... 71

GRAND AGGREGATE.

\$2 Jones' cup Qr.-M. Langstroth, 74th batt..... 128	\$1 Corp. W. Langstroth, 8th cavalry..... 113
1.50 Lieut. Weyman, 74th battalion..... 119	50c Lieut. W. Langstroth, 8th cavalry..... 113

MINISTER OF MARINE MATCH (NURSERY).

Five shots, 200 and 400 yards.

\$3 Bandsman Arnold, 74th battalion..... 39	\$5 Pt. Frost, 74th battalion..... 22
7 Lieut. Whelpley, 8th cavalry..... 31	3 Pt. Morrison, 74th battalion..... 12

NURSERY AGGREGATE.

For Capt. Fairweather's pitcher.

Bandsman Arnold, 74th battalion..... 123
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Vernon, Ont.—A rifle association for the county of Russell was organized last week, with M. K. Dickinson, M.P., as president, and Capt. Billings as secretary-treasurer, and was inaugurated by a prize meeting here on Saturday last, at which there was a fair attendance both of competitors and spectators. The day was all that could be desired, with one exception, it was too short, some of the competitors in the all comers' match having to fire when it was quite dusk. The bad light at this time accounts for the low scores made. After partaking of an oyster supper at Mr. Hugh Cameron's hotel, all departed for their respective homes, hoping for another successful meeting next year. The association is indebted to the residents of Vernon and vicinity for several subscriptions to the meeting.

200 YARDS MATCH.

Open to all efficient militiamen; Snider rifle; 5 shots.

\$3 Pte. M. Heron, 43rd..... 24	\$1 Sergt. Kennedy, 43rd..... 19
2 Sergt. Robinson, 43rd..... 21	50 Pte. Tripp, 43rd..... 18
1.50 Pte. J. McDonald..... 19	50 Pte. J. Dowler, 43rd..... 16
1.50 Pte. T. Laushway, 43rd..... 19	50 Corpl. Wood, 43rd..... 14
1 Sergt. Cook, 43rd..... 19	50 Pte. W. Kennedy, 43rd..... 13

400 YARDS MATCH.

Open to all efficient militiamen; Snider rifles; 5 shots.

\$4 Corpl. Laushway, 43rd..... 18	50c Sergt. Cook, 43rd..... 13
2 Capt. Billings, 43rd..... 17	50 Pte. T. Laushway, 43rd..... 13
1 Pte. McInnes, 43rd..... 17	50 Pte. W. Kennedy, 43rd..... 12
1 Corpl. Wood, 43rd..... 15	50 Pte. S. Genoe, 43rd..... 12
1 Pte. M. Heron, 43rd..... 14	50 Pte. J. Dowler, 43rd..... 11

ALL COMERS' MATCH.

Open to all comers, 500 yards, 5 shots.

\$4 Pte. M. Heron, 43rd..... 17	50c Pte. A. Tripp..... 9
3 Mr. D. McMartin..... 17	50 Sergt. Kennedy..... 9
2 J. McDonald..... 13	50 Sergt. Cooke..... 8
1 Corpl. Laushway, 43rd..... 12	50 Pte. S. Genoe..... 6
1 Pte. Laushway, 43rd..... 11	50 Mr. P. McPherson..... 6
50c Pte. J. Dowler..... 16	50 Mr. J. Donaldson..... 4

AGGREGATE PRIZES.

Winner.	200 yards Match.	400 yards Match.	All Comers.	Total.
Pte. M. Heron.....	24	14	17	55
Pte. T. Laushway.....	19	13	11	43
Sergt. Cook.....	19	13	8	40
Pte. J. Dowler.....	16	11	10	37

Battleford.—New barracks for the mounted police will be begun this season. Two large buildings capable of accommodating the men will be erected forthwith, and also a proper hospital. The government has granted the citizens of Battleford a block of land a hundred feet square in the public park on which to place a monument to the volunteers who lost their lives in the rebellion.

Regimental Notes.

Ottawa.—The prizes won by No. 1 company, 43rd Rifles at their rifle matches on Friday week, were presented to the winners by Captain Sherwood in the drill hall on Thursday night last.

Will the officers of the brigade who are interested in the military assembly room put a note in their engagement books to the effect that it is open every Thursday evening, and make a point of attending regularly.

The first muster of the Guards this fall for annual drill brought out about a hundred on Monday night, and on Tuesday there was a somewhat larger turnout, thanks to the fact that non-coms. had been told off to warn the men with instructions to continue that duty regularly. At the first meeting Major Macpherson addressed the regiment, urging them to do themselves credit. He admonished the men to be more particular about their appearance while on their way to drill, and to have their tunics buttoned, their buttons shining, and their caps set smartly upon their heads, and to walk up the front streets, to let the people see that they were proud of the uniform they wore. In conclusion, Major Macpherson expressed the hope that when next 24th of May the Guards took a trip to some other city they might know and feel that they were, as they might be, the finest regiment that ever stepped out of Ottawa, or into the city they would visit.

Toronto.—The Queen's Own had their usual weekly parade last Wednesday evening and were put through different battalion movements by Lieut.-Col. Miller. They were executed in a most creditable way.

The annual inspection is expected to take place on Saturday, the 30th inst. It will have to be in review order, as the regiment have never been supplied with new equipment since their return from the Northwest.

On Thursday evening the Grenadiers paraded under command of Major Dawson, and marched to the Moss Park rink, where they put in a good hour's drill. It is expected that this regiment will be inspected along with the Queen's Own.

Winnipeg.—From the *Manitoban*.—The gun carriages of the Field Battery are to be repainted at once.

Recruits are offering themselves for the 90th in large numbers, and recruit drill is to re-commence next week.

The members of the 90th appreciate the kindness of those of the Infantry School who turned out to the funeral of the late Private Renn.

Now that the Minister of militia has returned from England cheques for sick and pension claims are beginning to arrive from Ottawa.

Private W. F. Brown, of "D" company, is back from Prince Albert, having fully recovered from the illness which he contracted on active service.

It is reported that Private Whitelaw, of "C" Company, who is at present at the general hospital suffering from the effects of an accident, is very low, and not expected to recover.

Now that the Winnipeg Light Infantry and the Manitoba Grenadiers are about to receive new equipment and rifles, isn't it about time that the 90th got something? At the time the late lamented Col. Kennedy raised the latter battalion he was requested by the authorities at Ottawa to take the equipment, etc., from the stores at Fort Osborne. These had been brought up by the first Red River expedition in 1870, and were not only obsolete, but in most cases nearly rotten. This same outfit was used during the late campaign, which did not tend to improve it. The battalion has been put to great expense in repairing belts, pouches, etc. The rifles in use are little better than so many gas pipes—the grooves are worn away, the muzzles bent, the fore sights injured and many of the breech-blocks out of order. The authorities at Ottawa promised Col. Kennedy that a new outfit should be issued at once, but he thought it better to take what was offered in order that the organization of the battalion should not be delayed. The field battery have lately received a new and complete outfit of tools, etc., and it certainly seems as if Winnipeg's favorite battalion was being treated with studied neglect by the authorities at headquarters, as no notice has been taken of repeated appeals, although two boards have condemned the rifles and equipment.

Brantford.—There was an immense gathering at the drill shed on the 7th, at which the fair sex largely predominated, to witness the presentation of prizes won at the annual matches of the Dufferin Rifles' rifle association held at the ranges near the old Mohawk church on the 11th of August last. After a number of evolutions the battalion was formed into a hollow square, and the presentation made to the lucky winners by Mrs. (Major) Ballachey, assisted by the gallant colonel of the regiment. Upon a platform which had been specially erected were seated Mrs. (Capt.) Rothwell, Mrs. (Capt.) Hudson, London; Miss Thompson, Ottawa; Mrs. A. Fair, Miss Fair, Miss Jenkins and others.

A list of the prize winners and their scores appeared in the *Gazette* of the 19th August. The principal prizes were the Merchant's Challenge Cup, won by Private Donahue, the Officer's Challenge Cup, won by Col.-Sergt. Wood, and the Company Challenge Cup, carried off by Capt. Sweet's B company.

St. John, N. B.—From the *Telegraph* we learn that the inspection of the New Brunswick brigade of garrison artillery took place on the 8th. In the morning Deputy Adjutant General Maunsell, Lieut.-Colonel Irwin, inspector of artillery, and Lieut.-Colonel Armstrong inspected the fortifications at Negrotown Point, Red Head and Partridge Island. In each of these places the works were found in about the same condition as last year. Nothing has been added to the armament; with the exception of some minor repairs at Fort Dufferin no new work has been undertaken.

At two o'clock the city batteries mustered at the drill shed, and half an hour later the Portland, Carleton and Fairville batteries marched in. The men looked exceedingly well in their blue uniforms and bushies. As they have neither knapsacks nor valises the men were spared the burden of carrying them. The Portland battery is the only one in this district as yet supplied with the regulation artillery bayonet, the others carrying the same bayonet as the infantry. It is expected that before the time for the next inspection this deficiency will be supplied. The inspection of a brigade of artillery takes quite a long time, as the men are required not only to be thoroughly posted in infantry drill, but also to be well up in the handling of big guns. Col. Irwin is a thorough officer, who takes nothing for granted but sees everything done himself. Prior to the field movements on the barrack square he inspected two batteries in standing gun drill, questioning the non-commissioned officers and the men on their respective duties.

After this the brigade, headed by the band, marched out from the drill shed to the square, where they formed up in column, afterwards wheeling into line. The inspecting officers, attended by Major Markham, Eighth Cavalry, and Captain Bremner, I.S.C., stepped up to the saluting base, and the brigade in review order gave a general salute. The customary review movements were then performed, the different batteries acquitting themselves in fine style. The marching of Major Armstrong's battery in the

march past and at the double was particularly good. The wheeling of this battery is also worthy of special praise. The other batteries did well. After the battalion movements the different accoutrements and clothing was carefully inspected and the batteries were put through the manual exercise.

Prior to the dismissal the regiment was drawn up in column, and Lieut. Harrison and Sergt. Richardson, both of whom served in the North-West campaign, were presented with medals, the former by Col. Maunsell and the latter by Col. Irwin. Addressing the brigade in the drill shed after the inspection, Col. Irwin congratulated Col. Armstrong on the fine appearance of the men on parade. He said that, with the exception of one battery, the firing exercises were not well performed. He spoke also of the service rendered by the artillery during the North-West campaign, and said that the campaign showed that it was necessary for the artillery to be up in skirmishing drill and firing exercises. He did not think the gun drill was as well performed this year as last, and told them that next year he would expect each battery of the brigade to furnish three detachments for gun drill. Some garrison artillery brigades had supplied four detachments from each brigade, but he thought three was sufficient. He did not wish the men to be discouraged by what he had said about their drill this year as compared with last year, as the brigade was greatly improved since he had last inspected it. His desire was to see them still more competent. The questions he had asked the non-commissioned officers had been quite satisfactorily answered.

This concluded the inspection, and the brigade, headed by the band, marched through the principal streets, and then returned to their respective headquarters.

In the evening the officers of the brigade gave a complimentary dinner at the "Dufferin" to Lieut.-Col. Armstrong, in celebration of the success won at Shoeburyness by the Canadian artillery team. The handsome dining room was filled with guests, and the table, in addition to the sumptuous repast prepared, was graced with the numerous and splendid trophies won by the team in England. Major Armstrong presided, having on his right Lieut.-Col. Armstrong, the guest of the evening, and at his left Lieut.-Col. Maunsell, D. A. G.

The usual toasts were proposed and speeches made. Col. Armstrong, on rising to reply to the toast of the evening, was received with hearty and prolonged cheering. He returned thanks for the enthusiastic honors, and in a modest and admirable speech related some of the experiences of the team while in England.

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The cost of announcements in this column for each insertion will be one cent per word for the first ten words one-half cent for each additional word. Each advertisement will have a register number in our books, and all communications regarding it must be forwarded through the GAZETTE, but it must be distinctly understood that this office incurs no other responsibility or liability in connection therewith. Address, with stamp for return postage, Canadian Militia Gazette, Box 316, Ottawa.

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G. POWELL,
Under Secretary of State.

Ottawa, 19th Feb., 1886.

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A. M. BURGESS,
Deputy of the
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Department of the Interior,
Ottawa, 6th September, 1886.

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