

THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE

A WEEKLY JOURNAL DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF THE ACTIVE FORCE OF THE DOMINION.

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CORRESPONDENCE.

The MILITIA GAZETTE aims at being the recognized medium of instruction and information for Canadian militiamen and rifle shots. Communications on the subjects to which its pages are devoted are respectfully invited. Anonymous communications will not be regarded. No name will be published, except with the writer's consent. The editors will not be responsible for the views of correspondents.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS.

COMMENT AND CRITICISM.

An informal meeting of the D.R.A. Council.
The regulation limit of age.
The employment of retired regular officers again.
The end of Noodle's notions.
How to improve our summer camp.
Encouraging more general target practice.
The R. M. C. entrance examinations.
Military schools vs. volunteer boards.
The reserve militia.
The Jersey militia.
A Dominion cartridge factory.
Miniature medals.

OBITUARY.

CONTRIBUTED.

Notions of a noodle—XI.—*Misty*.

SELECTED.

Common sense on parade, or drill without stays.—*Colburn's Magazine*.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Suggestions for next summer's camp.—*E. G. Ponton*.
The encouragement of shooting in battalions.—*An Old Rifleman*.
No field allowance for the N. B. Prov. Battalion.—*N.B.*
The re-establishment of volunteer boards.—*Unit*.
Recognition of the services of the North-west local force.—*Justice*.

REGIMENTAL NOTES.

AMUSEMENTS.

GLEANINGS.

EXTRACTS FROM MILITIA GENERAL ORDERS.

COMMENT AND CRITICISM.

An informal meeting of the Ottawa members of the Dominion Rifle Association Council was held on the 14th to consider the annual report, preparatory to its submission to the whole council. Lt.-Cols. Ross, White, Panet, Bacon, and Macpherson, Majors Macpherson and Anderson, and Captains Perley and Toller were present. The report is of the usual nature, sketching the work of the Association for the past year and making some suggestions for the future. The whole report will be submitted to all members of the council in galley form before being printed, and will probably be ready for distribution as soon as this number of the GAZETTE.

From the *Army and Navy Gazette* we learn that it is intended to make some changes in the *personnel* of the British army during the present year, by which the army list will be materially cleared and the services of the most capable officers of high rank secured to the country. Just six months ago we alluded to the advantage which would accrue to our force if the age rule were generally carried into effect here. It can do no possible harm to refer to the subject again, especially a little has been done in the interval. Fully one-third of our commanding officers have held their positions for from ten to twenty-five years, and over a score are the only commanding officers their regiments have ever known. These men have, in their time, done good

work and should receive every consideration, but, while there may be wisdom in grey hairs, there is not that enthusiasm, energy, and activity necessary to keep a regiment in a high state of efficiency. The enforcement of the rule might not be followed by the best results in every case, but, as experience has shown that officers will not retire of their own accord, and invidious distinctions would cause much heart-burning and jealousy, it is better that it should be enforced in the same cast-iron way that it is in England, and that all officers should be retired on reaching the regulation limit of age. The stream of promotion that would follow would be an encouragement and incentive to other officers, and the effect would soon be seen in the improvement of the force.

The praiseworthy attempt of which we spoke a few weeks past to procure the abolition of the rule under which retired officers are deprived of their pensions on accepting service under a colonial government is going steadily forward. A case showing the poor working of the present regulation is that of the gallant Major-General Strange, who commanded the Edmonton column in the recent rebellion, and whose march of seven hundred miles, through an almost unknown and uninhabited country, was one of the wonders of the campaign. We have been informed that, under the rule referred to, he lost his pension during the time he was in the Canadian service. As he receives the retiring allowances of a major-general, and his pay in the North-west was the full pay of a colonel, it will be seen that the difference between the two scarcely left him the pay of a subaltern, not a very satisfactory result after such magnificent work. We are quite certain that the sword of this brave soldier will always be at Canada's service, but neither he nor any other British officer should be asked to draw in our defence at a personal pecuniary sacrifice, and we think that a proper representation from our government would do much to effect the abrogation of the obnoxious rule.

The noodle's notions are now finished, and must have furnished food for reflection to most of our readers; and we hope will be productive of good in gradually impressing corps commanders, district staff officers, and even those at headquarters, with the conviction that here in Canada, where special conditions have to be encountered and special obstacles overcome, special arrangements must be made to suit these altered circumstances; that holding fast to old established rules is not always advisable either in the matter of clothing, drill, or musketry instruction. The notions have already met with some criticism and will doubtless encounter more; in fact we are not ourselves inclined to go so far as the noodle on some points, but for all that it is a decided advantage that he has put his views in the strongest possible way—luke-warm views will ever meet but a cool reception—and we are only sorry they have come to an end.

To those who would like to have the notions complete we will send a set of all the numbers containing them, from I to XI, or GAZETTE Nos. 27 to 37 inclusive, on receipt of 25 cents.

Captain Ponton suggests a topic which should prove nearly as interesting, and give as wide a field for discussion as the notions, namely, the proper conduct of our summer camps of instruction, and we cordially accept his offer of further suggestions, and hope his letters may be the means of inducing others to present their views on a matter that indubitably requires considerable attention. At present there is a great deal of time wasted out of the too short annual training, while the men cannot be said to hanker after their drill, and the problem is to interest the men and at the same time teach them what will stick by them in case of actual service.

We publish in another column a letter on the subject of encouraging the bulk of our volunteers in target practice, which contains some good ideas, though we do not think the scheme could be successfully carried out in its entirety. The weak points are that there is no assurance that all the men will turn out; there is nothing to guarantee that when they do turn out they will receive adequate instruction and preparation before firing; and the misappropriation of ammunition is rather encouraged than made impossible. A proper system should ensure the training of every individual volunteer by a competent instructor; the individual firing of every volunteer, the non-payment and dismissal of those physically or mentally unable to succeed in becoming fair shots; and the judicious and liberal expenditure of the ammunition supplied. It is too much to expect that all this can be reached at once, but any changes made in the present system should be in this direction.

This week we publish the general orders held over from last week, detailing the subjects for examination for admission to the Royal Military College. The list will be found to be substantially the same as that of last year, with a possible 4,800 marks in the obligatory subjects and of 9,700 marks in the voluntary portion. It will be noticed that the next examination will be held at the several Military District Headquarters on the 15th June, and that applications should be made to the Adjutant-General by the first of May.

The details of the large crop of military school certificates which ripened before the Christmas holidays are also published a week late. In this connection we may refer to the letter in our correspondence columns to-day suggesting that the volunteer boards for qualifying provisional officers should be re-established. Heaven forbid. While they existed they were a sham and the laughing stock of the force, or at any rate some of them were, and all shared in the odium, and it is better that we should have one officer that knows something about his work than two perfectly ignorant. If our correspondent will advocate an increase of facilities for attending the school we will support him cordially—but a return to the old system—*non, merci*.

“Why! actually! Here’s an appointment in the reserve militia! I thought they were defunct,” was the remark with which we heard the last item in last week’s general orders greeted. How many men in the Dominion know anything about this part of our force? How many men not in the active force know what class of reserve they are in? which is their company district? or who are their company officers? We think the Department might as well relinquish the attempt to keep them on paper. If the reserves were required the whole work would have to be done over again *ab initio*, and in the meantime a certain quantity of time and paper would be saved.

In a late Jersey paper we see a State advertisement, requiring every man residing in that Island, from the age of sixteen to that of sixty, to serve in the Royal Militia of that Island, and to come forward under dire pains and penalties for failure, and register himself at the proper office. And they appear to have no choice whether they shall attend annual training or not; all that, too, is regulated by statute and each one has to serve his term. How would our reserve militia—that is all our free and independent electors—like a similar law applied here? It would be the only way to keep any check on them.

The “Dominion Cartridge Company, Limited,” have given notice in the usual way of their intention to apply for incorporation. The notice further says:

“The purposes for which incorporation is sought are the manufacture and sale of cartridges of all descriptions, torpedoes, shells and similar articles, and wrought brass work of all kinds.

“The chief place of business and manufacture of the said company to be at the village of Brownsburg, in the county of Argenteuil, in the Province of Quebec; with places of business in the cities of Montreal, in the Province of Quebec, Toronto, in the Province of Ontario, and Winnipeg, in the Province of Manitoba; with the right to establish branches at other places in the other Provinces of the Dominion.

“The intended amount of the capital stock to be one hundred thousand dollars in one thousand shares of one hundred dollars each.

“The names in full, addresses and callings of the applicants are as follows: The Honorable John Hamilton, Senator; the Honorable John J. C. Abbott, Queen’s Counsel; Andrew Allan, Merchant; Jonathan Hodgson, Merchant, and Thomas C. Brainerd, Manufacturer, all of the City of Montreal.”

It is understood that this is the company in which Mr. Howard, of “Gatling” fame, is interested. We are glad to welcome the new enterprise and heartily wish the company the utmost success, a wish in which we are sure all our readers will join.

By reference to our advertizing columns it will be seen that Messrs. E. & E. Emanuel, of Portsea, England, are the first in the field to supply Canadian militia officers with miniature copies of the medal about to be given for the recent rebellion. The house of Messrs. Emanuel has been favorably known to the army and navy for the last half century as manufacturers of naval and military decorations. As the cost of these miniature duplicates (undress copies) will depend upon the number manufactured, all officers desirous of securing them should forward their names, corps and address in full without delay. To facilitate communication we have consented to receive and forward such names as may be sent to the address of the GAZETTE.

OBITUARY.

It is with deep regret that we announce the death of Major Leon Charles Hamel, commanding No. 1 battery, Levis Garrison Artillery, after a few days’ painful illness. Although young in years he was an old soldier, having joined the ranks of the 17th Levis Battalion when first organized; during the Fenian raids of 1866, he served on the Niagara frontier as color-sergeant of No. 2 Co., and after passing through various grades of the service he attained the rank of Brevet Major in 1873. In 1878 he organized the First Battery of Garrison Artillery in Levis, and maintained it in a very efficient condition. During the past summer he was doing garrison duty at the Citadel, in command of two batteries, for about five months, during the absence of the troops in the North-west. He was buried with military honors on the 12th inst., the funeral proceeding from the Levis ferry to Mount Hermon cemetery. The firing party was commanded by Capt. Roy, Q. G. A. The Deputy Adjutant General and very many officers of the district were present; also strong detachments from “B” Battery, the Cavalry School and the Quebec and Levis Garrison Artillery. The intense cold—22° below zero—prevented the band from playing.

NOTIONS OF A NOODLE.—XI.

"DEAR MISTY,—To continue from my last, let me just quote some lines from Sir Charles Wilson's book on the late Soudan affair. He says of 'Abu Klea':—'the musketry practice of our young soldiers was not equal to their courage.' He further says 'that when the enemy commenced their advance, he experienced a feeling of pity, mixed with admiration, for them, as he thought that they would all be shot down in a few moments.' His remarks continue: 'I could not have believed beforehand that men in close formation would have been able to advance for 200 to 400 yards over bare ground in the face of Martini-Henrys. As they advanced the feeling changed to wonder, that the tremendous fire we were keeping up had so little effect.'

"How true all this sounds. The men who had so long handled rifles as far as cleaning and carrying them goes, naturally lost their heads the moment the novelty of firing them arrived, which the surprise of not killing the Arabs only heightened. If these soldiers had been instructed to use their rifles by encouragement in the practice of shooting, or even left alone to pick up shooting for themselves, would the blacks have thus rushed on the square? Fancy a fairly cool sporting shot behind each of the rifles that day, how different would have been the effect if each man felt that at 200 yards at least he could hit his man. But we all know how they did feel; they only felt safe in being together, and as to hitting, few of them knew how to do it. There is a most startling ignorance prevalent regarding fire arms; many suppose that by merely placing the weapon in a man's hands he is rendered invincible. As an instance, how often do we see some would-be sportsman undertake the task of shooting deer. It is quite refreshing to see the preparations, and best of all he borrows a rifle he has never seen, and for the first time fires at some big buck staring him in the face. Here we have a splendid example, we turn out our fine regiments, every man shoulders his borrowed rifle, expectant, as our deer hunter, of success. But follow the same corps up a little farther; see them, before the enemy, when here and there a companion drops. If we go as far as this, few will fail to see the painful exhibition which will leave an impression not to be wiped out in a moment. If this meets the eyes of some of our North-west warriors, let me ask them if they cannot endorse what I now write. Let me ask them if all the drill and manoeuvres of the annual camp should not rather be replaced by opportunities to shoot a little. And we should imagine that at least the prevailing custom would fulfil its one great claim of advantage 'discipline' and control over the men; but did it do that? Again I ask, did the thunder of musketry, and the showers of lead that could not be restrained, prove this. A man accustomed to aim at something with the expectancy of hitting it will not fire at *nothing*, but a poor creature whose life has been taken up in swabbing out, or fixing a sword on the end of his rifle, will fire at anything, as our men did, in hundreds of cases, wasting barrels of ammunition, with the creditable result of causing the rebels to laugh at us. I should like here to quote a few lines from the letter of Archbishop Taché. 'Canada would be greatly mistaken were it believed that the Indians of the North-west are terrified, and that they have a great idea of our armament—quite the contrary is the case.' This is true, how could it be otherwise, after the expenditure of ammunition on the battle fields of the campaign. No Indian could forget the profuse manner in which we lavished lead in return for his spherical bullet. He must have reasoned against our annihilating power, from the returns to his old smooth bore when he was engaged under cover loading her up for a second shot. Does every one know that over 150 rounds were fired at Cut Knife Hill from the field guns. In all our fights the rebel dead compared with our expenditure of Snider cartridges read a lesson far more eloquent than living man can trace on paper. And it is one we should take to heart and allow no foolish, sentimental ideas of custom to balk any attempt to better our most unserviceable condition in every respect to take the field. It can easily be done, but I suppose that as long as proficiency is gauged by a march past and kit inspection, things will remain as they are. Individual shooting will come sooner or later, and the more quickly we take it up the better. We do not march up to our foes now in line—hostile bullets necessitate a scattered advance, and then men are thrown on their own resources, to a great extent, when they *must shoot*, and shoot with skill only obtained by practice.

"The manner we have of imparting this gift is by a long lecture that half the men do not understand, position drill loaded with snap caps, and drill, where a young officer, who could not hit 'Jumbo' himself with a shooting iron, stands in rear of his company and directs his deadly volleys by piping out 'Ready!' 'Present!' 'Fire!'

"I remember well hearing one of the teamsters captured by Poundmaker, relating how the Indians amused themselves in the evenings by mimic drills after the fashion of the whites; he said it was the biggest

joke the warriors had. Poundmaker should have had ten years for this alone. There is a cast iron rule that officers in the British Army are not to carry any dangerous weapons about them, much less a rifle. They are to 'look after their men,' so custom dictates, and it may be right; but I can also notice care of the men's welfare, and some encouragement and example in an officer who can *show his* aptitude in stopping a retiring or advancing foe. At all events he is nearly as great an assistance to the country and his corps as the sub, who, from nothing to do, loses himself in the first convenient cover of the skirmishing line. Frequently much confidence is inspired in the vicinity of an officer who can handle his rifle skilfully. We had some instances during our campaign; and some officers who in action could from practical experience sing out to their companies 'elevate her for about 250 yards, lads. That will fetch 'em!' was quite as useful as the theoretical duffer with his head in the raspberry bushes, feeling himself quite out of place. Another subject occurs to us here, suggested by the 250 yards just mentioned. It is that we make the most foolish rules about shooting, when we do send a squad off to the ranges, and the majority of shooting energy is expended in trying to copy the skill of a few professionals in scoring at 600 yards, forgetting entirely that the most telling work is done at the close distances. This potting at 500 or 600 yards discourages the young man, and leaves him without instruction in the short ranges, which he seldom practises, 200 being the shortest, and that generally hurried over as unimportant, while time and patience are expended on the supposed most necessary distances. I am quite certain that far more fighting was done with the rebels under 200 yards than over it in the North-west. And it is a fact that hardly a man ever fired his rifle at his home ranges nearer his target than 200 yards. It is the same way with a novice in sporting matters; he goes out full of long range ideas, and comes home wondering at the number of shots he gets and misses at 75 yards from his muzzle.

"A wooded country like ours means good cover, and good cover means close work, therefore that is the type of practice we require. We rush at the long ranges with the idea that a man who can pile up bulls' eyes off his stomach at 600 yards can't miss anything at one hundred or fifty. Well, all I can say is, that if an old hand he may be trusted, but if a hot house plant, forced up without the required grounding, he will miss a great many, especially with a Snider, sighted like our regulations, far too high. How much more sensible would be our aim, to breed up an army of good shots under 400 yards, than to develop the skill of a few cracks (often useless as soldiers) at six or eight. I dare say dear 'Misty,' you will tell me that all I say is second hand, that everybody is aware of the tendency of the best trained troops to lose their heads and fire away till all is blue. But don't forget that the world has never yet seen men trained in the way I consider they should be. The power that first turns out a *shooting* army will whip creation, and with half the men. You would think it a ridiculous idea for our schools of instruction to take up the greater part of their time on the ranges. Fancy one of the infantry schools leaving their nice, comfortable barracks with the sweetly rolled parade ground and spending the summer on the move, in some thinly settled part of the country, consuming public money in their endeavors to hit stumps, or crack beer bottles with their bullets. This would suit neither the public nor the men themselves, so long as our idea of useful soldiering continues as it is, therefore 'Misty' I hope you will see that it is not done. A little of such exercise, however, would be of advantage to many of our young men, who during the rebellion, while on picquet so narrowly escaped death by the accidental firing of their own rifles. These cases we all know were very frequent and very galling to the troops at large, therefore merely to explain the action of the Snider I should advocate a short expedition to some secluded and stumpy locality, for what we call our 'recruits'—this term in the Militia applies to those who have seldom seen, and never fired, a rifle in their lives—all the rest are 'veterans.' Of the former description we had a large and varied collection with the different columns, of the latter none. At all events that is my 'notion,' and the last of them, for here 'Misty' must be their ending. I am tired of them myself, and so must be all those who have, perhaps, followed up from start to finish the 'Notions of a Noodle.'

I must, therefore, Mr. Editor, forward you this conclusion to my friend's letters. They are, I must say, wild in the extreme; but I can safely say, also, that they are written with the best intentions on his part, of wishing to see the Militia moulded into a shape in which their usefulness can be increased, with credit to themselves, Canada, and the British Empire.

MISTY.

BELLEVILLE.—The members of the old Belleville Rifle Company who served at Amherstburg in 1864-65, were entertained here a few nights ago by Hon. M. Bowell, who was at that time ensign in the company.

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.)

The other instance is still more indicative of how hard it is to shake off old ways, even when they have no *raison d'être* whatever in the present time. In the *Liverpool Courier* of 22nd June, 1884, there appeared an account of the official inspection of the Liverpool Rifle Volunteer Brigade, in which the inspecting officer is reported to have said, speaking of the march past:—

"They might have locked up a little more than they did, but they will come to that by and by, for it requires practice."

"It requires practice!" So it does. But what conceivable good purpose is it to serve after it has been practised? Time was when, on every caution, "By the right" (or left) the rear rank would "lock up," the men thus marching on all occasions with their noses over the packs of the men before them. There must be many men alive, and some in the Army, who remember this state of things. And, although locking-up had its origin in circumstances which do not now exist at all, and has become the very opposite of anything that can ever be done on service, it is still made matter of special order that troops are to march past "locked-up," which, of course, means much expenditure of time and labour on the parade ground in doing what will never be done from one end of a campaign to another, and is of no use towards effecting anything that is to be done in war. This locking-up can very easily be traced to its origin. When men moved in three ranks with muskets loaded, and had flint locks, a stumble by a man in the second or third ranks was very likely to end in a catastrophe, if there was any distance between the ranks. The man in front was as likely as not to have his head blown off. Also in firing, three ranks standing, there was risk of similar accidents. This was avoided by locking the ranks close up. But now, when no man ever loads till he is just about to fire, this disagreeable and inconvenient expedient is still maintained, when the necessity that created it has disappeared. Accordingly, a large portion of the time men are under drill is spent in practising a mode of movement which is as unlike anything that will be done on service now, as the evolutions of an old *Minuet de la Cour* are unlike the whirls of a modern Highland Schottische. And Volunteers, who have only leisure time to devote to their military duties, are gravely asked to spend much of it in acquiring an art which is absolutely purposeless, and "requires practice." And all for what? In order that when they come to inspection to show how they can march, their time spent at "practice" may enable them to exhibit something which is utterly useless for service, and is never done when men are really on military duty of any kind, at any time, in peace or in war. Men say "it looks well." In one sense it may do so; but reason demands that nothing should be adopted or upheld which will occupy time in the soldier's work if there is no other ground for its presence in the system than appearance.

Human action, particularly in the British islands, is very apt to become imprisoned in grooves, and the dread of a damaging wrench if the groove is to be abandoned, leads to the machine being kept in the form which fits the groove, though that form be practically unsuitable for the work to be done. We suit the instrument to the groove, rather than the groove to the instrument. What is it that we have done, and apparently are still resolved to do? We have worked and wearied our subordinate officers and men on flat barrack yards, in laying themselves out in figures resembling mathematical diagrams. We have spent hours daily in making them "wheel like a gate," a movement utterly useless, and, except on ground as flat as a bowling green, impossible to be executed as laid down. We have changed positions by elaborate wheels, and formed to the "right" and "right-about," and "left" and "left-about," and countermarched elaborately, for no other purpose than to bring men up to position according to an arbitrary and useless "Front."

We have occupied much labour and time in learning different ways of doing the same thing, without any compensating advantage. We have marched by rubbing our arms together, and feeling for one another without the use of the eye, as no sensible man who wished to walk in company from one place to another would ever think of doing, and we make the doing of this in a wooden exactitude, so absolutely a test of efficiency, that "marching past" with the rear rank well jammed up, is our first thought in preparing for inspection. Volunteers, whose officers are not entitled to exact more than nine drills a year from their men, are reproved for not having "practised" them in this great test of efficiency. We still double past rubbing elbows, as if men doubling in the field could possibly move by touch. All this we do, and much more of the like sort, and with what result!—that whenever our troops, regular or auxiliary, are marched off to autumn manœuvres, or to war, the whole of this wooden-soldier drill is left behind—in two days it is all unlearned, and things totally different, improvised and non-permis-

sible according to book, become the order of the day. Touch as a guide in marching, locking-up, elaborate wheeling, &c., &c., vanish. The soldier learns that what he has been engaged in—sometimes standing about under an oppressive sun, sometimes shivering in a cold east wind or keen frost, while the mathematical problems were being slowly worked out—is all unreality. The officer finds that the cabalistic shouts cannot produce the practical results he requires. Both officer and soldier is hampered by the training having been mere form, divorced from circumstances of practice, and both are necessarily at a disadvantage from much time having been taken up with the unnecessary, which might have been devoted to practical training in the intelligent, as distinguished from the automatic, use of the few forms of movement which alone, under modern conditions, can lead to practical results when real work is to be done.

Thus, the fatal evil is brought about that the preparatory work has no direct relation to the actual work; or to use the words of a most intelligent writer near the beginning of this century—words which prove that this mode of procedure is nothing new,—"The 'Field Exercise' of the Battalion is not made sufficiently to bear on its conduct in the field. . . . When eventually called on for service, the soldier, struck with the inefficiency of what he has been made to practice before, immediately conceives the whole of his instruction to be practically useless, and merely adapted to parade. . . . Why, in the performance of the movements, the men are kept for hours under restraint, at close ranks and files, which is never expected during an engagement, is inexplicable." (*Captain Suasso, of the 55th Regiment, 1826.*)

A very striking instance of this sharp separation of the movements practised from the work to be done, is found in the fact that in order to preserve movement by touch, 24 inches only is allowed for a file; while the moment something resembling actual work is to be done, the "Field Exercise" informs us that "each file will be considered to occupy a space of 30 inches," which, of course, makes "touch" impossible.

It is in this aspect that a comparison of the absurdities in oppressive dress and equipment of former days with the hampering character of our drill detail, brings out how much more injurious to good service the latter must be than were the former. The stays and the stocks of past days did not survive many days' campaigning. Nobody, not quite mad, believes that Crawford's celebrated forced march in the Peninsula was made in upright collars of iron hardness, or that Napier's Light Division laced themselves up for those brilliant rapid rushes that so often dumbfounded our foes in Spain. But habits are not as easily thrown off as stocks, and both the stocks and the stays were encumbrances to be got rid of. All that is wanted in their case is relief. Sinbad tosses off his load. It is not so with useless and obsolete modes of manœuvring. Their retention prevents the soldier being provided with what he really requires. They are like bad weapons, not merely a useless encumbrance that can be thrown away, but a load of rubbish, which hinders the carrying of that which will give power. Obsolete and unnecessarily cumbrous manœuvres are to the Infantry what shot that will not fit the guns would be to Artillery, not only a useless but a harmful burden. Where such movements are practised elaborately on parade, then in war "the form and disposition come from the elementary tactics in which the army has been instructed in time of peace, which must be looked upon as a property in the troops that *that cannot be essentially modified* at the moment war breaks out." (*Von Clausewitz.*)

The very opposite should be the course of procedure. "This peculiarity of human nature to be governed by habit, should be enlisted as an aid to the men on the field of battle; far too often it is allowed to act against the successful result rather than its favor." (*Home.*)—*Colburn's Magazine.*

To be continued.

CORRESPONDENCE.

SUGGESTIONS FOR NEXT SUMMER'S CAMP.

To the Editor of the Canadian Militia Gazette:

DEAR SIR,—As it will not be so very long before preparations for the June camps will be under way, I will venture, with the utmost deference, to offer from time to time a few suggestions which may invite discussion, and can, at least, do no greater harm than disturb the serenity of the stereotyped orders for drill issued every year, and whose antiquity seems to make them sacred.

In the first place, I submit that the *early morning drill* is a mistake. Our ranks are filled for the most part with men from the rural districts, accustomed to eat a hearty meal before beginning the work of the day. In camp, they find themselves routed out of their blankets at daylight and, while still unwashed and unfed, putting in a couple of hours of penance.

"Never never, oh never! earth's luckiest sinner

"Hath, unpunished, forgotten the hour of his dinner."

A remark even truer of one's breakfast, "the restless, unsatisfied longing" for which so "relentlessly gnaws and pursues" the poor recruit that I doubt if any-

one who has been a company officer and truded around the field of a morning after a flock of listless grumblers has felt so happy himself that he did not consider his squad "more sinned against than sinning."

And it matters not whether the burning sun of June or the bleak winds of September have been selected, the work is equally uncomfortable and distasteful to the men and discouraging to the instructor.

One uniform serves to sleep in by night and to look clean and smart in by day. Few of the men have knapsacks or proper kits. Blacking and brushes, cakes of soap and towels are as few and far between as angels' visits. So why not give the men plenty of time to clean their persons and clothing, accoutrements and tents, have a good breakfast and, then, parading contented and clean, make up for lost (?) time.

Make Orderly Sergeants do their duty in calling their rolls half an hour after Reveille and at eight o'clock the men should be ready for drill or any other duty. Between this and 5 p.m. plenty of time will be left for all the drill men can digest.

Is there an adjutant who has not often been nearly demented in his efforts to hand over his guards to the Brigade-Major, properly inspected and instructed, promptly at 9.30, when they did not begin breakfast until 8?

I know from bitter experience just exactly what labor is involved in furnishing from one regiment the Garrison duties, which included at Kingston, a main guard, barrack guard, regimental guard, and a strong picquet.

The labor is by no means lessened when nine-tenths of the men are recruits upon their maiden tour of duty and the Sergeant-Major is a Sergeant-Major by courtesy only. What do you think about it?

I have some other grievances to ventilate after waiting to see whether you think this one worth a space in your columns.

E. G. PONTON.

BELLEVILLE, 14th January, 1886.

THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF SHOOTING IN BATTALIONS.

To the Editor of the Canadian Militia Gazette:

SIR,—In your issue of the 22nd ult., appears a letter from Col. J. Martin, of Montreal, anent rifle shooting, and while being pleased at all times to see articles in your columns on the subject, and while I would gladly endorse any feasible scheme for improvement in that line, I must say that I fear the proposition of Col. Martin will hardly meet with favor, as the facilities for getting so many men of any one corps together are so unequal that very few would enter the contest.

That something should be done to improve the standard of shooting in the various corps of the Dominion is very evident, but the great question to solve is how to do it; and with this end in view I am induced to give you my views on the subject.

Hitherto the money grants to rifle associations have done much towards bringing out a number of very expert riflemen, but they have (especially of late years) failed to bring on the great bulk of the force, as the records of shooting at the various camps will amply prove. To my mind, then, the time has come when the Department of Militia and Defence should take the matter in hand. I should not like to see the Dominion or Provincial Rifle Associations thrown overboard, but all money grants to other associations, as now made, should be done away with; and to the amount thus saved sufficient should be added to allow of an appropriation of \$25 to every efficient battery of artillery, troop of cavalry, or company of infantry in the force; and the allowance of ammunition for annual target practice should be increased from 20 to 40 rounds per man.

Again target practice should be conducted entirely at battery, troop, or company headquarters, and for this two days' pay of 50 cents per day to all officers, non-com. officers and men should be allowed, except to corps drawn for drill for that year, when one day's pay should be allowed, and such target practice should be completed prior to the annual drill. During these two days there would be time for musketry instruction, which would be going on by squads while the firing is going on, the old hands being first selected to face the targets. The following would be my scheme:—

1st. In the case of isolated batteries, troops or companies, the money grant and ammunition would be under the control of the captain, who, with the officers under him, would be a committee or board to carry out the instruction, practice, and arrange prize list.

2nd. In larger organizations, such as brigades or regiments of artillery, regiments of cavalry, or battalions of infantry, the sum of \$10 and 30 rounds of ammunition should in like manner as above be placed at the disposal of the captains, and the remaining \$15 per company and 10 rounds per man should be under the control of the officer commanding the corps, who, with the captains of the corps, so acting, and three elective members, should be a board or committee to arrange for the final matches, always providing that such rules and regulations as may be made shall be subjected to, and meet the approval of, the officer commanding the forces in the Dominion, having been previously recommended by the officers commanding the several districts.

To rural corps in battalion a further grant of from \$25 to \$50 should be made according to the facilities existing in said corps for concentrating for final practice or matches.

During the two days' target practice at battery, troop and company headquarters the 30 rounds per man of ammunition should be expended as follows:—

At 200 yards, 15 rounds—5 rounds standing.
5 rounds kneeling.
5 rounds prone position.

At 300 yards, 7 rounds, prone position or optional.

At 400 yards, 8 rounds, prone position or optional.

All parties failing to score 4 hits at 200 yards to be debarred from longer range, and to be put through a special course at 100 and 200 yards, firing 10 rounds at the former and five at the latter, the position left optional with the instructor.

At this practice the men should be divided into 1st, 2nd and 3rd classes, and in the final practice, or matches, only 1st class shots should compete and be eligible for prizes. In isolated corps the prize matches may be fired on the fol-

lowing day, but as the 10 rounds per man, not yet expended, would be more than would be required for such matches unless there should be a very large percentage of 1st class shots, it would be well to allow time for practice and to issue to such men as give in their names for these matches, all available ammunition not required at same.

In the case of larger formations the final practice, or matches, would be under the control of the regimental board, and would be conducted similarly to those of regimental associations at the present time, with or without entrance or membership fees, and with this exception, that ammunition would be free, the 10 rounds per man being used for the purpose, and any ammunition unexpended placed in the hands of men chosen to represent the corps at provincial or other matches, for practice.

Under such an arrangement I think we might reasonably expect a large increase of 1st class shots, and the whole of the force would be gradually brought on to be fair shots, as men who could not be instructed, or made to score, would give up and make room for others who could. A rivalry between companies in battalions and between corps in districts, and even between districts would be engendered, and our Provincial and Dominion matches would be largely attended by new men always coming to the front.

There are about 800 batteries, troops and companies, combined, in the force, which at \$25 each would amount to \$20,000. Add to this for extra aid to rural corps, say \$2,000, then add for extra 20 rounds of ammunition, say 720,000 rounds, at 1 cent per round (cost of manufacture), \$7,200, and for the day's pay, at 50 cents a day, say on average 1½ days per man of the whole force, which I put at 36,000 men, would be \$27,000 more, in all \$56,000; city corps drill every year, so that the average of days' pay would not exceed 1½ days, it so much, which gives a saving of \$4,500, and perhaps the whole cost could be brought down to \$50,000, a sum of money that could not, in my opinion, be better expended.

I have read with much interest the several articles written by a "Noodle" and others, and I trust they will continue until such time as our rulers shall see the necessity of adopting such rules and regulations as shall best suit the requirements of our country, climate and resources; and in conclusion, would beg to be allowed to wish the GAZETTE a happy and prosperous year.

AN OLD RIFLEMAN.

JAN. 7, 1885.

NO FIELD ALLOWANCE FOR THE N. B. PROVISIONAL BATTALION.

To the Editor of the Canadian Militia Gazette:

SIR,—May I be allowed to say a word or two on behalf of the officers of the "New Brunswick Provisional Battalion" called out for active service in the N. W. T. last May, and who have not yet received the field allowance to which they are entitled by regulation. In your issue of 29th September you drew attention to this matter and stated that the Prince of Wales Rifles and 32nd Battalion had received their allowance; why then should the poor New Brunswickers be ignored, when they actually left their homes for two weeks and were put to great expense in providing themselves with a field kit? Neither is it the fault of the officers, as you then surmised, as the claims have been sent forward. It seems hardly fair that there should be any discrimination between the several Provinces.

N. B.

THE RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF VOLUNTEER BOARDS.

To the Editor of the Canadian Militia Gazette:

SIR,—I observe with regret that the numerical strength of the officers of the Militia of Canada is, and has been, decreasing for some time past, and I think this important fact should be emphatically marked by the authorities at Ottawa, and if possible, some steps taken to prevent it, and the discouraging effect it must have on the force. I am inclined to think that the cause is the abolishing of the volunteer boards, and the substituting in their stead the military schools. A great many of our young men would make applications for commissions in our different city corps, but find it impossible to leave their business or daily avocation for even the short course at the military schools, to enable them to be confirmed in their rank. It is quite clear that the instruction received at the M. S. is superior to that afforded by private coaching, but the great drawback is its impracticability to a number of those who would otherwise recruit the strength of our officers. I would suggest that the volunteer boards be re-established, with power, as formerly, to grant certificates, for the convenience of officers who cannot attend the military schools for instruction.

UNIT.

MONTREAL, January 14th, 1886.

RECOGNITION OF THE SERVICES OF THE NORTH-WEST LOCAL FORCES.

To the Editor of the Canadian Militia Gazette:

SIR,—I have noticed a great deal of attention directed towards the volunteers who were in the North-west last summer, and much said about recognizing their services by land grants and medals. But I do not find any notice taken of those corps belonging to the North-west which also participated in suppressing the rebellion. The names of these corps are, the North-west Mounted Police, Battleford Rifles and Home Guards, and at Prince Albert, the volunteers. It would be waste of time to enumerate the services of these corps, as they are well known to the people of Canada without further mention of them here, and why they are forgotten no one has been found who can give a reason. These corps deserve the same recognition of their services as the militia, and it will be a great injustice if they do not get it. I hope that these few lines may attract the attention of all who believe in "Honor to whom honor is due."

JUSTICE.

BATTLEFORD, Sask., Jan. 1st, 1886.

REGIMENTAL NOTES.

(We wish to publish information respecting all the doings of all corps. Will the officers interested, particularly at a distance, assist us by having news relating to their corps promptly forwarded?)

AMHERST, N.S.—Corporal John E. Nelson and Private John W. Hunter, of No. 4 Company, 93rd Battalion (Capt. Mills), lately returned from the Military School at Fredericton, where they nearly completed a short course, and where Hunter developed excellent ability to impart drill instruction. Lieut. Howard Mills, of the same company, left on the 4th, for a three months' course at this school. Mr. Mills is one of the most popular officers of the battalion, and is sure to become a favorite at the school. He is a good representative of the cold water boys—a term which has frequently been applied to the officers of this battalion, and had a good send-off from the lodge of Good Templars to which he belongs.—*Amherst Gazette*.

MONTREAL.—A movement is on foot to reorganize the 65th French-Canadian battalion, with a strength of 500 men, if the Government can be induced to consent, and it is also proposed to organize as many French-Canadian battalions as there are English in the city.—*Witness*.

PORT ELGIN.—We have this week to chronicle the death of Sergt.-Major Ducker, of the 32nd Bruce Battalion, which occurred on Sunday, the 3rd inst. Mr. Ducker was brought up in this section and was highly esteemed by all who knew him. When but 14 years of age, in 1870, he joined No. 1 Co., under command of Capt. Sinclair (since deceased), and soon became a corporal. He was made a sergeant under Capt. Biggar, now senior major of the battalion, in which capacity he served till 1884. In 1881, when Capt. Biggar was promoted to the majority, and Capt. Boyd took command of No. 1 Co., Sergt. Ducker was strongly urged to take a commission, but declined, preferring to remain a non-com. officer. In 1882, when Capt. Boyd became adjutant and Capt. Stafford was promoted to the command of the company, he again declined a commission, and on the recommendation of the adjutant, a vacancy having occurred, he was made sergeant-major of the battalion, his old comrades in arms expressing their hearty approval of this promotion by presenting him with an address and a purse of money. He filled this last position most efficiently, and was highly esteemed by every officer and man in the regiment, being a good drill, possessed of a very even temper, which he was never known to lose, and displaying a rare amount of tact in carrying out the orders and wishes of his superior officers.

When the 32nd were ordered out for active service in May last, although then suffering from diabetes, which was the cause of his death, he was one of the first to don his uniform and report himself for duty. His death was very sudden; he was only one day confined to bed.

He was buried at Burgoyne on Tuesday, the 5th inst, with military honors, the cortege from North Bruce being met south of Port Elgin by No. 1 Co., under Capt. Stafford, Lieuts. Smith and Mitchell, accompanied by Major Boyd, the Port Elgin brass band, and a large number of citizens. Here the procession was reformed. The firing party, under Sergt. Boyles, led, followed in order by the band playing the dead march, making one of the most solemn sights ever witnessed here, the principal street being lined with people, who had turned out to pay the last tribute of respect to the departed soldier. On arriving at Burgoyne cemetery the funeral service was conducted by the Rev. W. W. Leach, after which the firing party were drawn up at open order and fired the regulation three volleys over the grave of their comrade.

Major Biggar, who was a warm friend of Sergt.-Major Ducker, was unable to attend his funeral, on account of serious illness, but he is now convalescent, and we hope soon to see him out again.

AMUSEMENTS.

(If the active organizers of regimental games, company clubs, and similar winter occupations for the militia will forward us accounts of their doings we will gladly publish them. This, we hope, will have the good result of encouraging the organization of similar clubs where there are none at present.)

MONTREAL.—Last Thursday the officers of the "Vics" had a mess dinner at the Windsor.

No. 5 Company of the "Vics" had a very successful and enjoyable social on the 18th ult., at which there was a large attendance.

At the annual meeting of the Sergeant's mess of the Prince of Wales Rifles, the following officers were elected for the ensuing year: President, Sergt.-Major Porteous, re-elected; Secretary-Treasurer, Col.-Sergt. Lefebere; Room-Committee, Color-Sergt. Benton, chairman, Color-Sergt. McCrae, Color-Sergt. Ferguson, Q.M. Sergt. Elliott, Sergt. Pryer; Auditors, Q.M. Sergt. Elliott, Sergt. Gilmore; Assistant Secretary-Treasurer, Sergt. Woolley.

(These last two items should have appeared some time ago but were unavoidably detained.)

BRANTFORD.—The officers of the Dufferin Rifles have decided to have a supper served in their rooms once a month, when besides the eatables, military and other interesting matters will be discussed. It is proposed, at present, to restrict these meetings to the officers.

GLEANINGS.

During Christmas week Mr. S. L. Bedson, who acted with signal success as chief transport officer to General Middleton's column, was presented at Stony Mountain with a gold watch by the residents of Rockwood who had been employed as teamsters under him. The presentation was made to the accompaniment of a supper, and all concerned appear to have had a b. o. t.

General Luard has not forgotten his Canadian friends, and has complimented more than one of the corps on their success in the North-west last season. Col. Grasset is particularly pleased at being the recipient of a Christmas card bearing his congratulations to the Grenadiers.

Major C. A. Boulton, leader of the scouts with Middleton's column, has written a history of the two North-west rebellions, in both of which he took a prominent part. The Major is a son of Lieut.-Col. D'Arcy Boulton, the veteran commander of the Prince of Wales' Canadian Dragoons, and was one of the original officers of the 100th Regiment, from which he retired as a captain. In 1870 he was sentenced to be shot by Riel, when a prisoner at Fort Garry, and there was a sort of poetical justice in his being at the death of his former captor. We look forward to the publication of Major Boulton's story with much interest.

MILITIA GENERAL ORDERS OF 7TH JANUARY, 1886.

NO. 1—ROYAL MILITARY COLLEGE OF CANADA.

Annual Examination for Candidates, 1886—Subjects and Books.

The annual examination to be held in the present year, for Candidates desiring to be admitted as Cadets to the Royal Military College of Canada, Kingston, will commence at the District Staff Office, at the Head Quarters of the several Military Districts in which Candidates reside, on Tuesday, the 15th day of June,—the medical examinations to be held the day previous. The subjects and books in which Candidates will be examined are as follows:—

Obligatory or Preliminary Examination.

- | | |
|--|--------|
| (1) Mathematics : | Marks. |
| (a) Arithmetic, including vulgar and decimal fractions, simple and compound proportions, simple and compound interest, partnership, profit and loss..... | 500 |
| (b) Algebra, including simple equations..... | 500 |
| (c) Geometry, first book of Euclid, or its equivalent..... | 500 |

If Euclid is not used as a text book, the candidate is to mention at the head of his answer paper the name of the author of the text book used.

- | | |
|--|-----|
| (2) (a) Grammar, English or French. Writing English or French correctly, and in a good legible hand from dictation..... | 500 |
| (b) Composition, as tested by the powers of writing an essay, precis, or letter, in English or French..... | 500 |
| (3) Geography, general and descriptive..... | 500 |
| (4) History, British and Canadian, general..... | 500 |
| (5) French: grammar and translation from the language..... | 500 |
| (6) Latin; grammar and simple translation from the language into either English or French as may be preferred by the candidate | 500 |
| (7) Elements of freehand drawing, viz: simple copies from the flat; outline only..... | 300 |

*French will, for the present, be optional, and may therefore be omitted by a candidate.

No candidate will be considered qualified for a cadetship or be allowed to count marks in the "Further examination" unless he obtains a minimum of one-third of the total number of marks in each of the subjects; 1 (a, b, c, together) 2 (a and b, together) 3, 4, 6 and 7.

Voluntary or Further Examination.

- | | |
|---|--------|
| (1) Mathematics : | Marks. |
| (a) Algebra—Up to and including quadratic equations..... | 1000 |
| (b) Geometry—Up to and including third book of Euclid, or its equivalent..... | 1000 |

If Euclid is not used as a text book, the candidate is to mention at the head of his answer paper the name of the author of the text book used.

- | | |
|--|------|
| (c) Theory and use of common logarithms, plane trigonometry, mensuration..... | 1000 |
| (2) English or French literature.—Limited to specified authors.... | 1000 |
| (a) The examination to include Primer of the History of English Literature, by Rev. Stopford Brooke, and Shakespeare's Play of Julius Cæsar; or, for French speaking candidates, some standard French author, but not necessarily "Text" work. | |
| (3) Geography—Physical, particularly of Dominion of Canada and United States..... | 1000 |
| (a) Examination in Colton's Outline of Physical Geography. | |
| (4) History—British and Canadian, limited to certain fixed periods.. | 1000 |
| (a) Examination in History of the British Empire, embracing the Stuart and Brunswick periods, and the period from 1812 to the present time (any school author) of Canadian History. | |
| (5) French Grammar, and translation from English into French or French into English..... | 1200 |
| (6) Latin, including Cæsar's Commentaries, Book IV., from chap. xx. to chap. xxxviii (inclusive). Book V. to end of 23rd chap., and 1st, 4th, 6th, 7th and 9th Eclogues of Virgil. Translation into either English or French as may be preferred by the candidate..... | 1500 |
| (7) Drawing—Copies from the flat; shaded. Simple object drawing | 1000 |

No "Voluntary" subject, except mathematics and drawing, shall gain a candidate any marks, unless he obtains a minimum of one-third of the marks assigned to that subject.

The marks gained in the "Obligatory" subjects will be added to those gained in the "Voluntary" subjects, to make a second total.

It is to be understood that English speaking candidates use the papers prepared in that language, and that French speaking candidates use papers prepared in the French language. The object of this permission is to allow candidates to write their examination papers, except where, from the nature of question, it is otherwise required, in English or French, whichever may be the language with which they are most familiar.

The Standard of knowledge of English required from French speaking candidates for the present, will be:—To write and speak English sufficiently to understand and be understood in that language.

Candidates should make application to the Adjutant General, Ottawa, by 1st May, in order that arrangements may be made for their examination in June.

NOTE.—Candidates will be permitted, after examination, to retain the printed Examination Questions, provided no rough work or scribbling has been done thereon, of which the supervising officer of the local Board having assured himself, he will initial the printed questions to be retained.

FRED. MIDDLETON, Major General,
Commanding the Militia.

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First Class Short Course—Grade A.

Lieutenant D. W. S. Daley, Digby Garrison Artillery.

First Class Short Course—Grade B.

Gunner Thomas Kelly, "A" Battery, R.C.A.
do L. J. O. Ducharme, Montreal Field Battery.
do W. J. Stephenson, Woodstock do
do F. Storm, New Brunswick Brigade Gar. Art.

Second Class Short Course—Grade B.

Acting Bombardier C. Wolfe, "A" Battery, R.C.A.
Gunner B. A. Asselin, do
do P. Hogues, do
Corporal W. Goods, Woodstock Field Battery.
Gunner C. Nugent, do
do A. Templeman, do
Bombardier A. A. Boutillier, Halifax Brigade Gar. Art.
Sergeant T. Richardson, New Brunswick do
do A. Watters, do do
Corporal W. T. Bacon, Digby Garrison Artillery.
Gunner W. Y. Woodman, do

First Class Special Course.

Lieut.-Col. J. R. Armstrong, New Brunswick Brigade Gar. Art.
Captain. G. B. Seely, do do
2nd Lieut. W. M. Botsford, do do
do G. W. Jones, do do
Surgeon J. W. Daniel, do do

Second Class Special Course.

Lieut. E. J. Scammell, New Brunswick Brigade Garrison Artillery.

SCHOOLS OF INFANTRY.

Second Class Short Course—Grade A.

2nd Lieut. H. Stanway, 6th Battalion.
Lieut. J. A. Shehyn, 9th do
do C. E. Larue, 9th do
2nd Lieut. A. C. Gibson, 10th do
do W. S. Lowe, 10th do

Second Class Long Course—Grade B.

Sergeant E. Bouchard, 17th Battalion.

First Class Short Course—Grade B.

Colour Sergeant R. Cumming, "C" Company, I.S.C.
Sergeant J. Calladaine, do
Corporal C. W. Belan, do
Sergeant J. Fraser, 53rd Battalion,
do J. D. Donaldson, 55th do

Second Class Short Course—Grade B.

Sergeant J. E. Burns, "C" Company, I.S.C.
Corporal H. Monjeau, do
do C. Peters, do
do D. C. Williamson, do
Sergeant A. Desane, 9th Battalion.
do E. R. Lamontagne, 9th do
do E. Lapointe, 9th do
Colour Sergt. J. J. Gormley, 40th do
Corporal W. Tomlinson, 43rd do
Sergeant O. Amey, 47th do

First Class Special Course.

2nd Lieut. W. Nicol, 14th Battalion.
do A. G. Farrell, 14th do

Second Class Special Course.

2nd Lieut. C. H. Baird, 2nd Battalion.
do J. W. G. Watson, 13th do

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PROVINCE OF NEW BRUNSWICK.

Regimental Division of York.

To be Major, Captain Alfred F. Street, from No. 6 Company Division, vice Robert Robinson, deceased.

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Commanding the Militia.

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Notice to Contractors.

SEALED TENDERS addressed to the undersigned and endorsed "Tender for the Welland Canal," will be received at this office until the arrival of the Eastern and Western mails on MONDAY, the 25th day of JANUARY next (1886), for raising the walls of the Locks, Weirs, &c., and increasing the height of the banks of that part of the Welland Canal between Port Dalhousie and Thorold, and for deepening the Summit Level between Thorold and Ramsey's Bend, near Humberston.

The works, throughout, will be let in Sections.

Plans of the several localities, together with plans and descriptive specifications, can be seen at this office on and after MONDAY, the 11th day of JANUARY next (1886), where printed forms of tender can be obtained. A like class of information relative to the works north of Allanburg will be furnished at the resident Engineer's Office, Thorold; and for works south of Allanburg, plans, specifications, &c., may be seen at the resident Engineer's Office, Welland.

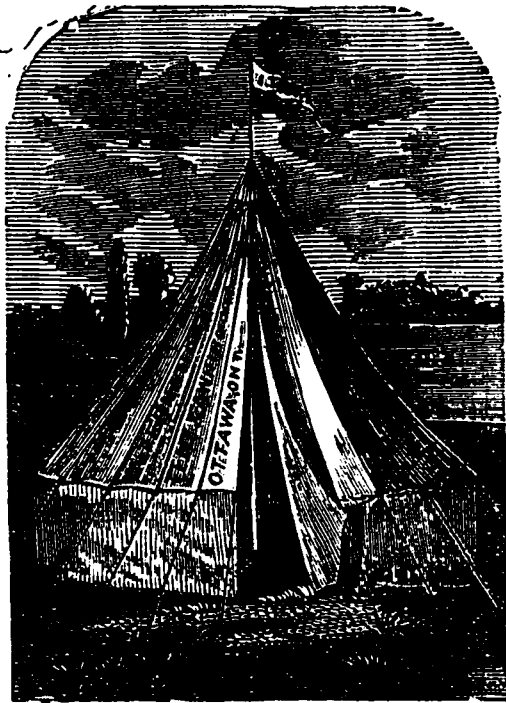
Contractors are requested to bear in mind that tenders will not be considered unless made strictly in accordance with the printed forms, and, in the case of firms, except there are attached the actual signatures, the nature of the occupation and place of residence of each member of the same; and further, an accepted bank cheque for the sum of Two Thousand Dollars or more—according to the extent of the work on the section—must accompany the respective tenders, which sum shall be forfeited if the party tendering declines entering into contract for the works at the rates stated in the offer submitted.

The amount required in each case will be stated on the form of tender.

The cheque or money thus sent in will be returned to the respective parties whose tenders are not accepted.

This Department does not, however, bind itself to accept the lost or any tender.

By order,
A. P. BRADLEY,
Secretary,
Department of Railways and Canals,
Ottawa, 9th December, 1885



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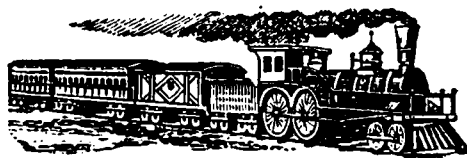
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