

THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE

A Weekly Journal devoted to the Interests of the Active Force of the Dominion.

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REGIMENTAL NEWS.

Topics of the Week.

The annual report of the Ontario Artillery Association for 1888, which has just been issued, is an exceedingly interesting publication, containing a variety of useful information in addition to the looked for official statements. The Secretary, Mr. L. H. Irving, seems to have gone about its compilation with the painstaking enthusiasm characteristic of him. The report is not only creditably compiled but very neatly printed.

Major Van Wagner makes out a strong case for the Hamilton Field Battery in the correspondence on the subject of the field battery handicap, appearing in this issue. His battery undoubtedly has a grievance, and few impartial observers of the record will be disposed to deny that had all chances been even in the competitions the battery might have borne for the year the proud title of the most efficient in the Dominion. Fate having ruled otherwise, we trust that the disappointment will not be taken so much to heart as the concluding sentences of his letter would imply, and that next next summer Major Van Wagner's splendid battery will again be found in friendly competition with those of all Canada, under such carefully revised conditions that the best may have a greater likelihood of securing the honours and emoluments of first place.

A correspondent, writing on the sergeant-major's position in our militia, inferentially contests the views expressed on the subject in this paper a couple of weeks ago. We are told not only that he is supplied, free of charge, with all articles of clothing and equipment, but, further, that many of these are paid for by the officers. That is just where the trouble comes in. The sergeant-major, if he be a man of spirit, may not like to be beholden to the officers' private purses for his outfit, preferring to pay the cost himself, even though he can ill afford it. He is very apt to be a man who cannot well afford to give money as well as time, and it seems that the pay of his rank is not sufficient to cover the expenses. It is not reasonable to say that, because an officer is put to heavy expense, a sergeant-major should fare the same. It is comparatively easy to find officers who can afford the outlay; it is the reverse of easy to secure men with money to spare who are content to be sergeants-major.

"I was pleased," a Quebec friend writes the Editor, "to read your article on the necessity of removing the Royal School of Infantry from St. John's; also your remarks on the proposal of the Government to confer pensions on the Mounted Police, and the necessity of doing the same for the permanent militia. Unless this is done the force will

continue to suffer from the large number of desertions. In it there are many pensioners from the Imperial army, and their good fortune causes the poor future of the Canadian soldier to be ever contrasted." The above is an extract from a letter written on a business matter, and not intended for publication, but we trust the writer will pardon its appearance in print. The sentiments are those expressed in letters from all quarters similarly received every week, and which go to show that matters pertaining to the government of the militia are beginning to receive greater attention from those most interested in the welfare of the force.

Inspired by the visit of a recruiting sergeant, a Montreal paper a few days ago wrote up some of the causes leading to enlistment in the permanent corps. "Drink is not without its influence," we are told; and, further, that "when a man enlists during a spree, his first thought when he comes to himself is to desert." A prominent officer named is quoted as saying that "a great many enlist as the outcome of a spree, and then, disgusted with themselves, desert." We sincerely hope the officer and the newspaper in question are not correct in these statements. We do not believe that any commandant of our permanent corps would countenance the enlistment of men "during a spree," or that recruits are so difficult to obtain that men are hurried into swearing away their service for three years without opportunity of sober consideration of whether or not it is to their advantage to join. Not only should the enlistment be the result of calm determination, but those who after a short trial profess a dislike of the military service should be allowed to leave without by desertion making themselves exiles from Canada.

We are glad to know that the 90th Rifles have obtained some Morris tubes and suitable targets, by means of which members of the battalion may be enabled to obtain rifle practice in a more convenient way than they have hitherto been able to do, owing to there being no government range at Winnipeg. This will likely be the means of many of the younger members being taught how to shoot, and, having their interest enlisted in the practice of their becoming—at least some of them who might not otherwise be so—prominent marksmen. It would be an excellent move for the Government to make a similar provision of Morris tubes for the Royal School of Mounted Infantry, at present without facilities for rifle practice owing to the want of a range.

In the Imperial House of Commons last week Lord George Hamilton, first lord of the Admiralty, stated that the Government was prepared to build eight first-class men-of-war of 14,000 tons each, and two of 9,000 tons, nine first class cruisers, twenty-nine smaller cruisers, four of the Pandora type of cruisers and eighteen of the sharpshooter type of torpedo vessels. The total tonnage of all these vessels will be 318,000, and the total cost £21,500,000. He asked that £10,000,000 be appropriated from the consolidated fund for the proposed increase of the navy, and that the remainder of the sum required be provided for in the ordinary estimates. He promised that the Admiralty's programme

would be executed within four and a half years. He did not think the proposed increase would induce other nations to attempt to rival England in naval strength, because England had refrained from military rivalry. He did not believe that any other power was capable of executing such an extensive programme in so short a time. Lord Charles Beresford gave notice of an amendment declaring that England's naval strength ought to be equal to the navies of France and any other great power combined.

The Ontario Artillery Association.

The fourth annual meeting of the Ontario Artillery Association was held at the Rossin House, Toronto, on the 5th February, 1889. The detailed report we had arranged for missed connection, but even at this late day the following official report of the proceedings will be read with interest:

The meeting was opened at 11.15 a. m., the Senior Vice-President, Major F. King, Welland Canal F. B., in the chair, in the absence of Lt.-Col. Peters, President. Present: Lt.-Col. the Hon. J. M. Gibson, M.P.P.; Col. C. S. Czowski, A.D.C. to the Queen; Lt.-Col. W. D. Otter, D.A.G.; Lt.-Cols. A. H. Macdonald, 1st B.F.A., W. McKenzie, Gananoque F. B., and H. E. Irving, Retired List; Majors W. Nicoll, 1st B.F.A., W. McLean, Durham F. B., H. P. Van Wagner, Hamilton F. B., G. B. Hood, 1st B. F. A., and J. H. Mead, Toronto F. B.; Veterinary Surgeon A. Smith, Toronto F. B.; Capt. J. S. Hendrie, Hamilton F. B., J. Davidson, 1st B. F. A., W. A. Higginbotham, 1st B. F. A., and David McCrae, late 1st Brigade F. A.; Lieuts. W. A. Knowles, H. D. Merewether, J. A. Ross, Thos. McCrae, 1st B. F. A.; Messrs. R. B. Williamson, Port Hope, R. Myles, Toronto, F. J. Dixon, Montreal, and L. H. Irving, Secretary. The notice calling the meeting was read by the chairman. The minutes of the last general meeting having been read, it was moved by Col. Macdonald, seconded by Major Van Wagner, "That the name of Major Mead be added to the names of those comprising the Executive Committee." Carried. Which having been done it was moved by Col. McKenzie, seconded by Major Nicoll, "That the minutes so altered be confirmed." Carried. The minutes were then signed by the chairman.

THE SECRETARY'S REPORT.

To the Chairman Executive Committee Ontario Artillery Association:

SIR,—In accordance with rule No. 23, I have the honour to submit for the consideration of the committee, the third annual report on the working of the association.

The target practice of the Ontario Field Batteries was carried out by seven batteries during the twelve days allowed for annual drill, and by three others some three months after they had completed their training. This placed in the hands of these batteries an advantage not possessed by the others. The advantage being that three batteries had an opportunity, if they so desired, of training their selected marksmen during this time in nothing but laying. They further enjoyed additional advantages in having a land range, and the use of telephones.

I wish to lay great emphasis upon the importance of obtaining the maximum benefit from the firing practice. A return of the scores made during the past three years has been prepared, or reference to which you will notice that the decimal obtained during 1886 by the Ontario Batteries is the highest, being .54. That year half of the batteries fired at Port Hope, and half at Port Colborne, with service sights, but not during annual drill. The following year, with Scott's patent sights and during annual drill, the decimal drops to .48. During the past year a new system of scoring having been introduced, and the parallelogram of error being enlarged, it was expected that the scores would be larger, but on the contrary, the practice again being held during annual drill, the decimal has shrunk down to .43. I have also prepared a diagram showing the variations in the firing during five years.

No one can doubt that the average capacity of the men to learn how to lay a gun properly is the same in all batteries. Such being the case, the different results obtained in different batteries must be due to want of preliminary training in laying. With this in view, an instructional target has been made, and I beg to most strongly recommend that the association press the Militia Department to supply two to each battery on the understanding that they are to be used and not hidden away.

The Cobourg Garrison Battery, the only effective garrison battery in the province, carried out its gun practice at the Isle of Orleans. Until there is some increase in this branch of the arm, the association can do little to encourage it.

The individual membership has not increased this year as it should have done. Until some enthusiastic officer at each battery headquarters undertakes the unpleasant but still necessary job of getting new mem-

bers and collecting subscriptions, the work of the association will be hampered for want of funds and friends.

I have to thank Col. Walker Powell, the Adjutant-General, for forwarding a copy of the *Official Gazette*.

A list showing the winners of prizes given by the association is enclosed.

L. HOMFRAY IRVING, *Secretary*.

The secretary's report having been read, Col. Macdonald enquired why no prizes had been given for "aggregate scores," "general efficiency," etc. The secretary read the minutes of

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

of the 2nd January, 1889, bearing upon the subject. At this meeting there were present: Major Mead, in the chair, Major McLean, Captain Hendrie, Captain Davidson, Mr. Irving, and Mr. Malloch. After other business, as detailed in the minutes, the Secretary read a letter received by him on the 2nd November last, in which Major Van Wagner protested against the scores of the batteries which fired at Toronto being allowed to count towards the marks in the competition for general efficiency, "on the ground that the regulations as laid down by the Inspector of Artillery had not been complied with; also, a further letter from the same officer alleging that the representative of the O.A.A. on the executive committee of the D.A.A., had not been consulted in regard to the protest made by him to the D.A.A., and requesting that the necessary information on this point be obtained from the D.A.A., together with any reports made by certain officers at the recent target practices held in Ontario. The answer from the Secretary of the D.A.A. transmitting the report of the range officer at Niagara, was to the effect that the Ontario representative had not, for the reasons therein stated, been asked to give an opinion.

"A letter from Major F. King was read protesting against the London Field Battery and the First Brigade Field Artillery participating in any firing prizes offered by the association, for the reason that the regulations, as officially published, had not been observed by these corps. Majors King and Van Wagner were present and stated their reasons in support of their protests. Captains Hendrie and Davidson having retired, 'It was moved by Major McLean, seconded by Mr. Malloch, that the prizes offered in the list of 30th March, 1888, to the most efficient field batteries,' 'to the officer making the highest score,' 'to the field batteries making the three highest aggregate scores' and 'to the two highest individual scores' be cancelled, and that the protests of the Hamilton and Welland Canal Field Batteries are hereby sustained.' Carried.

"It was moved by Captain Davidson, seconded by Mr. Irving, 'That the prize list of 30th March last, be further altered by offering to the n. c. o. and gunner of any field battery obtaining the highest decimal at their short course examination at the Royal School of Artillery at Kingston, prizes of \$7 and \$5 respectively.' Carried."

THE TREASURER'S STATEMENT.

The financial statement of the Treasurer, showing a cash balance of \$484 54, having been submitted, it was moved by Major McLean, seconded by Major Van Wagner, That the Treasurer's report be adopted. Carried. The statement gives the following synopsis of receipts and expenditure from 4th Feb., 1888, to 4th Feb., 1889:—

To Balance from 1887.....	\$256 81
Government and municipal grants.....	550 00
Affiliation fees.....	116 00
Members' subscriptions.....	155 00
Sale of cards.....	2 00
Interest.....	18 17
	\$1,097 98
By Affiliation with Dominion Association.....	158 50
Prize list, 1887.....	49 50
" 1888.....	255 00
Printing report, etc.....	51 00
Cyclostyle.....	15 00
<i>Canadian Militia Gazette</i>	9 40
Sundries.....	24 41
Allowance to Secretary.....	50 00
Bank charges.....	63
Balance.....	484 54
	\$1,097 98

THE REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

having been read, it was moved by Major Mead, seconded by Capt. Hendrie, "That the report of the Executive Committee be adopted." In amendment thereto it was moved by Col. Macdonald, seconded by Mr. Knowles, "That the clause commencing 'This Committee regrets' be omitted." The amendment, having been put, was carried on the following division: Yeas—Lt.-Col. Macdonald, Lt.-Col. McKenzie, Major Nicoll, Major Hood, Capt. Higginbotham, Messrs. Knowles, Merewether and Ross—8. Nays—Major Van Wagner, Major McLean,

Major Mead, Capt. Hendrie and Mr. Myles—5. Capt. Hendrie tendered a proxy on behalf of Major J. I. Mason, which was refused.

Capt. Higinbotham then moved an amendment, seconded by Major Nicoll, "That the Executive Committee's report be amended by awarding the advertised prizes of this association for 1888 in the order of merit in which the competitors stand, as returned to the Secretary of this association by the Secretary of the Dominion Artillery Association, and that this report be passed as so amended." The amendment having been put, it was declared carried on a division.

It was moved by Col. Macdonald, seconded by Capt. Davidson, "That the prize for the n.c.o. from Ontario obtaining the highest decimal at the Royal School of Artillery at Kingston during 1888 be increased to \$10, as originally offered, and that the balance be paid the winner." Carried.

THANKS TO DONORS.

It was moved by Major Mead, seconded by Col. McKenzie, "That the thanks of this association are hereby tendered, through Lt.-Col. the Hon. J. M. Gibson, Secretary of the Province, to the honourable the Legislative Assembly of Ontario for its grant towards the funds of the association during the past year."

Col. Gibson, in replying, said that it gave him great pleasure to be present at such a large and representative meeting of artillerymen, and to acknowledge on behalf of both sides of the Legislative Assembly the vote of thanks. The Government was, he said, merely the instrument of the people, and it was not always possible to regulate matters as military men would have them regulated. Strictly speaking, he considered that these grants of money to rifle and artillery associations should come, in a larger amount, from another source.

The Secretary having read a letter received from Col. C. S. Gzowski enclosing his cheque for \$50, the proceeds of which were to be devoted towards the cup which the Executive Committee had decided to name after him, it was moved by Col. McKenzie, seconded by Major Van Wagner, "That this association hereby expresses its thanks to Col. Gzowski for his kindness in placing at its disposal a second donation of \$50."

It was moved by Major Van Wagner, seconded by Major Hood, "That the thanks of the Association be tendered to the municipal corporations of the Counties of Welland, Wellington and Wentworth, the City of Toronto and the Town of Port Hope for their votes in favour of the funds of the association." Carried.

THE ELECTION OF OFFICERS

for the ensuing year was then taken up, with the following result:—

President—Major F. King, Welland F. B.

Vice-Presidents—Major G. B. Hood, 1st B. F. A.; Major J. Stewart, Ottawa F. B.; Major H. P. Van Wagner, Hamilton F. B.; Major W. M. Drennan, Kingston F. B.

Treasurer—Lieut P. M. Bankier, Hamilton F. B.

Secretary—Mr. L. H. Irving.

Auditor—Major J. M. Delamere, Q.O.R.

It was moved by Col. Macdonald, seconded by Col. McKenzie, "That the members of the Executive Committee be re-elected." Major Mead and Capt. Hendrie declined re-election. The following executive committee was elected: Lt.-Col. D. T. Irwin, Inspector of Artillery; Lt.-Col. W. McKenzie, Gananoque F. B.; Major W. Nicoll, 1st B. F. A.; Major W. McLean, Durham F. B.; Robert Myles, Esq., Toronto.

It was moved by Major Van Wagner, seconded by Major Mead, "That no representative be elected from this Association to the Executive Committee of the Dominion Artillery Association." In amendment it was moved by Capt. Higinbotham, seconded by Mr. Knowles, "That Major J. Stewart, Ottawa F. B., be the representative of this Association." The amendment having been put, it was declared carried.

AMENDMENTS TO CONSTITUTION.

It was moved by Captain Hendrie, seconded by Captain Davidson, "That the following change be made in the constitution: All the words in section 5 from 'and shall be entitled' to the end of the section be omitted, and that the words 'the affiliation fees of batteries must be paid on or before the 1st June of each year, to entitle participation in any prizes offered by the association,' be added in lieu thereof." Carried.

It was moved by Major King, seconded by Major Van Wagner: "That the last clause of section 9 of the Constitution be amended so as to read, 'The president, secretary and treasurer shall be *ex officio* members of the committee.'"

It was moved by Mr. Irving, seconded by Major McLean, "That section 25 of the constitution be amended so as to read: 'That officers of the association and members of the committee, not being life members, must pay the annual subscription to remain as such.'" Carried.

It was moved by Col. Macdonald, seconded by Col. McKenzie, "That the sum of \$75 be granted to the Secretary as a recognition of his services to the association." Carried.

It was moved by Col. Macdonald, seconded by Col. McKenzie, "That a vote of thanks be passed to Col. Peters, the retiring president, and to all retiring officers." Carried.

It was moved by Major Mead, seconded by Capt. Hendrie, "That a vote of thanks be passed to Major J. M. Delamere for his services as auditor." Carried.

It was moved by Col. Macdonald, seconded by Major Van Wagner, that a vote of thanks be passed to the press." Carried.

At a meeting of the executive committee held immediately after the annual meeting, Major F. King in the chair, and Lt.-Col. McKenzie and Mr. Irving also present, Mr. R. Myles was elected chairman of committee.

Report of the Executive Committee.

(As Approved of at the Annual Meeting.)

The committee presents herewith its first report since the change of the constitution delegating to it the management of the association's affairs, together with that of the Secretary, and of the Treasurer, with the accounts duly audited.

AFFILIATION.—All the effective field and garrison batteries, together with the Gentlemen Cadets, R. M. C., and "A" Battery, R. C. A., have affiliated during the past year.

GUN PRACTICE.—The average aggregate score in the firing shows a decided continual falling off since the time the firing has taken place during the twelve days allotted for annual drill. This association has, since its birth, pointed out that the now authorized drill period is far too short to permit of this, and now consider that if progress is to be made in firing, other work will have to give way to "Instructional and Competitive Artillery Target Practice." This, to be thoroughly and efficiently done, would alone require more than twelve days. This committee beg to again urge the concentration of all competitors at one central range, the practice not to be held during annual drill.

The committee, having examined the sample instructional target submitted by the secretary, recommends that the association request the Militia Department to furnish two to each battery.

At the risk of repetition, this committee again recommends as necessary for the proper maintenance and efficiency of the artillery:

(1) An increase in the annual grant to the Dominion Artillery Association.

(2) As provincial and other rifle associations receive grants from the Dominion Government, that this association should be placed on a similar footing.

(3) An issue of extra clothing to drivers and gunners; this has been asked for time and time again.

(4) Payment for six days' preliminary drill before proceeding to camp.

(5) Payment to officers, n. c. o. and men of the pay of their rank with allowances and transport, during time allowed for target practice.

(6) The establishment of a school for field artillery at Kingston; there being only one garrison battery in the province, a semi field and garrison school is not necessary.

(7) That pay for four spare horses be allowed during the annual drill in order to provide for casualties, the experience for the past fourteen years showing that this is really requisite for any pretence to true efficiency.

(8) That the Militia Department be requested to have an inspection made by the inspector and assistant inspector of artillery, of all stores at battery headquarters at some time other than during annual drill, when only a partial inspection of such harness, stores, etc., as exist, is possible, it being a well known fact that very few of the Ontario batteries have more than eight sets of harness, and that most of the wagons are useless for any service.

The association is indebted to the various daily newspapers for full accounts published of meetings, prize list and scores made.

J. H. MEAD, Major T. F. B.,
Chairman of Committee.

Toronto, 2nd January, 1889.

The *Gazette* of Feb. 22 marked a new departure in the history of British army administration, a number of senior officers of the army service corps (late commissariat and transport staff) being appointed A.A.G.'s and Deputy A.A.G.'s on the staff of the army.

Private advices from Samoa are to the effect that the greater number of the Germans who were killed or wounded in the fight of Dec. 18 fell in the vain endeavour to rescue the body of Lieut. Sieger, of the *Olga*, who at the first attack had been shot through the heart. Matasese's people are said to have given no quarter.

Correspondence.

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

THE SERGEANT-MAJOR'S POSITION.

EDITOR MILITIA GAZETTE,—Re recently published remarks on the Sergt.-Major's position, is not the Sergt.-Major in most, if not in all cases, in our Militia Regiments, supplied with every article of clothing and accoutrements free of charge, many of them paid for by the officers. An officer pays for everything he wears and uses and has long calls upon his purse for the numerous regimental expenses, besides in most cases giving up his pay.

Toronto, March 8th, 1889.

ENQUIRER.

ABOUT SMOKING PARTIES.

EDITOR MILITIA GAZETTE,—Anent the account of the "Duffers' Smoke," in your last issue, allow a non-smoker's toot to be heard. We hope that our sociable and ever welcome visitor, the GAZETTE, does not accord its hearty commendation to this latest mode of being sociable to the exclusion of non-smokers, and the military man's tried and trusty friend the fair sex.

Were the Colonel prepared to receive the just dues of every good Irishman, "rist his sowl," we could understand the exceeding propriety of the meeting; but, is the solemn conviviality, the tempered melancholy, the soothing application of the weed to the torn and bleeding heart-strings of the bereaved relative, in the Irish wake, of tender memories, to be supplanted by this modern innovation?

Shades of Montezuma, and of Sir Walter Raleigh, also the more modern shades of Gen. Grant's cancerous cigar, and of the beloved Kaiser Fritz' no less fatal pipe, attend the glorification of this enthralling old barbarous habit (veritable relic of barbarism). Mourn, Moore, that the wine cup has been supplanted at the "Feast of Reason and the flow of Soul" by the more ethereal vapours of the "dhudeen" and the meerschaum.

Pity the non-smoker who has not yet forced his rebellious nature to accommodate itself to the requirements of modern culture, but who desires to be sociable with his corps; gasping for a breath of fresh air, even as the dying codfish in the fog of the "Banks" gasps for his native element. How thoroughly enjoyable is the dull, deadened thump of the piano and the distant sounding foghorn note of the soloist!

If the custom is to flourish, let us, if we resolve to stay it out, imitate the smoke-tanned lungs and the deep, beer-vat capacity of the Teuton, and have the German beer garden introduced in all its sociable glories; then the pleasant gurgle of the descending draught would mingle harmoniously with the "pop" of a neighbouring lip emitting its fragrant cloud.

I had hoped that the Canadian sentiment might have turned in the direction of Morris tubes and recreation rooms furnished with the lately introduced "game of war," cribbage boards, checkers, etc., while amateur theatricals or concerts would wile away an occasional evening, but of course these may not possess the inspiring power of the fragrant weed, and exalt our heroes to the level of our illustrious fathers.

But perhaps, considering the advance of modern science, it were well to cultivate this as a military practice for use in the field. Some genius will, some of these days, spring upon us a smokeless explosive to replace the crude compound, gunpowder; then, sir, you can easily imagine how invaluable would be a force armed with heavy draught brier roots, and abundantly supplied with that "most fragrant tobacco"; which force could be thrown forward as a screening party to the movements of the advance, or formed as a rear guard to cover a retreat; while the enemy, unprovided with such a cover, would fall an easy prey to our bullets of the latest accepted calibre, 32 or 22.

Thanking you for your valuable space, I beg to remain, yours truly,

HYPERBOREAN RANGER.

New Fort Barracks, Toronto, March 6th, 1889.

OFFICERS AND STAFF-SERGEANTS AS RIFLE COMPETITORS.

Editor Militia Gazette,—I noticed in a recent issue of your paper the discussion which took place at the meeting of the Dominion Rifle Association regarding the proportion of officers and staff-sergeants who compete for and carry away prizes at the different rifle association meetings, to the exclusion of the rank and file. I believe it is quite true that this proportion is larger than it ought to be, but at the same time I think it would be a mistaken course to adopt to exclude them from shooting competitions. There are many staff-sergeants who have borne the brunt of working their companies up to their present strength and efficiency while they were in the ranks and as non-coms., and who have

only accepted staff-sergeancies because their civil employments do not permit of their longer devoting so much time to their companies as they have hitherto done. Still they take considerable interest in their companies, and their advice and experience is often very useful to those younger men who have succeeded them. Would it be a good thing to discourage such men by debarring them from shooting in competitions? It is well known that the volunteer force in Great Britain would never have attained its present dimensions had it not been for the interest taken and displayed in rifle shooting, and our Canadian militia very much resembles that force in its nature. If, however, commanding officers would avoid appointing men as staff-sergeants for the simple reason that they are good shots and useful men to have in a battalion when a prize is to be shot for (and who would not otherwise be available to strengthen their shooting team), but would give these appointments only to men who had proved of efficient service to their companies and battalions, and who had, as it were, "borne the burden and heat of the day," probably many of the objections taken at the meeting of the Dominion Rifle Association would be removed.

Because an officer carries a sword instead of a rifle is no reason why he should be debarred from shooting. To teach and encourage his men to become good shots he ought to know more about shooting and all its details, regarding sights, elevation, windage, effect of change in atmosphere, etc., than any of his men. In these days of improvements in arms and consequent alterations in details of shooting, nothing will so much tend to make an officer, or anyone else, approach excellence as encouragement to practise, and nothing will encourage practice so much as the inducements held out for an opportunity to obtain a good place in rifle competitions.

WINNIPEG.

A FIELD ARTILLERY HANDICAP.

Editor Militia Gazette—The following list copied from the D. A. Association's report shows the relative standing and efficiency credits of the eight affiliated batteries standing highest on the list for the year 1888.

	Drill, etc.	One-Fifth.	Total
	Credits.	Score.	Credits.
No. 1 Battery 1st Bde.....	210	72.2	282.2
Hamilton Battery.....	224	56.8	180.8
Montreal Battery.....	198	78.8	276.8
Quebec Battery.....	212	55	267
No. 2 Battery 1st Bde.....	190	68	258
Durham Battery.....	191	54.4	245.5
Woodstock Battery.....	174	61.4	235.4
Welland Canal Battery.....	160	65	225

One would naturally suppose that in a competition which is not only a firing but also an efficiency competition, those entrusted with the carrying out of the competition would be careful that no one or more batteries were unnecessarily handicapped by unequal conditions—and that all batteries would fire under the same rules, and under similar conditions as far as possible. The standing of the batteries and the credits awarded by the D. A. A. are published in the Militia Reports officially, and furnished to and published by the Ontario Artillery Association, which awards its prizes on these credits. They are published by the newspapers throughout Canada, and there is every reason why—not only that the greatest care should be exercised—but no trouble should be spared to secure an equal competition.

In the discussion on this subject at the Artillery Association meeting the effect—undeniably very great—that the state of the wind and weather, or the absence of a battery officer at the inspection, or firing, has on the credit of a battery, was again and again brought forward, apparently with the view of showing that as the conditions of the competition can never be exactly the same, no battery should object to being handicapped by controllable conditions. This view, which appears to meet with the approval of the Dominion Artillery Association, does away with all actual competition.

I will point out what the Executive Committee of the D. A. A. speak of as the "varying conditions under which gun practice was necessarily held" by the above eight batteries.

Batteries 1 and 2, 1st Bde.—Telephone between range and firing party; land target, easy of repair. ("Conditions.")

Quebec and Woodstock fired with studless shells. ("Conditions.")

Durham fired its preliminary at one range, its final at another range. ("Conditions.")

Hamilton and Welland Canal—Zinc targets on water; difficult to see and to repair; bannerols on booms; system condemned at Niagara, abandoned at Gananoque ("Conditions.")

Four widely different controllable conditions!

If the gun practice is "necessarily" held under such various conditions, is it reasonable to count the scores of batteries in the credits in the efficiency competition and standing of the batteries? I have often

spoken of this before, and surely now anyone can see that there is no test under the widely different conditions of the gun practice, either of the relative shooting ability or efficiency of the batteries. Until the great element of uncertainty arising from different conditions and different ranges can be overcome the *scores* should not count in the efficiency competition. The giving of the bulk of the prizes for the highest scores and then counting these same scores in for the efficiency prize is to place this prize also needlessly at the disposal of the accident of "varying conditions."

As to the effect of these handicaps: In the Rules of Practice issued by the Inspector of Artillery (see MILITIA GAZETTE, June 7th, 1888) there is no rule laid down for signalling blind shrapnel. At Niagara, when a shrapnel fuze blind struck, the range officer signalled up to the register keeper and the competitor the value the shell would have had had the fuze been good. The competitor, guided (or rather misled) by signalling which told him his blind fuzes were good, continued to fire the same way, only to have, after the practice was over, these points given him by the register keeper cancelled. Thus misled, the Hamilton Field Battery fired thirteen blind shrapnel. With a telephone between range and firing party the competitor would at once have been told when a fuze was blind; further, he would be told the exact distance from the target that his shot struck, while the signalling at Niagara told him only that his shot struck between certain bannerols—the outer ones being 100 feet apart. Every one must admit that a competitor who knows exactly where his shot struck, and has also full information given him, has a decided advantage over another who knows only within 100 feet of where his shot struck; this 100 feet would equal a difference of $6\frac{2}{3}$ minutes elevation at a range of 1700 yards.

According to the rules, a shrapnel shell fuze good bursting between bannerols 4 and 5 would be signalled 3; between bannerol 1 and target fuze blind, it would also be signalled 3; that is, shells striking 120 yards apart would be signalled the same. The result of this signalling was to destroy the ability of the competitors to judge the results of their shots, and cancelling their scores shook their confidence in themselves and demoralized them for the final practice. An officer said at the D.A.A. meeting that it was an easy matter to invent a method by which the competitor could be told by a flag signal when his fuze went blind; certainly it is—and other improvements were made I believe on the rules for signalling—after the Niagara experience. There was no equal competition between Hamilton and Welland Canal, firing with the defective signaling, and No 2 1st Brigade, using telephonic communication.

Hamilton is fourteen credits ahead on drill, and with the unequal conditions only one and four-tenths credits behind on the total. What a slight advantage the telephone need be to make this difference of one and four-tenths!

I cannot, Mr. Editor, occupy your columns in pointing out all the nonsense that was talked over about telephones, nor the many misstatements made at the recent meeting of the D. A. A. You write, "The telephone has been used in Toronto for several years and no objection has hitherto been made." An officer at the meeting said—"The special ground of the protest he believed was, that telephones were used at Toronto, but he wished it understood that these telephones had been so used for many years." Another officer in high position said—"It seems that telephones had been used a great many years at Toronto but nowhere else, and no objection until this had been raised."

These statements all convey the impression that range telephones for the purpose of assisting competitors in the preliminary practice (to which use by certain batteries *alone* is our objection) have been in use in Toronto for years—that this use has been customary and that hitherto we have raised no objection—that raising an objection this year (1888) was as it were a mere technical quibble. The facts are these: The present system of preliminary and final practice, in which, in the preliminary, the competitor is signalled or telephoned the value of his shot at once, in order to assist him in making corrections for his next shot, was introduced in 1885. Before 1885 the competitors were not signalled or telephoned the value of their shots. See Rule 10, for practice 1884.

In 1885 all the Ontario batteries fired at Toronto on the same range, using range telephones in the preliminary; and under the same conditions and as nearly as possible at the same time. No batteries fired at Toronto in 1886 nor in 1887. Consequently the "several years," the "many years," and the "great number of years," is actually only *one year*—and no "objection was made." Why? Because all the Ontario batteries fired under the same conditions, and also in '86 and '87, at different ranges, as regards telephonic communication. But in '88 the use of the telephone for giving information to competitors was reserved for the 1st Brigade, under the command of the President of the Dominion Artillery Association, and one other battery. *This is the objection.* That there may have been telephones before on the ranges for other purposes has nothing whatever to do with the subject; nor does the statement that a telephone was a necessity on account of the danger of the range offer

any excuse for its unfair use to give assistance to the competitors in the preliminary practice. The use of the telephone was contrary to General Orders No. 10, 11th May, '88, and also to the rules for practice issued by the Inspector of Artillery.

The Hamilton and Welland Canal field batteries and Toronto Garrison and other batteries have at different times been disqualified for not complying with the regulations, but here, in this plain case of disregard for regulations, nothing is done. Why?

Compare the scores of the Quebec and Montreal batteries. The former, firing with studless shells, has a shooting credit of 55, the latter firing with the ordinary studded shell has a shooting credit of 78.8; 23.8 credits more. If 23.8 is added to Quebec's total, that is, place this battery on a shooting equality with Montreal, it will place Quebec first on the list of batteries with a credit of 290. Indeed, Quebec did not need to shoot as well as Montreal to be first. If it had had a shooting credit of 70.4, 8.4 credits behind Montreal, it would be first, and only once in eight years has Quebec been 8.4 behind Montreal in the firing. Montreal did not fire in 1880. Here are their credits since. Quebec, 69.2, 84.6, 93.2, 81.2, 107.2, 87, 89.4; total for seven years 611.8. Montreal, 70.6, 56.8, 88.4, 97.4, 116.4, 96.8, 85; total 611.4. That is, in seven years there is not one half a credit difference in their total shooting credits.

Quebec in 1885 was 9.2 behind, but through the values allowed shots this year ('88) being lowered, the credits were reduced 25 per cent., making a credit of 6.2 in 1885, equal to 7.9 in 1888. Either look at Quebec's shooting credits above or compare them with Montreal as we may, and we shall see that once only in eight years has Quebec failed to make a score that would place it (with its drill credits this year) first, in the efficiency list this year.

Lt.-Col Irwin, (Militia Report '88) writes of the studless shell: "It has not been found altogether satisfactory." Major Prevost says: "The practice appears to have been irregular." No one can doubt that Quebec was practically shut out of both firing and efficiency competition through firing studless shell. In 1887, Hamilton and Quebec were highest in the efficiency list. In 1888, they were again highest in drill credits, and those batteries which are above them in the efficiency list fired under more favourable and controllable conditions. A battery with a dull credit, lower than either Hamilton or Quebec, and one of the only three batteries allowed to use a telephone, is first on the list.

Those who remember the experience of the Dominion riflemen with Canadian manufactured small arm ammunition—the years of persistent agitation it took before a satisfactory article was manufactured, can anticipate the experience in store for the Dominion Artillery with the Canadian manufactured projectiles. The riflemen started with comparatively better Canadian ammunition than the artillery, and the Dominion Rifle Association and its members were inflexible in their demands that a better article should be manufactured, until their ammunition became satisfactory.

On the other hand, after at trials, the practice of the Canadian studless projectile was found to be irregular—after one of the most even firing batteries of the Dominion had fired with them, the result being that many of the shells were out of bounds for direction and elevation, two falling within 500 yards of the gun, and the battery made the lowest score it had ever fired—the D.A.A., neither at their meeting nor in the Report, mention the subject.

With the experience of the riflemen before us, and the indifference of the D. A. A. we, with the use of the Canadian manufactured projectiles, may expect to attain *an inefficiency* at target practice that would put the marksmen of the old smoothbores to the blush. Can a D. R. A. member imagine the D. R. A. compelling some competitors to fire the Canadian ammunition, a few years ago, when it was unsatisfactory, and allowing others to use imported ammunition, and, when the competitor failed to make a good score, disqualify him for another competition? What a furore there would have been. But this is practically the way Quebec was treated by the D.A.A. Quebec did not protest. Nobody objects to anything in the competition except the Hamilton kickers. The meekness of the members of the D.A.A. would meet the approval of the Scotch retainer who said to a recalcitrant who objected that there was no reason why he should be executed,—“Come along, now, and be hanged like a good man, just to please the laird.”

Before 1885, from various local causes, the Hamilton Field Battery was out of the competition for any place in the efficiency list. In 1885 no credits were given Hamilton for dismounting drill, thus taking off 12 credits in the efficiency competition. In 1886, the same, only all the Ontario batteries were included. In 1888, the conditions were "varying." Hamilton has been on an equality with the fortunate batteries in these competitions, once in four years. The blanks are too many to the chance of an equal competition to suit us in the lottery of "varying conditions," and Hamilton will retire from the "Artillery Competition."

Hamilton, March 9th, 1889.

H. P. VAN WAGNER.

Regimental News.

A meeting of the field officers and captains of the Dufferin Rifles was held at Brantford last Thursday to discuss various matters of regimental concern. The question of putting in three days in camp at Niagara in June at the close of the brigade camp was discussed, and the feeling was unanimous that this should be done, especially as so many important changes have been made in the new drill. The scheme is to leave on Friday evening, 28th of June, and remain under canvas the following Saturday, Sunday and Monday, 1st of July, in company with the Queen's Own, Grenadiers and 13th Battalion. A deputation from the different regiments is to wait on the Minister of Militia for a grant to defray cost of transportation and subsistence.

On the 20th February—the occasion being the marriage of their popular brother officer—Lt.-Col. Blaine, Major Tucker, Surgeon Walker, Major Hartt, Capts. Magee, Edwards, Fraser and Thompson, Lieuts. Godard, Lordly, Sterling, Vroom, Manning, Cleveland, Hetherington, and Parks proceeded to the residence of Major Sturdee, and made the presentation of a silver tea service of seven pieces, on one of which, the salver, was engraved the following inscription: "Presented to Major and Mrs. E. T. Sturdee, by the Lieut.-Col. and officers of the 62nd St. John Fusiliers." Major Sturdee gracefully and feelingly acknowledged the presentation, after which luncheon was served and the customary round of toasts duly honoured.

THE PRINCE OF WALES RIFLES.

The annual meeting of the Prince of Wales Rifle Association was held on Tuesday evening, 12th inst. Major Butler presided, and was supported by Lieut. Lefebvre and Sergt.-Major Porteous. The committee's report submitted told that the membership of the association for the year was 246 all told, as against 249 the preceding year, and said: "Owing to the unfinished state of the new ranges at St. Luc the members of the association have been unable to obtain any practice this season, a state of things disheartening to the association, which urges upon its officers the necessity of their taking immediate action to impress upon the Government the necessity of having this range put in a serviceable condition with as little delay as possible." The association also "strongly recommends that a set of Morris tubes be provided, and that a range be fitted up in the drill hall, which would be of great assistance to young shots, enabling them to become acquainted with their rifle. Squads could be detained each night during annual drill for instruction in position and aiming drill, which would be of great benefit not only to the men themselves, but to the regiment in general." The treasurer's report showed the expenditure to have been \$78.91, leaving a balance of \$155.59. The chairman held that the Government should provide Morris tube-shooting facilities for the whole militia force in Montreal.

Before the election of officers was proceeded with, regret was expressed that the regiment, for which he had done so much, was about to lose the services of Lieut.-Col. Bond, and an alteration of the association's by-laws was effected by unanimous consent to allow of the popular colonel being elected honorary life president of the association, which was done amid enthusiasm. The active officers for the new year were elected as follows: President, Major Butler; vice-president, Major Campbell; secretary-treasurer, Sergt. Elliott; committee, Capts. Godfrey, Hanson and Cook, Lieut. Lefebvre, Col.-Sergts. Ferguson and Ferry, Corp. Eberwein, and Potes, McAfee and Kough. Lieut. Abbott was elected captain of the shooting team, while the representatives to serve on the Provincial R. A. board this year will be Major Campbell and Lieut. Abbott.

Before adjourning, the meeting by resolution expressed its sense of cause for congratulation that its president, Lieut.-Col. Bond, had been selected last year to command the Canadian team at Wimbledon, and that his command had been so highly commended by the authorities.

CHATEAUGUAY'S MILITARY HISTORY.

At the second public meeting of the Chateaugay Literary and Historical Society held this week, Col. McEachren in the chair, Mr. W. D. Lighthall gave an instructive address on the battle of Chateaugay. He told how the two American Generals, Wilkinson and Hampton, invaded Canada in 1813, the former coming down the St. Lawrence and the latter coming across by Lake Champlain, intending to unite on Ile Perrot and capture Montreal. Col. De Salaberry fortified a position on the Chateaugay river about three miles below Ormstown, and sent his buglers into the woods to sound the advance from different points. There were less than 300 Canadians and about 7,000 Americans; but Hampton retired after considerable firing, deceived as to his enemy's strength. The only open field fighting was by Capt. Daly and his men, who defeated an attack in the rear. "Chrysler's Farm," on the St. Lawrence, settled Gen. Wilkinson. "The meaning of the battle of Chateaugay," said Mr. Lighthall, "is that, with a good cause and in defence of our home against wanton aggression, we can dare odds which would otherwise seem hopeless; that in the future, as in the past, it is the

spirits of men and not their material resources which count for success; that we need only be brave, just, and ready to die, and our country can never be conquered; and that we shall always be able to preserve ourselves free in our course of development towards our own idea of a nation."

Winnipeg.

On the 4th March "D" Co. of the 90th (Captain F. C. Campbell) gave their annual ball in the Oddfellows Hall, which was largely and fashionably attended and was a great success from every point of view.

The annual meeting of the officers of the 90th Rifles was held on the 14th February. At this the several committees for the year were appointed and the financial statement for the past year was laid before them. The following is a summary financial statement:

<i>Receipts.</i>	
Balance on hand from 1887.....	\$ 498 88
Grants from Government.....	685 00
Subscriptions from members of regiment	2,357 84
	\$3,541 72
<i>Disbursements.</i>	
Band Account.....	\$ 816 80
Care of arms, etc.....	330 00
Class firing (prizes, etc.)	292 20
Company allowances (rifle shooting and drill instruction).....	619 80
Extra clothing and equipment.....	279 75
Printing, stationery and postage.....	45 70
Regimental drill instruction.....	100 00
Sundries.....	4 50
Bhalance on hand.....	1,052 97
	\$3,541 72

The regiment has now a good gymnasium, reading room, and a range for Morris tube firing. The new Infantry Drill Book came to hand from their London agents on the 1st of February, and since its arrival the adjutant, sergt.-major and drill instructors have been hard at work with the non. coms. at squad, company and skeleton battalion drill. The regiment feel very much disappointed at not having the two new companies gazetted yet, as it has always turned out considerable over its strength, and it is hoped that the Minister of Militia will see his way to authorize at an early date the additional strength. The regiment will commence its regular drill on the 18th inst., and hopes to complete its squad and company drill by the time it is warm enough to parade outside.

The Brookwood Site--A Lament.

(By E. B. A., in Volunteer Record.)

A desert wild, far, far away,
For rifle shooting has, they say,
Been chosen by the N. R. A. :
The Brookwood site.

Distant—remote from haunts of men,
It's name scarce known to human ken ;
The Council have adopted, then,
The Brookwood site.

No more at dear old Wimbledon
Will prizes there be lost or won ;
These things will next take place upon
The Brookwood site.

Who will care now to shoot for "Queen's,"
As we did ever since our teens,
When 'tis removed to other scenes—
The Brookwood site.

Of old we entered just for fun
For prizes which we never won ;
You take the tip, this won't be done—
The Brookwood site.

A long adieu to sound of drums,
To "See the Conquering Hero Comes,"
And memories of festive Mumm's—
The Brookwood site.

The days of "Cakes and Ale" are past ;
By N. R. A. the die is cast
In favour of—that common vast—
The Brookwood site.

The rank and file, on shooting bent,
Still like the "picnic element ;"
By these much money won't be spent --
The Brookwood site.

Distance, 'mongst other drawbacks are,
The sand will also help to bar,
While scrub and mirage tend to mar
The Brookwood site.

Some there are, we well know, whose
Motto's to shoot to win, not lose--
These, doubtless, it will suit to choose
The Brookwood site.

Take it from me, it is no cram,
For firmly I convinced am,
That shootists more or less will d —
The Brookwood site.

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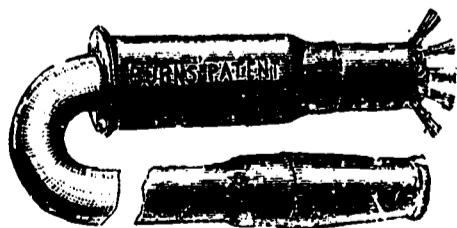
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- 1st and 3rd on Wimbledon Team for 1889.

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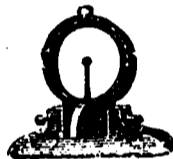
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1st year's service, 50c.	50c.	50c.	1.00 per day.
2nd " 50	50	55	"
3rd " 50	10	60	"
4th " 50	15	65	"
5th " 50	20		

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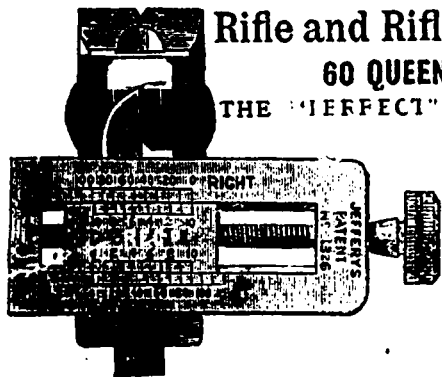
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