

# THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE

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## Note and Comment.

We are authorized to state that in the selection of a commandant for next year's Bisley team, preference will be given to a Nova Scotian, in recognition of the claim of the riflemen of that province upon the honour. A couple of weeks ago we expressed a hope that were a candidate put forward from the Maritime Provinces, those already mentioned from Ontario and Quebec would gracefully retire in his favour, and we are glad to hear that those in authority in the Association have, by making this early announcement, taken the best step to prevent the appointment of any other than a Nova Scotian being urged.

While in sympathy with the feeling expressed by our correspondent who writes on the subject of the new regulations to govern the wearing of miniature medals, we think it is very desirable that the Imperial and Canadian rules should be the same. This is the view, we believe, taken at headquarters, and such being the case an early promulgation of the Imperial edict as part of our Regulations and Orders may be looked for. The general question, however, of whether in such cases it would be better to adhere to or establish a custom of our own rather than deprive our officers of the opportunities now enjoyed of displaying the rewards won by their self-sacrificing service in the field, is one quite proper for discussion, there being much in favour of our correspondent's contentions.

This opens up another field for legitimate discussion. If officers are to be allowed to wear miniature medals in plain clothes, why should not non-commissioned officers and men have the same privilege, especially in a volunteer force so constituted, as ours is, that there is practically no difference in the social standing of the various ranks? There seems to be an injustice in this, and now that the officers are likely to be deprived of many opportunities of showing their rewards, perhaps they will realize more fully the gratification it would afford to the privates to be allowed to wear the miniatures.

At the Antipodes, as here, some of the more enthusiastic riflemen appear to show a disposition to shirk other military work, and in protesting against such a state of affairs the New Zealand *Volunteer Gazette* says: "Rifle clubs, mere rifle clubs, will be found useless as factors in the defence of their country. Riflemen might be able to hit the moon at every shot, but without drill of what possible

service could they be as soldiers? Shooting is doubtless a very important part of a soldier's work, but after all is only one half of it. Without the other half, drill-cum-discipline, a regiment of a thousand Queen's Prizemen would, in the face of a disciplined foe, only go forth to their own destruction."

It is not altogether to be wondered at that devotees of rifle-shooting are often so little interested in drill, because so little trouble is taken to make the latter attractive, or to present some plausible reason—other than the desirability for efficiency on general principles—for thorough study and practice. At the risk of wearying by the reiteration, we would again prescribe, as a remedy for this admitted evil, a general efficiency competition devised so as to interest the corps from end to end of the Dominion in each other's work and progress. We have heard nothing but praise of the theory of an efficiency competition such as suggested, but the difficulty is invariably set up that it would be found impossible to satisfactorily carry out the suggestion. With this we do not agree. Will not some one move in the direction of a trial?

Our Canadian advocates of the desirability of a carrier pigeon service will be interested in hearing that a correspondent urges, in the last issue of the *Volunteer Record* to hand, that a pigeon messenger service section should be organized for the Volunteer force in England. He points out that in the recent advices of the movements of the French army, the carrier pigeon is spoken of in terms of the highest praise, and its success as a wheel in the organization of an army corps has been proved on many occasions at the different manoeuvres.

While Canadians are happy in the knowledge that their marine interests are vigilantly protected by the Empire's fleet, without cost to us, save the allegiance which we are proud to profess, the Australian colonists, to whom naval protection is of even greater importance, are to be asked to pay in coin as well as fealty. The *United Service Gazette*, noting the despatch of a Commissioner from England to make inquiries in view of a probable discussion in Parliament, says: "It seems that the opinion of the colonists is that local defence pure and simple will be quite sufficient to meet the exigencies of the case, but the authorities at home consider that while a local squadron is necessary, provision should be made for the partial maintenance of the Imperial naval force stationed in Australian waters. We are informed that it is an instruction to Captain Moore to impress upon the colonists the necessity of recognising this fact, and of paying towards the support of the Imperial squadron, to which hitherto they have not contributed."

Soldiering as a profession, in the case of the rank and file at least, seems to be losing favour in England, for a serious dearth of recruits is reported, whilst there is said to be a marked deterioration physically in the men now joining, compared with those who formerly enlisted. Only one-half of the 50,000 candidates for enlistment in 1888—the last year yet reported upon—were found fit for service. It is suggested

that were the Canadian route to the East to be used, the Dominion might form an excellent recruiting ground. Perhaps the desire for travel might induce some good men to join an Imperial regiment passing through Canada, but the experience of our own permanent corps shows that the young men of Canada prefer more profitable employment.

The *Army and Navy Gazette* joins in the approval generally expressed of the choice made for commandant of our militia. Says that paper: "The Dominion is to be congratulated on obtaining such a successor to Sir F. Middleton to command its militia as Colonel Ivor Herbert; but whether he is to be condoled with or not remains to be seen. The post of Military Attaché at St. Petersburg is one not much sought after, for various reasons, and Colonel Herbert may be glad to change his venue."

### Regimental and Other News.

#### Ottawa.

Staff-Sergt. R. M. Gallwey, orderly room clerk of the G. G. F. G., has been presented with handsome cigar and cigarette holders in amber and ebony by Major W. E. Hodgins, adjutant, as a mark of his personal esteem. It is understood that Major Hodgins will shortly relinquish the adjutancy and become junior major, Lieut. Plunkett Taylor reigning as adjutant in his stead.

#### THE MILITARY LADIES.

Probably the most successful night of the Ladies' Army and Navy Exhibition was the closing one on Saturday, when the Drill Hall was crowded to the doors, and the spectators were most enthusiastic. Among the distinguished guests present were Lady Macdonald and Sir Adolphe Caron. The Minister of Militia heartily congratulated the ladies on their military bearing and the precision with which they carried out their exercises. During the evening Mrs. R. J. Devlin entertained the P. L. D. G.'s to a recherche supper, and Mrs. Allan entertained the Royal Scots and the Guards. At the close of the evening the various corps marched on to the stage and formed in column square, and after giving three cheers for the Queen sang the National Anthem. The rifle gallery was well patronized during the week, and the competition for Major Sherwood's prize of a handsome piano lamp was very keen, the winner turning up in Lieut. W. Jamieson, with a score of 49 out of a possible 50. Lieut. Plunkett Taylor, the instructor of the Guards corps, was presented by the ladies with a very handsome gold headed swagger cane, in recognition of his services. Great credit is due to Mr. Rowley, Mr. R. J. Devlin, Capt. Gourdeau, R. E. Kimber, Capt. Bliss, Lieut. Brown, Lieut. Lawless, Lieut.-Col. Macpherson, Col. Walker Powell, Mr. E. Moore, Capt. Berkeley Powell, Mr. Lewis, Mr. F. White, Mr. Gundry, Mr. Ritchie, Mr. Morse, Major Heron and others, for their efforts to add to the success of the entertainment.

#### Halifax.

An interesting match took place on the afternoon of Saturday, the 5th inst., at Bedford range, between two teams of the Halifax Garrison Artillery, viz.: Officers vs. N. C. O., the latter being victors by eight points. The weather was very good and some high scores were made. The rifles used were Martinis at Queen's ranges. After the match the officers entertained the winning team at Wilson's Hotel. The following are the scores:—

OFFICERS.				NON COM. OFFICERS.					
	200	500	600 To'l		200	500	600 To'l		
Capt. Adams	30	31	33	94	Sergt. McLeod	29	34	29	92
Major Garrison	27	32	30	89	Sergt. McEachran	27	28	30	85
Lieut. Dimock	23	31	30	84	Bom. Fader	27	29	28	84
Lieut. Flowers	26	28	24	78	Sergt.-Major Case	26	30	26	82
Lieut. Giles	22	28	21	71	Staff-Sgt. Murray	25	27	19	71
Capt. Harris	21	25	20	66	Staff-Sgt. Bland	18	26	24	68
Lieut. Halls	16	17	22	55	Staff-Sgt. Harris	22	31	10	63
	165	192	180	537		174	205	166	545

#### A GUN SHIFTING COMPETITION.

Rain prevailed most of the time at the annual meeting of the Artillerists of Canada on the Island of Orleans, and only a few of the teams were able to complete their shifting competition. The Halifax detachments were unable even to make the attempt. Application was made by them to the Dominion Artillery Association for permission to do the shift at the drill shed here, and this request was granted and the competition came off last evening. Captain Fell, R.A. was umpire and Lieutenant Barnes, R.A. timer. The competition was for second and third prizes, Charlottetown having gone through the exercise at Quebe

and done it in 5 m 1 sec. Colonel Curren, Adjutant Stewart, Major Garrison, Captain Oxley and many officers of the artillery were present besides a large gathering of others interested. The detachments, were of course, composed of the same men as those who went to Quebec. The first to come off was the 'A' shift. The gun is equivalent to a rifled 64 pounder, and weight 58 cwt. It is mounted on a common standing carriage standing on centre of ground platform in line of fire, and has to be dismounted over right side of carriage by parbuckling, taken down by the rear of the platform to the rear of the same carriage, which had been conveyed 18 feet from its former position, and remounted up the rear by skids and rollers, the gun to be left in centre of platform in line of fire, shifting stores clear of platform.

Captain Maxwell's men were the first to make the shift. They worked beautifully together and the captain has reason to feel proud of his detachment. They performed the exercise in the splendid time of 4.34 $\frac{3}{4}$ s., 5 seconds were added by the umpire on account of their having broken a handspike, making the corrected time 4.39 $\frac{3}{4}$ s. It took the P. E. Island men 5.1 to do the same work at Quebec.

No. 2 detachment was in charge of Brigade Sergeant-Major Gibb. They dismounted the gun and rolled it along the 18 feet quickly, but a little delay occurred in getting it started up the skids in remounting, and the time was 5.47; 7 seconds were added for errors, giving a corrected time of 5.54.

Battery Sergeant-Major Case had charge of No. 3. The gun had been used twice and had become very wet, the skids, too, being almost soaking. The gun had been brought round nicely, but in taking it up the skids to the carriage it slid off. The men worked exceedingly well in picking it up and mounting it, and under the circumstances made the good time of 12.21.

The go-as-you-please or 'B' shift is practically similar to the other, except that the men are permitted to dismount the gun and remount it in the way they think quickest. The method is a more reckless one and more dangerous than the regulation way, but gives greater play to the ingenuity of the men. Capt. Maxwell's men came to the gun flushed with the success of their work in the 'A' shift, never dreaming but that they would be equally expeditious now. They threw the gun off the carriage and had it over to the point where it was to be remounted in good time, but here their troubles began. It could not be got off the upper end of the skid into position. At last the order came, 'down to the floor,' and a new attempt was made; again it failed; the gun had to be picked up and a third time it was drawn up. At last, after a game fight, it is in place, but only after 22.10 of hard work. The wet state of gun and skid could hardly have been worse in the rain at Quebec.

No. 2 detachment in charge of the Brigade Sergeant-Major now took the gun, certain of an easy victory unless the same misfortunes overtook them that did their predecessors. They had profited by their experience, however, and adopted a more cautious plan. They worked beautifully—the gun was down in a twinkling, rolled along the 18 feet and up into its new position in 6.51 1-5. A cheer and burst of applause rewarded the swart fellows as they finished their work.

Sergeant-Major Case made the concluding shift and succeeded in getting through in the very good time of 8.14.

The results of the competition are gratifying. Fifty-seven such good shifting men out of one brigade is a showing that no brigade elsewhere can produce. The test last night, though favorable to them, in being held in their own drill shed, was disadvantageous in view of the wet gun and damp skids. Captain Fell expressed pleasure at the celerity of the shifting and regret that some of his own men were not present to witness the work.—*Herald, 21st Oct.*

Some curious details have just been published on the relative mortality among the European troops during time of peace. Everything connected with the army is of primary importance with the Germans; and these figures gave rise to much discussion at the Congress of Berlin. As we might suppose, the Spanish troops gave the highest standard of mortality, and that not because the soldiers are weakly so much as that the sanitary arrangements are inadequate or neglected. The deaths represent 13 in a thousand. Russia comes next; but the interval is large. The mortality is about 9 in the thousand. Then follow the Italians with 7.74. So far the series is almost as a sharp observer might guess it would be. What follows is more perplexing and more interesting. Austrians, French, English, Belgian and German—that is the order. In round numbers, the deaths of Austrian soldiers are in the thousand 7; of French, 6; of English, a little over 5; of Belgian, a little over 4, and of Germans, a little under 4. Of course this is a great triumph for the Germans, the more so as the largeness of their army insures a certain reliability in the statistics. One other detail is given. The ravages of consumption are enormously greater in the case of our own soldiers than of any other nationality, and in this case the French are the most favoured.—*London Daily News.*

The Ottawa Rifle Club.

This year has been one of marked prosperity with the Ottawa Rifle Club, and an unusually large number of new members have participated in the practices. Every Saturday from early spring until the cold weather of the fall, with the exception of a midsummer vacation covering the period of the Provincial and Dominion matches, the members gather upon Rideau range, and there engage in competition, none the less keen because friendly, for solid silver spoons, paid for by an entry fee of 25c. from each member taking part. That all may be interested in the competitions, the membership is divided into three classes, based upon previous records, and as soon as a competitor has won three spoons in the third or second class he is promoted to the next for everything except the aggregate prizes, for which the classes remains as at the commencement of the season. The number of spoons in each class each day is based upon the number of entries, except that there is always one at least. Eighty spoons all told were won this year. Quite fittingly there appears at the head of the list, as the champion spoon winner, Mr. J. A. Armstrong, one of the most reliable, best known and deservedly popular shots in the Dominion; he took three firsts (dessert spoons) and four seconds (tea spoons). Another noted shot, the painstaking secretary of the club, Lieut. E. D. Sutherland, was a close second, with six spoons to his credit, three of each kind, and Mr. J. H. Ellis, winner of the Grand Aggregate at the D.R.A. this year, was third, with three dessert spoons and one tea spoon. The other winners were: R. J. Taylor, 4; Capt. S. M. Rogers, 3; C. S. Scott, 3; H. McKay, 3; R. Moodie, 3; R. Stewart, 3; Lt.-Col. Anderson, 2; R. Tink, 2; Capt. H. H. Gray, 2; J. P. Nutting, 2; Capt. W. A. Jamieson, 2; D. R. Brown, 2; R. N. Slater, 2; F. W. Smith, 2; T. McJanet, 2; S. Short, 2; W. Short, 2; C. M. Wiggins, 2; R. H. Brown, 2; W. T. Mason, H. LeB Ross, Capt. C. F. Cox, Dr. G. Hutchison, N. Morrison, A. Pink, G. A. Robinson, W. L. Lambkin, Dr. McMartin, G. A. Mailleue, H. Watters, Capt. O'Grady, G. L. Blatch, H. Pratt, Major J. Wright, W. H. Timbers, Major A. P. Sherwood, and R. A. Helmer, 1 each. The complete scores of all members entering for the aggregate prizes are given below:—

SNIDER.

FIRST CLASS. (Commencement of Season.)	Apl. 19	May 3	May 17	May 31	June 14	July 12	July 26	Aug 2	Aug 9	Sept 26	Agg Best 5
1. J. H. Ellis...	80	85	59	81	91	84	..	79	..	78	421
2. J. A. Armstrong.....	77	83	66	72	68	91	86	83	74	76	420
3. A. Pink.....	..	75	35	92	79	83	76	75	84	74	414
4. S. M. Rogers.....	80	74	64	80	77	82	65	85	83	..	410
5. E. D. Sutherland.....	76	63	72	88	78	80	..	..	80	83	409
6. T. C. Boville.....	75	76	59	..	80	84	73	83	83	59	406
7. T. P. Carroll.....	68	75	62	82	79	90	68	77	68	..	403
8. W. Short.....	70	74	63	76	84	77	78	81	77	81	401
9. A. P. Sherwood.....	75	82	66	..	83	..	74	77	76	78	396
10. J. W. de C. O'Grady..	64	..	57	73	85	81	67	69	85	72	396
11. W. P. Anderson.....	82	73	58	78	84	..	..	..	..	75	392
12. W. A. Jamieson.....	77	68	53	70	74	76	66	67	78	69	375
13. J. D. Taylor.....	57	..	54	67	81	75	62	74	78	66	375
14. Dr. Geo. Hutchison...	65	..	..	74	81	77	..	70	..	71	373
15. G. A. D. Mailleue....	66	..	57	78	81	70	44	71	70	58	370
16. J. Wright.....	69	73	57	57	71	66	74	77	71	62	366
17. W. T. Mason.....	84	79	58	78	64	..	55	..	..	..	363
18. N. Morrison.....	..	..	73	68	69	74	67	64	76	70	362
19. B. H. Bell.....	..	71	56	63	54	70	..	..	..	..	314
J. E. Hutcheson.....	78	..	60	66	81	..	..	..	..	..	..
SECOND CLASS. (Commencement of Season.)											
1. C. S. Scott.....	70	78	54	76	85	90	73	83	83	68	419
2. J. P. Nutting.....	60	85	..	74	81	78	82	73	80	73	406
3. R. Tink.....	75	..	52	83	81	81	82	58	74	..	402
4. T. McJanet.....	..	70	60	73	80	76	..	80	82	77	395
5. F. W. Smith.....	74	78	53	62	78	52	75	..	86	66	391
6. C. F. Cox.....	71	76	..	67	..	85	70	..	74	71	377
7. W. G. Dial.....	70	76	51	73	64	71	67	..	77	..	367
THIRD CLASS. (Commencement of Season.)											
1. H. Le B. Ross.....	82	69	56	71	73	80	70	61	75	66	381
2. R. N. Slater.....	73	68	..	61	76	69	61	49	84	67	370
3. R. J. Taylor.....	..	73	56	56	70	69	57	75	71	66	358
4. H. McKay.....	43	62	42	59	70	70	42	81	67	58	350
5. B. Billings.....	..	67	39	57	71	79	54	70	..	54	344
6. R. Stewart.....	..	53	..	..	..	67	61	75	..	61	320
7. W. H. Timbers.....	62	54	37	58	60	63	57	59	63	70	318
8. Geo. Blatch.....	..	..	59	60	67	59	..	..	73	57	318
9. H. Watters.....	..	17	..	35	50	59	60	54	..	60	283

MARTINI.

FIRST CLASS. (Commencement of Season.)	Apl. 26	May 10	June 28	July 5	July 19	Sept 12	Sept 19	Oct. 4	Agg Best 4
1. J. A. Armstrong.....	..	88	89	81	87	86	68	86	350
2. E. D. Sutherland.....	83	76	92	84	85	79	85	79	346
3. J. H. Ellis.....	77	84	77	83	86	..	86	86	342
4. W. A. Jamieson.....	79	89	72	74	89	76	78	83	340
5. G. A. Mailleue.....	74	84	86	84	85	74	79	82	339
6. Dr. G. Hutchison.....	82	91	83	81	..	64	..	77	337
7. S. M. Rogers.....	88	83	81	..	75	71	84	79	336
8. J. Wright.....	73	79	80	75	76	81	90	81	332
9. A. P. Sherwood.....	75	88	..	75	..	..	79	86	328
10. W. P. Anderson.....	..	..	78	74	..	88	79	83	328
11. T. C. Boville.....	73	88	81	72	77	74	..	..	320
12. J. D. Taylor.....	53	..	75	77	83	67	..	76	311
13. J. W. de C. O'Grady....	74	83	77	76	..	..	..	72	310
14. T. Carroll.....	69	67	74	69	77	67	..	71	291
15. A. Pink.....	66	61	71	..	63	..	..	80	280
SECOND CLASS (Commencement of Season.)									
1. T. McJanet.....	83	78	79	91	73	76	78	83	336
2. C. S. Scott.....	74	83	61	68	80	72	80	84	327
3. C. F. Cox.....	84	..	..	70	82	..	..	76	312
4. W. G. Dial.....	72	71	74	81	64	..	..	..	298
5. F. W. Smith.....	60	..	76	49	..	80	65	70	291
THIRD CLASS. (Commencement of Season.)									
1. R. J. Taylor.....	25	81	79	76	..	55	81	85	326
2. H. McKay.....	67	75	86	68	84	71	74	79	324
3. R. Stewart.....	84	83	72	72	58	74	79	70	320
4. R. N. Slater.....	..	80	71	69	72	76	78	..	306
5. H. Le B. Ross.....	66	79	65	68	71	71	76	76	302
6. W. H. Timbers.....	45	39	58	77	62	..	..	66	263
7. H. Watters.....	..	27	..	82	51	62	59	44	254

GRAND AGGREGATE.

(Best 5 Snider and best 4 Martini.)

FIRST CLASS.	SECOND CLASS.		
1. J. A. Armstrong.....	770	1. C. S. Scott.....	746
2. J. H. Ellis.....	763	2. T. McJanet.....	731
3. E. D. Sutherland.....	755	3. C. F. Cox.....	689
4. S. M. Rogers.....	746	4. F. W. Smith.....	682
5. T. C. Boville.....	726	5. W. G. Dial.....	665
6. A. P. Sherwood.....	724	THIRD CLASS.	
7. W. P. Anderson.....	720	1. R. J. Taylor.....	684
8. W. A. Jamieson.....	715	2. H. Le B. Ross.....	683
9. Dr. G. Hutchison.....	710	3. R. N. Slater.....	676
10. G. A. Mailleue.....	709	4. H. McKay.....	674
11. J. W. de C. O'Grady....	706	5. R. Stewart.....	640
12. J. Wright.....	698	6. W. H. Timbers.....	581
13. A. Pink.....	694	7. H. Watters.....	537
14. T. Carroll.....	694		
15. J. D. Taylor.....	686		

An Extra Shoot.

Since the close of the regular season the members of the club have met each Saturday afternoon for extra matches, and no doubt they will not desert the range until the severe cold weather. Last Saturday the match was particularly interesting, lady friends having offered prizes for competition. Mrs. J. A. Armstrong, the wife of the club's champion, gave a very handsome woollen coverlet, worked by herself; and Mrs. Cawdron, wife of Sergt. Harry Cawdron, of the Guards, by whom the range has been so well looked after for many years, and who on this occasion furnished markers free of cost, presented a spoon for competition. In the match for the rug, the members were handicapped according to their classification, second-class men being allowed three points and third-class five. The day was favourable to good scoring, the light being dull and what little wind there was being steady. The firing was with Martinis, at 200, 500 and 600 yards, seven shots. R. Tink (second class) got first place with an actual score of 92, securing Mrs. Armstrong's prize; D. McMartin (third class), 2nd place, with 89; J. H. Ellis, third place, with 93; while F. W. Dawson (second class), with 89 and F. W. Smith, with 92, tied for fourth, Smith winning the shoot off. The general average was higher than in any local competition held on the

Rideau Range for a very long time. After the firing was over the competitors assembled at the canteen and passed a vote of thanks to the donors of the prizes. The following were the chief scores in detail:—

J. H. Ellis	31	31	31	93	T. C. Boville	28	28	29	85
F. W. Smith	31	30	31	92	A. P. Sherwood	29	29	26	84
R. Tink	29	33	30	92	E. D. Sutherland	32	27	25	84
T. Carroll	29	31	30	90	R. A. Helmer	30	24	29	83
F. W. Dawson	29	30	30	89	H. McKay	29	31	23	83
D. McMartin	31	29	29	89	J. Wright	28	27	26	81
R. Moodie	29	33	27	89	R. Stewart	30	25	26	81
W. P. Anderson	31	30	26	87	J. A. Armstrong	31	27	23	81
C. S. Scott	30	33	24	87	G. L. Blatch	26	32	22	80

### Notes for Artillerymen.

This is from the *Broad Arrow*: "The new R. A. tunic for officers will be very similar to that now in wear. The chief alterations affect the back, and the lower part of which is to be "divided," and to bear some extra lace trimming. It seems a pity that the helmet, so much disliked by all ranks, and so very awkward for the mounted gunner, cannot be abolished. No real smartness can ever be attained as to appearance so long as this inconvenient and unsightly head-dress is retained. It is even distressing to wear, men being glad when marching at ease to carry it in their hands."

Noticing the perseverance with which the Artillery in England apply themselves to firing practice, the *Broad Arrow* says: "The energies of all officers, however, seem now to be devoted to the fulfilment of Prince Kraft's admonition, 'Hit, hit, hit,' with a fervour which disregards time, space, recreation, and personal comfort."

The parade ground at Prospect Park, Brooklyn, was, on the afternoon of Oct. 22nd, the scene of an interesting and perfect exhibition of military manoeuvre by Light Battery K., 1st U. S. Artillery. The Battery consisted of four 32 inch B.L.R. field pieces with caissons; and a complement of 56 men and 44 horses all told. The commands were given by the bugle, and a variety of movements were executed, many of them at a trot and gallop. The wheelings, changes of direction, preparing for action, loadings and firing were gone through with rare precision, and the cannoneers showed great activity and snap in their duties. Blank ammunition was used in the firings, and many officers present among the spectators were highly pleased with the drill and the great proficiency evinced.

### WOES OF ENGLAND'S ARTILLERY.

A correspondent of the *Army and Navy Gazette* draws a gloomy picture of life in the Royal Artillery, and proceeds: Ollendorff might describe an interview between the would-be recruit and the Royal Artillery recruiter (supposing the latter lived in the "Palace of Truth") thusly:—Q. Have you the gay uniform and the pretty music of the cavalry of line? A. No; but we have the coal-scuttle helmet, the shapeless serge and the battery trumpeter. Q. Have you the comfortable barrack with the large recreation room? A. No; but we have the lonely fort and the engineer makeshift. Q. Do you go to foreign parts to fight the foe? A. Yes; we go to foreign parts but we do not see the foe—we wait for him with the big gun in the hot fort. Q. Does he ever come? A. No; but we do the infantry drill while we wait. Q. Do you not learn the drill of the big gun? A. Yes; but the inspecting officer is most pleased to see the good "march-past." Q. Do you get the big reward for these things? A. No; but we get the barrack which is too unpleasant for the infantry, and the promise which is never fulfilled. Q. But can I not get the smart uniform and horse of the Royal Horse Artillery? A. You may; but you should not hope for more than the hairy horses and the muddy harness of the "spare wheel." Q. And will I get praise and reward for this hard work? A. You will receive more often the naughty word from the "number one," and no more pay than a soldier of the Line. "Then, 'ang it all! I'll go for a red coat—less work, better times, a chance for glory," we can imagine the future T. Atkins remarking.

### Cavalry.

The French War Office has not yet arrived at any decision as to the extent to which the lance shall be adopted. The weapon has been served out to some of the troopers belonging to the dragoon regiments stationed in the metropolis; but opinions seem to be divided as to the wisdom of the measure. Experiments have been carried out in the presence of General de Kermartin, "Director" of the Cavalry Department, and several other officers of note. There is now an idea of providing half the Cuirassiers' corps with lances. In theory the French experts are not favourable to the revival of the lance, which was abolished after the War of 1870; but they have to take into account the fact that,

of late, the weapon has been served out to a number of German cavalry regiments, which previously had contented themselves with the sabre and carbine. As a large proportion of the German horse is now provided with the lance, the authorities have been compelled to reconsider the situation. The lance—whatever may be said against it—is an effective arm when the attempt is being made to break compact masses of troops at close quarters; but the hesitation of officials is probably due to the fact that its use entails a vast amount of practice. With the "short-service system" now in vogue, French cavalry soldiers rarely surpass more a certain standard, and the adoption of the lance would add materially to the difficulties of those who are responsible for their training.

A correspondent of the *Broad Arrow*, writing in connection with an effort being made to recruit cyclists to serve in his battalion of Volunteers, holds that the cavalry strength should not be reduced because of the addition of cyclist corps, but believes that "the marvellous nobility of cyclists will be found an important factum in the solution of many military problems outside of the circumscribed limits of orderly duties, the carrying of despatches and the keeping up lines of communications."

### SCHOOLS OF CAVALRY TACTICS.

There are two schools as regards cavalry tactics,—one which would confine the action of cavalry to exploring, reconnaissance, and screening work, and to combats with cavalry only; another which, in addition to the above mentioned functions, would employ cavalry on the actual field of battle. The former school is represented by the French and ourselves, the latter by the Germans; yet even in France and England there is a large minority which has adopted the German ideas on the subject. Unfortunately, the British Army is much led in tactics by what may be termed the "Kriegspiel" theorists, and their dogmas are supported by the authorities, chiefly, we may suppose, because we have so weak, and collectively so inefficient, a body of cavalry to employ in any way. Witness Lord Wolseley's recent utterances on the impossibility of finding in England ground suitable for the action of any large body of cavalry. But we refuse to accept Lord Wolseley's doctrines on cavalry. In the first place, the recent manoeuvres in Berkshire, disappointing though they were, have proved that there exists in the South of England ground over which the large force of, say, 1,600 mounted men can manoeuvre against another force of the same strength. In the second place, he has made no reference to the action on a battle-field of small bodies of cavalry. Singularly enough, little attention is devoted by any armies to that method of using cavalry. It may be suggested, for the consideration of English cavalry officers, whether the time has not arrived for crystallising a system of tactics, subject of course to the modifications which the experiences of actual war may show to be necessary. We cannot, however, wait till we obtain that experience, for it would be hazardous in the extreme to enter on a campaign without fixed convictions and principles, at all events, in outline. It would be impossible to predict with certainty what would be the effect on the action of cavalry of the increased destructive power of modern artillery and infantry fire. The most one can do is to study the history of the past, and reason by analogy and inference. This, apparently, has been the course adopted by the Germans, with the result that their theory of cavalry tactics has year by year become bolder, and their reaction against the heresies which sprang up at the close of the American War stronger. In the teeth of the increased destructiveness of cannon and rifle-fire, the Germans have decided that not only can cavalry be used with advantage in battle, but that cavalry in large masses can be so employed. To our thinking, the increased power of the rifle, though in one sense telling against cavalry, in another respect tells for it. It is true that, if cavalry attempt to charge unbroken infantry over open and level ground, they will now be subjected to twenty shots for every one formerly hurled at them. Hence no cavalry officer in his senses, save it became necessary to purchase delay by the sacrifice of his men, would dream of charging unbroken infantry over open and level ground. Smoke will no longer give him cover, but mist will on occasion afford him a screen as ever. Again, the very intensity and efficiency of rifle fire will more than ever engross the attention of contending infantry to the exclusion of all apprehension of danger from other quarters. A man in action is absorbed by the opponent who is trying to kill him, or whom he is trying to kill. Hence there will be frequent opportunities presented to cavalry to fall suddenly on the flank of infantry hotly engaged with an enemy in front. Owing to the destructive fire of the latest description of rifle, infantry are compelled at an early period of the attack to assume a very open formation and to break up a portion of their force into small fractions. This arm is consequently more open to effective attack and loss of *moral* than formerly. Imagine the case of a brigade advancing across a plain in formation of attack. In the face of the destructive fire to which it would be subjected, the brigade would be broken up into a series of small echelons, with extended or loosened files covering a considerable depth. All eyes would be fixed intently on

their front, and it would be strange indeed if there were not on a flank some cover, such as a hill, a dip in the ground, a high edge, a plantation, or a cluster of houses. Such cover might be distant only 400 yards, or say twice as far. Even 800 yards could be easily traversed in one minute and a half, and the cavalry could commence the advance in single rank, with two or three yards between files, closing in, however, when on the point of striking. The infantry, startled by the sudden appearance of the rushing horsemen, whom they would not discover until at least half the distance had been covered, would be in a sorry plight. A cry of "Look out for cavalry," might be raised, but all would be more or less flurried. Only those bodies on the flank would be able to fire, and these would have to change front to do so. They would either cluster together, in which case time would be lost and a good mark be afforded; or they would remain with loosened files and be thus deprived of the moral support afforded by the touch of comrades' elbows. In any case, their fire would probably be hasty, ill-aimed, and of short continuance. Once among the scattered and loosened echelons, the cavalry would have little to fear. The dragoons would probably sabre but few, but they would indirectly cause greater loss than that suffered by them, while at all events they would certainly bring about delay which might be cheaply purchased by the death or capture of a hundred men. We have dealt above with the action of single squadrons; but entire divisions of cavalry can, if successful in beating off the enemy's horsemen, make serious diversions on the flank by dismounting some of their number to fire and employing their horse artillery. In short, after due consideration of circumstances and conditions, one is led to believe, with the Germans, that even in a pitched battle cavalry have still a very important part to play. And this, notwithstanding the extraordinary views enunciated by the late Adjutant-General of the Forces, future warfare will doubtless show.—*Army and Navy Gazette.*

The Horse Guards have under consideration the expediency of permitting the trial of a new drill for cavalry, which is the invention of Major-Gen. Keith Fraser, commanding the Dublin District. It has for its object the more effective use of cavalry under the conditions introduced by the magazine rifle.

### Correspondence.

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

#### THE REGULATIONS RESPECTING MINIATURE MEDALS.

EDITOR MILITIA GAZETTE,—You give prominence in your issue of the 23rd to the new army orders amending part ii, section xii, of the Queen's Regulations with regard to the wearing of orders—miniature medals, etc. We of the Canadian Militia are not over burdened with honours of this description; those of us, however, who were in the North-West in '85 are justly proud of our medal, with or without clasp—and few officers, indeed, are without its miniature counterfeit—displayed with legitimate pride on our undress uniform. To promulgate this *Imperial* Army Order in our Militia General Orders would be very unpopular and quite uncalled for and unnecessary. Outside of a personal antipathy or fad of the new A. G., Sir Redvers Buller, it is hard to guess for what reason the old regulation, which was found good and proper for so many years, should have been thus abolished. I expect to see a cry and howl in the English service papers against this order. Apparently our friends of the navy will continue to wear their miniatures as of old.

SNAP-CAP.

The Springfield rifles are to be abandoned. It is said that the Secretary of War is about to issue an order providing for this change, and substituting as an arm for the army and National Guard, a 30-calibre rifle. The new barrels can be used on a Springfield gun for the present, but ultimately a magazine rifle will be adopted. National Guardsmen will welcome such a change when it does come. It has been demonstrated that the smaller calibre, with a proportionally large amount of powder, is more effective and accurate, and at the same time much less cumbersome than the present army gun. Marksmen complain of the recoil of the heavy calibre gun, and there is no doubt that their work would be much improved if less powder were burned. The 7th N. Y. regiment, which was the first to obtain the percussion rifle in place of the old flintlock, and later substituted the breech-loader for the muzzle-loader, is now actively advocating, through its regiment *Gazette*, the introduction of an improved rifle of greater range and accuracy and smaller calibre than the weapon at present used.—*Providence Journal.*

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**A LINE-THROWING GUN.**—The necessity of having a reliable method of effecting communication between the shore and a ship in distress, or between one vessel and another, has always been recognized, and to this end various line-throwing appliances have been brought forward from time to time. The latest of these is the shoulder line-throwing gun, invented by Capt. J. D'Arcy-Irvine, R.N. This apparatus, which is no tan expensive affair, consists of a shoulder-gun, having the cop, or coil of line, suspended in a case carried under the breach of the gun. A rod is inserted in the barrel, the fore end of the rod being connected with the end of the line, which is in the centre of the cop. The line is 144 yards long, and the charge of powder used is two drachms. Upon the gun being fired at a high elevation, the rod is projected upwards and forwards, carrying the line trailing away after it. The object is, of course, to land the line over the ship or other object, the rod dropping beyond it. By this means a rope can be made fast to the tail end of the line by the succouring party, and be hauled on board by those in distress. A demonstration with this system took place recently at Messrs. Holland and Holland's shooting grounds, Kensal Green. There were present Admiral Sir John Corbett, of the National Lifeboat Institution; Capt. Chetwynd, chief inspector of lifeboats; Col. Clayton and others. Several shots were fired by Capt. D'Arcy Irvine, which successfully demonstrated the value of his system so far as it could be demonstrated on land, and apart from the conditions under which such apparatus is required to be used. Good ranges were obtained, and the line was carried well over the intended object, which, in this instance, was one of the target butts. Capt. D'Arcy Irvine drew attention to the desirability of the invention in the case of taking vessels in tow in a high sea, or in the case of arresting vessels drifting ashore by firing from vessels at anchor. He also pointed out how it might be used in the case of loaded lighters waiting for boats to tow them; for boats trying to reach a ship in a strong tideway; for boats adrift; and also for conveying despatches from one ship to another. He likewise lays great stress upon the use of the apparatus in the lifeboat service, urging that every lifeboat should carry a line-throwing gun, which would enable communication to be effected with a vessel when it might be impossible for the boat to get alongside her. The whole apparatus only weighs nine pounds, and could well be stowed away on board a lifeboat.

The case of "Baird v. Baldwin-Walker" seems to us to be an attempt to get a verdict from a Newfoundland jury against the British Government on the fishery trouble. That a British Admiral should have defended an action brought against him for acting in pursuance of his obligation to enforce the observance of treaties in the interest of State and public policy, is almost an unique experience. Canadian and Newfoundland fishery questions are open to one observation. If those who are dissatisfied with Great Britain because she will not violate treaties were American citizens, they would cease to have any "privileges of ice and bait" against the Yankee fisher, which would be a poor set-off against the lapse of French privileges. Although this country would never tolerate foreign aggression, it is not certain that England would consent to aid Canadian aggressiveness in a conflict with the United States; and the Dominion might have to bear the penalty of its rashness. The case will never arise,—certainly not as long as Sir John Macdonald and statesmen of his school are in power. As to the "Baird v. Baldwin Walker" case, it appears probable that the judge will hold, in accordance with decisions of the courts here, that the Admiral cannot be made answerable for the discharge of his duty under the orders of the Queen's Government in an actioa for damages.—*Army and Navy Gazette*.

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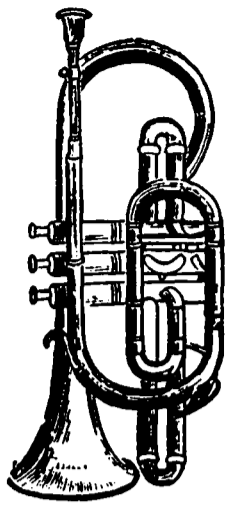
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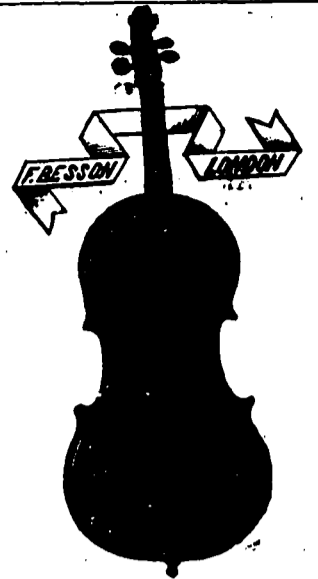
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