

THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE

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

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REGIMENTAL NOTES.

COMMENT AND CRITICISM.

In our correspondence columns will be found a letter on military schools that is worthy of the most serious consideration, as it suggests a means of instructing a greater number of officers than is possible under the present system. We do not go so far as to endorse the scheme, but at least it is one way out of the difficulty that now undeniably exists. The letter brings up the question whether the infantry schools are doing all the work of which they are capable. The attendance at them seems to be limited to the accommodation of the barracks, but surely this should be no obstacle. Look at the old military schools under the Imperial regiments; it will not be denied that the great majority of men turned out by them were thoroughly instructed, and that a military school certificate meant that its holder possessed knowledge that any commanding officer was glad to secure, and yet these men did not live in barracks. The staffs of the military schools were no larger than those of the schools of infantry, but they were able to take in classes of twenty every fortnight and turn out a corresponding number, say between four and five hundred, in the course of a year.

Now, why should not the schools of infantry do as much? We are sufficiently democratic to venture the assertion that a knowledge of mess room conventionalities is not indispensable to the subaltern of a rural battalion, and it is hard to understand how the knowledge acquired of the interior economy of a barracks would be of use to any Canadian troops on any active service—for instance how did it come in

when we marched against the Fenians, or against the Halfbreeds? Why then should not the capacity of the schools be augmented during the summer months by quartering the candidates in camps convenient to the barracks, where they would learn interior economy likely to be very much more serviceable than that acquired under wooden roofs? We would suggest, as another crude idea, to be cogitated with that propounded by "Fifty-fourth," that militiamen desirous of attending the schools should be allowed to board in their neighborhood, or that they should be formed into camps under canvas during the summer, and that sufficient allowance should be made them to induce as many to attend as the instructional staff of the schools could by any possibility handle.

There is no class of the community that is so well fitted out for a roving life as our surveyors, and for active service the nearer our militiamen are made to resemble the surveyors the more comfort they will have. This is the ultimatum at which "Noodle" has been driving in all his letters; the devices used by surveyors to save weight and trouble he praises, what the surveyors have discarded he condemns. Take for instance his tirade against valises in this week's issue. Can you imagine a surveyor hampering himself up with a lot of straps so as to keep his kit on his back? On the contrary, he shoves everything into a stout canvas bag, and that bag is carried by a canoe, by a horse, by an Indian, and only on a pinch by himself, and in a small space it contains a wonderful assortment of conveniences. His clothing, too, is suggestive of convenience, from the broad trimmed hat for summer wear and the heavy tweed shirt, with its breast pockets, down to the shoes, conveniently arranged with holes to let the sleugh water run out. Where generations of men have had experience in camping out, untrammelled by precedent or routine, we may be sure they have "got the thing down pretty fine," and the more nearly like them our troops are equipped the more comfortable they will be and the more they will be able to accomplish on actual service.

The rifle shooting season is opening, and the ammunition problem is still unsolved. All winter we have been assured that there would be no cause of complaint with this year's cartridges, but we have yet to learn that a satisfactory supply is forthcoming. What the rifle associations, and they represent the shooting portion of the militia, want, is ammunition, at least as reliable in its action as the last supplies imported, and ammunition that will remain constant in quality throughout the whole season; which can only be secured by having sufficient good powder of exactly the same brand to fill the whole supply required, roughly some 600,000 rounds. If this year's Snider cartridges are as erratic as those manufactured last year we can promise the Minister of Militia and the officials of his department, the superintendent of the cartridge factory, and the members of the commission, a lively time of it, for now there is no English stock to fall back upon, and when "the boys" have made up their minds that they want a thing they have a faculty for making themselves heard.

Apropos of this, cannot something be done to cheapen ammunition? With cartridges at \$16 per thousand it can never be hoped that young men will generally take to rifle practice, whereas if they could get a lot of shooting for a quarter they would feel that it was no drag on them. We believe it would be money well invested for the department to issue ammunition at \$5 per thousand, for the loss would not aggregate much, and the increased consumption would naturally diminish the cost of production. It might be possible to arrange that all empty shells should be returned to the cartridge factory to be refilled, for the shots would esteem it no hardship to deposit their shells in one of the wooden cases instead of tossing them away, if they gained by doing so the privilege of much cheaper ammunition.

Lieut.-Col. Tyrwhitt, commanding the 36th Batt., and Capt. Prevost, 65th, have been appointed respectively commandant and adjutant of this year's Wimbledon team, and their selection will meet with the approval of the whole Canadian shooting world. The commandant is a thoroughly representative man, well known, popular, a capital officer, and with connections in England that will ensure the prestige of any team commanded by him. Capt. Prevost has been a member of the Executive Council of the D.R.A. for some years, is conversant with the details of rifle shooting, and has the experience of last year's campaign at his back in addition to representing a large and important section of our force. The team are to be congratulated on both these nominations of the President of the Executive Council, and we are sure their interests are quite safe, and that they will enjoy the most cordial relations with both their officers.

The *Fredericton Capital* after describing at length the military funeral of the late Lieut. Russell, which was of the most imposing character, even attaining the importance of a popular demonstration, remarks that "even a mournful event like this has its compensations, and these are to be found in the worthy example of him whose body was laid to rest, surrounded by all that was brave and best among us. The general homage paid to the memory of a brave and manly citizen, and the evidence of popular military spirit among us, as shown by the large number of our militia who left their ordinary avocations to honor their comrade, are in themselves sources of gratification to all true lovers of their country."

A couple of articles appear in this issue which were in type but were inadvertently omitted a week or more ago. In consequence of their general interest we now produce them although they may merit the reproach of being "pipers' news."

IN THE HOUSE.

On the 12th inst. Mr. Speaker announced to the House that he had received a communication from Major-Gen. Middleton in acknowledgment of the resolutions adopted by the House on the 17th July last, expressing his and his colleagues' appreciation and thanks for the great honor done them by the said resolutions.

The same day Mr. Watson's motion for papers and correspondence relating to the proposal of the government to despatch a military expedition to the North-west Territories came on for discussion, the mover stating that he thought a great mistake was made in proposing such an expedition, but since the government had decided not to send out the flying column and had informed the Indians through Lieut.-Gov. Dewdney that it would be sent, he requesting them to receive the column quietly and to give no grounds for any disturbance, he thought the effect of the column not going would be to disturb the Indians, as they would conclude that the government were afraid to carry out their programme.

Sir Adolphe Caron defended the government's action in not bringing down the papers, saying that a great deal of the information in the

possession of the government and upon which their decision to send the flying column was based, was of a strictly confidential character, and he did not consider that now, when the country is aware that it is no longer necessary to take any further measures for the protection of the North-west, it would be advisable to produce papers, which in many individual cases might have a bad effect. Persons living in the North-west thought they were fulfilling their duty to the government in putting them in possession of facts which would be of use in assisting them to arrive at conclusions as to what measures of protection were necessary, and it would be inadvisable to give up the names of such persons and their communications. He thought the country was to be congratulated that it had not become necessary to send out the column, still it was the duty of the Militia Department to be prepared for emergencies and, had it been required, the column could have been sent out at very short notice, as it could still be sent.

Mr. Watson thought that the House should insist on the production of the papers asked for as it had been said that residents in the North-west were the cause of inciting Indians and Half-breeds to rebellion. He thought the names of such persons ought to be made known, as it was unfair that a number of persons living in the North-west should remain under a stigma of disloyalty, and that if persons made statements of such an important character they ought to be known and properly dealt with. He thought it probable that no persons were more rebellious than these very persons who gave such information to the government, and for this reason he considered the papers should be produced, because the chances were that if the names of such parties were laid before the House, it would be found that they were the very men who expected to make some more plunder out of the government by transporting the troops and furnishing them with supplies. He maintained that persons living in the North-west knew that Indians had very little regard for, or fear of, a flying column, or any body of men travelling through the country for a little bit of show and that if those who gave information to the government on this matter were sincere they would have asked for the establishment of a permanent force, or for an increase in the Mounted Police. He again strongly urged for the production of the papers.

Sir H. Langevin agreed with Sir Adolphe Caron as to the impropriety of producing such papers. He pointed out that it would be improper to produce the names of officials or others employed by the government to obtain information from various quarters. Such communications were privileged and must be considered confidential. Such had always been the practice. He thought it was clear that the decision of the government had been arrived at after carefully weighing and considering all the information in their possession. The country had been saved a large expense by such action and the House and the country would see that the government were quite right in what they did. It was no doubt a matter of curiosity to have the names of certain parties produced who might thereby be compromised, but on the whole, prudence suggested the course of not complying with the motion of the hon. gentleman. After a little more sparring the motion was declared lost.

Mr. Ross asked if the government intended to recognize the services of teamsters and other non-combatants in the recent rebellion in a suitable manner, and was answered by Sir Adolphe, who pointed out that the teamsters had been paid for their services and were not enrolled in the militia.

Mr. Ross then asked if it was the intention of the government to issue scrip to the Prince Albert volunteers, the Minister replying that this corps was organized under the N. W. M. Police and under their control, and as such was not entitled to the land grant, but the advisability of giving them the grant was now being considered. In reply to another question from the same quarter, the Minister replied that the claims for pensions of volunteers wounded in the Duck lake fight were also under consideration.

On the 14th Mr. Edgar, in asking for a return showing the names of those receiving Imperial decorations in connection with the Fenian raid, Red river expedition, and Saskatchewan expedition respectively, said, after premising that he personally did not place much value on such aristocratic badges:

"We are all agreed that the Canadian volunteers did well in 1885; we know they did their duty in the first place, and that in doing it they suffered very great hardships. We know that they not only submitted to hardships, but they actually fought in the field and were victorious too, and, for Canada, there was a comparatively large number of men engaged. The Fenian raids and the Red river expedition were trifling affairs as compared to the troubles in the North-west, yet the honors, as far as I have been able to ascertain them from an official source, were showered upon the officers engaged in the Fenian raid of 1870 and the Red river expedition. I dare say, when this return is granted and brought down, we may find that I have omitted a number, but, so far as I know, in the Fenian raid of 1870, General Lindsay received a K.C.M.G.; Col. Chamberlain received a C.M.G.; Col. Fletcher, a C.M.G.; Col. McEachren, a C.M.G.; Col. Osborne Smith, a C.M.G. Then we come to the blood-

less Red river expedition under General Wolseley, we find that that distinguished warrior was made K.C.M.G.; on that occasion Col. Boulton was made K.C.M.G., Col. Boswell K.C.M.G., also Col. Feilding, Col. Jarvis, Col. McLeod, Col. McNeil and Comptroller Irvine. Now, so far as the world knows, only two titles have been conferred upon the officers connected with the quelling of the rebellion of 1885, one a knighthood on the distinguished leader of the forces in the field, and the other, also a knighthood on the distinguished leader of the force in the western block. It is true all the brave commanders of regiments and of brigades and of separate corps received no recognition, but perhaps that omission was made by the honors secured in the western block."

He considered the public had a right to know what had been done and that the government owed a little explanation to the country. As to medals, he thought that the giving them was a mistake; that the volunteers never asked for them, and he did not think many would wear them, and he doubted if some would accept them at all.

Sir Adolphe Caron, in promising the return, took occasion to chide Mr. Edgar on his republican sympathies and referred ironically to his desire to control the action of the Imperial government.

Mr. Gault said a few words showing the importance of the service rendered during the Fenian raids, which Mr. Edgar showed an inclination to belittle, and Sir Richard Cartwright closed the debate by repudiating Mr. Edgar's republican sentiments, and pointing out to the government that in the bestowal of honors the customs of the service deserved to be regarded.

"Had this thing," he continued, "happened in the regular service, there can be no doubt whatever that one conclusion could have been drawn, and that is, that the officer in command was not the only one who deserved well of Her Majesty's government. Now, I am quite sure that the Ministers, that this House and the country, will agree with me in saying that the officers and men who served on that occasion deserve all the recognition that their country could give them, and, by implication, that they deserve, I think, the usual recognition at the hands of Her Majesty's government in that matter, of course, are, as the hon. member remarked, the fountain of honor, but being at a distance of three or four thousand miles they must have derived their information from Her Majesty's advisers on this side of the ocean. I think, sir, that when the government comes to reflect they will see that, bearing in mind the custom of the English service, this omission to recognize any of the gallant men except the officer in command, has been, to say the least of it, unfortunate, and that it would be well that it should be remedied. It is a pity, I think, that it has not been remedied earlier. Now, I am quite aware that the distribution of honors of the kind is more or less invidious, is more or less troublesome, and it may well be said that it would give rise to a certain amount of heart-burning that unfortunately might exist on such an occasion. But I submit that it is part of the necessary duties of a government to make a selection on their responsibility, in taking all the pains they can to inform and advise themselves as to whom are the parties best entitled to the recognition. The House should recollect that we were in a very serious dilemma about a year ago, and it was mainly due to the gallantry of the officers and men who formed that North-west expedition, that what might have been an exceedingly dangerous revolt, was promptly suppressed before it was possible for it to spread to the Indian tribes, and I doubt, with all due respect to my gallant friends who took a share in suppressing the Fenian raid in 1869-70, or in the first expedition to Red river, if any men rendered better service to their country—and in rendering service to their country they rendered service to the British Empire be it remembered—than did the officers and men that took a share in the expedition of 1885; and, therefore, although it is not for me, although it is not for us to dictate to Her Gracious Majesty what she should be pleased to do in the matter of honors, I think it might be as well that in some indirect method or fashion that expression of opinion, which I venture to say is shared by a great many gentlemen on both sides of the House, should be brought through the proper channel to the notice of Her Most Gracious Majesty, who may, when it is brought before her, be thoroughly depended upon to do what is right and proper in this matter."

NOTIONS OF A NOODLE.—XIII.

MY DEAR MISTY—I have got through another page or two of the General's report, encountering many useful suggestions that we may safely say will never be adopted. On page xxi we come to equipment, and the valise is suggested as a change from the knapsack. If the necessity for a peddler's outfit is still considered the thing, why the change certainly is for the better, though it is a toss up which of the two renders a man the more miserable; and when we consider that on service they always go in the wagons, while at yearly camps the men have nothing to put in them, one feels the questionable propriety of wasting a good argument. Many imbeciles, however, will find amusement in observing our volunteers parading at camp in valises loaded with hay, which are chucked into a cart on the war path. There is no regulation which arranges for the transporting of hay on the shoulders or small of the back, but as the only articles issued for camp work (our schools for war) are a tunic and pair of trousers, it has become a habit with the Canadian troops to sacrifice the tempting prospect of a stuffed valise to the necessary comfort of a protected person. Decency therefore dictates the use of hay, and as the admiring public are not in the secret, little or no harm follows this curious custom. Now if the brave fellows had squad bags in their tents, they would have a useful receptacle for any extras they possessed, and would march naturally

and freely before the eyes of their sweethearts, which graceful movement would become wonderfully enhanced by the buoyant reflection, "there is no deception about this party." It is little things like this haymaking subject that often cause "noodles" to reflect on the want of self-reliance we possess in not selecting our own implements to do our own work with. We should no more hang on our back an unwieldy valise, because it is said to be the correct thing in the Imperial army, than we should have attempted to pull the guns from St. John to Quebec, during the Trent affair, on the blundering sleighs constructed in Woolwich for that purpose, and sent out to Canada to be piled up as frightful examples of the imperial incapacity for judging the requirements of the occasion. Like a flock of scared sheep we dive blindly after the first prospecting old ram that says "this is the way," and goes plump through the first convenient skylight. Now if the foolish mutton would only pause, and for just one moment consider for themselves, they would see the folly of diving through a skylight simply because the old ram lays down that that is his way, and the right one, of going to the slaughter house. Time hangs heavily on the hands of the regular, he can afford to keep up some useless wummary, amongst other things the valise; the care and work necessary to keep that article in ship shape order but fills up the time always at his disposal. Unfortunately it is this fiddling with straps and buckles that is continually flanted before our eyes as the sum total of soldiering, much in the same way that Lord Wolseley maintains that our idea of battle is formed and carried out by the careful study of the plans depicted on the aged prints of past engagements between the Greeks and Romans. The real work of a soldier seldom, if ever, meets our view, so we see only the gilded side of the profession; and at our yearly trainings, instead of perfecting ourselves in the most important and beneficial duties we, like the sheep, go through the skylight and feel satisfied. Her Majesty's West Kent (North Ontario) regiment, does not spend its time foolishly shooting at a snake fence, and why should we; therefore we put in the period of exercise industriously fitting our straps and stays, and practising the goose step that each of us picked up fairly well on the memorable day when our mother conducted us on our first trail across the nursery floor. After the first half of the time has been filled up gravely doing just what the above regiment does, our strapping countryman, who fancied he knew how to walk, and that he had fairly learned his extension motions, axo in hand, is finally perfected, by wheeling and marching past, and other antics that never can be of service when actual fighting begins. It is true that a day or so is taken up at rifle practising, but as it is an unimportant matter, and only a few rounds are supplied, the sooner they are blazed away the better, and they are blazed, not at any distance necessary to a novice, but at Queen's ranges, 200, 500 and 600. These long ranges bring me to a stop. I did not intend to wander from equipment just yet, so will go back to it. The forage cap suggested is a good one, and is required in the "worst way," which is the most forcible manner of expressing the need of change. The new pattern can be sat on with impunity, and so can the old, but in the latter case there is no use getting off it after the final crush; it resembles the civilian tile in this respect, and is about as useful as that would be on service. We now come to a splendid idea, the light patrol jacket hinted at, similar to those sent out by the ladies of Quebec and Ontario. I can safely say that no ladies in the world except those of Canada could have hit on so thoroughly useful an article as their homely looking serges, and many a man who deposited his tight uncomfortable tunic in the accommodating slough as he slipped into the ladies' serge, blessed the lovely creatures who selected the very best article for any work on the prairie. "Oh! if we had only had them at first."

Again the General strikes oil when he observes, speaking of the cavalry: "I cannot but regret that the expensive Hussar uniform was selected for this arm." As a proof of the foolishness of the pet reason of the advocates for the present garb, they maintaining that its attractive hues would draw a superior and more desirable class of men to the cavalry, there is no vast difference, socially or otherwise, either in officers or men, between the "plungers" and the "mud crushers." It is simply "follow the leader" again, and as the General says, the cavalry man presents a tawdry appearance. It's rough on the troopers, but true. This is especially noticeable in some old jacket purchased at terrible cost by some Cressus years ago, and handed down as each entering and enthusiastic subaltern purchased the garment from his predecessor, retiring when cooled down by time, and beggared by extravagance. Again we notice some home-made imitation as a substitute for some portion of the dress, to be obtained only at great cost from a London tailor. And the absurdity of a Canadian officer back in the country having to send to Bond street when anything goes wrong with his clothes is too apparent for me to continue my letter at present. Yours,
Misty dear,
NOODLE.

COMMON SENSE ON PARADE, OR DRILL WITHOUT STAYS.

BY LIEUT. COLONEL THE RIGHT HON. J. H. A. MACDONALD, M.P.

*(Commandant the Queen's Edinburgh R. V. Brigade.)**(Continued from page 372.)*

Remembering that "Drill is a means to discipline, but that drill is not discipline" (*Home*), would not the framer of a system recognize that an instructor could, "in teaching useful things, discipline mind and body quite as well as if he taught complicated manœuvres, which are very pretty to look at, but are utterly impracticable in the field." (*Viscount Wolseley*?) He would say to himself—should not the style of the field impress its stamp upon the style of the drill ground, both being made to have a direct relation to the conditions which prescribe the law of the combat? Each would then, while producing steadiness and developing the spirit of discipline, create and cultivate an intelligent and vigorous condition in the soldier, tending to overcome the danger of loss of connectedness and disorder—with which we are brought face to face by the necessity of moving in an individual order over long distances—while at the same time developing the unquestionable advantages of that individual order for meeting such necessity. And if the style of the modern field work were considered, would not the practical mind naturally set forth on the work of devising an efficient drill system, by taking as an ideal to which everything should conform, the trained elasticity of the living organism? would it ever turn naturally to the rigid accuracy of the mechanical apparatus? And if this reasoning be sound, is it any answer to it to say that troops trained carefully in a purely mechanical system of manœuvres, carried out in a style that abnegates individual action, acquire thereby an aptitude and a discipline which has a great value in the field? Most certainly not; for it is by no means intended to depart from training in exactitude. Nothing is further from the intention, than the adoption of a loose mode. On the contrary, it is desired to have as much exact drill training as ever; only the condition is proposed to be appended that it shall be applied in a form cognate to, and not alien from, the requirements of actual warfare at the present day. If troops trained in exactitude in a mode of movement which is of no use in the modern combat, are thereby aided to efficiency for actual warfare, *multo magis* must troops be more aided to that desirable end by receiving their training in exactitude in the mode of movement which is used, and alone can be used in actual fighting under modern conditions. The question is not whether you are to teach men "good steady drill first," to use Lord Chelmsford's words, the question is whether the forms for that "good steady drill" which is indispensable, should be consistent with modern warfare, or inconsistent with modern warfare.

In the old days of line fighting men got their "good steady drill" in the style in which they had to fight. In our day they do not get their steady drill in the style in which they have to fight. Is this right? is it reasonable? is it wise? That is the real question. It is not a question of training (to use again the same General's words), "in a loose manner, or teaching preliminary drill loosely," but whether your steady training should be done in obsolete forms and by modes of retaining steadiness which cannot be applied in actual work. Possibly Frederick the Great might have disciplined and steadied his troops very well by giving them a long course of evolutions of the Greek phalanx, but being a sensible man he preferred to carry out his exact training in consistency with his practical formations. The Prussians of to-day pay him a great compliment in still using his now antiquated three rank close-touch formations for their exact training, which are as obsolete for 1886 as the Greek formations were for the beginning of the century. But they hardly imitate the practical side of his character. They hold fast by the form, out of which the spirit has finally and for ever departed, so that it has become form and nothing else. It is to be hoped that in this we shall not continue to copy them. "Blindly to follow others is to remain always behind them."—*Home*.

If we follow them we shall arrive at the monstrous complicated absurdities which they practice. They may be giants in courage and power, but they seem often to have the giant's unwieldiness in their modes, and suffer accordingly. *Vide* the diagrams in Von Tellenbach's excellent "Preussische Bataillon's Exerciren." *Vide* also the following remarks on some of their truly ridiculous complications: "This parade order in three ranks, which is never used on service, and this duplicate numbering of sections of companies, would be probably regarded as both clumsy and confusing if practised by any other nation than the Germans."—(*Intelligence Branch, Q.M.G.'s Department*.)

This is of itself enough to justify one who "feels compelled to lift up his voice against the tendency to accept Prussian teaching without due investigation."—(*General Macdougall*).

They are as absurdly pedantic in these and similar matters, such as

their string-pulled parade march, as their French foes were unwisely revolutionary in their looseness both in drill and discipline. The course of the latter was decidedly foolish and suicidal, but that of the former is, though less foolish, not by any means the perfection of wisdom.

This will become all the clearer, when it is ascertained by an analysis what were the real considerations which prescribed the style of formation and evolution for foot soldiers in Frederick's era, and indeed in all old wars of civilised nations from the earliest times. Such an analysis will reveal at once that in the case of infantry the most dominant factor was a negative one. Self defence from rapid destruction by the horse was the necessity which dictated conditions to the infantry with regard both to formation and movement. All development of power for attack by infantry had to be tested as to feasibility, by the risks to which it exposed the attacking force from cavalry onslaught. "The peculiarity of our drill being of a very mechanical nature . . . comes down from the time when all our drill formations for the infantry were made under the terror of cavalry charges."—(*Viscount Wolseley*.) Thus the powers of the cavalry practically prescribed the limits within which infantry evolution was narrowed; for cavalry had the most power of inflicting disastrous damage. The necessity of being able to form in large bodies to resist cavalry at any moment dominated the whole system of infantry movement. So deeply-rooted was this consciousness in the military mind that within the present century our own drill system contained at one and the same time no less than twenty-nine separate methods of forming square from different formations, fourteen from lines and fifteen from columns. What shells with penetrative power were to the old wooden walls of the navy, cavalry squadrons were to the infantry of our great wars. The cry from the ships, "for God's sake keep out the shells," had its corresponding cry from the line, "save us from being caught by the horse." "In old times the great danger to infantry was a cavalry charge."—(*Colonel Blundell*.)

This limitation of movements of infantry to such as admit of rapidly forming large squares is now obsolete. Troops in a thin order can repel and even destroy any cavalry, and the formation of squares of large size in civilized warfare is not only useless but dangerous. "We know now we have very little to dread from great charges of cavalry, if we know how to make proper use of our rifles."—(*Viscount Wolseley*). "The enemy's cavalry must be received in extended order."—(*Frontal Attack of Infantry—German*.) "Sufficient trouble has not yet been taken to show the infantrymen how completely the breech-loader has made him superior to the cavalry soldier."—(*Major-General Middleton*). "Good infantry need not fear the attack of cavalry even in extended order."—(*Sir Lumley Graham*) "Every writer on tactics at the present day demonstrates the impossibility of unbroken infantry being successfully attacked by cavalry."—(*Major Barker*.)

Thus the negative reason for the very cramped character of our movements and formations is now no longer of weight, but still we go on as before. For, as has been said in allusion to this very matter, "custom lingers long everywhere, especially in the army."—(*Colonel Blundell*.) Some customs are, though no longer useful, yet harmless; some become injurious the day they cease to be useful. Can it be denied that customs adopted in military formations and evolutions for solely negative reasons, are likely to be injurious when the negative cause which compelled their acceptance has been removed? The danger to infantry is now exactly reversed. Whereas formerly it consisted in not being able to get into a solid body in time to resist cavalry, now the danger is the other way. "Neglecting to change from a close to an extended formation at the right moment may cost the lives of many men."—(*Home*). It undoubtedly did so in the Franco-Prussian war, when men were moved into the fire zone in heavy columns. Yet we still retain the style based on the old rule, and are inclined to swallow anything with a Prussian label upon it, as if everything German was perfection. Is it too much to ask that we may awake from our slumber in the arms of custom, when that custom is no longer Delilah the wife, bringing strength in unity, but Delilah the false one, betraying into weakness? May we not, realizing that every "change of arms leads to new manœuvres" (*General Morris, U.S.A.*), abandon "a passive compliance with received customs, the grounds of which we are strangers to" (*Maréchal Saxe*), and once and for all shake ourselves free from those parts of our system which had their origin in a wholesome dread of an arm which modern conditions has rendered less formidable in direct attack? May we not take a really practical course as regards our drill movements, by adapting them to the altered conditions of modern fighting? Being now free from the overweening influence of danger from cavalry, it is surely common sense to say that the natural, and according to all analogy the wise course would be, to determine the best mode of fighting, and then to endeavor to ascertain how

parade work can be adapted to be the complement of the real work, aiding its aims, and developing its principles, while being equally efficient for the steady work of accurate drill and discipline. May we not accept the *dicta* of the practised soldier in the only great war carried on between armies of our own race in modern times? "Troops should be thoroughly instructed in the few movements necessary for the field, and they are but few, and should not be made to waste time in acquiring evolutions of no practical use."—(*General Morris, U.S.A.*) And the *dicta* of the most approved theory: "It is important that all details which can be suppressed should be done away with, in order that troops may be able to devote as much time as possible to perfectly mastering those which continue to be practical, and to acquiring field aptitude." (*Maurice's Wellington Prize Essay*).

These most pithy and just remarks of the practical soldier and the theoretical student, while they refer to the number of manœuvres, must apply as strongly to the detail mode in which manœuvres are executed.

In all that has been said up to this point, as to what would influence a mind unbiassed by any considerations, except the conditions of actual war, in choosing a mode of movement and a style of manœuvre, general considerations only have been referred to. No principles but those of universal application have been considered. But it is plain that the advisability of adopting one of the two modes of action, either of which might serve the purpose required, is likely to be affected by considerations extraneous to, or at least not absolutely confined in the region of principles. It must be granted that there are two other more important factors, which no wise man would leave out of account. These are the military genius and character of the nation for which a scheme was being thought out, and any characteristics of their country which might properly be allowed to have an influence in selecting one mode in preference to another. "There should be the most thorough study of the characteristics of men." (*Maurice's Wellington Prize Essay*.) Can it be doubted that any man employed as an expert to frame a system of action for troops, would in his whole deliberations take into account not merely abstract principles, and circumstances of fact of universal application, but also the national characteristics of those for whom he was framing a system, the mode of their enlistment, the historic character of their service, their physical condition, their capacity for discipline, their capabilities of training, their relations between officer and men, their reputation for bravery, both the bravery which will rush on any danger when necessary, and the bravery which can restrain itself, and keep cool in the hottest fight? "There is one thing we must all remember, namely, that every nation has its own individuality of fighting, dependent on national character, dependent on conscription or non-conscription, and upon other circumstances." (*General Sir William Codrington*.) "The manner in which the army is raised, whether by universal service, conscription, or voluntary enlistment must be considered." (*Home*.)

(To be continued.)

SECOND REUNION OF THE MONTREAL RIFLE RANGERS.

Under the above caption to a very inviting bill of fare, served at St. Lawrence Hall, Montreal, on Tuesday last, in Mr. Hogan's proverbially excellent style, we note the meeting around the festal board of the surviving members of this veteran corps of the Dominion. Many of our readers will remember, and Montrealers in particular, the gallant and soldierly appearance of the company when in its pristine youth and vigor, in the year of grace 1854, it gave the first impetus to the extensive volunteer system that now prevails. By dint of example, other companies soon followed, and when it became necessary to incorporate these into a battalion the result was the 1st or Prince of Wales Rifle Regiment of which the Rangers were the leading company. It was to the Rifle Rangers that the compliment was paid by Governor-General Sir Edmund Head, "that their marked efficiency and soldierly bearing gave tone to the whole volunteer force" of that day. From the ranks of this corps sprang several commissioned officers in the regular army, two at least of whom served with their regiments in the Crimea; also many company and several good field officers of the volunteer force. Of the seventy-four original members of the corps, the great majority have responded to the last roll call, and some others are resident so far from the city that they could not attend on this social occasion, but loyally sent their apologies and regrets. Amongst these were Col. Macpherson, of Ottawa; Col. J. W. Bath, of New York; Col. Hanson, of Berthier and Capt. Blackwood, of Toronto; Capt. Low was detained through illness. Some fifteen were enabled to be present, the most youthful of whom had turned the half century, and though heads and beards were plentifully "silvered with the grey" there was apparently no abatement of the high spirits and warmth of feeling which animated the friendly intercourse of their more youthful days. Lieut.-Col. Theodore Lyman, the first captain elect of the corps, and to whom much of its old time efficiency and usefulness was due, most worthily presided on the occasion. When justice had been done to the bill of fare, appropriate toasts were given from the chair, and responded to in animating speech and song, or in the solemn tribute paid to the memory of departed comrades; and with anecdote and reminiscence savoring largely of "youth's morning march when the bosom was young," a very delightful evening was brought to a close. We are glad to find such *esprit de corps* manifested by the old No. 1, and trust the surviving members may long be spared to meet annually and spend a social hour, which we understand is the intention so long as any are left to respond to their names.

CORRESPONDENCE.

ITINERANT SCHOOLS OF INSTRUCTION.

To the Editor of the Canadian Militia Gazette:

SIR,—A glance at the "synopsis" of the new Militia List in your issue of the 16th ult. is all that is required to show how necessary it is that some means, other than those already existing, should be devised, whereby officers in our force may qualify themselves for the important positions they occupy. In a late issue you stated that the schools of infantry, as at present constituted and conducted, were not equal to the task of qualifying the present provisional appointments in the force, and would not be for some time to come. I think you might have safely gone a step farther, sir, and said they can accommodate so few, that all sorts of wire-pulling is necessary to enable a man to get in at all; add to this the loss of time necessary to qualify, and the expense of firing out in full uniform, which is insisted upon by the commandants of the various schools, to enable the "three hours of etiquette" to be properly observed, and which, to an officer of a rural corps, is absolutely unnecessary and highly superfluous,—and a barrier is raised against qualification which makes the future anything but one on which we can congratulate ourselves.

The farcial "Volunteer Board" has very properly been relegated to the past, and although some of the best officers in the force, according to "Unit," do owe their certificates to it, (see No. 37, 19th January last) it is no argument for its re-establishment, as those same gentlemen, from their natural abilities and desire to excel, would still have been among the best had no board existed at all.

Now, sir, the schools, you say, have not sufficient accommodation, there are no other means of qualifying, and yet nearly three-sevenths of our officers hold provisional appointments; a lamentable condition of things, truly, when we think of the thousands of dollars that are spent annually to keep the force together, and one that, in view of the fact that our entire force has been called to arms twice within twenty years, and a large portion only a year ago, ought to open the eyes of the country, through their representatives, to the necessity for a radical change.

With that most desirable end in view, I beg leave to suggest the establishment in each military district of a system of what might be termed itinerant schools, to be under the control of either the deputy adjutant general of the district, or the commandant of one of the schools already existing; to be composed of two or more sergeant instructors, and one or more commissioned officers; to establish at a certain fixed period, according to the "duty roster," a school at the headquarters of each battalion, for a period of six weeks to three months, as may be deemed best; to be open for instruction for say six hours each day, three during daylight, and three after dark, all who present themselves, and serve in any capacity in the active force to be eligible, and no others. Examinations to be held at the end of the term, by the proper authorities, at the place of instruction, and certificates granted to those who merit them. All officers of the battalion, requiring qualification, who do not present themselves, to be immediately gazetted out, unless they can show good cause for their non-appearance, such as illness or absence from home.

Were such a system as this established it would remove the greatest barriers to qualification, viz: expense and loss of time, and would consequently remove any excuse for not qualifying; it would relieve the strain on the schools of infantry; it would infuse new life into the force by bringing into it gentlemen and men of ability and position, who love the work and who are fitted to command, but who have been prevented from identifying themselves with the force by the above barriers; it would also give to the force what it lacks even more than qualified officers, qualified non-coms. The instruction given, with the single exception of interior economy, would be the same as that given at the schools of infantry, as I am positive the number attending would be such as to permit of battalion drill; and last, but not least, it would in a comparatively short space of time enable you, Mr. Editor, to print a new "synopsis," showing how few of our officers were unqualified.

A plan of instruction such as the above, or based on it, would, I am satisfied, meet the requirements of the volunteer force better than any yet tried. I am aware that objections can be raised, principal amongst which will be the item of expense, and the possible injury it may inflict on the schools of infantry; but as to the former, if the question be looked squarely in the face it will be seen that the additional outlay need not be very great, in fact the single item of traveling expenses is the only serious one, as, though the instructing staff would necessarily have to be increased, it need not be beyond what the force really requires at the school, and moreover two or three years at the outside would see nearly every officer of the force qualified, and the necessity for keeping up this arrangement as a permanent system disappear. As to the other objection, I believe the commandants and officers would hail such a measure as a boon, tending to remove the great strain put upon them; and as the official *Gazette* proves how changable is our force, it also proves that there would be sufficient new blood coming into it to still give the schools all they could do.

I trust, Mr. Editor, that this scheme may mean "the thin edge of the wedge," and though it is doubtless too crude for absolute acceptance it may bring about discussion on its merits, and enable our worthy Minister of Militia and the heads of the department to see their way clear to so improve matters that the whole of our force may be the gainers.

April 12th, 1886.

54TH.

THE TARGET.

QUEBEC.—The annual meeting of the 8th Royal Rifles' association was held on Tuesday last and was largely attended. The annual reports showed a balance of \$93.70 to the good. From the great interest evinced it looks as if the coming season will prove a lively one on the range. It was decided to open the season's shooting on the 10th inst. at the Beauport range with a club match.

The committee of management for the coming year consists of:—President, Capt. H. J. Miller; vice-president, Capt. F. Wurtele; hon. secretary-treasurer, Lieut. J. F. Burstall; committee, Capt. Dunbar, Capt. Prower, Sergt.-Major Argue, Sergt. H. J. Morgan, Sergt. Goudie, Sergt. And. Thomson, Pte. Enright.

The Macleod rifle association has a scheme on foot to which we commend the attention of our local shots. This is to form a camp at Willow Creek this summer for a week or two, inviting riflemen throughout the district to attend and to compete for team and other prizes. At the same time they suggest the advisability of forming a combined association in the territories and become affiliated with the Dominion association.—*Mant'olan*.

MONTREAL.—The shooting season in Military District No. 5 will open at the Point St. Charles rifle range on Good Friday, provided the ground is sufficiently dry. It is now several feet under water, but it is hoped that the flood will have subsided sufficiently to enable the opening to take place. "A" company of the Royal Scots then intend having a company match; ranges, 200, 500 and 600 yards, 7 shots at each; no sighting shots. Government rifles to be used. Dominion of Canada ammunition of March, 1886, manufacture, will also be used:—

Prizes—1st class.—1, by Capt. Hood, company medal, cross guns and cup; 2, Col.-Sergt. R. Allan, vernier and wind gauge; 3, Sergt. John Allan, Album; 4, Corpl. Lewis, razor; 5, Corpl. ———, cross guns; 6, Private Geo. Cooke, briar pipe.

Prizes—2nd class.—1, by Capt. Hood, album; 2, Sergt. G. E. Tabb, comb and brush; 3, Staff-Sergt. Wm. Brown, pipe and case; 4, Corpl. Currie, cross guns; 5, ———, comb and brush; 6, company, 20 rounds of ammunition.

This company has a well organized association, and is affiliated with the Battalion association. The company for the past five years has had representatives at both the Provincial and Dominion matches. This year there is a feeling of determination and zest with the members to excel their past record, which, under the careful guidance and supervision of such an officer as Capt. Hood, will, no doubt, be fully realized.

THE G. T. R. ASSOCIATION held its 11th annual meeting on Saturday, 10th April. Everything passed off most enthusiastically. A large number of its members are also members of the different battalion associations in the city. The following officers were elected: Honorary president, F. L. Wanklyn, Esq., Works Manager G. T. R.; president, Mr. James Anthony; vice-president, Mr. James Black; secretary, Jos. Ward; treasurer, George Lavers; committee, D. Jehu, J. P. Clarke, J. Wilson, W. Irving, E. Pratt, C. L. Williams; auditors, M. O'Brien, J. Farrar.

VICTORIA RIFLES.—The "Vics" held the annual meeting of their rifle association on Friday evening, the 16th, at their armory. As usual there was a large attendance and much enthusiasm was displayed in the selections of officers for the coming year. The following were elected:—Honorary president, Lieut.-Col. Crawford; president, Capt. Edwards; vice-president, Lieut. Busted; captain of team, Capt. Sims; secretary, Private Brocklesby; assistant secretary, Private Desbarats; treasurer, Sergt. Matthews; committee to be composed of a representative from each of the companies. Major Henshaw and Capt. Sims were appointed representatives to the P. Q. R. A. After votes of thanks to the retiring officers the meeting adjourned.

90TH BATT.—Members of the Manitoba rifle association will be grieved to hear of the death of Mr. Andrew Freeland, the popular and efficient secretary of the Brandon rifle association. A keen lover of rifle shooting, and a most courteous and hard-working official, it will be hard for the Brandon rifle association to replace him. The association is most unfortunate in having lost the services of two of its most enthusiastic members—Major Buchan by removal to the school of Mounted Infantry at Winnipeg, and Mr. Freeland. It will no doubt recover, however, as it is one of the most promising associations in the North-west.—*Manitoban*.

REGIMENTAL NOTES.

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

10TH ROYAL GREN.—The theatrical committee met yesterday afternoon, when it was decided that the New York Company should play on the 29th April, "Ours;" 30th April, Gilbert's comedy "Engaged," with tableau, "The Charge of Batoche," between the acts, the same for a matinee on May 1st, ending with "Ours" the same night. The cast includes Miss Dillon, Mr. Howarth and Mr. Sothern, and is under the supervision of Mr. Wallack. The regiment has been at considerable expense in connection with the North-west expedition, and is entitled to the generous support of the citizens of Toronto.

ROYAL GRENADIERS.—This regiment had their first march out for the season on Thursday. Lieut.-Col. Grasett was in command. They went up Jarvis street headed by both bugle and brass bands, and many thousands turned out to see them. From Jarvis they crossed Gerrard to Yonge street, and thence by King street to the shed. The men as a rule moved well, but more especially "E" company, which was all last fall under the instruction of sergeants from the I. S. Corps. At the shed Col. Grasett made a few remarks regarding the coming entertainments under the auspices of the regiment. He pointed out that the clothing and equipment in addition to that supplied by the government cost about \$3,000, and he asked the men to render all the assistance they could towards making these entertainments a success, particularly as the proceeds were intended to defray part of the expenses referred to.

Color-Sergeant Francis and Sergeant Dale have been made acting sergeant-major and quartermaster-sergeant respectively.

The following promotions have been made:—To be sergeants, Corps. M. Mc-Guinn, R. Moore, Wm. Dent, G. Craig, W. Rogers, R. Whitmore; to be lance-sergeants, Corps. V. Ashdown and C. Dickson; to be corporals, Lance-Corpl. L. Judge, Ptes. H. Riddle, J. Welby, C. Coe, J. Hicks; to be lance-corporals, J. J. Kilby, H. Allan, H. Coburn, S. Bennett, H. Grayton.

It will be remembered that shortly after the regiment left for the North-west, Eugene Davis sent, through Pte. C. E. Smythe of No. 4 company, as a present to Capt. Harston, a box of cigars for each company. They were sent by express, and have been travelling until a few days ago, when they arrived here. They were distributed after parade last night.

The names of those men who have served three or more years in the regiment are being taken, and service badges as provided by recent regulations will be issued to them. One badge is given for three years, two for six, and three for nine.

The Queen's birthday trip is being discussed. Two invitations have been received, one from Orillia and the other from Barrie. The latter is apparently looked upon most favorably, as the citizens of that town seem disposed to deal liberally with the regiment in the way of providing accommodation, etc., free of cost. It has not been decided whether the regiment will leave here on Saturday and return on Monday, or go and return on the latter day.

The new grenades and letters "R. G.," for the non-commissioned officers' and men's tunics, have arrived from England, and will shortly be distributed.

The annual meeting of the sergeants of the Royal Grenadiers was held in their messroom at the drill shed last night. The president, Sergeant-Major Francis, occupied the chair. The following officers were elected for the ensuing year:—President, Color-Sergeant Johnston; secretary-treasurer, Sergeant Cox. Room committee, Color-Sergeant Kent, and Sergeants Hardinge and Sinclair.

QUEEN'S OWN.—The regiment paraded on Wednesday, 490 strong, and had a good drill, under Col. Miller. Several towns have invited the regiment to visit them on the 24th May, but nothing is as yet settled.

The ball of the Q.O.R. promises to be a grand success.

WINNIPEG NEWS FROM THE "MANITOBAN."

It is probable that Lieut.-Col. Houghton will remain in charge of military district No. 10 for another year.

The Dominion government have agreed to provide the balance of the amount required to floor the drill hall, and the work is to be commenced at once.

MOUNTED INF. CORPS.—The school marched through the city streets on the 9th, headed by their bugle band, and looked remarkably well.

FIELD BATTERY.—A number of members attended drill Thursday evening. The commanding officers is introducing a system of rigid selection in the recruiting, and has decided to enlist only permanent residents of the city and make it a rule in all cases to have the employers' consent before enrolling new members.

90TH BATT.—There was a large attendance on the 6th at the parade of the right half battalion. The right half battalion parades on Tuesday evenings and the left half on Friday. All the companies are rapidly filling up with a very desirable class of recruits.

The regimental club rooms at the drill hall are now furnished and present a fine appearance. The floor is covered with linoleum and the walls are adorned with several pictures, among them being a photograph of F company, including the late Pte. Watson, who fell on 12th May last, and one of J company of the Queen's Own Rifles. A pool table has been purchased and proves a great attraction. Large numbers of the members avail themselves of the privileges of the club, and there is certainly no more attractive place in the city for a young man to spend his evenings.

91ST BATT.—No. 1 company, Kildonan, will shortly begin drill again.

The Minnedosa company is getting into shape and busy with its drill.

95TH BATT.—On the return of Adj. Constantine from Mexico, Col. Scott and the other officers of the battalion will take steps to re-organize.

90TH BATT.—Lieut. Piché, late of D company, is now with his old friends, the 65th.

It is reported that Major Boswell will be promoted to the colonelcy next week, vice Col. Maccaud who has resigned.

Corp. McBean, a crack shot of the Queen's Own, has joined Capt. Macdonald's company.

The 90th are talking of a Queen's birthday trip to Brandon, and that town has promised them an enthusiastic reception. Another suggestion is a meeting with the Queen's Own at some intermediate point.

Twenty-two students from the university are joining the 90th. It was first intended that they should form a company by themselves if the government would increase the number of companies in the battalion, but as matters stand at present they will probably join D company in a body, as it is the weakest.

One of the principal topics of conversation among the members is the proposed church parade on Easter Sunday. The general feeling seems to be in favor of marching to St. John's Cathedral, and having another parade on 9th May, when Rev. Mr. Gordon should be asked to officiate.

The quartermaster stores have presented a busy scene every evening this week. The indefatigable Q. M., Capt. Swinford, with the assistance of Q. M. Sergt. Young, is busily engaged in supplying the L. B. Ds. with new uniforms, which are similar to the last issue in appearance but much superior in workmanship, most of them fitting without any alteration. A neat "90" has been affixed to the shoulder straps, and when the new forage caps, which are expected next week, arrive, the regiment will present a fine appearance. The forage caps are similar to those worn by the Queen's Own, known as "service caps." Uniforms were served out to the right half-battalion on Tuesday night and the left half, companies D, E and F, will receive theirs to-night.

WINNIPEG F. B.—By the appointment of Major Jarvis to a superintendency in the Mounted Police, the battery loses, at least for a time, a most efficient commander, and the district a most popular and valuable officer. While sincerely congratulating Major Jarvis on his appointment, and the North-west Mounted Police on his acquisition, we have reason to hope that his retirement from the militia will not be permanent. Major Jarvis left for Regina on Tuesday last.

MONTREAL GAR. ART.—A large muster of this brigade took place on Friday evening, Major Laurie commanding. They marched through the principal streets; the men looked well and were frequently cheered. On their return to the armory the brigade was addressed by Lieut. Col. Oswald, who announced that he had brought the North-west medals with him from Ottawa, and that the names of the recipients would be engraved on the medals, which would be presented by Sir Adolphe and Lady Caron. The men will parade on Saturday afternoon, the 24th, for the presentation.

P. W. RIFLES began their annual drill on Tuesday, the 20th.

SARNIA.—Band Sergeant Skeffington had the new fife and drum band and the younger members of the 27th battalion band out for drill on the evening of the 13th. The band will parade on Good Friday as well as the fife and drum band, lately organized. It is understood that the band has secured the services of Mr. D. Simpson as drum major.

45TH BATT.—Lindsay is making strenuous endeavors to insure success in the arrangements she is making for the grand concert to be given by the Bowmanville band, on May 6th.

16TH BATT.—The band has just received a lot of new music from London, England, the gift of Colonel Bog.

63RD RIFLES.—The entertainment given by this regiment at the Academy of Music on the 12th and 13th is pronounced a very great success. It consisted of the production of a musical and dramatic burlesque representative of scenes in the journey of "our boys" from Halifax to the Saskatchewan, and their stay in the North-west. Sergt. Louis Dixon is the author of the piece, and has succeeded in writing quite a meritorious play for his maiden effort. The preface to the work explains the circumstances which led to the organization of the expedition and explains the progress of the Halifax battalion, and concludes: "In our journey of seven thousand miles kindness was everywhere met, and the feeling thus created—sanctified by the blood of those who fell—will help in making this Canada of Ours a nation. Many friends have a desire to see how "the boys" got on while west. The following few sketches, (from the many, have been put into shape to celebrate the first anniversary of the departure of the regiment."

The piece is, in its general scheme, similar to the "90th on active service" being an olio of camp scenes, songs and tableaux, some of the 90th songs being re-produced, but the scene is different, no pretence being made of depicting the fighting. From the *Evening Mail* we condense the following description:

"The curtain rises on a tableau showing the Halifax battalion entering North street station, accompanied by the band playing "The girl I left behind me." The opening scene represents the interior of a car on the way to the front. The members of the battalion engage in conversation and play tricks such as they might be supposed to carry on were they really *en route* for the North-west battle ground. One of the party (Pvt. R. Blackmore) is called on for a song and responds with "Will ye no come back again?" the whole company joining in the chorus with good effect. Farther along the line the orderly room clerk enters the car to collect letters for the mail, and is induced to take a seat and join in "The soldier's farewell." This song was given with feeling and in capital voice. Richmond junction is shortly reached and the boys tumble out of the car for a meal. An amusing front scene is here introduced in which an inebriated party has prominence, at the close of which Camp Desolation on a winter's night is represented. In this scene Jock Patterson makes his appearance with his bags of noisy wind. He is given a hearty reception alike by the "boys" on the stage and the audience. After a brief stay at this point the transport is boarded and the battalion proceeds on its journey west.

The opening scene in the second act is laid on the prairie. It is the general's inspection and the battalion is drawn up in line at open order, standing at ease. The major-general enters and is received in regulation style by the battalion. The commanding officer (Wm. Mott) gave a capital imitation of Col. Bremner in this scene, which took so well that the audience insisted on a repetition. The battalion having come to "order arms" it was addressed by the major-general. In the course of his speech he tells the soldiers how he had risen to his glorious position, in a song à la Admiral in Pinafore. In the second scene an excellent representation of camp life is given. From this point two companies are ordered to Saskatchewan landing and they are given a suitable send-off by the "boys" left behind. In scene third a detachment of the rifles are resting and eating at midnight on the line of march. Lance-capt. Emerson sings the solo part of the favorite song "The maple leaf, our emblem dear," the chorus being given by the other members. At the close of the song, the detachment falls in, marches off, and the curtain falls.

Act third opens showing the fatigue party boarding a scow. The "boys" are anxious to go to the front, but don't get there. Scene two is the camp. "The mess fatigue," to the tune of "Bob up serenely," is introduced by Pte. S. H. Romans. After the song canteens are gathered up and pipes filled. The fatigue marches off and a scene with five sick soldiers follows, which is made quite amusing. Scene third is very well managed and represents a party of soldiers washing clothing at the river. After doing considerable scrubbing the corporal in charge of the party (W. C. Stirling) indulges in a song "Hard tack come again no more." Scene fourth is the camp in the evening. The men are engaged sewing, reading, writing, smoking, etc. Lance-capt. W. A. Emerson sings "A soldier's lot is not a happy one" with chorus, which was encored. In this scene "The Red River Valley," the song dedicated to the 2nd Scottish company by the ladies of Winnipeg, is also introduced, the solo being sung by Pte. Mylius. It made a pronounced hit. Following this song comes "The Saskatchewan guard's lament," song by Pte. C. Munro accompanied by the guards' band. The scene is filled in with amusing pranks and camp talk. As a finale to the act Lance-capt. Pickford sings "The flag and home" to the tune of "Old folks at home." The closing tableau showed a detachment prepared to receive cavalry, the scene being made effective by the generous use of colored fire. The closing song "Cede Nullis" by Pte. R. Blackmore was given in good style."

The entertainment cleared \$550 over expenses in aid of furnishing battalion club rooms, which, it is said, are to be in the old Masonic hall building.

GLEANINGS.

Col. Denison's lecture on Egypt and the Soudan War, before the St. James's Church People's Association, was a great literary treat. The schoolroom was crowded with a large and appreciative audience. The lecture did not pretend to be a record of the events connected with the war, but merely a short sketch of his own experience. The lecturer dealt with the history of the Canadian force from the hour that they were called from every part of the Dominion until their return to their native land. The descriptions of the cities, temples and cataracts of the Nile were exceedingly good. Col. Denison said that the highest military authorities in the Soudan bore witness to the usefulness of the Canadian force, and in spite of the calumnies heaped upon it he had little doubt that should the war be continued a much larger body of men would be required. No men could have done better, and they seemed as much at home on the eddies and rapids of the Nile as if they were on the Ottawa and St. Lawrence. Lord Wolseley considered the force invaluable for such an undertaking. Col. Denison noticed the presence of two old veterans in the schoolroom with medals upon their breasts. Pte. Bates is entitled to three medals, one for long service, one for deeds of bravery in the Sutlej war and one for several battles in which he was engaged. Pte. Stewart also wears three medals, one for long service, one for distinguished valor at the siege of Sebastopol and one from the Turkish government. The two old soldiers were made happy as in story they fought their battles over again.

Colonel Denison, at the close of his lecture, paid a high tribute to the Simcoe Foresters. He said he was absent in Egypt during the North-west troubles, but on

his return he was told, by one of the most distinguished officers engaged in the campaign, that the Simcoe men were the finest marchers in the expedition, and won a name for themselves, which will likely call them first in the field should our country again be thrown into civil war. Simcoe might well feel proud of her brave sons. The colonel stated that there was no regiment in Canada that he would feel prouder to command, and that in material it ranked far higher than the vaunted city corps.—*Orillia Packet*.

MONTREAL.—R. F. Reid, the champion swordsman of Canada, writes to the *Gazette* of this city, offering to meet Sergt.-Major Morgan, of Kingston, as follows:—"I will meet him or any other swordsman in the Dominion, either in a horseback-contest or in an all round display to include foil, rapier, broadsword, single stick exercise and general sword feats, for \$100 a side or more and the receipts of any hall in Kingston or Montreal, give or take expenses. Trusting that the gallant sergt.-major will give me a chance to show the color of my steel."

A colonel of one of the regiments forming the garrison of Bradenburg, Germany, recently administered a severe rebuke to the eleven captains of his command in the presence of the regiment. The captains tendered their resignations, and the Emperor William being informed of the fact, immediately ordered their arrest and trial for conspiracy.

All the companies that served in the North-west with Col. Scott's battalion, the 95th, have agreed to maintain the organization. The company will be known as the Manitoba Grenadiers. All the old officers will remain.

The heaviest Krupp gun ever made, weighing 700 tons, and being more than 30 feet long and throwing a shell weighing 784 pounds, has just been mounted at Wilhelms haven.

Major-General Strange had the misfortune to again hurt his broken leg, and he has gone to Calgary for treatment.

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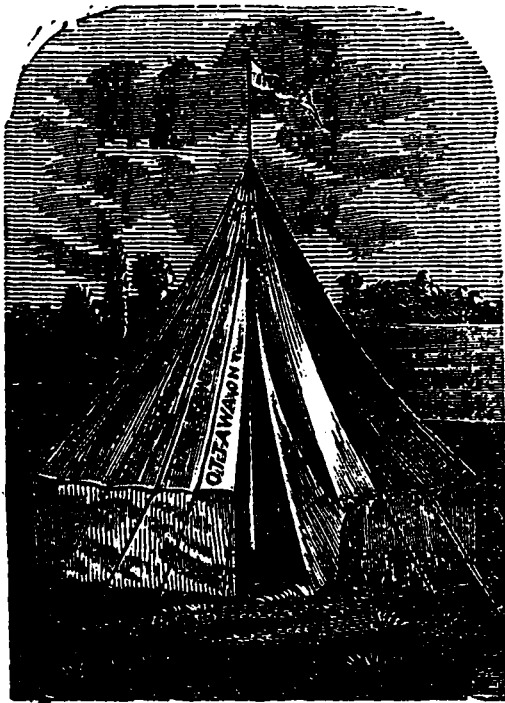
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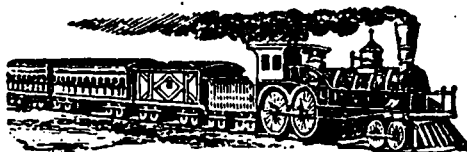
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