

THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE

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

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COMMENT AND CRITICISM.

As we supposed, the past week has seen the end of the campaign decided. Big Bear has preferred flight to resistance, and having retreated into a country through which it would be useless, if possible, for troops to follow him, General Middleton has relinquished his pursuit, and is on his way home, leaving the further movements of the troops to be conducted by the other commanders. Difficulties are not at an end: the fact of Big Bear being still on the warpath is in itself a most serious thing, and his possession of the McLeans and other captives demands that everything possible should be done for their relief. But at present everything indicates that the end of the campaign must be a waiting game, and the troops are more content to wait now that it has been proved that the horrible stories about Mrs. Delaney were utterly baseless, and we hope that the lately published stories respecting the Misses McLean may be placed in the same category. In any case just at present the safety of Mrs. Delaney and Mrs. Gowanlock has caused quite a revulsion of feeling in Big Bear's favor.

One of the blanks in the numeration of our infantry battalions has been filled, as will be seen on reference of the last general orders, by the formation of a five-company battalion in Essex, the westernmost county of the Ontario peninsula, and the southernmost county of the Dominion, which was a long time ago the headquarters of the Twenty-third battalion. The original Twenty-first battalion had its headquarters at St. John's, P.Q., and was disbanded in November, 1882. The numbers now

wanting to complete are the Fourth and Forty-eighth battalions. The newly-formed battalion should be a strong one, for it is located in a well-populated district, in one of the most fertile parts of the country, peopled by an enterprising and intelligent lot of farmers and merchants. Col. Wilkinson is to be congratulated on the organization of his battalion, and he and his command may confidently rely on a hearty welcome from the whole of their brothers-in-arms.

It has been noticed that Col. Scott's and Col. Smith's Winnipeg Provisional regiments are often called the Ninety-first and Ninety-second battalions, each of them in turn being assigned the lower number. There is no authority for the use of such numerical designation for either of them, as they are at present simply temporary battalions, and it would seem preferable, if they were permanently added to the militia list, to utilize one of the present blank numbers. In the meantime the simplest way of distinguishing them would be to call Col. Smith's which was the first organized, the First and Col. Scott's the Second Winnipeg Provisional Battalion if the designations which are used by the Militia Department of "Winnipeg Light Infantry Battalion" and "Winnipeg Battalion of Infantry," respectively, did not seem distinctive enough.

The County Council of Lincoln have shown an appreciation of the militia force of their locality that is alike worthy of praise and imitation. At a late meeting they voted to provide all the troops in the county, amounting to nine companies, with white regulation helmets; the Militia Department only serving out forage caps, which are unsuitable for summer wear. The council evidently acted on the principle that the men, after giving their time to volunteering for a mere nominal recompense, should not be asked to put their hands in their pockets for actual necessaries, but that they should be aided by those, the property holders in the vicinity, whose interests, in case of any disturbance, they would be the first to guard. There is no doubt that the North-west trouble, bringing forth the prompt response and admirable achievements of the troops, has instilled into the whole country a more lively appreciation of the militia force than has perhaps ever before existed, and possibly the Lincoln companies have this to thank for their success; but whatever the motive the action is eminently praiseworthy, and we would suggest to other municipal authorities that they might, with the approval of their constituents, go and do likewise.

This brings up again the question of headdress, and leads us to remark that we do not consider the regulation helmet a perfect summer hat for Canadian troops. Unless made of very expensive materials it is almost as heavy as some of the fur arrangements that provoked our previous criticism; it is ruined if it meets with rough treatment; it is troublesome to keep clean, and a shower of rain is as fatal to its pipeclay veneer as to a lady's bonnet; and it makes a man look squat, one of medium height who would pass muster in a busby looking in a helmet a mere boy. This is a formidable array of objections, and one that

will no doubt be challenged, but our idea is that for Canadians, who, whenever they turn out, whether for annual drill or on actual service, have to "rush things" all should be of the simplest and most serviceable description. Regulation helmets are, however, infinitely preferable to some of the makeshifts which we have seen at our summer camps, and which commanding officers were forced to adopt because the men, out of their 50 cents per diem, could afford nothing better. Have-locks of limp linen, of a different pattern for every company, crushed and dirty before they had been worn three days, or cheap grey cotton caps with peaks before and behind, looking neither like helmets nor have-locks. Such head covers make us respect those corps that let their faces peel under glengarries or forage caps in preference to looking untidy or ununiform.

"C" company in the 90th has been stripped as bare of officers as were some of the British regiments in the Crimea. A private letter from Winnipeg says: "Frank Jackes got back from Batoche the other night with his left hand in a sling and the tops of two fingers missing. At Fish Creek Jackes stopped to tie up the head of poor Corpl. Code, who was shot down just beside him, and as he started to regain his company a bullet singed both his eyebrows and knocked him on his back silly for awhile. At Batoche during the charge he was aiming at one rebel when another's bullet carried away his fingers, cut his rifle band off and split the stock, passing over his shoulder. When taken to the hospital he complained of a sore neck, and the doctor extracted a slug near the throat which he never knew he had got."

In his company Joe Tees is the only officer left. Both corporals and one lieutenant (Swinford), are killed, Jackes and his captain wounded, and the other lieutenant is in command of the Sharpshooters. Joe says he started as a junior sergeant but is now in command of his company, and guesses he will be gazetted major, at least, for acts of bravery in capturing chickens for the crowd at Batoche."

THE WEEKS' MOVEMENTS OF CORPS ON ACTUAL SERVICE

Since our last issue General Middleton, having found Big Bear in full retreat, selected out of his force 260 mounted men with whom he started in pursuit on the 3rd inst. In the meantime the Mounted Police left at Prince Albert were ordered to proceed to Green Lake to intercept the runaway in case he should attempt to escape in that direction; while somewhat later we hear of General Strange leading his force in the direction of Beaver River, and arriving at Chippewyan mission crossing on the 9th. Col. Otter also was ordered, with the bulk of the Battleford contingent, to proceed to Turtle and Jackfish lakes, also for the purpose of intercepting Big Bear, while the 10th Grenadiers, detached from the General's column, were sent to Fort Pitt for a like purpose. General Middleton, meanwhile, followed Big Bear's trail with good prospects of overtaking him, until, on the 9th, he was stopped by meeting at Loon Lake a tract of country that seemed to defy the best efforts of his troops to traverse, when the direct pursuit of the hostile chief was abandoned.

RIFLES AND RIFLE SHOOTING.—V.

BY CAPTAIN HENRY F. PERLEY, HEADQUARTERS STAFF.

At the battle of Fournou, a number of Italian knights being unhorsed, could only be killed after the armor had been broken off them, like so many lobsters, with axes. James I remarked that defensive armor was a double protection, as it prevented the wearer from being injured or from injuring others. The knights were, however, powerless against villainous saltpetre, and loudly they inveighed against its use, characterizing it as an unchristianlike mode of fighting, but public opinion overcame their remonstrances, as it had become apparent that war could not any longer be carried on as a pastime. Many knights gave it up, whilst others grew accustomed to fire-arms and took their chance, whilst loud and deep were the execrations of the armorers who found their occupation gone.

Portable fire arms were a somewhat later invention than cannon, and are first mentioned as having been used among the Flemings in the

14th century. They were continued to be improved until in 1820, at the siege of Bonifacio in Corsica, leaden bullets were fired which penetrated armor. They were at first called hand cannon, and as they were altered they received several appellations, such as: Hand-cannon, Hand-gun, Arquebus, Haguebut, Demi-hague, Musquet, Pistol, Tricker-lock, Wheel-lock, Currier, Snaphaunce, Caliver, Carabine, Fusil, Musquatoon, Petronel, Blunderbuss, Dragon, Hand-mortar, Dag. In the collection of arms in the tower of London, is a harquebus, which is dated 1537, and is said to have belonged to Henry VIII. It is a breech loader, the breech block opening as in the Snider rifle, only to the left. The barrel is 1 foot 11 inches in length. In 1580 a repeating gun was invented "that shall contain 10 balls or pellets of lead, all of which shall go off one after another, having once given fire, so that with one harquebus, one may kill ten thieves, or other enemies, without re-charging." Hand-guns are mentioned as early as 1414, and were of a very rude construction, consisting of a tube of iron or brass, with a touch-hole at the top, and fixed in a straight wooden stock about 30 inches in length. It had no lock, but was fired with a slow match, the end of the stock being passed under the left arm pit in doing so. From time to time improvements were effected, and in the reign of Edward IV the match was held by a cock, which was brought down on to the priming by pulling a trigger, and the gun was thus discharged with more certainty and quickness. This form of hand-gun was called an "arquebus," and was held against the chest to be discharged. To obviate the difficulty experienced of getting the eye down low enough to take good aim the Germans introduced the crooked stock, which elevated the barrel, and the arm thus improved was called a "haquebut." The next change was the adoption of the wheel lock, in the place of the slow match. This lock consisted of a steel wheel roughened on the edge, a strong spring, and a cock holding a piece of iron pyrites. To discharge the gun the lock was wound up by a key, the cock let down to the priming pan, the pyrites resting against the wheel. When the trigger was pulled, the wheel was set in motion, and revolving against the pyrites produced sparks and ignited the powder. The "snaphaunce" was invented about 1600 in Germany, and was so called from its having been used by a set of Dutch marauders, designated "snaphans," or poultry stealers, who, finding the light of the match betrayed them on their nocturnal trips, and the wheel lock too expensive, used a lock similar in its action to the old flint lock, now almost obsolete.

In the reign of James I the musketeer carried his powder in small cylindrical cases made of leather, tin or wood, each containing a charge. A belt or band was worn over the left shoulder, and twelve of these cases were attached to it, the whole being termed a "bandolier." A bag to contain bullets was affixed, as also were a couple of flasks, one containing a reserve of loading powder, the other—a small one—called a touch box, filled with fine powder for priming. At the same time the musketeer carried a rest on which to place his musket when firing; and as in wet weather it was found to be difficult to keep the cases containing the powder dry, cartridges and cartridge boxes came into general use in 1677.

The first bayonet, invented in 1650, and supposed to be named from Bayonne, (France), the place of its invention, was a kind of dagger which the soldier stuck in the muzzle of his gun to shield him from a cavalry charge, and being found to be useful was brought into general use. It is stated that in a campaign in Flanders, the 25th Regiment, whose bayonets screwed into the muzzle, were engaged by a French regiment, having their bayonets affixed over the muzzle, which gave them the advantage of firing a volley into and then charging the 25th, much to their astonishment. The bayonet was introduced into the British army in 1672, and in 1679 General Mackay improved it by attaching it to the barrel of the musket by two rings. The socket bayonet was adopted and in general use in 1703. The steel or iron ramrod was invented in 1698 by Prince Leopold of Anhalt Dessin, and used by the Prussian infantry.

At the commencement of the present century the regulation musket weighed 11½ lbs. and with the bayonet 12 lbs. 6 oz. The barrel was 3 ft. 6 in. in length, the same as the long Snider of to-day, and ¾ of an inch diameter in the bore. The bullets were spherical, 14½ weighing a pound, and the charge was 6 drams of F. G. powder, or over twice the charge contained in a Snider cartridge. Three flints were furnished with every sixty rounds of ammunition.

The flint lock of the musket possessed the grave objection that it did not perfectly preserve the priming from wet, and also that the flint at times failed to produce sparks and a non-ignition of the charge. In 1807 the Rev. Mr. Forsythe obtained a patent for priming with fulminating powder, and in 1834 the invention was tested at Woolwich, the results proving the soundness of the percussion principle, that the shooting was more accurate—due of course to the arm used, that the charge could be reduced from 6 to 4½ drams, thus lessening the recoil,

and that a greater rapidity of firing could be obtained, and yet with all these advantages it was not until 1837 that the flint lock was abandoned.

The word "artillery" is said by some to be derived from "artellaria," signifying bows, arrows and all implements of projectile warfare, and by others from the French word "artiller," but its general signification denotes all kinds of missiles, with the engines propelling them. In the modern acceptation of the term it has been appropriated for the larger sort of fire-arms, whilst in medieval times it naturally referred to bows and arrows. Stowe (an old writer) defines the word as the art of shooting in long bows, cross bows, stone bows, scorpions, rams, catapults; as also in cannons, basilisks, culverings, sakers, falcons, minions, fowlers, chambers, muskets, harquebusses, calivers, petronels, dags. In the authorized version of the Bible of 1611, it would seem to denote the bow, for we read in 1 Sam., xx., 40, that "Jonathan gave his *artillery* unto the lad," who had already picked up his arrows. The application of gunpowder to projectile warfare, and the use of cannon became general in Europe during the 14th century. Mention, however, is made of isolated instances of their employment at earlier periods, especially among the Moors. Artillery is said to have been used by Henry III of England during the rebellion of the Duke of Gloucester in 1267, and by the Spaniards against Cordova in 1280, and Gibraltar in 1306. It is, however, held that the first unquestionable testimony of the employment of cannon was by Edward III in 1338, and they were then called "crackys of war." Bombards were employed by Louis XI during his Flemish campaign, some throwing iron and others stone balls. Up to the reign of Henry VIII the practice of gunnery was very rude, and the first attempt to reduce it to definite principles was made by an Italian named Tartaglia, who prepared a treatise concerning the theory and practice of gunnery as then understood. Though correct in many of his statements, some of them were simply ludicrous, as for instance, he attributed the cause of the recoil to the rush of air into the bore to fill up the vacuum caused by the discharge of the powder; and gravely stated as a fact, that on one occasion an unfortunate small dog was sucked into the bore of a gun after its discharge, by the rush of air. He also gave a receipt for causing "any great piece of artillery to make an exceeding great noise and a marvellous rore," which was to place a piece of lead, or shoe leather, between the powder and the ball, and also to introduce a little quicksilver into the touch-hole.

We read of a bombard, cast in 1453, which was 15 feet in length, weighed 15,356 lbs., and threw a stone shot 18 inches in diameter, weighing 300 lbs. In 1807, when Sir John Duckworth passed the Dardanelles, his ships were struck with shot weighing between 700 and 800 lbs. In 1651 Charles II. marched over the Scottish frontier with a large army and 16 leathern guns by the way of artillery. All the early cannon were breech-loaders, and at first they were built of bars of wrought iron hooped or banded together. The well-known bombard "Mons Meg" now mounted on the walls of Edinburgh Castle and used at the sieges of Dumbarton and Norham in 1489 and 1497, is constructed in this manner. There are rifled cannon of the sixteenth century in the museum of the Hague, and one in the arsenal at Berlin, dated 1661, is rifled with 16 grooves, and one at Nuremberg, dated 1694, has 8 grooves.

It is not proposed to allude any further to cannon, except to say that with the improvement of fire arms, so have they followed in the manufacture of ordnance. By the perfection to which machinery has been brought the requisite materials for all artillery purposes can be easily wrought, and thus great accuracy is obtained in the manufacture of warlike stores. By the application of chemistry, the constituents, and the most advantageous employments of the various substances employed in the military arts, can be ascertained. By means of electricity ordnance can, if required, be fired without risk to the gunners; and the highest velocities of projectiles fired, whether the small bullet of the Martini or the huge projectile of the 100-ton gun, can be obtained with an exactness not before possible, and by the skilful use of mathematical analysis the results of experiments are reduced to exact and definite principles capable of application to practice.

The word "muschite" in ornithology denotes the male young of the sparrow hawk. Names of animals were generally bestowed upon ordnance, *erg.* the falcon and its diminutive the falconet, etc., and as the musket was the most important of small fire arms, it was probably thought worthy of being called after the smallest of the birds of prey. The term musquette was, however, applied on the continent to denote the iron part of the small arrows which were discharged from guns, and sometimes the arrows themselves. The first Spanish muskets had straight stocks, the French curved ones. Sir John Kellie, in his *Art Militaire*, published in 1621, says, "the barrel of a musket should be four feet in length, the bore capable of receiving bullets, twelve of which

should weigh a pound." The consequence was, that, owing to this great length and weight, they had to be supported by a rest when fired. The size of the musket gave it a much longer range than any other firearm, but the length of time it took to load—a quarter of an hour—and the weakness of the powder employed, it is not a matter of surprise that the use of the bow was preferred, and the adoption of firearms tardy. "The musketeer, besides his unwieldy weapon, carried his coarse powder for loading in a flask, his fine powder for priming in a touch-box, his bullets in a leathern bag, the strings of which he had to withdraw in order to get at them, whilst in his hand was his burning match and rest, and when he had discharged his piece he was comparatively defenceless if attacked." In fact it required a strong man to be a musketeer. Musketeers, according to Markham, were to have "good combe caps"—that is, iron helmets with a raised comb—"on their heads, bandoliers of broad leather across their shoulders, also swords, girdles, hangers or bauldricks, and bullet bags in which they shall carry their moulds, bullets, worms, screws, rammers and priming iron. Also they shall have good and sufficient muskets, of true size and bore, with clean barrels and straight scouring sticks, headed at one end with rammers of horn suitable to the bore of the piece, and at the other with boxes of iron into which to screw their worms, iron rammers and the like." Not only was the musketeer a heavily weighted man, but his energies, both mental and physical, were taxed by an amount of training to which the modern Manual and Firing exercises are a mere joke. Quoting from Markham again we learn that

"As touching the postures which belong to the musket they are forty in number, and they are to be done, five standing, three marching, eighteen charging, and fourteen discharging, but they are only for military instruction in the time of training and to make soldiers more excellent and perfect.

"Three postures, or words of command, are to be used in the face of the enemy; 1, make ready; 2, present; 3, give fire."

"The postures or words of command which are to be used in ordinary training or early exercising of the soldier are these, first five to be performed standing, that is to say:—Put on your arms, prepare your skirmish, rest your musket, your sentinel posture, your saluting posture."

"The postures to be performed in marching are:—Shoulder your musket, and carry your rest in your right hand, level your musket, slope your musket."

"The postures to be performed in charging are:—Clear your pan, prime your pan, shut your pan, cast off your loose corns, blow your pan, cast about your musket with both your hands, and trail your rest, open your charges, charge your musket with powder, draw out your scouring stick, shorten your stick, ram in your powder, draw out your stick, shorten your stick and put it up, bring your musket forward with your left hand, hold it up with your right hand and recover your rest."

"The postures which are to be performed in discharging are:—Carry your rest in your left hand preparing to give fire, slope your musket and let the rest sink, in the right hand poise your musket, in the left hand carry the musket with the rest, in the right hand take your match between the second finger and thumb, hold the match fast and blow it, cock your match, try your match, guard the pan and blow your match, open your pan, present your musket, give fire, dismount your musket and carry it with your rest, uncock your match and put it between your fingers."

In 1619 bullets were generally carried in a little bag called a purse, which was worn on the right side. When about to load, the fire-armed man withdrew a bullet and held it in "readiness in his mouth." This being his proper status, it was made a point of honour that troops who had capitulated should march out with the honours of war, viz., with lighted matches, bullet in mouth, drums beating, etc. It is stated that the conditions granted at the taking of Cambrai in 1595 were "that the soldiers of whatever nation might march out, their cornets and colours flying, matches lighted, and bullets in the mouth." On the 17th August, 1646, the Castle of Raglan surrendered to the forces sent by Oliver Cromwell, and according to the articles of surrender, the garrison marched out with their horses and arms, colours flying, drums beating, trumpets sounding, matches lighted, bullets in their mouths, and twelve charges of powder.

(To be Continued.)

The Winnipeg Association Football Club have presented a warmly worded address of condolence to the parents of Corporal Code, who was a popular member of the club, and who died of wounds received at Fish Creek.

The officers of "B" Battery have finished their audit of the books of Pay-Sergeant Stewart and find that his defalcations amount to over \$2,000. This loss the officers who certified to the correctness of the accounts, will have to stand. The sergeants' mess and other regimental organizations will be out considerably. The total misappropriation is about \$3,000.

PROPOSED AMERICAN PNEUMATIC CANNON.

PROJECTILES FILLED WITH DYNAMITE TO BE FIRED BY COMPRESSED AIR.

On the glacis of Fort Hamilton, New York harbour, is mounted an experimental dynamite gun of the Gun Company. The gun is 28 feet long, 2-inch bore, and throws a projectile of a little less than four pounds weight. It is mounted on a tripod and connected with a flask of compressed air near the breech by a hose. The gun is fired by opening a valve and admitting compressed air from the flask to the gun. With a pressure of 400 pounds per square inch the gun throws a projectile across the "Narrows" (about a mile and a quarter) and some hundred yards beyond. For accuracy the firing gives results quite as good as can be attained by any light gun with similar weight of projectile.

A gun which will throw a four-pound projectile a mile and a half is not of itself a wonderful thing. But this remarkable gun does it without noise or smoke. The report, such as it is, is like the hissing noise heard when the engineer loosens the air brakes of a railway train. Within ten days the company will replace the experimental gun built at Norwalk with a four-inch brass gun constructed on a different system. This is now mounted and undergoing its finishing touches at the Delameter Iron Works in New York. It is 40 feet long, weighs about a ton, and will work with about 800 pounds air pressure to the square inch. It should have a range of three miles, and will be far more perfect in its mechanical fittings than the No. 1 gun it will replace. It is expected to throw a 24-pound projectile with great precision up to two or two and a half miles.

The guns referred to are smooth-bore. The projectile to fit them but slightly resembles any missile known to artillerymen. It is more like an arrow or "quarrel" thrown from the ancient arbalest. The "feather" is a conical piece of turned wood or of hollow brass. The "pile" is a heavier tube of iron or brass, which contains the bursting charge. The two-inch gun at Fort Hamilton drives these projectiles, filled with sand, through a foot of oak timber at a mile range. But dynamite and not sand will be the material with which these thunderbolts will be loaded for service.

Dynamite of the higher grades has about one hundred times the destructive force of gunpowder. Beginning with a half-ounce, the experimental gun has thrown projectile after projectile charged with dynamite until it was found that a full bursting charge of two pounds could be safely handled. More than a hundred shells loaded with dynamite have been so fired, and the use of that explosive has passed beyond experiment. The four-inch gun will throw a charge which, in its explosion, will do the destructive work of a ton of gunpowder.

Krupp's last gun, now building, is 55 feet long, weighs 125 tons, and will cost \$250,000. A gun to throw 200 pounds of dynamite, of equal length, would weigh one-tenth as much, and cost less than a tenth of the money. Krupp's gun, with all the facilities of his monster workshops and 30,000 workmen, must be a year in building. Any locomotive factory can build a compressed air dynamite gun in thirty days.

As a slight shock will explode dynamite, and the explosion of a few ounces would burst any gun in existence, it has been impossible to fire it from a gun loaded with gunpowder, and compressed air is made use of for that purpose. The flask holds ten or twenty charges of air for the gun. If twenty, then the pressure runs down five per cent., and to insure even shooting the air thus lost must be supplied again before the next shot. With a good compressor this can be done while the projectile is being placed in the breech of the gun.

Will it be safe to send out a ship armed with such guns and such projectiles? Will not the danger of explosion of the dynamite be likely to destroy your own vessel rather than the enemy? These are practical questions, but the difficulties are not insuperable. Dynamite cannot be safely flung around loose, but with care it can be handled nearly as safely as gunpowder, although in a different way. It is easily made.—*Proceedings R. A. Institution.*

A MOVING AND DISAPPEARING TARGET FOR RIFLE PRACTICE.

BY MAJOR G. B. MACDONELL, R.A.

I would feel some diffidence in submitting for publication in these "Proceedings" the description of the apparatus mentioned in the heading of this Paper, were it not that, in addition to the subjects congenial to their own profession, our officers take a strong and wide interest in all that concerns the efficiency of the army at large. Having this in mind, I venture to forward a description of a simple target that will, I hope, afford our brethren in the other branches of the service an easy means of practising and perfecting their

men in a part of the instruction in military rifle shooting that hitherto has been practically neglected.

The plans of the system I advocate will place it within the reach of anyone to construct a working target for himself, and any description beyond a very brief one will be unnecessary.

A lever is mounted on an universal traversing pivot, so as to permit of motion to the right or left, and also of vertical movement. It is worked by a man in the marker's butt, who, by means of a counter-weighted T-headed hand-lever, can effect these motions with a minimum of exertion to himself.

At the end of the pivoted lever is bolted, or bent, an upright arm terminating in two sockets, into which the feet of the target-frame are fixed. The lever may either be of wood or iron.

The target is made of a light frame of iron rod, over which canvas has been stretched, and presents a surface of 2' x 2', or rather more than what would be shown by a man rising from behind the shelter of a parapet in order to fire a shot. A colored paper representation of the above portion of a man (or, say, from the top of his cap to the elbows) should be pasted on to the canvas, in order to make the target as natural and life-like as possible. The frame should have a central standard, terminating in two feet to fit the sockets on the top of the upright arm of the working lever, so that when much knocked about the target may be detached and replaced by another.

The normal position of the target is slightly below the crest of the parapet of the marker's butt, and consequently out of sight at the firing points, until it is raised and moved about by the marker pressing down and traversing the lever. He will thus readily be able to simulate the movements of a man partially covered by a parapet rising to fire, moving to right or left, disappearing and re-appearing at some other point. These movements may be varied almost *ad infinitum* by a clever marker.

The practice at a target such as has been described should be the finishing part of a soldier's course of rifle instruction, and should be looked forward to by him as the means of bringing into practical use all the elementary instruction he has been put through. It should only be carried on by men who at a range of 300 yards can make an almost perfect certainty of hitting a stationary target of the dimensions given above—the ability to do so would not be too much to ask from any marksman deserving the name.

I will not lay down any system of instruction beyond the following hints below. I think that the course might be divided into three sections:—

1st, I would recommend practice at the target rising and disappearing;

2nd, at it in horizontal motion;

3rd, at it, the marker being allowed to combine horizontal and vertical motions in manœuvring the target.

The time of exposure in any case should not exceed twenty or be less than ten seconds.

For the skirmishing practice with a section, or smaller body of men, the horizontal movements of the target may be dispensed with: the markers, sheltered by a long butt, would simply have to work a number of levers arranged like those in a railway signalman's box, and would give vertical movements to a number of dummies placed at the interval they would occupy were they men manning a parapet.

Finally, the men under instruction should be directed to advance by successive rushes, firing at the halts, and thus, in peace time, would have an opportunity of realizing and attempting to remedy some of the many disturbing influences they would have to contend against in actual warfare.

If the above or some similar or better system of rifle practice were adopted, and the instruction carried on throughout the year, instead of being massed into a short space of time as it now is, the shooting of the army when brought to any *practical* test would be much improved. The men would acquire and keep up the habit of decision in the selection of a field object, of rapid and accurate aiming and firing, and of such confidence in their own powers as marksmen that the musketry fire of the British Infantry would regain the prestige it has lost of late years, and become in the wars to come as dreaded as it was in times now long gone by.—*Proceed. R. A. Inst.*

Graduates of the Royal Military College have been pouring into Kingston ever since the announcement was made that extra commissions would be given this year in the Imperial service; but almost every graduate has gone away disappointed, having been over the age. It was not announced at first that there was to be any special age, and some came to see the commandant from as far away as the Rocky Mountains to have their names put on the list for commissions and their disappointment may easily be imagined. The branches of the service that appear to be the favorites are the Royal Engineers and Royal Artillery; some of the commissions may not be filled.

THE MEDICAL SERVICE.

The following table and other information bearing on the sick and wounded volunteers in the North-west has been compiled from reports in the office of the Surgeon-General at Ottawa, and though somewhat roughly summarized, will serve to show the amount of work entailed upon the surgical staff and the excellent results so far obtained. We are indebted to the courtesy of the Surgeon-General in allowing us the privilege of seeing the reports, and also for much information so cheerfully given at all times.

The following table shows the condition of the occupants of beds at the hospital at Saskatoon on the 30th May under the charge of Dr. James Bell.

Face—	
Comp. fracture of lower jaw.....	convalescent.
Wound of eye and temple.....	lost eye.
Chest—	
Wound of right lung.....	improving.
Abdomen—	
Wound of left groin.....	bullet still in pelvis, doing well.
Wound of right side.....	convalescent.
Contused wound.....	
Back—	
Wound of left back.....	"
Wound of back and left chest.....	empyema, doing well.
Wound of left back.....	doing well.
Scrotum and perineum—	
Wound of testicle.....	doing well.
Wound of thigh, scrotum and testicle.....	convalescent, but loss of both testicles.
Upper arm—	
Wound of right arm.....	convalescent.
Wound of left arm.....	"
Wound of left shoulder.....	severe, doing well (since been discharged).
Amputation of left arm.....	convalescent.
Wound of left shoulder.....	severe, doing well.
Forearm—	
Wound of left forearm.....	doing well.
Wound of right elbow.....	improving slowly.
Wound of right wrist.....	convalescent (since been discharged).
Wound of right forearm.....	convalescent.
Hand—	
Wound of left hand.....	severe—probably lose hand.
Thigh—	
Wound of right thigh.....	convalescent.
Wound of left thigh.....	doing well.
Wound of right thigh.....	do
do do.....	not doing well, suppurating, but not in danger
Wound of left thigh.....	doing well.
do do.....	do
Comp. frac. of right thigh (Half-breed).....	thigh amputated—very low.
Leg—	
Comp. fracture of left tibia.....	doing well, will probably save leg.
Wound of right leg.....	convalescent.
do do.....	do
Foot—	
Wound of sole of foot.....	do
Large joints—	
Wound of right elbow.....	doing well, damaged elbow (since discharged)
Wounds of right knee and left leg.....	wound of knee serious to limb (since dead).
Miscellaneous—	
Pneumonia.....	convalescent.
Acute rheumatism.....	do
do do.....	do
Flesh wound, left side.....	do

Besides the above casualties now under treatment at Saskatoon there have been many others, disposed of as follows:—Face, 1; abdomen, 1; back, 1; upper arm, 7; forearm, 6; hand, 4; thigh, 4; large joints, 1; rheumatism, 3; sciatica, 1; scald, 1—total 30, discharged to base hospital at Moosejaw, May 20th. Face, 1; chest, 1; abdomen, 1; forearm, 1; hand, 1; thigh 1; rheumatism, 1—total, 7, discharged home. Upper arm, 2; forearm, 1; leg, 1; rheumatism, 2, discharged for duty. Neck, 1; chest, 1; thighs, 1—total 3, died.

At the battle of Cut Knife Hill, fought May 2, 1885, the casualties were:—

Killed, 8—Six being shot through the head, of whom five died in action and the other at Battleford the following day. Two were shot in the body, one dying in action, shot through the chest, and the other at Battleford on the following day.

Wounded 14.—One through nose and cheek, severely, requiring removal of cheek bone two weeks subsequently. Two in the neck, both severe, one in back of neck, and in the other the bullet lodged against the spine below the level of spine of scapula, and was extracted May 20th. Two of upper arm, one a severe flesh wound, the other a comminuted fracture of neck of humerus, severe, and necessitating removal of a portion of the humerus May 7th. One severe flesh wound of left forearm; one shot in the back, the bullet being removed on the field; one in the right buttock, severe; one in the left side, severe; one in abdomen, bullet not found, severe; three of the thigh, two being superficial and slight, and the other severe; one superficial wound of left calf, slight.

The medical staff present on the occasion consisted of Brigade Surgeon Strange of the I. S. Corps and Surgeon Lesslie of the Q.O.R., also an ambulance corps of one Sergeant and eight men of the Q.O.R. with two stretchers.

Of the twenty-six supplemental commissions offered by the British War Office to graduates of the Royal Military College at Kingston, we understand that six will be in the Royal Artillery, ten in the Engineers, and the remainder in Infantry and Cavalry Regiments.

THE TARGET.

OTTAWA, ONT.—The second Martini spoon competition of the Ottawa Rifle Club was held on the 13th inst. It was begun in a blazing hot sun at 200 yards and finished in a heavy rain storm at 600. There was a strong 4 o'clock wind blowing. Seven rounds at 200, 500 and 600 yards.

J. A. Armstrong....	28	30	25	83	Capt. Perley.....	23	25	24	72
(First spoon.)					W. Short.....	23	23	25	71
A. Pink.....	30	26	24	80	Capt. Waldo.....	25	24	21	70
(Second spoon.)					R. Gallwey.....	23	24	21	68
Lieut. Wright.....	26	29	23	78	T. Carroll.....	26	22	20	68
E. D. Sutherland....	28	29	21	78	Major Anderson...	26	20	17	63
A. F. Cotton.....	27	23	27	77	F. W. Dawson....	25	23	15	63
Dr. Hutchison.....	28	26	23	77	R. Reardon....	21	21	20	62
Lieut. Chamberlin..	25	24	27	76	J. E. Hutchison...	21	29	11	61
W. A. Jamieson....	27	26	23	76	Jas. Grant.....	26	19	13	58
N. Morrison.....	23	24	28	75	H. Fairweather...	22	26	4	52
H. Walters.....	27	26	20	73	R. N. Slater.....	21	19	10	50

QUEEN'S OWN RIFLES—SCORES FOR SATURDAY, 13TH JUNE, 1885.

Act. Sgt.-Mjr. Warrington, "C" Co.	60	Sergt. Gorie, "A" Co.....	50
Sergt. Jones, "G" Co.....	58	Pte. Anderson, "G" Co.....	49
Pte. Freeland, "F" Co.....	57	Pte. Wright, "D" Co.....	49
Sergt. Chaytor, "C" Co.....	56	Pte. McNeill, "A" Co.....	49
Pte. Westman, "A" Co.....	54	Corpl. Owen.....	47

Ranges 200, 400 and 500 yards, 5 shots at each range, short rifles (Sniders).

MONTREAL.—The usual weekly handicap prize meeting of the Victoria Rifle Association was held last Wednesday morning at the Point St. Charles Ranges. The following are the successful competitors: 1. Sergt. K. Matthews, scratch, 51; 2. Pte. Corbett, 6 points, 50; 3. Lieut. Goodhugh, 4 points, 43; 4. Pte. Brocklesby, scratch, 42; 5. Lance-Corpl. Cable, 6 points, 41.

BOWMANVILLE.—The following are the scores at the matches of the Bowmanville Rifle Association, shot on May 30th and June 6th respectively seven shots with Sniders at Queen's range:—

30th May.				6th June.					
W. C. King.....	29	26	23	78	T. Nowell.....	27	26	32	85
J. B. Mitchell.....	30	25	21	76	W. S. Russell.....	29	32	23	84
W. S. Russell.....	28	29	16	76	J. Morris.....	26	29	26	81
Dr. McLaughlin....	33	28	15	75	W. C. King.....	28	26	26	80
N. S. Young.....	26	25	22	73	Dr. McLaughlin..	30	28	22	80
T. Nowell.....	27	25	16	68	J. B. Mitchell....	31	31	12	74
					N. S. Young.....	29	21	21	71

The scores, though not so large as those published in our last issue, are good, the scores of June 6th being over the usual average. We expect to have the pleasure of publishing a good score from here in our next issue as a competition took place on June 13th for the National Rifle Association medal.

A cricket match was begun on Saturday between a team from the P. W. O. Rifles and the Kingston Club; but a thunder storm knocked the game on the head. The match will come off next Saturday. The soldiers have a good eleven.

At a meeting held in the Mansion House on the 20th May in connection with the fund for the assistance of the troops in the North-west, the Lord Mayor of London presided and both the Princess Louise and the Marquis of Lorne were present. The ex-Governor-General made a very forcible appeal on behalf of the fund, and it was announced that it was hoped to raise £1,000 beyond the sum of £1,100 which had already been subscribed. We understand that a further consignment of stores may possibly be despatched this week.

EXTRACT FROM MILITIA GENERAL ORDERS, OTTAWA, 12TH JUNE, 1885.

NO. 1—REGULATIONS AND ORDERS FOR THE MILITIA, 1883.—ACTUAL SERVICE.

Instructions for commanding officers of corps.—The following are added as sub-sections (2) and (3) to paragraph 665 of the Regulations and Orders, 1883:—

(2) Before the corps leaves its headquarters he will cause a copy of the Service Roll to be made, in which each man's name in full, his usual place of residence, his age, and showing whether he is married or single, shall be recorded. And when the corps moves out this copy of the roll, a marching out state in writing (see form, paragraph 675), a certificate from the surgeon of the corps showing that the provisions of paragraphs 676 to 679, inclusive, have been complied with, also a certificate from himself as commanding officer showing that the provisions of paragraphs 665, 666 and 679 have been complied with, must be forwarded by him through the proper channel of communication to the district staff officer, for transmission to the Adjutant-General at headquarters.

(3) The district staff officer will not permit any corps to leave its headquarters until after the requirements of the preceding sub-section have been complied with. When the papers are received by him he will forward them without delay to headquarters.

Medical inspections and regulations.—The following is to be added as sub-section (2) to paragraph 679:—

(2) When on actual service if any man is sent to a civil hospital for treatment he is to be informed that when he is discharged therefrom he must obtain a certificate from the hospital authorities showing the particulars of his case, and the period during which he was necessarily kept there under medical treatment. The certificate will be required to establish the man's claims for compensation or pay during the period his disability existed.

Pay regulations.—The following are added as sub-sections (2), (3) and (4) to paragraph 978 of the Regulations and Orders, 1883:—

(2) Men sent to hospital invalided will receive pay from their corps up to and including the day they are admitted into hospital. While in hospital they will be paid by the paymaster of the district in which the hospital is situated. Each paymaster will issue a *last pay certificate*, in duplicate, one copy to be forwarded to the paymaster of the district to which the patient is proceeding, the other copy to be given to the patient.

(3) If the man is sent to his home from the hospital for further treatment in place of rejoining his corps on service the paymaster of the district in which the man's home is, will issue pay to the man during the period he is incapacitated from following his ordinary occupation—on approval of the Deputy Adjutant-General of the district, who will satisfy himself by medical certificate of the man's continued incapacity; but pay will not be issued after his corps has been relieved from active service.

(4) If the man belongs to a permanent corps out on service he will when discharged from hospital be sent either to his corps or the headquarters of his corps, according to circumstances, in either case he will draw his daily pay as usual from his corps.

NO. 3—ACTIVE MILITIA.

Battalions of Infantry—A battalion—consisting of not less than four companies nor more than five—will be allowed a lieutenant-colonel and one major.

A battalion—consisting of six companies or more—is allowed a lieutenant-colonel and two majors.

7th Batt.—Lieutenant and Adjutant Captain George McIlroy Reid, V.B., to have the rank of captain from 12th December, 1884.

28th Batt., No. 3 Co.—To be 2nd lieutenant, provisionally, Sergt. William Oscar Mitchell, vice John Gumb, whose resignation is hereby accepted.

33rd Batt., No. 2 Co.—To be 2nd lieutenant, provisionally, Charles Edward Williams, gentleman, vice James Johnston, deceased.

39th Batt., No. 4 Co.—The resignation of Lieut. Joseph Michael Tweedale is hereby accepted.

21st "Essex" Batt. of Inf.—The formation is hereby authorized of a battalion of infantry in the county of Essex, to be designated the "21st 'Essex' Battalion of Infantry;" with headquarters at Windsor. Composed as follows, viz:—

The infantry company at Windsor, hereby detached from 24th Batt. as No. 7 Co., to be No. 1 Co.

The infantry company at Leamington, hereby detached from the 25th Batt. as No. 7 Co., to be No. 2 Co.

And of the following companies of infantry, the formation of which is hereby authorized:—

At Essex Centre, to be No. 3 Co.

At Amherstburg, to be No. 4 Co.

At Windsor, to be No. 5 Co.

To be lieutenant-col., John Richardson Wilkinson, V.B., from retired list of majors.

To be major, provisionally, James E. Guillot, M.S. 2nd, formerly lieutenant and adjutant, late 23rd Essex Batt.

No. 3 Co., Essex Centre.—To be captain, provisionally, Albert Edward Jones, Esquire. To be lieutenant, provisionally, Winser H. Russell, gentleman. To be 2nd lieutenant, provisionally, William John Johnston, gentleman.

No. 4 Co., Amherstburg.—To be captain, provisionally, James Templeton, Esq. To be lieutenant, provisionally, John Henry Collins Leggatt, gentleman. To be 2nd lieutenant, provisionally, Joseph David Burk, gentleman.

No. 5 Co., Windsor.—To be captain, provisionally, Charles C. Fox, Esq. To be lieutenant provisionally, William Wallace Dewson, gentleman. To be 2nd lieutenant, provisionally, Alexander Black, gentleman.

To be paymaster, Francis Xavier Meloche, Esq.

To be surgeon, Richard Carney, Esq., M.D.

To be quartermaster, Stephen Thomas Reeves, Esq.

Captain Fox will take rank, regimentally, senior to Captains Jones and Templeton.

5th Batt.—To be 2nd lieutenant, provisionally, James Hamilton Miller, gentleman, vice Donald Downie, who has neglected to report himself for duty since appointment.

55th Batt., No. 3 Co.—To be 2nd lieutenant, provisionally, Private William John Briggs, vice McLean, promoted.

The resignation of Lieut. Niel John McKellop is hereby accepted.

61st Batt.—To be major, Captain and Brevet Major Edouard Lemieux, G.S.I., from No. 6 Co., vice Colfer, promoted.

No. 6 Co.—To be captain, 2nd Lieutenant Benjamin A. Scott, R.S.A., vice Lemieux, promoted.

Lieut. Ferdinand Fafard having left limits his name is hereby removed from the list of officers of the active militia.

89th Batt., No. 4 Co.—To be lieutenant, provisionally, Sergt. Jean Baptiste Pelletier, vice Charles E. D'Amours, left limits.

Newcastle Field Battery.—The resignation of Surgeon Ingraham B. Freeman is hereby accepted.

62nd Batt.—To be captain, Lieutenant Matthew Boyd Edwards, M.S., vice Arthur Isaac Trueman, whose resignation is hereby accepted.

Prince Edward Island Provisional Brigade of Garrison Artillery.—No. 1 Battery—To be lieutenant, provisionally, Gunner Hector Charles Macdonald, vice Chester Benjamin Macneill, whose resignation is hereby accepted.

To be 2nd lieutenant, provisionally—George Townshend Davies, gentleman, vice Herbert R. Hewson, deceased.

NO. 4—ASSOCIATIONS FOR DRILL IN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS—NEW BRUNSWICK.

University of New Brunswick Drill Association.—The formation of this drill company is hereby authorized under the provisions of that portion of the "Regulations and Orders for the Militia of Canada, 1883" applicable thereto.

To act as captain, Henry C. Harrington. To act as lieutenant, W. D. Rankin.

To act as 2nd lieutenant, J. W. Wetmore.

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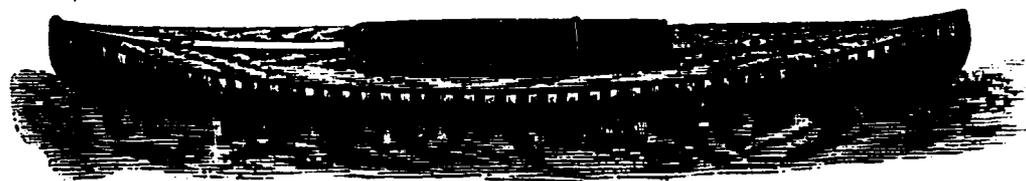
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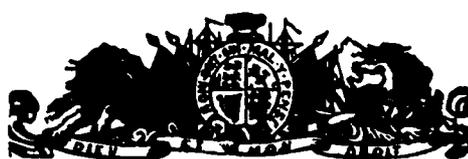
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5th "	50	20	70 "

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Notice to Contractors.

SEALED TENDERS addressed to the undersigned, and endorsed "Tender for supplying Coal for the Public Buildings, Ottawa," will be received at this office until Wednesday, 1st July next.

Specifications can be seen and forms of Tender obtained, on and after Monday, the 15th inst., at this office, where all necessary information can be had on application; also at the office of James Nelson, architect, Montreal, and at the Dominion Public Works Office, Post Office Building, Quebec.

Each tender must be accompanied by an accepted bank cheque for the sum of \$250.00, made payable to the order of the Honorable the Minister of Public Works, which will be forfeited if the party decline to enter into a contract when called upon to do so, or if he fail to complete the work contracted for. If the tender be not accepted the cheque will be returned.

The Department will not be bound to accept the lowest or any tender.

By order, A. GOBEIL, Secretary.

Department of Public Works, }
Ottawa, 11th June, 1885.

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