

# THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE

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## Topics of the Week.

It seems that Hythe must go, as well as Wimbledon. Owing to the increased range of the new rifle, two miles being the outside limit, the removal of the school of musketry has become a necessity. It has been suggested that the school should be located at the new N. R. A. site at Brookwood, but this is declared to be of doubtful practicability and of positive inexpediency.

The disbandment of the Honourable Artillery Company continues to be a topic of warm discussion in the English military papers, and one of the latest declares that "there is a strong opinion among a big section of the members of the company that there will be a tremendous exposure at the coming official inquiry." Can it be that the company were not quite so "honourable" as their corporate name would imply?

Waxing sarcastic at the expense of the British authorities, the *United Service Gazette* says: "Some interesting information reaches us with reference to the new repeating rifles of the Continental Powers, from which it appears that the German Army will be supplied with the new weapon within two years. In our case we believe that the process of production is so slow that the rifle will probably be obsolete before we have manufactured enough to reach round the Army, to say nothing of the Militia and Volunteers. Great things, however, are expected of the new rifle when it is completed and issued. It is claimed for it that it will kill at two miles."

In military circles general regret has been expressed at the unfortunate occurrence reported between Major Short of B Battery, R. C. A., and Lieut.-Col. Turnbull of the Cavalry School Corps, over which Major Short is to be called to account for alleged insubordination to his superior officer. From the brief telegraphic reports, it would seem that the Major too openly resented a comment upon the appearance of the Battery made by the Colonel at last Sunday's church parade. The reports have been received with much incredulity. So thorough a soldier is Major Short known to be that one can scarcely believe him guilty of a breach of discipline. It is to be hoped that the unpleasantness may be speedily smoothed over.

A Royal Warrant has just been issued in which it is ordered that the Commissariat and Transport Staff of the British Army shall be abolished, and that the Commissariat and Transport Corps shall in future be designated "the Army Service Corps," thus reverting to the title which was superseded several years ago. The object of the Warrant is stated to be "the re-arrangement and re-organization of the

Supply and Transport Services of our Army," and it lays down a variety of regulations for the constitution and government of the new establishment. All officers, non-commissioned officers, and men will be transferred from the extinguished branch to its successor with equivalent rank, the Warrant officers retaining the title of "conductor," but the higher denominations of "commissary," etc., being changed to the more ordinary terms which designate officers in the Army—colonel, major, captain and lieutenant.

A thorough re-organization of the German field artillery is about to take place, and on the first of April next there will be a clean sweep of an organization which by some was held up as a model of perfection. The Germans in 1872 separated garrison from field artillery, with the result that each of these services attained greater facilities and perfection in the duties peculiar to itself. Now they have decided upon making their artillery still more of a fighting arm. With this object in view, it is to learn its work with the other arms with which it is associated, and is to be assigned by brigades to the army corps, and will thus come under the immediate command of the General commanding such corps, instead of, as heretofore, being subject merely to an inspector of Artillery. In addition to this, a new functionary is to be introduced, with the title of "Inspector-General of Shooting." His sole duty will be to look after the shooting, and to see that the men under his jurisdiction make decent scores somewhere else besides on the official musketry returns.

## The Dominion Artillery Association.

The Council of this organization have agreed upon their report, to be submitted at the annual meeting next month; and, as will be seen by the synopsis published below, they made several valuable suggestions looking to the improvement of the standing of the artillery force in the Dominion. That things are already shaping for the better may be gathered from the statement appearing in the report, that, while the batteries contributing to the Association during the past year numbered the same as 1887, the number of competitors increased by about 20 per cent, and the prize list 15 per cent, exclusive of the prizes presented by His Excellency the Governor-General for efficiency. It seems to be the aim of the Council that a reaction shall not be allowed to set in, but rather that the change for the better shall be made more pronounced.

Whilst, then, acknowledging the improvement visible in late years, the Council are of the opinion that it would be to the advantage of the force generally if it could be arranged to have a central competition, say at Quebec, for one or two officers and eight or ten men from each Field Battery, when they could all fire over the same range and under the same conditions, being satisfied that such a competition would be the means of much improvement in drill, discipline and practice.

The suggestion is made that a deputation be appointed to wait on the Major-General Commanding and request him to recommend the issue of a suit of canvas clothing to the gunners and drivers of Field Batteries for wear while cleaning guns and harness, grooming, or in the performance of other such duties.

It is strongly recommended that the Department of Militia and Defence be asked to increase the time allowed Non-Commissioned Officers and Gunners of Field Batteries by say four days for preliminary drill before going into camp, to be devoted to gun drill, foot drill, aiming drill, position and duties, lectures on ammunition, etc., thus allowing the whole of the time in camp to be employed in field movement, taking up positions, coming into action, and other necessary work which is now left undone for want of time.

The Council would again press upon the Artillery in the different Provinces the advisability of their forming Provincial Associations; as by united action and help alone can the further success of the Association be assured. The hope is expressed that the Commanding Officer of each Battery will urge his subalterns to become members of the Association.

The report concludes with fitting acknowledgments to the Inspector and the Assistant Inspectors of Artillery, and the Officers of "A" and "B" Batteries, R. C. A., for their continued kindness in carrying out their arduous duties as umpires and range officers; and also Major Lindsay, Quebec Field Battery, for his services at Camp Quarter Master and Transport Officer at the competition at Island of Orleans, Quebec.

### The Rifle of the Future.

What will prove to our readers a very interesting addition to the literature anent the new arm of the British forces, is furnished by the London *World* of the 26th December, where this appears:—

"A curious comment on Mr. Stanhope's frequent assurances as to the perfection of our new magazine rifle is furnished by the dissolution of the Committee on Small Arms before its labours are complete, and by the announcement that there will be no issue of their new rifle until an alteration of the pattern has been experimented upon. The fact is that many of the reports, and especially that of the Hythe School of Musketry, are dead against the Lee-Enfield magazine weapon, in which very great defects have been made patent by practical trials. It is more than probable that for the present no new repeating rifle will be issued, but that our troops will be armed with Martini rifles converted into magazines according to the ingenious plan submitted by a Canadian officer, and recently experimented with very successfully. The only question now remaining for decision, I understand, is whether these Martini magazines shall be used with Henry barrels, or with the new small-bore fitted to the present stocks."

The "Canadian officer" referred to is, of course, Captain Greville Harston, of the Grenadiers. His useful invention appears to successfully withstand all tests, and to maintain its popularity while one by one of the other inventions in the way of improved weapons goes out of popular favour.

### Major-General Oliver, C. M. G.

It was a source of pleasure to his many friends in Canada to learn of the well merited distinction accorded to the late Commandant of our Royal Military College, in making him a Companion of the Order of St. Michael and St. George. Major-General J. R. Oliver received this honour on New Year's Day, a pleasant New Year's gift surely. In connection with the circumstance a review of this officer's meritorious career is timely.

In 1855, while an undergraduate at Cambridge, he entered at a week's notice for a competitive examination for commissions in the R. A. and R. E., passed fifth out of 150 candidates, and was gazetted to the Artillery, but afterwards offered a transfer to the Engineers. He joined No. 3 Company, 14th Battalion, R. A., and served with it in England till May, 1857, when it was ordered to South Africa. A few days after its arrival at Cape Town news came of the Indian mutiny, and the company was at once sent on to Calcutta, which it reached in September. Having received a Field Battery equipment it was detailed to march to Cawnpore, 600 miles distant, with Col. Barker's column. Just as it was starting, orders arrived for Lieut. Oliver to proceed direct to Cawnpore on horseback, there being no Artillery officer with the small garrison that was holding that post. Soon after his arrival there he was placed in command of a hastily equipped 4 gun bullock battery, and joined General Windham's field force, taking part in the

severely contested actions at the Pandoo Nuddee (26th Nov.) and Cawnpore (17th and 28th Nov). At the subsequent investment of the Cawnpore entrenchment by the rebels he had charge of a very exposed 2 gun battery, and he took part in their final defeat on the 6th December.

On the 22nd December he rejoined the Field Battery, which had arrived from Calcutta, and marched with it to Futtehgrah, sharing in the fights at the Ralée Nuddee on the 3rd January, 1858, and General Walpole's affairs on the Ramgunza River. Returning to Cawnpore in February the company was attached to the siege train, and served all through the final siege and capture of Lucknow in March. Lieut. Oliver accompanied it through the subsequent hot weather campaign in Rohilkund, and was present at the actions of Bareilly, Thahjihawpore Bunnai Fort, and Mohumdee. The company was then ordered to Agra and Gwalion to join the Central India forces. Two marches short of Gwalion it was ordered back, and was subsequently sent to Allahabad, where it arrived with only 50 men out of the original strength of 150 fit for duty, and those 50 looking nearly worn out.

The rainy season of 1858 was spent at Allahabad, and the company marched in October to join a field force, and took part in the subsequent cold weather campaign which finally crushed out the mutiny, including the capture of the Fort of Rampoor Russeah, the passage of the Gogra at Fyzabad, and the affair of Muchleegaon.

In these campaigns the total distance marched was about 1,400 miles. For his services at Cawnpore Lieut. Oliver was (on being promoted Captain) recommended for a Brevet Majority by Generals Sir J. Dupuis and Sir C. Windham.

In 1859 he was appointed to the Horse Artillery and ordered to join "H" Battery at Secunderabad. He was, however, in the meantime invalided to England, and did not join it until its return there in 1861.

In 1862 he passed through a long course at Shoeburyness, and in October 1863 joined a Battery of Horse Artillery at Benares, to which he had exchanged.

In November, 1863, Lieut. Oliver and the two Lieut. Camerons were selected to join a mountain battery which was being raised at Meera Meer for the Umbeyla campaign. This was over before the Battery was ready and the latter was sent to Peshawur. On its being ordered to Bhotan in 1864 Lieut. Oliver rejoined it from the Hill station of Murree, and had charge of the European detachments for the journey down country. Subsequently served as captain with the Left Column in the Bhotan campaign, and commanded its Artillery at the capture of the forts of Dalimkote and Chamoorchie; mentioned in despatches; recommended for employment in Survey Department.

In January, 1865, he was invalided to England for jungle fever, caught in Bhotan, and joined the Staff College in September, having passed in second after an examination at a month's notice while at Murree.

In December, 1866, he left the Staff College, passing out second, and also passing the special examination for the Ordnance Survey.

In 1867-68 he commanded the Royal Artillery at St. Helena, and was for six months specially employed by the War Office as Acting Engineer for Fortification Surveys.

In 1869 he was nominated successively Superintendent of Artillery Records, Instructor of Topography at Sandhurst, Brigade-Major at Shoeburyness, and Brigade-Major R.A. at Aldershot. In the last-named capacity he served till promoted Major in February 1874, and was on the Army Corps Staff during the great manœuvres of 1871 and 1872.

Promoted Major in 1874 he fell to the command of a Field Battery in England, but was in 1876 detailed for several months for special temporary work at the Intelligence Department of the War Office.

The following year he was appointed a Professor at the Military College, Kingston. His service there is well known in Canada.

It is correct to address the Lords of the Admiralty collectively as "My Lords," but it would be equally appropriate to add, "I hope your Warships are getting along satisfactorily."—*Punch*.

The *Rousskii-Invalid* gives some more details as to several methods invented by Russian officers within the last few years for the purpose of enabling their men to cross rivers. One of these is by means of ration-bags. Captain Boulanov, of the 5th Battalion of Sappers, has taken the men of his company across a stream by means of a raft formed of such bags. Eight ration-bags filled with straw, tied with a piece of twine, and kept together by means of tent-pegs, form a raft, the whole being covered up with three camp tents tied together. On such a raft, which can be easily constructed in fifteen or twenty minutes, four men can safely cross over with their cloak, rifle, and cartridges. A single ration-bag stuffed with straw will enable a man who cannot swim to cross a stream by using the bag as a bladder or life-belt.

## The New "Red Book."—III.

(Volunteer Service Gazette.)

Quarter-Column is formed from column as formerly, except that when from the halt the Captains' words, "*Left (right) Dress*" are not given until their respective directing guides have taken up their covering in the new formation.

In opening to column from quarter-column the Colonel's command is, "*Column from the front Company; Remainder, right about turn, Quick march,*" or "*Column from the Rear Company; Remainder, Quick march.*" In opening from the front the Adjutant will no longer mark the rear of the column, or, in opening from the rear, the point in front of the leading company as formerly. Opening from the halt by the companies advancing or retiring in succession is as before, but the same movement is no longer to be done on the march.

The rules as to diminishing or increasing front on the march require no observations. All reference to double-columns has, of course, disappeared.

A battalion in column changes direction by the companies "forming" instead of "wheeling" in succession. There is no other alteration except that it would appear that when the rear companies have to move by fours into a new alignment, their markers no longer run out to give points for the directing guides.

The wheel of a battalion in quarter-column is executed on the same principles as formerly, the leading company still "wheeling"; but the description of the movement has been entirely re-written. There are some alterations in detail. The Adjutant will be on the reverse flank of the leading company, and will regulate the pace of the guide on that flank during the wheel. The nearer Major will superintend the dressing of the leading company from the inner flank, and the other Major will look to the covering of the guides on the wheeling flanks. "A quarter-column should practise wheeling as the base battalion of a brigade in line of quarter-column, changing front on a central, or back on a flank battalion, the base markers turning to the outer flank."

The countermarch is done away with, but its effect may be produced by the companies of a battalion in column or quarter-column changing ranks, after which the Colonel will give "*Left (or Right) Dress.*" We are rather surprised to see, too, that the direction for "changing the order" of column or quarter-column, by the companies passing through each other in fours deep, is retained.

When a column (or quarter-column) moves to a flank in fours, "a company should be ordered to direct." There is no change in the regulations for wheeling in quarter-column, when formed in fours, to a flank. But when it is required to close or open in such a formation, the Colonel merely gives the caution, "*Quarter-Column on No. —,*" or "*Column from No. —,*" without any word to wheel. The companies move into their respective places independently, the whole receiving the command, "*Battalion forward,*" from the Colonel, when the movement is completed.

In the oblique echelon movements, wheeling is of course discarded, and the new alignments are taken up exclusively by companies moving in fours—the alternative evolution of the old book. There are no other substantial changes in the echelon movements. It should be noticed, however, here and elsewhere, that there is now no word of command, "*Dress up.*" It is always "*Right (left) dress*" only.

A battalion prepares for cavalry in line as heretofore, except, of course, that the flank companies "form" instead of wheeling, and that bayonets or swords are fixed by direct word of command from the Colonel.

The description of forming battalion square two deep from line has been re-written so as to provide for the movement of the companies which are to form the side faces, in fours instead of by wheeling. Similar changes have been made in the rules for forming two deep square from column and quarter-column. Four deep squares are entirely abolished. With the directions for moving in square, in which there are no changes, the subject of battalion drill virtually comes to an end, through the sections on Spring and Skeleton drills, formerly appearing under the head of "Miscellaneous Subjects," are now brought under that of "Battalion Drill." Skirmishing and the attack are, in the case of the battalion as in that of the company, deferred to a later part of the book.

(To be continued.)

## Militia General Orders (No 3.) of 11th January, 1889.

## No. 1.—ACTIVE MILITIA.

19th Batt.—No. 6 Co.—Memo.—All that portion of No. 4 of General Orders (2) 4th January, 1889, containing appointments to, and otherwise affecting, "No. 6 Company, Virgil," is cancelled.

## Wellington and Napoleon.

Earl Stanhope, in his report of conversations with the Duke of Wellington, says: "I asked him whether he thought Napoleon wholly indebted to his genius for his pre-eminence, and whether all his marshals were really so very inferior to him?—'Oh, yes; there was nothing like him. He suited a French army so exactly! Depend upon it, at the head of a French Army, there was never anything like him. In short, I used to say of him that his presence on the field made the difference of 40,000 men. The French soldiers are more under control than ours. It was quite shocking what excesses ours committed when once let loose. I remember once at Badajos, when we stormed the town, entering a cellar and seeing some soldiers lying on the floor so dead drunk that the wine was actually flowing from their mouths! Yet others were coming in, not at all disgusted at seeing them, and going to do the same. Our soldiers could not resist wine. The French, too, could shift better for themselves, and always live on the country.'"

"Lady Salisbury asked which was the greatest military genius, Marlborough or Napoleon?—'Why, I don't know; it was very difficult to tell. I can hardly conceive anything greater than Napoleon at the head of an army—especially a French Army. Then he had one prodigious advantage—he had no responsibility—he could do whatever he pleased; and no man has ever lost more armies than he did. Now with me the loss of every man told. I could not risk so much; I knew that if I ever lost 500 men without the clearest necessity, I should be brought upon my knees to the bar of the House of Commons.'"

Lord Stanhope tells us that Daniel Webster told him that "he had been reading two or three odd volumes of the Duke of Wellington's despatches, and had been greatly struck at their total freedom from anything like pomp or ostentation, even in moments of the greatest triumph. The Waterloo despatch itself contained nothing about 'victory and glory.' So unpretending was it, said Mr. Webster, that Mr. Quincy Adams, who was our Minister in London at the time, and who had a good deal of bitter feeling against this country, with which peace had only just been concluded, declared on first reading the despatch that it came from a defeated general, and that in real truth the Duke's army must have been annihilated at Waterloo. This he seriously believed for some time."

"What a contrast," continued Mr. Webster, "to Napoleon's rhetorical bulletins! One day we read in them: 'We have thrown Blucher into the Bober!' And a few days afterwards one found that Blucher had somehow got out of this Bober and defeated Napoleon himself at Leipsic."

An account of the preparations made by Napoleon for the campaign of 1812 against Russia, is given by Major Liebert, of the German general staff, in the supplement to the *Militar Wochenblatt*. "The impression has more or less always existed that Napoleon entered upon this campaign without sufficient preparation, and that this in the first instance led to his defeat, and, secondly, also the want of discipline in his heterogeneous army caused by this insufficient preparation. This theory is, however, being dispelled the more the actual facts are brought to light. As regards Napoleon himself, the author says that one of the chief factors in his victorious wars was the thorough, systematic preparations that he gave to them, and his organizing talent, which enabled him to secure for himself a superiority of numbers. The principal share of the gigantic work of organization activity fell entirely to the Emperor, and his wonderful memory, his never-tiring power of working, and his investigation of all branches of administration, must astonish all who look closer into his undertakings.

It appears that Napoleon had actually brought into the field against Russia 608,000 men, 18,700 horses, and 1,372 guns. That was the result of the grand preparations which Napoleon had imposed on his own country and on his allies. During the whole of his military career he had not prepared any campaign in such a thorough manner as the Russian; neither before nor after had he been able to dispose of anything like those numbers. But even in the course of the present century we only see them surpassed in the year 1870-71. Napoleon seems to have greatly overrated his adversary, however, in expecting to meet him on an equal footing with himself and force him to a decisive battle; he could not arrive at this, and the wide field over which the enemy had to be pursued eventually caused his own break down. In conclusion, the author makes a suggestion for what might have been a correct manner of operating, which, as he says, is more in accordance with the modern German strategy of the years 1866 and 1870—viz., assembling of the too large army in divided groups, advance in a concentrated direction, trying to obtain partial success over the isolated groups of the enemy, and finally decision on one spot with united forces.

Daughter—Mamma, what is a man of war?

Mamma—It is a naval officer of course, you silly child.

## The Artillery School of the United States.

(Translation from the "Militar Wochenblatt," by Captain E. S. May, R. A.)

A few months ago the twentieth anniversary of its existence was celebrated by the Artillery School of the United States of America at Fort Monroe, in the State of Virginia.

This military college of the United States, which possess in addition to it, we may note in passing, an Infantry, Cavalry, and Engineer school as well, is properly intended for the technical and higher education in general of Artillery officers only, but somewhat trespasses nevertheless, as is the case with the German Artillery and Engineer School also, in its rather extended course of instruction, on the curriculum of the "War Academy." The "batteries of instruction," which are intended for the education of the Artillery, are in connection with it in the same way as is the case with our Service—i. e. Germany.

It is true that ever since 1824 a practical School of Gunnery has been in existence at Fort Monroe, which was intended for the instruction of such cadets of the Military Academy at West Point as had gained commissions in the Artillery on entering the Army; but what it affected in the way of imparting theoretical knowledge or even practical training was very slight indeed, chiefly because the school had repeatedly to be broken up owing to wars and disturbances amongst the Indians. It was not till after the War of Secession, when such mighty changes and improvements were brought about in the case of firearms generally and Artillery armament in particular as demanded a far greater knowledge and training from the officers of the Artillery, that the institution was reorganized on its present basis.

The staff of the Artillery School is as follows: The Director, who is styled "Commandant"; three staff officers, who instruct the several classes, and the regimental officers who are ordered there.

The batteries for educational purposes are furnished by the five regiments of Artillery, one from each, are sent there for an indefinite period, and are not often changed. Although the Artillery of the United States is divided into five regiments, the Field Artillery do not form separate regiments by themselves, but each regiment has a certain number of "mounted batteries," which remain an integral part of the "Artillery regiment" to which they belong. The officers commanding these batteries are made use of as instructors for subalterns, of whom two lieutenants and two sub lieutenants from each battery are detailed for a two years' course at the school. Officers from other corps are also allowed to go through the course on application. Since 1868, 287 officers have gained certificates.

The system of education is partly practical and partly theoretical, and is divided into four parts—namely, Engineering, Artillery, General Military Knowledge, Military Law.

The course commences on September 1 of each year with instruction in Engineering. This subject includes field and permanent fortification, bridging, the construction of railways, military plan drawing, and topography. Much importance is attached to instruction in field fortification, and the execution of field works and building of siege batteries are carried out practically with the aid of the gun detachments. In permanent fortification special stress is laid on the subject of coast defences, towards which attention in the United States is naturally particularly directed. Military sketching is also carried out practically in the field, the system adopted being that every officer under instruction is mounted and detailed to a particular district in the neighbourhood, of which he has to make a reconnaissance with reference to a given idea in a week, when he has to furnish a sketch of the ground and also a report dealing with "communications," "forage and supplies," and such like information.

The Artillery course, which is the one next entered on, includes ballistics, Artillery exercises, and general military science. Under the head of this latter subject we find military history, the method of construction and employment of *matériel*, and ammunition, while telegraphy, photography, and signalling are likewise taught and practised.

Ballistics are studied very closely and attentively. The detachments of the batteries already mentioned are told off for Artillery exercises into four classes, according to their various knowledge and acquirements, and officers are detailed to each. During these exercises not only is a certain specified course of drill carried out with field and siege guns, but there is a course too for guns used in flanking ditches, etc., and for those intended for coast defence. Finally, repository exercises, transporting, embarking, and mounting guns are also taught. In the months of July, August and September, gun practice on a large scale is entered on.

The first series, which lasts for ten days, includes practice with guns intended for coast defence at targets both at anchor and in movement. (Fort Monroe is situated on the coast.)

The natures of ordnance coming under this heading are the 10 inch and 15-inch guns, the 100-pounder of the Parrott system, and the 10-inch

and 14-inch mortars for coast defence, all of which are muzzle-loaders and unrifled.

A course of instruction is next entered on, which includes practice with field-pieces, revolving cannon, and the Infantry rifle, when the subjects of trajectories and dispersion of shrapnel are demonstrated, and the use of ballistic apparatus for determining the muzzle velocities, times of flight, and piercing powers of projectiles taught.

The weeks following are utilised in musketry instruction with the Springfield rifle, with which the Infantry, and latterly the Artillery also, are armed. (The German Foot Artillery are, in the same way, put through the Infantry course of musketry.)

On October 15 of the second year the course of instruction in the Artillery department is brought to a close, and the remainder of the year is occupied in the study of subjects of general military science, such as military geography, strategy, tactics, the duties of the general Staff, and military history. Finally, lectures are likewise given on law, which embrace civil, military and international law. Indeed, the Americans appear to attach great importance to this subject, since even at West Point instruction is given therein. In the month of June an examination takes place, which is conducted by a board of officers nominated for the purpose by the Commander-in-Chief, and after this is over the lieutenants are allowed to return to their regiments. The names of those who have especially distinguished themselves are notified to the Commander-in-Chief, together with a report stating for what nature of employment each officer is recommended, the object of the institution being not only to turn out capable gunners, but rather to give these officers such a grounding in general knowledge also as may qualify them for any situation in which the exigencies of a soldier's career may place them. The syllabus which has to be got through in the two years is a most formidable one, considering that the ordinary regimental duties with the batteries have likewise to be carried out without interruption.

The mode in which the course of study is sub-divided is quite original, since the various subjects are not taught concomitantly, as is usually the case, but are taken up for prolonged periods consecutively.

The text-books in use are either translations of well-known military authors, or more usually, the English standard works on the subject.

## Rivalry to the National Rifle Association.

(Volunteer Record.)

An attempt is being made to get up a rival to the National Rifle Association, on the ground that the Brookwood decision unmistakably proves that the interests and convenience of the Midland and North Country Volunteers are, simply, "Hecuba," to the governing body of the aforesaid N.R.A. It is proposed, therefore, in certain quarters, to utilise the Cannock Chase site for the purposes of a "Northern Rifle Association," and to leave the parent institution to the tender mercies of the Southern Volunteers, and of others whom it may concern. This attempt is to be regretted on the common ground that failure invariably awaits a house divided against itself. It would, we frankly admit, have been better, had the Council of the N.R.A. been able to see their way towards fixing their new local habitation in the direction from which a very large proportion of the interested competitors flock to their annual shooting carnival. There can be no doubt that the strong northern contingent of shooting men who, year by year, fight the bloodless battle of Wimbledon, is somewhat severely handicapped as regards both distance and expense; but even the most ardent Northerner will, on reflection, be the first to admit that, although London is not exactly England, it is somewhat difficult to realise a "National" movement with London left out. Besides, the facilities for rapid travelling are now such that time and space are practically annihilated, and the Scottish Volunteer who can compass, say Edinburgh to Brookwood, in about nine hours, cannot, reasonably, have much to growl about in this direction. It should be remembered too, that the attempt to bifurcate has been made before, and signally failed, as those guarantors will readily admit, who gave it not only their names, but also good slices of their ready money some years ago at Altcar, where the fiasco occurred. As before observed in these columns, we are not absolutely enamoured of Brookwood, and we go so far as to say that a better and a more comeatable site could have been got for the due and proper asking. At the same time, we hold that the choice having been made, it is the bounden duty of the Volunteers to loyally back up the Council in their endeavours to extract the greatest good possible from the new venture. The experiment will assuredly be a costly one, and the available reserve fund will, at the finish, have but little of that "bloated" character, which has so exercised the minds of a small section of the shooting men of the Force, who can see a good deal, but who apparently cannot see much, as the saying is, "before their noses." The prospects of the National Rifle Association, and of the National movement it is supposed to represent,

are not, at the present moment, quite so bright as might be desired, and the surest way to still farther dimming them, is to float an opposition which is foredoomed to failure, and which may do more to discourage rifle shooting "throughout the Queen's dominions," than is, or can be, generally supposed. For this reason, if for no other, we trust that a virtue will be made of necessity, and that a long and united pull will be made in the direction so urgently needed on the part of the home Army, whose proud boast and motto is, "Defence, not Defiance."

### Regimental Notes.

#### RIFLE SHOOTING ON NEW YEAR'S DAY.

Some time recently, says the *Lindsay Warder*, a rifle match between Lindsay and Fenelon Falls divisions of Victoria County Rifle Association, was arranged by Capt. Geo. S. Thompson and Capt. B. Wills, respectively. New Year's was selected as the day, Fenelon Falls the place, ten rounds per man, and ten or eleven men a side. The Lindsay contingent chartered a special train, and accompanied by an excursion party and Road Superintendent Harry Ferguson, went to Fenelon Falls on New Year's morning. The weather was much more favourable than could have been expected, and as a consequence the shooting was good. But what surprised the Lindsay division was the extraordinary marksmanship of the Fenelon Falls team. Only a few of them were accustomed to the Snider rifle, a circumstance which renders their wonderful shooting all the more remarkable. Further, they have had only a few practices, and had scarcely learned the pull of the trigger. The following were the scores out of a possible 50:—

*Lindsay*—Major Sam Hughes, 48; Capt. R. Sylvester, 44; I. H. Oliver, 44; Staff-Sergt. Williamson, 43; Sergt. Robinson, 41; Dougall Sinclair, 40; J. H. Sootheran, 40; Capt. E. H. Hopkins, 40; Capt. Geo. S. Thompson, 36; J. Mark, 36; J. Blackwell, 35. Total, 447.

*Fenelon Falls*—J. Tripp, 44; M. Marshall, 44; J. Palmer, 44; Findlay MacDougall, 44; J. A. Brandon, 44; Sam Swanton, 40; J. Austin, 39; Capt. Todd, 38; R. Marshall, 36; J. A. Ellis, 34; Hugh MacDougall, 29. Total, 436.

The majority for Lindsay was thus only 11 points.

Seldom has better shooting been made at 200 and 500 yards, and Victoria County may well congratulate herself on her riflemen. After the match the visitors were shown the sights, the falls, the mills, the paper manufactory, &c., and then were given a grand banquet at the McArthur house, specially prepared by "mine host," the genial Noble Ingram. After justice was done the viands, S. Swanton, reeve of the village and president of the Fenelon Falls division of Victoria County Rifle Association, took the chair, and Capt. Geo. S. Thompson the vice chair. After honouring the Queen, and many other loyal toasts, and listening to speeches from Messrs. Swanton, Thompson, Hughes, Todd, Brandon, McDougall, Marshall, Wills, Ferguson, Sylvester, Mark, and Hopkins, the meeting adjourned after singing "God Save the Queen" and "Auld Lang Syne."

There were upwards of sixty at the private banquet to the Lindsay club. Cheers and a "tiger" were given for Noble Ingram.

After the banquet the whole party, headed by Fenelon Falls brass band, marched to the station where the special train was waiting; and after cheers, songs, and music from the band, the train drew out, all joining in singing "Auld Lang Syne" and "The Girl I Left Behind Me."

On the homeward trip Capt. Sylvester was elected chairman, and on motion of Major Hughes, seconded by Mr. D. Sinclair, a resolution of thanks was passed to Capt. Geo. S. Thompson for energy and trouble in arranging and conducting the match. Similar resolutions were passed to Mr. Harold Clark, the scorer, and to Mr. May, the marker, as well as to the Fenelon Falls division of the rifle association for their extreme courtesy and kindness.

Messrs. McDougall and Brandon will be backed by *The Warder* against any other two members of one business firm in Ontario, with the rifle.

Findley MacDougall, J. Brandon and Jas. Marshall, drilled in the 45th battalion in 1874 and onward. Their hands have not lost their cunning yet. Fenelon Falls is determined to have a company of active militia. It now has none.

The military ball given by the officers of the 40th Batt. at the opera House in Cobourg on the evening of the 11th inst. was a perfect success in every particular, except, perhaps, in the manner in which the invitations to the other corps of their own and adjoining districts were responded to. It was expected that at least a representation from a majority of the invited corps would have attended, but in this Lieut.-Col. Rogers and his officers were greatly disappointed. For some years this regiment has endeavoured to promote good fellowship and the consequent benefits produced by social intercourse among comrades, and it is generally regretted that their endeavours have not been more successful.

The Charlottetown, P. E. I., *Examiner* thus speaks of a promotion recently gazetted: "Our numerous readers will have been pleased to notice by our Ottawa telegraphic news on Saturday evening, that Major F. S. Moore, of this city, has been promoted to the Colonelcy of the Prince Edward Island Garrison Artillery. We now desire to convey our congratulations to Colonel Moore on his promotion, and in doing so, we are pleased to know that the appointment is received by our military friends with very great satisfaction. The fact that the appointment was quite unexpected by the recipient adds, in no small degree, to the honourable distinction thus conferred upon him. Possessing five companies of Garrison Artillery, and being the "banner" Province of the Dominion in military matters, it was a graceful act on the part of the general government to give us a Colonel of Artillery, and we are sure our military men will be pleased to see that their work is thus appreciated at Ottawa. We have more than once made the statement that we owe our present efficient military standing to the zeal and energy of such officers as Colonel Moore; and we again tender Colonel Irving, who stands at the head of the department in this Province, as the right man in the right place, our congratulations in having such an efficient officer more closely united with him on his staff."

### Gleanings.

The Chinese Army is stated to be improving in many respects. Target practice takes place in July and August, when 100 cartridges are expended by each man. Bad shots are punished, and at the autumnal inspection of the General commanding, the best marksmen are rewarded with square silver medals; but as the General's dog is permitted to wear the same adornment, the distinction is not overflattering. The soldiers are well paid. The officers are represented as wholly uneducated and dependent for promotion on the caprice of some magnate, for whom they are ready to perform the most menial offices. They undergo an examination prior to appointment, which, however, consists chiefly in fencing (with one sword or two), wrestling, etc. They spend their leisure on the divan, dicing, chattering or picking the guitar. Most of them are addicted to smoking opium, though the practice is forbidden. Drunkenness is also common. The non-commissioned officers are trained in a school at Kirin; but they are not better paid than the privates, their sole privilege being to adorn their hats with a brass button; but the entire pack of menials belonging to a General's establishment assume the distinction as a matter of course, wherefore it cannot be held in high estimation.

The steel-casting works of Krupp cover an area of about 1,000 acres of land, in which 11,211 men are employed in the production of steel, and also in the manufacture of countless different articles, such as axles, wheels, etc., for locomotives and railroad carriages; rails, switches, and sleepers; bridge material and rolls; all requisite steel and iron for the building of ships of all sizes, for war and commercial purposes; cannons of every calibre—the production of them having already exceeded 20,000—and last, gun-carriages, artillery wagons, and shots. The gross production of iron and steel averages 260,000 tons per annum. For accommodation of traffic and shipping in the establishment are used twenty-eight locomotives with 883 freight carriages. About forty-five miles of narrow and broad gauge railroad line is laid through the establishment. One chemical laboratory, one photographic and lithographic studio, one printing office and a book-binding establishment, are at work for the sole use of the firm. Telegraph and telephone communication goes all over the factory and an engine company with sixty-eight firemen and thirty-eight fire alarms is also there for the benefit of the establishment.

Recent tests in England of the new Swedish explosive, Bellite, would seem to sustain the claim that it excels dynamite in explosive force, while diffusing its energy over a wider surface, generating its gas more slowly. To show its security, half a ton weight of iron was dropped 20 ft. on to a packet of cartridges, resting on a thick iron slab, without producing explosion, while beyond causing breakage, the ignition of 1 lb. of gunpowder inside a paper parcel containing naked cartridges proved similarly harmless. Nor was the fire experiment less successful, a lump of Bellite thrown on cinders blown to a white heat merely melting or fusing away with scarcely appreciable ignition. It is carried as ordinary merchandise in Switzerland. Bellite is a compound of nitrate of ammonium with di or tri-nitro-benzole, in the proportions of about five of the former to one of the latter.

Says the U. S. *Army and Navy Journal*:—"The Board appointed some years ago to report upon magazine guns are no doubt gratified to find that their judgment as to the best system has been approved by the English Small Arms Committee and by the British Secretary of State, who declares that in the Lee the British soldier will have the best rifle

in the world; better than the French Lebel, the Austrian Mannlicher, the German, the Mauser. Had the judgment of our Board been approved we should have led instead of following in the adoption of the best gun—following how far behind it is impossible to say. America invents arms, Europe adopts them, and when we follow at the tail of the procession it is with the humble idea that we have been very enterprising in waiting for her approval before accepting what has all along been ready at our hand in the workshops of American inventors."

Maxim has received \$850,000 for his last production, the quick-firing gun, in England. The first Maxim essay, the small one-barrelled mitrailleur, has not been a success except in theory, the tremendous discharge of 1,000 shots per minute soon being too much for any single bore, however excellent of design or material. Maxim may be fairly accounted a prospective millionaire, having previously to his ordnance inventions received some \$100,000 in the United States for his electric lighting patents. He is still a young man, and resides at Thurlow Lodge, about twenty miles from London, which he has purchased. The old mansion, surrounded by very fine grounds, is one of the historical English houses, having been the property and home of Lord Thurlow, the great English Chancellor.

The Prussian soldier with the new equipment carried 100 rounds on his person in place of 80 as formerly. At present the greater part of the German infantry have the battalion ammunition wagons drawn by six horses which contain 19,200 rounds, or about 20 per man. In addition to this, each company baggage wagon contains 2,880 cartridges, so that altogether the soldier has with him: On his person, 100 rounds; Battalion ammunition wagon 20 rounds; Company baggage wagon 12 rounds; Total 132 rounds. The four ammunition columns have each 24 wagons, similar to the battalion ammunition wagons, and carry under the latest regulations 65 rounds per man; making a total for each infantry soldier present in an army corps 198 cartridges. The above supplies will be considerably augmented when the new small-bore rifles are introduced.

Much has been recently said as to the destructive effects of high-angle fire, and a proposal has been made to the British Admiralty by Admiral Jasper Selwyns in regard to the best way of dealing with the rebels at Suakim. He advises that instead of attacking these Arabs—sheltered by the bush and rifle pits—which would probably cost valuable lives in driving them out from a position to which they would soon return, to concentrate the fire of the machine guns of the ships, at a high angle, and thus drop the projectiles upon them. Such a fire would doubtless prove even more destructive than the high-angle fire of the Turks which killed so many Russians at Plevna, and would probably give the rebels a wholesome lesson.

The "naval news" read by our forefathers was sometimes of a grimly humorous character. Here is a note from the *Sun* of 8th January, 1798. "An admiral on the Jamaica station, in consequence of the decision of a court-martial upon a captain of a sloop of war, which was that of death, ordered him to be hung up at the yard arm, which sentence was accordingly executed; and, by the admiral's direction, the captain was dressed in his full uniform. We forbear to mention further particulars, as the friends and relatives ought ever to be considered in such unpleasant cases."

A certain number of fortified towns and war citadels in the north of France are to be dismantled of their defences, or razed to the ground, in the course of this year. In the lists marked for demolition are to be found the names of places more than once identified with many interesting events in military annals, such as Aire, 1711 and 1814; Cambrai and its citadel, 1339, 1529, 1794 and 1814; Bouchain, 1711; Douai, 1710-11-12, and lastly, Landrecies, which, after many actions of note in its vicinity, was surrendered to the Duke of York on the 30th April, 1794.

The last census taken of the population of Algeria, in 1886, shows that the colony contains a larger proportion of other European settlers than the French, although nearly half a century has elapsed since the forcible occupation of the country by the latter people. Including the numerous Army, and a multitude of naturalized Jews, there are in all some 280,000 so-called Frenchman, whilst the Spaniards, Portuguese, Maltese and Italian communities reckon to 214,000. There are 3,300,000 natives and Arabs to complete the census.

The Municipal Council of Paris has voted the sum of 10,500 frs, (£460) for distribution in amounts ranging from £12 to £20, amongst the fourteen societies of "Tir et Gymnastique" belonging to the city. A gross sum of £240 out of the grant was given to the Central Society of All France.

The *Kreuz Zeitung*, commenting upon the project of forming a German colonial force, suggests the advisability of raising a strong corps of negro soldiers under the command of German officers. Their military education, recommends the journal, should be completed in the fatherland, and the men sent abroad fully drilled; but, strong objections are urged against the tuition of the sable mercenaries in the noble German language, for, urges the same paper, they might be mistaken by swarthy congeners to be "real natives" from the banks—or beds—of the Rhine and spree.

Conformably with the military laws of 1885, the registry is being made of carrier pigeons owned in the department of the Seine. Over 16,000 birds of this breed are on the Paris list alone, and one fancier is credited with the possession of about 150 thoroughly-trained homers.

The sword worn and most prized by General Sheridan was purchased by him of a brother officer for the small sum of \$3 at the beginning of the war. Thereon was engraved the record of his victories.

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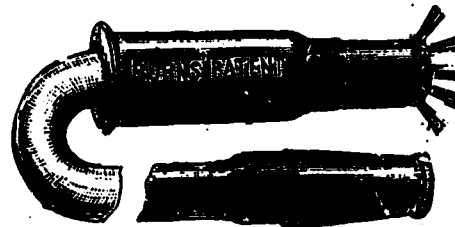
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Post Office Department, Ottawa.  
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## ONTARIO Artillery Association

THE FOURTH ANNUAL MEETING OF the Ontario Artillery Association for consideration of Annual Reports and transaction of General Business will be held at the ROSSIN HOUSE, at TORONTO, on TUESDAY, the 5th day of FEBRUARY, 1889, at 11 o'clock a.m.

**L. HOMFRAY IRVING,**  
Secretary.

Toronto, 15th December, 1888.

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### PROPOSED ALTERATIONS IN CONSTITUTION.

In conformity with Section 8 of the Constitution of the Ontario Artillery Association, notice to members thereof is hereby given that I am in receipt of a notice of motion, that it is intended to propose the following changes in the Constitution at the General Meeting to be held at Toronto on the 5th February, 1889.

"That all the words in Section 5 from 'and shall be entitled' to the end of the section be omitted, and that 'the affiliation fees of batteries must be paid on or before the 1st June of each year, to entitle to participation in any prizes offered by the Association,' be added in lieu thereof."

"That all the words in Section 5 from 'and shall be entitled' to the end of the Section be omitted, and that 'the affiliation fees of Batteries must be paid on or before the 1st June of each year, to entitle participation in any prize offered by the Association' be added in lieu thereof."

"That the last clause of Section 9 be amended so as to read 'The President, Secretary and Treasurer shall be ex officio members of the Committee.'"

And "That Section 25 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.'"

**L. HOMFRAY IRVING,**  
Secretary.

Toronto, 10th January, 1889.

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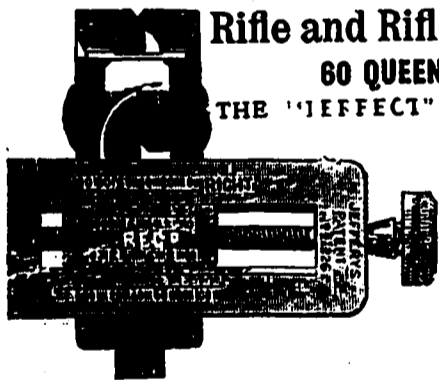
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- |  |            |      |  |       |     |
|--|------------|------|--|-------|-----|
| 1. Best Quality Leather Shooting Case, to hold Cartridges, and all accessories required on the range | \$6.20     | 36c. | 14. White Pencil for marking lines on Bar          | \$0.6 | 4c. |
| 2. Japanned Tin Shooting Case  | 2.55       | 36   | 15. Bottle of White Paint                          | 25    | 8   |
| 3. Waterproof Rifle Bag  | \$1.10 and | 1.85 | 16. Pair of Orthoptics                             | 1.50  | 12  |
| 4. Back Sight Cover  | 25c.       | 35   | 17. Jeffery's Patent Barrel Reflector              | 61    | 8   |
| 5. Front Sight Protector (plated)  | 17c. and   | 50   | 18. Jeffery's Improved Sight Definer               | 61    | 8   |
| 6. Pull-through Pocket Barrel Cleaner, in Pouch  | 70         | 12   | 19. Jeffery's Patent Sight Elevator and Wind Gauge | 2.15  | 25  |
| 7. Bristle Brush to sciew on Ramrod  | 25         | 4    | 20. A pair of Jeffery's "Imperial" Binoculars      | 8.53  | 24  |
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| 10. Jag  | 18         | 4    |  |       |     |
| 11. Burns' Patent Barrel Cooler  | 36         | 4    |  |       |     |
| 12. Box of Sight Paints  | 32         | 8    |  |       |     |
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