

THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE

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THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE, P. O. Box 316, Ottawa, Ont.

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Topics of the Week.

We congratulate Lieut.-Col. Philippe Landry, A.D.C., M.P. for Kent, N.B., on his appointment this week to the office of county court judge for Kent and Westmoreland, vice Botsford, deceased. Col. Landry will be missed in Parliament, where he was recognized as a well-informed and painstaking member, and his views on any question under discussion were always heard with respectful attention. For five years Col. Landry has held the command of the 61st Battalion, which he will doubtless now resign, and he was one of the commanding officers lately honoured by the Governor-General by appointment as honorary A.D.C. to His Excellency.

The National Rifle Association having decided to allow one sighting shot at each range in future, and "any" position at distances of 600 yards and upwards, it will now be in order for the council of the D.R.A. to consider the advisability of similarly changing our regulations. There has not been much enthusiasm in Canada about the back position, but there is a lingering affection for sighting shots.

A wholesome rule of the Dominion Rifle Association requires that every competitor in certain matches, including the Wimbledon team competition, shall not only be a militiaman, but shall have put in his annual drill. It is notorious that some of those who never fail to appear at the prize meetings, scarcely ever see the inside of a drill hall or venture within a district camp, yet all produce certificates duly signed. As the result of complaints lodged, two of those having won places on this year's team have been found not to have been entitled to the certificates upon which they shot, and have therefore been struck off the team roster. Only a few days ago the second case was made public, the explanation for the wrong certificate being that the drill had been performed by another man of the same name! If rifle shooting honours are to be set apart as a reward for active militiamen, greater precaution should be taken to see that none participate in them without proper title.

The Bisley team is yet incomplete, for during the past week one member has been disqualified and another—Pte. Brown of the 59th—has refused his place. Capt. Bishop of the 63rd and Capt. Gray of the Governor General's Foot Guards were offered the vacancies thus created. The former has not yet been heard from, and the latter has accepted. The waiting man is now Capt. O'Grady of the 43rd, who now stands thirtieth on the list. There have been indications that one or two who have accepted will yet have to back out, so that those next in order would do well to be prepared for the opportunities that may be offered them.

Entries for the Military Rifle League competitions are not coming in at all as they should, those having the matter in hand for the several battalions paying little attention to the requests to promptly forward their entries in order to save trouble and confusion at the last moment. A note received from the Treasurer, just too late for insertion in last issue, said that only these five entries had then been received: Halifax Garrison Artillery, Thirteenth Battalion, Ninetieth Battalion; F Division Mounted Police, Prince Albert; Twenty-first Battalion. The first match takes place on the 17th May, just a month from to-day.

A Prince Edward Island correspondent writes to ask information respecting the badges to have been awarded the team victorious in the telegraphic rifle match last fall, which match, it will be remembered, was won by the Islanders. The Montreal Rifle Association had charge on that occasion, and we trust the Secretary will be good enough to let us know, for our correspondent's benefit, when the badges may be expected.

The Halifax *Critic* recalls with regret the fact that there was no general distribution of decorations to commanding officers who took part in the suppression of the Riel uprising of 1885, and suggests a C.M.G. to each as a "cheap gratification." The honour would indeed have been cheapened by such a wholesale distribution. For our part, we do not feel that the commanding officers have been at all deprived of their due. The duty the troops were called upon to perform was not of a character demanding any special decoration of the nominal leaders. Canadians, however, have a just right to feel proud that upon danger threatening, such a large body of men volunteered for active service and went into the field with all ranks prepared to lay down life itself if necessary. Now, in time of peace, we should not neglect to make provision that if ever the militia are again put to the test, there shall be more substantial compensation awarded—not to the higher officers, but rather to the rank and file, who bear the brunt of the hard work and get a very small share of the glory, whilst the daily pay allowed them constitutes but a fractional part of the loss of salary or wages entailed by their military service. The least the stay-at-homes can gracefully do, is to see that those who go out to fight their country's battles are not necessarily out of pocket through their enlistment.

Old England would appear to be returning to her first love in the matter of the scarlet uniform, if the article quoted by a correspondent in another place in this issue is an indication of the popular feeling. However one may inveigh against it as uncomfortable and unserviceable, there is no disputing the fact that the showy scarlet uniform is intensely popular with the wearers.

Lord Wolseley has written a letter to Capt. Macaulay, of the 6th Fusiliers, Montreal, relative to his organization of the High School Cadets, in which the Adjutant-General of the Imperial forces thus treats of the cadet movement: "To my mind the country which neglects the physical training of the boys and girls, and attends only to the development of their brains, neglects the most elementary, and at the same time the most important part of a people's education. In continental nations, where every man is obliged to serve some short time in the army, this physical training is amply provided for; but in our empire, where all recruits for the army and auxiliary forces are obtained by voluntary enlistment, it behoves us to invent some system which will secure to our young men the benefit which compulsory military service confers elsewhere. Now, in my opinion, the establishment of a cadet corps in connection with schools is one of the simple methods we can usefully employ for this most essential end. Indeed, I hope to see the day when every school of every degree, public and private, will have a drill instructor and gymnasium attached to it."

N. R. A. Regulations for 1890.

The Regulations for the Prize Meeting of the National Rifle Association at Bisley Common, to commence on the 14th July next, a week later than usual, have just been issued. They contain some changes worthy of attention. The principal alteration of importance is the reduction of the diameters of the inner and magpie of the third class target from 24 and 36 inches respectively to 16 and 24 inches. The third class target will, in fact, be the same in 1890 as it was from 1880 to 1882 inclusive. In 1883 the diameter of the inner was increased to 24 inches, and that of the magpie to 36, in consequence, probably, of the prohibition of any but standing or kneeling positions in military competitions at 200 yards.

In military competitions "any position" is now to be allowed at 600 yards as well as at the first class ranges. In the Running Deer and Man competitions a "magpie" will be introduced, the scoring being: bulls-eye 4, inner 3, magpie 2, outer 1. Sporting rifles must not be of smaller bore than .36 (a reduction of .04 from the minimum of last year) unless they take the new service ammunition, in which case they may be .3. The minimum charge of powder for sporting rifles is 50 grains. Only one platinum line is allowed on the back sight of these.

One sighting shot is to be allowed at each range for a payment of sixpence. If Government ammunition is used, a cartridge will be issued at the firing point.

Slings may be used, but must not be longer than the longest rifle sling issued by Government. What this length is appears as yet to be unascertained.

"Undue delay" in firing in individual competitions after their commencement, is to be interpreted as any time in excess of one minute.

A wise change has been made in the wording of sect 2, sub-sec. 2c, by which a competitor is subjected to serious penalties if found with a loaded rifle elsewhere than "upon the ranges." For these last words, "at the firing point" are now substituted.

In volley firing and analogous competitions some slight changes are made with respect to the method of deducting points and settling ties. In the conditions for settling ties in team competitions and competitions where speed is combined with accuracy the words "in order of distances commencing with the lowest," are substituted for "in inverse order."

Revolvers must have a bore of at least .44, and a minimum pull of 4 lbs. Government ammunition must be used with revolvers issued by the Association, and competitors bringing their own weapons must use ammunition not lighter than the lightest kind issued by the Government.

The manufacture of smokeless powder has been stopped in the Italian arsenals, by order of the Minister of War, as it is found to be deteriorated by cold and damp.

Regimental and other News.

The Halifax *Mail* of the 10th inst. says: "Major Garrison, of the Halifax Garrison Artillery, received word yesterday that Capt. Hood, of the Royal Scots, Montreal, and Private Pringle of the Queen's Own, Toronto, will arrive in this city to-night to take part in a friendly shooting match on Saturday afternoon at the Bedford range. Private Pringle started the telegraph match last year, and he is the promoter of the rifle league. Both of the gentlemen in question are excellent shots and well known in this city."

Kingston.

On the 7th inst. the officers of the 14th P. W. O. Rifles and a few guests met in the British American Hotel at nine o'clock and entertained Capt. Murray to a farewell dinner previous to his departure for Montreal. In the absence of Col. Smith, who was unavoidably absent in Ottawa, the chair was taken by Major Power, who was supported on the right by the guest of the evening, Capt. Murray, and on the left by His Worship the Mayor, Major Drennan, of the K. F. B. Grace having been said by the Rev. W. B. Carey, chaplain, the company made sad havoc of the excellent viands, the clatter of knives and forks being accompanied by the more harmonious music of the regimental band.

This agreeable duty was followed by the drinking of toasts, including "The Queen," "The Princess of Wales, our Patroness," "The Army and Navy and Auxiliary Forces," "The Mayor and Corporation," "The Learned Professions," "The Press" and "The Ladies." But the most important toast was, of course, "Our Guest," proposed in fitting terms by the chairman, who voiced the heartfelt regrets of all his brother officers at the severance of the tie which bound Capt. Murray to the 14th P. W. O. Rifles, and their best wishes for his success in all his future undertakings. In fact, all the speeches were tinged with the same strains of regret at parting with Capt. Murray, eulogy of his many sterling qualities as a man and as an officer, and joy at his improved prospects in civil life.

Capt. Murray responded to the toast very feelingly, indulging in reminiscences of days gone by and expressing the affectionate regard which he would always entertain for the old Fourteenth.

During the evening songs were sung by Major Galloway and Capt. Shannon, and Strange, speeches were made by nearly every other officer present, and a good time generally was spent until shortly after midnight.

Capt. Murray takes with him not only the sincere regard of his brother officers, but also a more tangible memorial of them in the shape of a very handsome and well furnished valise of alligator leather, the presentation of which was the occasion of this gathering.

Hamilton.

The 13th Battalion held its monthly parade last Friday evening. There was a fairly good turnout, about 300 of all ranks being present. Headed by the brass and bugle bands, the regiment went for a march out and made a good appearance. Overcoats were left off for the occasion, the weather being rather warm for them. The regiment marched up James street to Maitland, and back by way of Macnab and James streets accompanied by an immense crowd of admirers. Major Moore was in command, Major MacLaren and the Adjutant, Captain Stuart, also being present. On returning to the hall Major MacLaren put the regiment through several movements which showed that the companies have profited considerably by the training they have received from the company officers.

The following orders were then read, and after Major Moore had briefly addressed the regiment the parade was dismissed:

Headquarters, Thirteenth Battalion, A. M.,

Hamilton, April 11th.

No. 12. The commanding officer has been pleased to make the following promotions, provisionally, from this date, namely; C Company, to be corporal, Pte. Robert E. Turnbull; D Company, to be sergeant, Pte. James Harvey, vice Reid, time expired; to be corporals, Pte. Bruce Harvey and Pte. Wm. Stewart.

No. 13. The next battalion parade will be on Friday, April 25th, at 7.45 p.m.

No. 14. After this date the use of winter uniform on parade will be discontinued.

No. 15. Fur caps will be returned into the company's stores at the next company parades, each man's name, number and company to be written on a card attached to the cap. Officers commanding companies will return into regimental stores before next battalion parade, all the fur caps which were issued to them, with card as above.

No. 16. The commanding officer will attend at the orderly-room, drill hall, on Wednesday afternoon from 3 to 5 o'clock, for the transaction of regimental business.—By order, J. J. Stuart, captain and adjutant.

I notice in an English paper of a recent date a paragraph headed "Fairplay for Volunteers," which I think would be equally applicable to Canada; it is this:—"Earl Percy gave expression to the feelings of the volunteers when he called attention in the House of Lords, on Monday, to the unfairness of expecting the various corps to provide any part of their equipment. If the volunteers give their services, he claimed that the Government was bound to supply what they needed as accoutrements. This view was endorsed by other speakers, and Earl Brownlow admitted that the whole question would have to be considered. If the

volunteer force is to become an efficient means of defence, the War Office should lose no time in giving our citizen soldiers every thing they require for campaigning."

Dr. A. Jarrett, the Assistant-Surgeon of the 13th Regiment of Brooklyn, visited the Drill Hall on Friday evening, and renewed his acquaintance with the officers' mess. He was heartily welcomed by all those who met the jolly Dr. on his former visit with his regiment.

After parade on Friday evening the newly furnished and decorated officers' mess room was thrown open for inspection. This work has been done under the direction of Major Moore and Capt. Stuart, and well they have acquitted themselves, the general opinion being that it could not have been better. It is very handsome and in the best of taste. The furniture is oak, the chairs being upholstered in green leather. The walls are covered with a brown and gold paper with a deep frieze to match, and a rich Melton carpet covers the floor. On the walls are large pictures of the officers who have commanded the regiment, beginning with Col. the Hon. Isaac Buchanan, then Col. Booker, Col. Skinner, and Col. the Hon. J. M. Gibson. Lord Wolseley has a conspicuous place on the wall, as also has the late Col. McKeand of the 90th, formerly a lieutenant in the 13th. A great deal of the regimental plate was burned in the old drill shed, but still there is enough left to make a very good showing. Among the ornaments is a valuable Japanese bronze vase, the gift of Capt. McKeand, 24th Regt., a former officer of the battalion.

H. A. M.

Toronto.

The second parade this season of the Queen's Own Rifles was held on Wednesday evening, the 9th inst. The regiment paraded 461 strong, including brass and bugle bands and ambulance corps, under command of Col. Hamilton, and marched to Wellington Street, where battalion drill was practised for an hour, returning home via Bay, King, Yonge, Adelaide and Church Streets.

Before dismissing the men, Col. Hamilton read a letter from Col. Allan, thanking the officers for leading the regiment past his residence last Wednesday evening, and congratulating one and all on their splendid appearance on that occasion. Col. Hamilton also referred to the prospect of deciding at the next weekly parade where the regiment will spend their next 24th May holiday. Invitations are in from Owen Sound, Berlin, Woodstock and Simcoe, and deputations from Berlin and Simcoe have waited upon Col. Hamilton, holding forth strong inducements to the regiment to visit their places.

These were contained in the orders of the evening: Corp. Porter, F. D., "D" Co., granted a sergeant's certificate; the following are confirmed in their rank as corporals: Acting Corp. Ayles, "H" Co., Acting Corps. Donaldson, W., Drynan, Gray & Evans, "I" Co. The officer commanding has been pleased to make the following promotions: "A" Co.—to be corps., Pte. McNeil, E. P., vice McNeil, D. D., promoted, and Pte. Meadows, vice O'Brien, discharged; "D" Co.—to be sergt., Corp. Porter, vice Jardine, discharged; "H" Co.—to be corps., Pte. Darley, W. J., and Pte. Walsh. The recruit classes will be continued hereafter on Monday, Wednesday and Friday evenings.

Immediately after the conclusion of spring drill, a class for non-commissioned officers, holding corporal's certificates, who desire to qualify as sergeants, will be held for a short time.

THE GRENADIERS.

The Grenadiers' Ambulance Corps has been increased to 20 men, and is now without doubt one of the best, if not the very best, in Canada.

At a meeting of the shooting men of the Grenadiers, they formed a rifle association, the membership of which is open to members of the regiment. They decided to call it the Cumberland Rifle Association, after the late Col. Cumberland, the first commander of the regiment. The following officers were elected: Honorary President, Lieut.-Col. Dawson; President, Staff-Sergt. Mitchell; Vice-President, Staff-Sergt. Curzon; Secretary-Treasurer, Pte. W. J. Urquhart. A committee was appointed to draft by-laws, etc., and the meeting adjourned to meet in two weeks.

Montreal.

It was mentioned in these columns that the Morris tube shooting had been interfered with by exhaustion of the ammunition supply. This unhappy state of affairs is at an end, Messrs. John Martin & Co., of St. Paul street, having received a supply, which no doubt will be eagerly drawn upon by their customers in Montreal and elsewhere.

"The Emperor of Germany has his faults, but his resolution to put down the practice of duelling merits the warmest praise," says *Figaro*. "The dullest man in the Fatherland understands what cashiering an officer means, and it may safely be concluded that the punishment which the Emperor proposes to inflict upon the challenger will have the effect of tamping out the duellists in the German army."

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.]

GREY OR SCARLET UNIFORMS.

EDITOR MILITIA GAZETTE,—In view of the fact that some, interested in the Canadian militia, have advised the abandonment of the scarlet uniform, and as an argument for such a step referred to the volunteers of Great Britain, I think the following will be interesting. I copy it from *The People* (of Sunday, 9th March), a weekly London paper:

"The 3rd Volunteer Batt. Royal Fusiliers had a march out last night under its new commanding officer and its new designation. It still wears the grey uniform, but the Commander-in-Chief has notified his approbation of the adoption of the scarlet uniform and the Fusilier bearskin busby. Thus one more of the distinctive volunteer grey uniforms will shortly disappear to give place to the national colour, which is fast becoming that of the majority of volunteer battalions."

INFANTRY.

THE STATE OF THE MILITIA.

EDITOR MILITIA GAZETTE,—It affords me much pleasure to observe on the part of several of your correspondents an awakening sense of the inefficiency of the present militia system. To anyone, even the merest tyro in military affairs, it must be apparent that we are pursuing a course which seems calculated to secure the greatest amount of inefficiency. The results obtained are utterly incommensurate with the annual expenditure; in fact the money is almost absolutely thrown away. We are all aware how difficult it is in the case of rural battalions to secure the necessary complement of men to go to camp, and that of those secured not over 15 per cent. have ever been out before; therefore it follows that the great majority of our men simply sink back into private life, forgetting what little they have ever learned. It would not be difficult to dilate at length upon this feature; it is hardly necessary, however, as the truth of what has been stated must be readily apparent to all who have ever had anything to do with the force. The question, then, before us is what can be done to render the force effective without largely increasing the expenditure. In a recent issue of your paper (which I have not now before me) one of your contributors makes some good suggestions, which if carried out would materially tend to the object in view, and a few remarks in furtherance of his scheme may not be out of place. The suggestion that instead of bringing out a full company of 42 men every second year as at present, we, instead, insist that the company officers, non-commissioned officers and men to the number of 11 or 12 shall go into camp at the school of instruction in their district every year, is a good one. It might be well to go a step further and insist that every company officer shall either qualify himself within a certain stated time or get out and make way for some one who will. It is needless to expect that a company can become efficient when the officers in charge know little if anything more than the men; far better that it should cease to exist than continue on in such a shape. Instead of paying him an annual drill allowance as at present, make it contingent upon his being qualified, and then let it be sufficient to reimburse him for the amount he has been called upon to expend in attaining proficiency. Let everything be done also to encourage non-com's and men to go up to the schools of instruction and obtain certificates, by making their pay up to such a figure as would not entail a loss to them when going to camp for annual instruction. As far as possible in their case, as in that of the officers, make the pay contingent on the possession of a certificate. The present company of 42 men is as a matter of fact but a skeleton company, and for instruction purposes 12 men would do equally well, that number being all that are required to perform the movements. By a system of mutual instruction every man would soon become proficient, and we would then have a nucleus by which we could bring the raw material into shape. When we have competent instructors in every corps, then, and not till then, can we look for any marked improvement. We have efficient military schools which are capable of doing what they were designed for. These, it seems, are not patronized as they should be, and steps should be at once taken to remedy this state of affairs. In No. 1 District there are, according to recent returns, some 130 unqualified officers, and no doubt the same proportion holds good as regards the others. As I have said before, if we cannot afford to spend more on our militia, let us by all means have fewer men, but let them be the very best. If the above suggestions were adopted it would mean a positive saving to the country and give us the means of putting a comparatively well disciplined force in the field, as in emergency the men to fill the companies to their full quota would be forthcoming, and we all know how fast they would learn if under competent instructors. Every captain should know where to put his hands on

his subordinates. At present in the great majority of cases he loses all track of their whereabouts. We have lived long enough in a fool's paradise, relying on the efficiency of the force to meet all probable emergencies. Let us proceed to put our house in order at once. We know not when we may be put to the test. I hope we will hear from others on this subject,

VOLUNTEER.

Galt, Ont., 14th April, 1890.

Dominion Messenger Pigeon Association.

In connection with the proposed establishment of this association the following interesting facts about messenger or homing pigeons have been published:—

The systematic employment of pigeons as messengers commenced with the current century. They were then employed by sporting and other newspapers, and by the London Stock Exchange. When, during the Franco-German War (1870-71), Paris was besieged—communication with the outside world was effected by means of balloons and pigeons. 51 balloons were employed for letter service, and 6 for telegraph service. These carried aeronauts, passengers and pigeons out of Paris; pigeons carried despatches into Paris. Of 64 balloon ascents 57 succeeded; 5 balloons were captured and two were lost at sea. The balloons carried 8½ tons including more than 3,000,000 letters, besides aeronauts and 91 passengers. 363 postal pigeons were employed; 57 of these carried return mails into Paris. In England, open letters not referring to war matters and limited to 20 words—were received for despatch via Tours into Paris. A charge of 10 cents per word and 12½c. per message to cover postage was made.

Each bird carried messages for the despatch of which about \$56,000 was paid as postage. The despatches were repeated—occasionally 20 times, and even 30 times—until receipt was acknowledged by balloon post. At the despatching stations the manuscript messages for Paris were set in ordinary type, and printed on sheets large enough to contain 200 of them. By micro-photography the printed matter of 16 sheets was transferred to a film or pellicle of collodion—measuring two inches by one inch. 18 pellicles—packed by tight rolling and inserting them in a small quill—weighed about 15½ grains. This was considered a load for a single pigeon, but contained 50,000 despatches! On receipt in Paris the collodion films were flattened out; and, by means of an electric lantern, the messages on them were at once printed on sensitive paper, enlarged to readable size.

A few statistics will demonstrate the rapid development of the use of pigeon messengers. Since the Franco-German War (1870-71), every important fortress on the continent of Europe has been provided with a pigeon loft. In addition, in both France and Germany, numerous lofts have been established at other places than fortresses—and the Governments encourage by prizes and special legislation the maintenance of messenger pigeon lofts by private individuals. In France all messenger pigeons are registered by government agents; and the flying of German pigeons from French soil is strictly prohibited. Scouts, on the continent of Europe, are now accustomed to carry messenger pigeons. Belgium at one time took the lead in the rearing and training of messenger pigeons. On the 17th of May, 1874, 30,000 passed through Brussels on their way to training stages. On the 24th of the same month 30,000 were sent out, and on the 31st of the month 40,000. On the 23rd of May, 1875, the Province of Liege sent 46,000 pigeons out for training in two special trains each of 23 cars.

In France and Belgium the statistics of pigeon races for 1873 and 1874 are as follows:—

	Races.	Pigeons flown.	Value of Prizes.
1873	1,140	197,000	\$115,068 16
1874	1,340	244,160	142,394 11

At Chatellerault, on the 26th June, 1875, there arrived 2,000 from 8 towns, to be liberated the next morning. On the 11th July, 1875, 2,005 birds were started from Blois to fly to Charleroi a distance of 234 miles. On the 25th of June, 1874, 587 birds were thrown to fly from Morceux to Ghent, a distance of 545 miles. A bird has covered a distance of 1,500 miles in three days, flying only during daylight. 1,445 birds were thrown at Orleans to fly to St. Nicholas, a distance of 243 miles. All completed the journey in times not differing more than 23 minutes. The swiftest occupied 4 hours and 51 minutes; the slowest 5 hours and 14 minutes. On the 3rd June, 1860, a bird passed over the distance between Blois and Dison at the average rate of 1,772 yards a minute.

The Russian Government takes absolute command of the army of Bokhara, numbering 60,000 men. It has been drilled for years according to the Russian Exercise-book of 1860, and the word of command is given to the soldiers in the Russian language. The higher posts of the Army will be filled by the appointment of so-called instructors.

Smokeless Powder and Artillery Fire.

(United Service Gazette.)

It is only the other day that Lord Wolseley told the volunteers in St. James' Hall that he had complete confidence in the new smokeless powder, which he also said was soon to be issued to our soldiers and should be in their possession by April. It will surprise most people to hear that the innovation is so near at hand, and some will hardly hail the announcement without certain misgivings. The Adjutant-General, however, if anyone should know, and we may therefore consider that the difficulties connected with such explosives have at length been successfully overcome. We have in a previous article pointed out that the exigencies of our vast colonial empire make such heavy demands on the stability of our powders that the introduction of a smokeless explosive on our part is beset with more difficulties than stand in the way of our continental neighbours. We have to keep enormous quantities of small-arm ammunition stored for years and years in the damp climates of the tropics, and the effect of even one rainy season, say in Central India, on smokeless powder is yet an unknown quantity, and a factor in the question which cannot be overlooked. All smokeless powders hitherto invented have been remarkably sensitive to the hygroscopic conditions of the atmosphere. Chemical science may have mastered the difficulty—we are indeed now bound to assume that it has done so—but we can at the same time hardly fail to appreciate the unbelief that still remains rooted in many professional minds. Abroad, climatic considerations have not the same importance as they have with us, and the future will certainly see a smokeless explosive employed in war. So think both the great military rivals on the Continent, and the probable effect the change will have on tactics has already been much debated. The Germans contend that the importance of artillery fire will be increased by the new conditions, because the absence of smoke will assist that arm in even greater ratio than that of the infantry will be benefited. It is true that it will be at some disadvantages. For instance, the firing line of the foe will be less clearly defined than formerly, and while it is less easy to mark, the guns will be as open to view as before, since the flash from each as it is fired will be enough to reveal their whereabouts. But when one thinks of the enormous difficulty of successfully directing the fire of a large mass of, say, even sixty cannon; how some batteries which come later into action than the others can rarely hope to get a glimpse of their target; and how well-nigh impossible it is, even with the greatest foresight and care, to mitigate these disadvantages, one can understand how the German gunners maintain that until smokeless powder is adopted no one can form an adequate conception of what the fire of a concentrated mass of artillery may accomplish.

But it will be against a foe that is in movement that the new explosive will in the highest degree increase the value of artillery. The guns will no longer fight with their eyes more or less blindfolded. Their own fire will in no wise mask their view, and any infantry attempting even a distant change of position or flanking movement should at once be detected, and made to pay heavily for their temerity. It should likewise be next to impossible for cavalry to get within striking distance of a line of guns without being seen, and once seen their chance will have disappeared. It seems that an idea prevails in certain quarters that some great changes in the management of fire must result from the altered conditions comparative freedom from smoke must bring about. This, however, we believe to be an error. There is no royal road to excellence in shooting any more than there is to perfection in any other art. The present rules and regulations are sound and amply suffice, if only they are carried out loyally and intelligently. Patience and unremitting attention are the only true methods of attaining superiority, and no cunningly devised systems or complicated tables will supply their place. What smokeless powder will do to benefit our gunners is that it will enable the instructions now existing to be carried out in their entirety and will render the methods possible which have long been striven for but rarely accomplished. Fire discipline, the most important factor of the problem, will now be much facilitated. A commanding officer will have small excuse if he have not perfect control of his command in action, and his responsibility will be more accentuated than hitherto. This is as it should be. It is the commanding officer who is responsible for every round from his battery, and not the number who lays the gun and who simply obeys the directions given him. It is, in fact, the officers who will be to blame in the future if the guns cannot hit, and not the non-commissioned officers and men. When this is insisted upon by those in high command, and when it is understood and appreciated throughout the service, we shall see considerably more interest taken in the performance of batteries at practice, and a vast improvement in the fire effect they can produce. The great strides that have been made in the armament of the foot soldier, so far from decreasing the importance of artillery, have rather enhanced it. Infantry

on the defensive have become more unassailable without its aid; and, if unshaken by its fire, are practically invincible. The newest invention will render all fire more deadly, but will particularly favour the guns; and we venture to predict that the next big war will more than ever assert their value, and render their support more indispensable to the other arms than even it is at present.

Musketry Instruction.

(Volunteer Record.)

At the Royal United Service Institute, on the 22nd January, Major Meham (Scottish Rifles, District Inspector of Musketry) addressed a crowded and enthusiastic meeting of the members of this Association, Major-General Philip Smith again testifying his approval of the work of the Association by his presence, in company with several other distinguished officers. The subject of this lecture was musketry instruction. Major Meham said that he desired to make a few remarks as to the Volunteer training, and while bearing in mind the many difficulties in the way, would try to show how in a measure they could be overcome. The musketry instruction is divisible into three groups: (1) For the recruit, (2) The annual training or practice of the men, and (3) The field practice. These should be so carried out in peace training as to create habits which will unconsciously govern men's actions during the excitement of actual war. The leaders must also so train themselves as to be worthy to conduct and control their men, winning by careful work the entire confidence of the men, so that even under great stress they will render implicit obedience. Mere theoretical knowledge in a leader is not sufficient; by practice and actual contact and work with the men, he must gain their confidence. At the same time, before men were given to a leader, they should be taught the capabilities of the rifle and be put through a complete course of drill. Leaders should themselves be good shots, and able to take up a rifle and show, not merely tell, how it is done.

A recruit, on joining, should be very carefully grounded in the drill without, and with, the rifle. It is a great mistake to hurry him to the range. The instruction should be gradual in all its branches, and the various acts to be performed in firing carefully taught, special care being taken with any peculiarity of build, etc., in a recruit, accuracy rather than uniformity being the standard. The following points should be constantly attended to until they are acquired as habits: (1) To adjust the sights with rapidity and precision, (2) To select the mark before, not after, raising the rifle, (3) To come to the "present" by all the prescribed movements, (4) To "press," not pull, the trigger, and to hold the trigger back after giving the final pressure, (5) To keep the eye open while the trigger is pressed, and check the tendency to shut the eye on firing, (6) To remain a moment at the present after the rifle is fired; this especially at snapping drill, (7) To load and adjust the rifle without moving it about, (8) To restrain the breathing when firing, (9) To let the head sink forward to the butt and not turn to the right in taking aim, (10) To let the rifle rest in the palm of the hand, (11) To divide the weight of the body between each leg when firing erect, (12) To not fear or flinch at the recoil, but to control it. In all cases the instructor should very carefully note any faults, and point them out quietly, and in brief explicit language explain every detail, so that the man may see the reasonableness and necessity for everything he is called upon to do. The effect of wind at various distances and when firing from the different positions, the influence of light and other matters, should be explained, and the necessary precautions pointed out.

Men should certainly be practised, not only in firing straight to the front, but also to fire with rapidity to the right or left, and at objects crossing the front or advancing or retiring, and that at various speeds. It is well to get the men themselves to observe the effect of their shots. Let them first tell the Instructor. Seeing that so much depends on a recruit's first visit to the range, do everything possible to make him like shooting. Send a man home elated, and he will soon come again. Pouches ought to be kept at the ranges, and men trained to load with facility from the pouch. Instructors should, in squad firing, stand to the left front to see the mistakes, but should also go behind to accustom men to receive commands as in action.

With regard to the N.C.O.'s. Those passed as proficient in musketry drill are often insufficiently examined as to the application of their knowledge. They should be able to detect errors, and then to quickly correct them. Mere verbal repetition of the printed instructions should never be taken as sufficient. He should be tested in drilling recruits, not trained men; he will then have to use his eyes and stop to correct. He should know his work so that nothing will put him out.

However accurate and careful the man's training may have been, it is still necessary that he should be annually tested at measured distances. It should be impressed on the men that this is necessary to keep them in practice, to ensure confidence in themselves and in their

rifles, and as a preparation to the more important field practices. Major Meham advanced as his own opinion that the system of testing men on the range might with advantage be re-arranged to prepare men for the kind of firing they would be called upon to execute in the field. The range conditions are absent in the field, the differences are obvious. The field conditions might be arranged by sets of objects representing men standing, kneeling, or with head and shoulders exposed, their numbers should be uneven, and distances various; perhaps a higher value might be set upon hits of any particular object or objects. The number of rounds to be fired in given time should be fixed, and the hits assigned afterwards. The prize list might be so arranged that the crack shots do not get all. Such shots would very likely not do so well in the field. It is possible to encourage all to aim quickly, and hit a target somewhere. The paraphernalia of paints, &c., ought here to be vetoed, and it would be a good thing for the Service if the N. R. A. would put a limit of time, and insist that all shooting in uniform should be as nearly as possible under Service conditions.

The fact that collective firing is necessary in the field, ought to be more considered and trained for. Men must, for the field, be organized in fire units, to be directed and controlled by the leaders. A system of drill ought to be arranged to teach the unit commanders the methods of giving "fire" words of command, to exercise them in fire control and direction and to exercise the rank and file in the very necessary fire discipline.

The Future of Fortified Positions.

Gen. Brialmont, to whom Belgium owes her new defences in the valley of the Meuse and elsewhere (concerning which we shall presently have more to say *apropos* of the recent notable pamphlet of M. J. Girard), has just published a work of great significance, entitled "Les Régions Fortifiées." We shall, at least for the present, confine our remarks to that portion of the book in which he expounds and enforces his views as to the principles that rule, and are likely to rule, fortification in the new conditions brought about by the introduction of high explosives and guns of distant range. As is well known, there has been a tendency of late years for military men to lose faith in permanent fortification; and Major Shelbert, whose writings have gained some repute in Germany, has gone so far as to declare that they are generally useless, and must be replaced by temporary entrenchments and Schumann or Grünson cupolas. It is this contention that Gen. Brialmont directly attacks. Far from the defence being weakened, he argues, its superiority over the attack grows with the increase in the means of destruction. For this reason, he maintains that the present system of fortification need not be greatly changed. The defenders will protect their guns by cupolas and in casemated batteries, and their men beneath shell proof coverings, in safety from attack behind deep ditches with scrap and counterscrap, and flanked by quickfiring guns. They will be able with plunging fire to shell the enemy, protected merely by earthworks hastily thrown up; and this they can do, knowing every inch of the ground and the exact position of every local shelter, almost as well by night as by day.

Now that the *enceinte* has given place, as a means of defence, to the encircling belts of detached forts, the attack, says Gen. Brialmont, has lost its former great advantage of being able to envelop the enemy and destroy his guns by lines of converging fire. His remarks do not apply to small fortified places; but in large ones now existing he considers that masonry may be thickened and armor-plating added, and other changes be made to meet the altered conditions, but that in the future forts will be made smaller, because they will be equally effective and less costly. If it be said that the range of guns may be increased, Gen. Brialmont, replies that that will in no way assist the attack, since the range is long enough already. He holds that bombardment should end for mortars at 3,900 yards, and for guns at less than 8,000 yards. As to the possible increase in the power of explosives, he says that the bodies that can enter into their composition are apparently few, and in the combinations of them which we know the results differ little; and he adds that considering the great dangers and uncertainties in the production and storage of such terrible explosives as perchloric and ethylic ethers, we have no right to look for their employment for the charging of shells. These opinions, which he admits differ from those he formerly expressed, Gen. Brialmont enforces by an historical view of the question, and concludes by laying down a plan for the defence by fortifications of the European Continent.—*Army and Navy Gazette*

The immense works of Armstrong, Mitchell and Co. are fully established at Puteoli. Italy does not wish to run the great risks of carrying heavy ordnance on merchant vessels from Newcastle-on-Tyne. She therefore granted to Armstrong, Mitchell and Co. several acres of ground on which to erect works.

The Rifle.

As an instance of what organization will accomplish, a correspondent writes to the *Times*, of Moncton, N.B., giving facts and figures to show that the improvement consequent on the establishment of the Westmoreland County Rifle Association has made that the banner rifle shooting county in the province.

VICS vs. ROYAL SCOTS.

A Snider rifle match took place last Saturday at Montreal between teams from No. 3 company of the Victoria Rifles and from the Fifth Royal Scots. The range was 100 yards; the light was bright and the fouling dry. D. R. A. revolver targets were used. The Vics. won by 12 points, the scores being:

Vics.		ROYAL SCOTS.	
Lt. Desbarats.....	5 4 4 5 4 4 5—31	Col.-Sergt. Allen....	5 4 4 4 4 4 4—29
Pte. McMartin.....	5 4 4 4 5 4 4—30	Pipe-Sergt. Clarke..	3 4 4 5 4 4 4—28
Corpl. Binmore....	4 5 4 5 4 4 4—30	Pte. Currie.....	4 5 4 4 4 3 4—28
Lc.-Corpl. Mathews.	5 4 4 4 4 4 4—29	Pte. Kambery.....	3 4 4 3 4 4 4—27
Lt. Carter.....	3 5 4 4 4 4 4—28	Capt. Ibbotson.....	3 4 4 2 4 3 3—24
Total.....	148	Total.....	136
Average.....	29.6.	Average.....	27.2.

THE MILITARY RIFLE LEAGUE.

We have been requested to publish, for the information of all concerned, the following questions constantly being addressed to the secretary of the Canadian Military Rifle League, together with the answers to them:—

Q.—What are the arrangements for telegraphing scores? Ans.—Hand your telegram in at the C. P. R. telegraph office and pay your 50c. It is then sent to the chief operator at Montreal, and as soon as he has received all the scores, a despatch is sent to each team containing said scores.

Q.—May associations in the North-West Territories enter teams? Ans.—Yes, on account of there being no militia corps there.

Q.—May cavalry corps shoot with "long Snider"? Ans.—Yes; long, short or carbine.

Q.—How many teams may a battalion enter? Ans.—As many as they like.

Q.—How many individual prizes will there be? Ans.—Will be determined when all the entrance fees have been received.

Q.—What salaries will the secretary and treasurer receive? Ans.—None.

Q.—Will the MILITIA GAZETTE publish all individual scores after each match? Ans.—Yes.

Q.—What qualifies a man to shoot in a league team? Ans.—He must belong to the corps previous to 1st May, 1890.

Q.—May retired officers shoot in a league team? Ans.—No.

Q.—Will the prizes become the property of winners when once won? Ans.—Yes.

Q.—In a place like Montreal, when six or eight teams are shooting side by side, will one range officer do for all? Ans.—No; there must be two at least.

THE AIM REFLECTOR.

An exceedingly useful invention for musketry instructors is the aim reflector, a new pattern of which has lately been introduced by Messrs. W. J. Jeffery & Co., the military rifle makers whose name is so familiar in our advertising columns. These reflectors are now very generally in use by both Volunteers and Regulars in England and in India. The reflector can be used on the rifle when the recruit is at target practice, the instructor being able to watch the aiming up to the very second that the trigger is pulled. Using these aim reflectors renders it unnecessary to request a recruit to aim at the instructor's eye to show how he took his sights in aiming, and removes the possibility of accidents such as the following which recently took place at one of the London ranges:

Instructor, to recruit who had fired ten shots at 100 yards and missed the target each time—"Just come back here a minute and let me see how you aim." (Recruit steps back.) "Now, mount the rifle three or four times and aim at my eye without pulling the trigger." (Recruit does so.) "Now, mount the rifle and take aim at my eye, and when steady, gently pull the trigger when I say "pull." Recruit mounts the rifle, aims at the instructor's eye, with his finger on the trigger, and at last the Instructor says "Pull." The recruit says, "Shall I, Sir, I have got a bullet in?" One who witnessed the above states that the instructor retired rapidly to the rear of that recruit, and that he did not get over his fright for several days.

The Emperor of Germany is said to be going to appoint a Court of Honor to deal with quarrels between officers in the Army. A duel will only be permitted to be fought for a blow or an insult to a lady relative or fiancée where the offender refuses to apologize.

By April 1 it is expected that the whole of the German Army will be equipped with the new small bore repeating rifle. Germany has thus once more anticipated all other armies in adopting a new armament.

Some time ago a correspondent of *Forest and Stream* made an enquiry of the height a rifle ball would attain if shot perpendicularly in the air. It took about 52 sec. from the time the rifle was fired until the ball reached the water. According to theory it takes as long for the ball to go up as it does to fall, then in falling the time would be 26 sec. Leaving out atmosphere, etc., the following formula may be taken: $S = \frac{1}{2}gt^2$, where S = space passed over; g = gravity (about 32), t^2 = square of time; then $S = 16 \times (26)^2 = 10,816$ ft., or over two miles high. Theoretically the ball went over two miles high.

The troubles of the 110-ton guns will never cease. No sooner do we begin to give them a little peace above water, than they take, or one of them does, to going under it. The delinquent was about to be carried to Malta as a reserve for the *Benbow*, when on Wednesday the steamer in which it was part cargo sank to the bottom of the Thames. It will be a ticklish job weighing this monster piece of ordnance, and meanwhile the *Benbow* must put up with the guns she has.—*Army and Navy Gazette*.

The story of Jessie Brown's hearing the battle cry of the Highlanders marching to the relief of Lucknow under Havelock is in danger of taking its place among the myths. At all events the story is undergoing a most thorough sifting in England. Mr. Archibald Forbes is among those who have come to the rescue of the imperilled reputation of "Highland Jessie." G. H. Lawrence, who was one of the garrison of Lucknow, tersely puts the case "that, considering the desperate nature of the fighting up to the Bailey Guard Gate, there was no room for music—not even of bagpipes."

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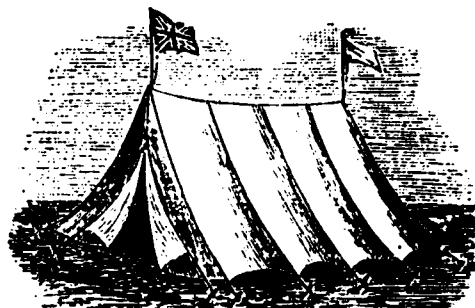


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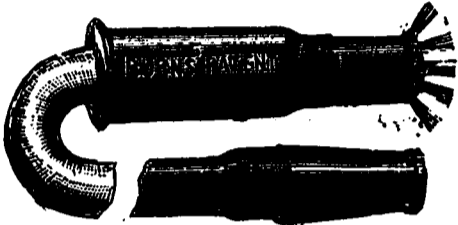
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Deputy of the Superintendent-General of Indian Affairs.

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BATTALIONS intending to take part in above competitions are respectfully requested to forward their entrance fees to the Treasurer without delay. Remit either by Registered Letter or P. O. order (made payable to Capt. John Bruce) and addressed to Capt. J. Bruce, Court House, Toronto. Entrance fees for the season 1890 \$10 per (regimental) team, or when more than one team entered, \$10 for the first and \$5 for each additional team of ten men.

DATES OF COMPETITIONS—Saturday, 17th and 31st May, 14th and 28th June, 12th and 26th July, and 9th August.

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