

# THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE

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## GENERAL HERBERT'S REPORT.

The following is a continuation of Major-General Herbert's first annual report upon the condition of the Militia, the first of which appeared in last issue :—

I submit the outlines of a scheme for the issue of allowances, the effect of which would be to place Officers in a somewhat better position pecuniarily than they occupy at present, while the country would derive a distinct benefit.

1st. An "allowance for recruiting" to be given to captains of companies in lieu of that for drill instruction. One of the most important duties of a captain is that of "recruiter" for his company. His special remuneration for that would ensure its proper performance, and prevent the irregularities in connection therewith, which are now of too frequent occurrence.

2nd. A "contingent allowance" to captains to meet certain expenses in connection with their companies, which are now unprovided for. This allowance should gradually replace the "care of arms" allowance. The arms should be drawn by degrees into regimental stores, and placed under the charge of a permanently paid Adjutant and non-commissioned officers, who would form the permanent staff of the Regiment. This introduction of the regimental system would largely reduce the heavy expenditure now involved by a very insufficient system of inspection, and would lead in the long run both to efficiency and economy.

3rd. Allowances to commanding officers should be in the nature of contingent allowance, to meet, as in the case of captains, the expenses for which no provision is made at present. The principal of contingent allowances is one which has been thoroughly tried in the Militia of the United Kingdom.

## ARMS, EQUIPMENT AND CLOTHING.

The Snider rifle and carbine, with which the Militia is armed, is at the best an obsolete weapon, but in the condition in which it exists, in most of the regiments of the Active Militia, it has no claim whatever to be classed as an arm of precision. A large number are of the

earliest mark of converted Enfield rifles. Their sights and rifling are completely worn out, and it is no exaggeration to say that in many cases a smooth bore musket would be a more accurate weapon. For upwards of 20 years they have had the roughest possible usage. A considerable number of Martini-Henry rifles are in store, and it would appear desirable that these should be issued to the permanent corps, and be gradually introduced throughout the Militia. The change must necessarily be gradual, since the issue of good arms is useless, without adequate provision for their care. Under the system at present prevailing, it is idle to expect that rifles issued to the Rural Militia, can be kept in good order. Even in cities, where good public armouries and paid Government caretakers exist, the condition of the arms is in many cases far from satisfactory, since the caretakers are under no control. The only system under which proper care can be insured, is that now existing in the Militia of the United Kingdom, where the caretakers are part of the permanent paid staff of the militia regiment, and are amenable to military discipline. The commanding officer can then be held responsible for the Government property entrusted to his charge.

The equipment in use in the Active Militia is also obsolete in pattern, and a large proportion perished from age and severe usage. There is not a Battalion that could turn out in complete marching order on a given day, though many have, at their own expense, provided some of the most necessary articles. Moreover, the equipment does not exist in store, which it would be necessary to issue in the event of grave emergency. I have not inspected a single Battalion in which the men's boots would have stood one month's active service, or a Regiment of Cavalry, or Battery of Artillery, in which the saddlery and harness could be expected to bear a similar strain.

In the matter of artillery material, the Militia is very deficient. The eighteen Field Batteries are armed with guns which are still good, but there is no reserve of guns, nor is there a spare gun wheel to be had nearer than Woolwich. Of heavy guns the Dominion does not possess a single modern specimen. Of

the armament handed over by the Imperial Government, a large portion could not be mounted, and a part could not be fired. Those at Victoria, B.C., loaned by the Imperial Government, are not at present fit for service. There is no sufficient reserve of ammunition.

The clothing is fairly good in quality, but the system of issue is open to very great objection. It is complicated, expensive and satisfies nobody. I am of opinion that economy and efficiency would be better served were annual allowances in money granted to city corps, to enable them to supply their own clothing, the responsibility for the strict inspection of such clothing and of clothing accounts being fixed on the inspecting officers. In the case of rural corps, the complete issue of clothing should be made to coincide with the term of the men's service, viz., three years.

It cannot strictly be said that any system exists for the issue of equipment and clothing. At present many corps are left unprovided with the issue to which they are entitled, while others get more than their share.

## BARRACKS.

The barracks, occupied by the permanent corps, at Quebec, St. John's, Toronto and London, are in fair condition, while those at Fredericton are in want of considerable repairs and structural alterations, to adapt them to modern requirements. The Tête de Pont Barracks at Kingston, owing to their site, are extremely unhealthy, typhoid fever and diphtheria being of frequent occurrence there. The question of their removal is one that urgently demands consideration, and there is every reason to believe that the value of the site they occupy would fully cover the necessary expense for new barracks. The barracks at Fort Osborne, Winnipeg, were reported by me after my inspection in February, 1891, in the following terms: "Wholly unfit for occupation by any troops in the climatic conditions which exist at Winnipeg. Moreover the first principles of sanitation seem to be wholly neglected."

A Hospital was erected there this year. It possesses structural defects which might probably have been avoided by the adoption of a more simple design.

The immense importance of Winnipeg from a strategical point of view, and the necessity of maintaining the military establishment there in a high state of efficiency, renders the construction of new barracks at that station most urgent.

#### FORTIFICATIONS.

Numerous defensive works were handed over by the Imperial Government 22 years ago. In many cases they have fallen into a very dilapidated condition. The question as to how far they should be adapted to modern requirements, supplemented by new works, or to what extent they have ceased to be of value for national defence, appears to me to form part of the problem to which I have alluded under the head of "Defence."

#### STAFF.

The existence of an energetic and capable staff is indispensable to secure the efficiency of any military organization, whether it consists of regular or militia troops. Officers should therefore be selected, for staff appointments, on account of their technical qualifications, and invested with a measure of responsibility equivalent to their position.

The Headquarter Staff should be the brain of the military body, whose members it is presumed to direct. It should therefore be in close touch with these members. When this ceases to be the case, it must fail in its duties as the chief executive, and degenerate into a mere bureau for the transmission of correspondence. I am thoroughly convinced that, if the country is to receive an adequate return for its militia expenditure, a reorganization of the staff is necessary. The first step in that reorganization should be the more strict definition of the duties and responsibilities of the Major General Commanding the Militia, on the principle contained in Her Majesty's Order-in-Council, appended to the Queen's Regulations for the Army. This should be followed by the distribution of the staff, in such manner as to ensure the proper performance of the duties and the maintenance of an efficient chain of responsibility.

#### PENSIONS.

The necessity has been frequently urged of providing pensions for Officers serving on the permanent staff and in permanent corps of Militia, and for non-commissioned officers and men of the permanent corps.

Last year a bill was drafted with this object. It is eminently desirable that some inducement should be given to the rank and file of the permanent corps to prolong their service, in order to remove the disadvantages under which the service labours at present of an excessive number of recruits. The desired result might, however, be attained by offering annually a certain number of appointments under the Government to men of good character, who have served in the permanent

corps. Another means, for providing paid employment for deserving non-commissioned officers and men, could be found in the formation of permanent regimental staffs for the Active Militia, to combine instructional duties with those now devolving upon civilian caretakers, but frequently neglected by them. The country would thereby derive a double benefit, from the expense entailed by the training of these non-commissioned officers and men, with a minimum increase of expenditure. The establishing of retiring pensions for officers, presents greater difficulties to overcome, than that for non-commissioned officers and men. It is a question the conditions of which, in my opinion, should not be apprehended without, at the same time, dealing with the cognate questions of appointment and promotion. Failing this, there will never be any guarantee for the maintenance of efficiency. Persons may be given appointments without any sufficient qualification, they may similarly be promoted to the grades entitling them to the higher rates of pension, and finally become a permanent charge on the country, to which they have not given sufficient service. Appointments on the permanent staff of the Militia are already, in some degree, regarded in the light of pecuniary rewards for past services, rather than as offices involving duties for which energy, activity and technical knowledge are essential requisites.

It can, therefore, be readily understood that an ill-considered pension scheme might merely prove an aggravation of this evil. At the same time it would appear necessary, in order to secure and retain the services of officers possessing the required qualifications, that such provision for their future should be made as would place their professional prospects at least on a level with those of the civil servants of the Government.

#### DEFENCE.

So far I have dealt only with the actual condition of the force, to which the country must look for protection, in the event of national emergency. The larger question of the defence of the Dominion, in which the Militia is but a unit, remains to be discussed. I have submitted proposals during the past year for the appointment of a Committee of Militia Officers to collaborate with me in the preparation of a scheme bearing upon this question. Those proposals have met with the approval of the Government, and I look forward, as soon as some departmental details have been settled, to the commencement of this important work. The problem involves the consideration of the measures to be adopted, not only for the protection of a very extensive land frontier, but for that also of certain points on the Pacific coast, which have recently acquired a more than

ordinary importance to the commercial prosperity of the Dominion.

Other matters, intimately connected with the question of defence, appear to me to demand enquiry by a higher body.

In the year 1862 a Royal Commission enquired into the measures to be taken for the defence of Canada. The outcome of its report, presented in that year, and of certain political events occurring about that time, was the embodiment, in the Militia Act, of a form of organization based upon the requirements and resources of the North American Colonies as then existing.

The immense progress, which has raised the Dominion of Canada to its present position, has entirely altered the social, political and strategical conditions which then existed and formed the basis of calculation.

That the Militia Act has not fulfilled the expectations formed 25 years ago, is sufficiently evident to anyone who carefully examines the present condition of the force, and compares that condition with the objects held in view by the Commission to which I have referred. This is due to many causes, not the least of which is indicated by the fact that many important sections of the Act have remained wholly in abeyance. They never could and never can be practically applied, and their existence is calculated to give a delusive character to the power of defence possessed by the Dominion.

The time seems to have arrived when a fresh enquiry should be made into the working of the Militia Act, in order to ascertain how far it has provided an organization capable of adapting itself to ever-changing conditions and increasing responsibilities. Such an enquiry would furnish a fresh starting point and firm ground, for those who are called upon to guide the policy of the Dominion on the question of the defence of its territory.

#### POLICE DUTIES OF THE MILITIA.

During the past year the Militia has been called upon to assist the civil power, in the protection of property in the City of Hull, on the occasion of a strike in the lumber trade.

On the requisition of the Mayor of Hull, two Companies, Governor-General's Foot Guards, and two Companies, 43rd Battalion, were called out on the 16th September. 134 of all ranks were on duty under arms on the 16th, and 34 of all ranks on the 17th September. The total claim for the pay and subsistence of this detachment amounted to \$236.04. At the date of this report no payment, on that account, has been made by the Corporation of Hull. After much correspondence, the amount due for pay, *v.z.*, \$142.04, has been generously advanced by His Worship the Mayor, as I am informed, from his private purse.

The responsibility for payment in such cases is fixed upon municipalities, by

Section 34, Militia Act, but it appears desirable that the responsibility for recovery, now laid by that section on the Commanding Officer of the troops called out, should be assumed by the Government.

This incident has likewise illustrated the necessity for the legislature to consider and determine the position that shall be occupied by civil servants in respect to Militia service. The Companies employed at Hull included in their ranks numerous employes of the Government departments at Ottawa. These gentlemen have been placed in a most painful dilemma. Had they failed to obey the order summoning them to Militia duty they would have been liable to heavy penalties under the Militia Act. Having sacrificed personal comfort to fulfil their Militia duty, they have been deprived, under the Civil Service Act, of their salaries for the days they were absent on that duty. It is not necessary for me to enlarge upon the evident injury that such an anomaly must cause to the Militia.

I feel bound to add that, undeterred by pecuniary loss, these gentlemen all maintained the reputation of the Canadian Militia, by their prompt response to the call of duty, and by the admirable manner in which that duty was performed.

#### CONCLUSION.

In conclusion it only remains for me to add that I have in this report directed the criticism, it is my duty to make, chiefly upon organization. It is a common error to confuse drill with organization, and to suppose that because a certain number of men, each year, are given twelve days' elementary instruction in military exercise, therefore a military organization exists. There can be no greater or more fatal misapprehension. The men thus drilled are but the elements, from which a defensive military force may be created. In the event of national emergency, these elements must be rapidly brought together and given the cohesion which is indispensable for success in military operations. Every officer and man must know the place he is required to take, and to feel confident that at least arms and ammunition (not to enter into further details) can be readily placed in his hand, to enable him to defend his country. A chain of responsibility, maintained by competent staff officers, must exist, in order that the motive power, of one controlling will, shall reach all ranks. This can only be accomplished by organization and a sound administrative system. These are factors as necessary to the efficiency of a Militia force, as they are to the success of any commercial or industrial undertaking.

Powerful in physique, intelligent and eager to learn, the Militia at present contains the unorganized elements of a strong national force. Moreover, in the

men of the Rural Militia, there exists that capacity for adapting themselves to circumstances, and "handiness," engendered by practical acquaintance with camp life, in their ordinary avocations, which is a most valuable quality for a soldier in the field. What is required is system and organization in every department.

I attach to this report the annual reports of the Inspectors of Artillery and Engineers, that of the Commandant of the Royal Military College, and those of the Officers Commanding Military Districts Nos. 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12, which I recommend to your consideration.

IVOR HERBERT,  
Major-General,  
Commanding Canadian Militia.

#### THE ENGINEERS.

The following is the annual report upon the condition of the Engineer corps made by Inspector Mayne:—

From what I have seen and from the information I have gathered concerning the Engineer arm of the militia is of but little practical value.

The changes I would suggest are as follows:

1. The present companies of 43 officers and men are far too small to be of much use. They should be at least double their present size (*i.e.* from 80 to 90 men, and officered by a major, a captain and four subalterns) to ensure any adequate training as Engineers. It is impossible to execute any really practical work of any size with a few men only.

2. It is very important that all the Engineer companies should be assembled together in camp every year. Were this carried out, as well as doubling the size of the companies, then each year there would be four companies (two from Montreal, one from Charlottetown, and one from Brighton under present arrangements), amounting to about 300 men in camp together, and with such a body of men really practical works of various kinds could be undertaken, and the officers and men become as fully instructed as is possible. Engineers cannot be properly trained until they fully appreciate the difficulties of full-sized works. The playing at field engineering in model sheds, useful and even essential in its proper place, is of no real value for giving any idea of the labour and time involved in the construction of full-sized works.

Both the Montreal and Charlottetown Engineers (*i.e.* the city companies) are in great want of convenient grounds to work on and dig in. And as city men are not willing as a rule to dig after their day's work, and it is not convenient to dig in the evening when it is dusk or dark, the only solution is to take such Engineer companies into camp every year. If this is not done then there can be no real use

in keeping up such companies. Both the city companies have expressed their willingness to go into camp, if such a camp can be held late in August.

Another important reason for the assembling of all the Engineer companies into one camp is that it is the only way in which a fair comparison can be made between the various companies in the annual competition for the Gzowski prize. At present the different companies compete under widely differing circumstances and conditions. The conditions and surroundings of the Montreal Engineer company are so unfavourable as to have nearly always prevented it from taking part in this competition. The Gzowski Engineer competition is an admirable institution, or would be so under favourable conditions; but at present it is rendered ineffectual by the defects of the present organization and working system of the Canadian Militia Engineers.

3. It is very important that each of the Engineer companies should be sufficiently provided with the entrenching tools and other engineering stores necessary for their ordinary training as Engineers. The Montreal and Brighton companies have practically no stores. The Charlottetown company is the only one which is fairly well provided with engineer equipment. The Brighton Engineers provide *their own* tools, saws, axes, hammers, etc., when they go into camp. Ten years ago this Brighton company received 24 shovels, 24 picks, 6 axes, and 6 gabion knives from the N.B. Engineers, when the latter were converted into rifles. But these tools were not new when handed over, and are now old and useless. It is impossible for men to be trained as military engineers without the necessary tools and materials for the purpose:—for the skilful employment of these is their very *raison d'être*. In fact, the only *raison d'être* of an Engineer company is that it shall consist of men trained to execute skilfully, rapidly, and intelligently such military engineering works as may be required in the field; otherwise it is a sham. Engineers cannot be extemporized.

4. There should be an adequate supply of proper text books for each company. I would suggest that a copy of the "Manual of Elementary Field Engineering" be provided by Government for every two men in each company.

5. Assuming that the companies are collected yearly together in camp, in July or August, then one or more Royal Engineer officers and non-commissioned officers should be sent from the Royal Military College to superintend and direct the practical engineering instruction carried out while in camp. These officers would not have anything to do with the ordinary discipline of the camp.

In accordance with the reasons given in the correspondence on the subject, the

men of the Engineer companies are no longer being sent to the Royal Military College for instruction. But to make up for this, it was also proposed to send a qualified instructor annually to each company to instruct the men locally in conjunction with such of their officers as had taken the military engineering course at the Royal Military College. This part of the recommendations referred to—in fact the most essential part—has not been carried out at all this year. Without some such annual provision of qualified and trained Instructors, the military engineering training of the companies will never be of any real value.

6. To enable the two city companies to practise the elementary parts of field engineering works during the year, and thus to save much valuable time when in camp, it is very desirable that they should be given annually a small sum for the purchase of brush wood and other such expendable material. Probably \$20 a year to each of the two city companies would be sufficient for this purpose.

7. I would again emphasize the fact that Engineers cannot be extemporized. If they are to be efficient as Engineers they must be trained as such, and as the training is special, they should, in my opinion, go into camp for at least 14 days every year, exclusive of the days of coming and going, and receive sufficient pay to induce them to go into camp for this length of time. To sum up, I consider that the following steps should be taken to place the Engineer companies on an efficient footing.

1. An increase in the size of the companies.
2. The formation of annual Engin'r camps.
3. The provision to each company of the necessary engineering equipment and stores for instruction.
4. The provision of an adequate number of proper text books to each company.
5. The provision of qualified and trained Instructors at the annual camps.
6. A small money grant given annually to the city companies for the purchase of material.
7. An increased period of training in camp.

Until some such steps are taken the companies can never hope to be "Engineer" companies in reality, though they may be so in name.

Another point to which I desire to draw attention, is the question of promotion among the Militia Engineer Officers. Lieut. Tompkins, of the Brighton Engineers, has been a subaltern for nearly 20 years, and in consequence of this Major Vince, who commands the company and who has been a major for 17 years, has seriously contemplated the step of leaving the Brighton Engineers in order to allow of Lieut. Tompkins being promoted. It would be a most serious loss to the engineer arm to thus lose such a valuable trained and energetic officer as Major Vince.

(To be continued.)

## THE NEW INFANTRY DRILL BOOK.

(Continued.—From Volunteer Service Gazette.)

The regulations for mounted officers taking up distance, giving points, and for markers when ordered to move out, are nearly the same as in the book of 1889. The directions, however, as to mounted officers drawing swords is omitted, because no officers of infantry are ever now to draw swords except when the men have their bayonets fixed or on occasions of ceremony.

"In deployments, the guide nearest the point of formation will dress the men of his company into the general alignment and then resume his position in the supernumerary rank, unless he is the left guide of a directing company, when he will take post on the left of the front rank of his company." It would, perhaps, be clearer to say, "unless he is the left guide of the company which becomes the directing company in line." We regret to see, by the way, that a more exhaustive definition of the "point of formation" is not given. It is simply defined to be "the point on which a formation is based," and we are told that "base points and markers will invariably turn towards the point of formation." But we are never told in the present book directly, nor so far as we can see indirectly, what is to be considered as the "point of formation" in the case of a deployment to both flanks, or of a change of front of a line on any point except one of its extremities. The regulations for points "at ceremonials or when specially ordered," are as follows:

In deployment to a flank, base points will be aligned by the mounted officer, whose place in line is in rear of the flank of formation, the other mounted officer will give a point where the outer flank of the battalion will rest.

In a deployment outwards the base points will be aligned by the battalion commander, assisted by the Sergeant-Major, the Major marking the right, the Adjutant the left flank point, of the battalion.

Each company as it approaches the alignment will furnish an outer marker, who will cover on the base points.

The markers will move out, when required, on the battalion caution by the Commanding Officer.

On the completion of the formation, points and markers will resume their places on the word *Steady* from the officer at the point of formation.

Base points and markers will invariably turn towards the point of formation.

To ensure the alignment being kept clear, companies will be halted in rear of it.

As regards the "degrees of march" the slow step is nominally given up altogether, though we presume that it is still intended to be used on two occasions of ceremonial—viz., by the

band at the "trooping of colours," and at funeral processions while the funeral march is being played. The double march is to be used regularly unless otherwise ordered during the interior formation of a battalion.

Under the head "Front," we are told, as in the old book, that "all interior movements of the battalion are to be made with reference to the front." Turning back to the "definitions," we find the word "front" explained in three different ways—viz., first, as "the direction of the enemy, real or supposed"; secondly, as "the direction which soldiers face when occupying the same relative position as when they first fall in"; and, thirdly, "the extent of ground covered laterally by troops." Here, the word is used, we imagine, in its second signification. The other observations about the front, contained in the old book, have now disappeared.

The rules for battalion firing are unchanged, except that the direction that when a battalion is firing with both ranks, the officers, supernumeraries and colour party will also kneel has disappeared.

A battalion when dispersed, re-assembles by companies as described in company drill. When the companies have all fallen in, they may be moved into any position by the commanding officer.

"Closing" to correct intervals is made very short work of. All we are told is, "After forming into line any intervals will be corrected." The "centre of the battalion should remain unmoved."

The directing flank is always to be named; and, when necessary, the Commanding officer's words are to be repeated, not only as heretofore by the mounted officers, but "by as many leaders as are necessary to ensure the transmission of the order." This concludes the "General Rules" for battalion drill, and we now come to the details of the movements themselves.

The first is advancing in line. As heretofore, the dressing will be "centre sergeant" if there is a colour party, or by the left guide of the right centre company if there is no colour party. All the other companies will move by their own centres. The line of direction is selected and supervised by the Adjutant, without, as previously, the assistance of the Sergeant-Major. The words of command are, THE LINE WILL ADVANCE—*Steady* (from the Adjutant, when the line of direction is determined). BY THE CENTRE, QUICK-MARCH. The directions for a battalion in line to retire are unaltered, except that only the Adjutant and not the Sergeant-Major passes to the front to superintend the direction, and that the right guides no longer fall to the rear. The words of command are: THE LINE WILL ADVANCE. *Steady*. ABOUT-TURN. BY THE CENTRE. QUICK-MARCH. BATTALION. HALT. FRONT. The paragraph on retiring is rather carelessly

written, for the words, which are obviously intended to apply to the left guide only, read as if they applied to the colour party.

"Charging in line," and "dressing in line," have disappeared, and the next subject is that on passing obstacles, etc. Here the principles laid down in Company drill are to be applied by each Captain or commander of larger bodies. The whole battalion may have to break into fours, the word of command being as heretofore. In this case the company which is to direct should be named.

In forming into line at the halt from company column, each company proceeds as in company drill. Here there seems to be a difficulty. It will be remembered that in line there is to be an interval of two paces between each section or sub-section, and six paces between companies. In column there are no intervals between sections or sub-sections. Therefore in company drill it is laid down that in forming into line from company column, sections or sub-sections are to open out to two paces interval as they form. In the General Rules for Battalion Drill we are told that in company column "each company is placed at a distance equal to its own breadth and six paces" from the one in front of it. The six paces are required in the line for the company intervals, and no space will be left for opening out to section or sub-section intervals. The difficulty might be got over easily by providing that in company column each column was to halt at a distance equal to the front it would occupy in line and six paces, etc., or omitting sub-sections by increasing the six paces allowed to twelve. The words of command for forming into line are: INTO LINE; LEFT FORM; QUICK (OR DOUBLE) MARCH; *Eyes front*. "The mounted officer of the rear half battalion will move to the flank of formation to see that the companies form correctly into the alignment." In this, as in all other movements, it is assumed that no markers will be used.

(To be continued.)

In a lecture given at Buda Pesth, Count Olivier Wallis, attached to the Austrian general staff, and whose duty it is to make the Russian army his especial study, stated the other day that all the Russian regiments on the German and Austrian frontiers—that is to say, a very large proportion of the entire Russian forces—are already in possession of the new repeating rifle, pattern 1801, with a bore of  $7\frac{1}{4}$  millimetres. It is an excellent weapon, allowing of 18 shots per minute, and is popularly called the "Three Lines Rifle."

The French papers assert that the Krupp gun supplied for the armament of the forts of Roumania has burst at Fokchany, while the guns, newly arrived, were being tried.



## R. M. C. Club Notes.

No. 2.

### THE LATE CAPTAIN WILLIAM HENRY ROBINSON, R.E.

Quebec, April 19th, 1892.

A cable from the War Office and late English mail advices confirm the death of Captain Robinson, R.E., who was killed in action at Tambi on the 14th of March, while acting on the staff of Sir James Hay.

The following short account has appeared relating to the circumstances under which he met his death: "Freetown (Sierra Leone).—The fighting at Tambi between the English expeditionary force sent to punish the native Chief Carimboo for the attack upon Major Moore's party in May last, was of a very severe character. The British expedition, consisting of 150 men of Sierra Leone Frontier Police, under the command of seven British officers, left Freetown on the 7th of March, and reached Tambi, which is situated about one hundred miles inland, on the 14th of March. Tambi is a stockaded town of about two thousand inhabitants. The British force formed up early in the morning and commenced the assault at a quarter past eleven. The contest lasted over three hours, and the natives made a desperate defence. When the engagement was at its height Captain Robinson, of the Royal Engineers, was killed, and this emboldened the enemy to sally out from behind their stockades. In the ensuing melee Private Johnson, of the Frontier Police, was killed, and finally, at half-past two in the afternoon, the British were compelled to fall back, having five officers and twenty men wounded."

The late Captain Robinson served four seasons in the Sierra Leone Station, and had charge during the last year of important engineering works. He had a fine situation awaiting him in the War Office in England, and was to have been relieved this spring. He was only 28 years old.

Captain Robinson's relatives have received a communication from General Maitland, D.A.G. for the Royal Engineers, written by direction of H.R.H. the Commander-in-Chief, conveying His Royal Highness's sincere regret and deep sympathy for the sad termination to Captain Robinson's brilliant career, and expressing great regret on the part of the corps to which he belonged and on behalf of his brother officers.

Captain Robinson joined the Royal Military College, Canada, as a cadet on the 8th February, 1879, and graduated therefrom on the 27th June, 1882, securing first place out of a total of nineteen graduates, entitling him to a commission in the Royal Engineers.

He obtained honours in the undermentioned subjects:—Mathematics and mechanics, theory and construction of artillery, strategy, tactics, military administration and law, geometrical drawing and descriptive geometry, physics and civil engineering; and special mention in fortification and military engineering, surveying, military topography, and reconnaissance, French chemistry, conduct, drills and military exercises.

He was the winner of the Governor-General's gold medal.

In the death of Captain Wm. Henry Robinson the Royal Military College Club have sustained a severe loss, not only of a friend and comrade but of an officer who was thoroughly in love with his profession; and in view of his early promotion, the impossibility of the age limit putting a stop to his further advancement, and his industry and love for engineering work, his future gave every promise of a brilliant career.

R. M. C. No. 47.

Leaning against the south fence of Saint James's churchyard is a stone which formerly marked the grave of a soldier who died as heroically as he could have done in the field of battle. The inscription is: "Sacred to the memory of Private Charles Ansell, 2nd Battalion, Rifle Brigade, who was accidentally drowned at Orillia, on the night of the 21st November, 1849, whilst endeavouring to save a comrade from a similar fate. Erected by the Officers, Non-Commissioned Officers and Men of the Battalion, as a mark of respect. Aged 20 years and 8 months." The detachment of which Ansell was a member was going to the Bruce Mines, where some trouble had arisen. They came to Orillia by steamer from the other end of the lake. Ansell was on sentry duty at night, on the wharf where they had disembarked, and heard a splash, caused by one of his comrades falling into an opening in the wharf. He promptly plunged in, and getting his back against the outside of the structure, and his hands on his knees, enabled the other to clamber on his shoulders and out of the water. But the bottom was soft, and his feet sticking in the mud prevented the brave rescuer from swimming, and in that position he was found, but with life extinct. It is not creditable to the custodians of the churchyard that the tribute to the memory of one who died so bravely for his fellow, has ceased to mark the spot where he was laid and the slab was placed by grateful comrades-in-arms.—*Orillia Packet*.

## Regimental News.

Lt.-Col. Toller and the officers of the Governor-General's Foot Guards gave a smoking concert in the officers mess rooms on the 18th inst., at which there was a good attendance of all ranks in the regiment, a very enjoyable evening being spent. The new commanding officer is sparing no effort to work the Guards up to the highest possible efficiency, and this smoking concert served as a means of establishing the good fellowship between the members, essential to the welfare of the regiment.

The Guards are busy putting in their annual drill, and the recruits, under the instruction of the Sergeant-Major and his assistants, are improving rapidly. Nothing has yet been done regarding the 24th May.

The annual competition for the cup presented to No. 7 Company 35th Battalion by Mr. F. Kean, took place on Tuesday, 5th inst., at Orillia. The weather was cold, and there was a heavy wind blowing, the date fixed being evidently too early in the season. The shooting was at 200 and 400 yards, 5 shots, and the best scores were: Pte. T. Parker 34, Pte. Mitchell 31, Sergt. G. Price 29 and Capt. Drinkwater 29.

### TORONTO.

April 19th.—The drill fever is fast reaching its height, and every night squads of one of the regiments are hard at work getting into shape. It is quite a matter of surprise to see the strength of the regiments, as each drill night the parade seems to grow larger. Last Wednesday the Queen's Own turned out 630 strong, and the Grenadiers a trifle over 500. The 48th Highlanders are about 250 strong with recruits fast coming in.

Their uniforms have arrived, and were distributed to the different companies on Good Friday.

Rev. D. J. Macdonnell has been appointed Chaplain to the regiment and will preach his initial sermon to them next Sunday.

Last Thursday evening after the parade of the Grenadiers, the officers of the regiment through Lt.-Col. Dawson presented Lieut. Col. Davidson with an exceedingly handsome claymore, as a slight token of the esteem and regard in which he is held by them. Lieut.-Col. Davidson in return thanked his old comrades very kindly for their handsome gift, and stated that both himself and his family would cherish it for all time to come.

To-night the Kilties have their first parade for Commanding Officers' inspection, and I venture to say that a finer body of men never turned out in

Toronto. There are very few under 5 feet 8 inches in height, and the uniforms are by long odds the best that have ever been issued to any regiment of the Canadian Militia.

"D" Co. Q.O.R. will shortly be exhibited to Toronto citizens, or at least their picture will, and one, I think, of the best military groups ever gotten up. The picture proper is  $4\frac{1}{4}$  ft. by  $2\frac{1}{4}$  ft., and is one of Dixon's best works. The scene is a camp showing the tents in the rear, the men grouped in different attitudes in front, the attention of not a few being given to the yarns of one of their number. To the right rear are to be seen the officers of the company and to the right front the men for duty, paraded by the Orderly Sergeant, the men for guard being in heavy marching order; to the left front is shown the corporal of the guard relieving the sentries of one of the posts, while to the left rear and coming down a road is shown a fatigue party of eight men, under a corporal, returning to camp. It makes a very pretty picture, and "D" Company are to be congratulated on making this departure from the old way of having a picture taken, company front, and at the firing or other position.

Rumours are rife as to the destination of the different regiments 24th May. It is pretty well settled that the 48th stay in Toronto. The Grens. are hesitating between Windsor and Montreal, and the Queen's Own have looked for more than a year on Montreal as a dead sure thing. Everything will be settled within a week, although the greatest drawback will be the inability of some men to get away on the 23rd.

The church parade of the Queen's Own, originally fixed for Easter Sunday, has been postponed until Sunday, 8th May.

### BRECH BLOCK.

### THE ROYAL GRENADIERS.

The second quarterly oyster supper and smoking concert in connection with A Co. Royal Grenadiers, was held at the Tremont House, Yonge street, last Wednesday evening and was a great success. After the supper had been discussed a first-class programme was gone through. About 11.30 some of the members of "A Barrel of Money" Company, which was playing at the Toronto Opera House, came over and entertained the boys with several first-class selections. Letters of regret were read from Lt.-Col. Davidson, 48th Highlanders, Captain and Adjutant McLean, R.G., Captain Cameron, R.G., and others. Col. Dawson was present and addressed some flattering remarks to the company. After spending an enjoyable evening they dispersed about 3 a.m. If the Grenadiers go to Windsor on the 24th of May A Co. expect to take 30 files of men away with them.

### QUEBEC.

Quebec, 16th April.—The Queen's Own Canadian Hussars are now hard at work at dismounted drill and parade every Wednesday and Saturday evenings in the drill hall.

The Staff Sergeants and Sergeants of B Battery, R.C.A., intend giving a social on Easter Monday in their mess room, Citadel.

No. 3 Battery Quebec Garrison Artillery, under command of Captain H. D. Morgan, received their clothing on the 13th instant, and will shortly commence their annual training.

The date for holding the annual athletic sports of the 8th Royal Rifles has been changed from the 18th to the 19th and 20th instants. The programme consists of a number of interesting events, among which are: Tournament, Knights of Malta vs. Knights of St. John, skirt race over hurdles, Balaclava melee, wrestling match on horseback, etc., etc.

An ambulance corps in connection with the regiment is being organized, and will shortly be ready for use, if required.

On Good Friday the regiment paraded in front of the drill hall, at 2 p.m., in drill order, and marched out to the Plains of Abraham for instruction in field manoeuvres. The day was simply perfect, the streets fairly good and no snow of any account on the Plains. At 2.30 the regiment, headed by their brass and bugle bands and signal corps, left for the Plains about 230 strong, on arrival at which about one hour was utilized in independent company drill, each company being instructed in skirmishing by their captains, after which Lt.-Col. Prower exercised the battalion in skirmishing. A few movements performed under command of Capt. and Adjutant Ed. Montizambert brought the exercises to an end.

During the afternoon the band played several pieces which were enjoyed by the large number of spectators present. About five o'clock the battalion returned to the drill hall headed by No. 6 Company, and upon dismissing all hands were invited by the Commanding Officer to refreshments which had been prepared for them in the hall. Needless to say this was fully appreciated.

The substitution of field manoeuvres in lieu of the usual march out through the principal streets of the city is a move in the right direction, and I may safely state was recognized as such by all hands.

Captain and paymaster H. J. Hussey and Assistant Surgeon Parke made their first official appearance with the regiment and were enthusiastically received by their brother officers.

# CANADIAN MILITARY-RIFLE LEAGUE.

**ENTRANCE FEE, 1892.**

Entrance fees are now due, and are as follows : \$10 per team of ten men, or when more than one team is entered from the same Corps or Association, \$10 for the first team and \$5 for each additional team of ten men.

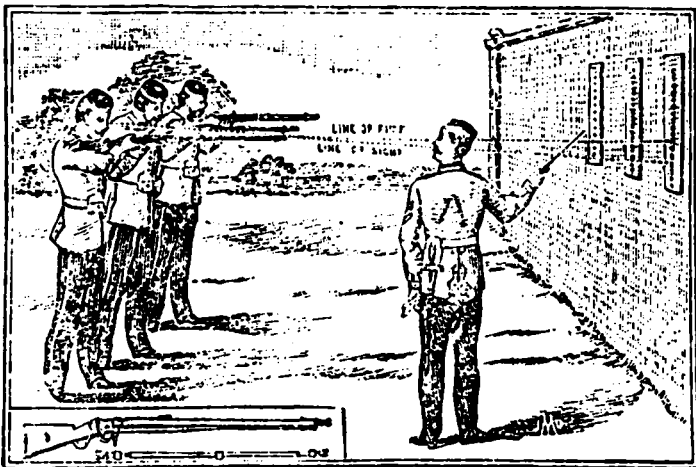
To be sent to the Treasurer, Mr. A. D. Crooks, 9 Toronto St., Toronto, by Post Office Order or Registered Letter. Entries close 15th May, 1892.

## DATES OF MATCHES.

Dates of Matches are as follows : May 28th, June 11th, July 9th, July 23rd, August 6th, 1892. Ranges—same as last year. Programmes now ready.

J. M. DELAMERE,  
*Secretary,*  
Parliament Buildings, Toronto.

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**MORRIS' AIMING AND SIGHTING APPARATUS.**



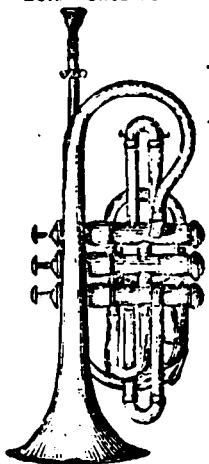
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**McVITTIE'S Martini and Snider Rifles, Smith & Wesson 32-44 or 38-44 Target Revolvers and Volunteer Shooting Requisites for 1891**

## McVITTIE'S NEW CANADIAN WIND GAUGE FOR SNIDER AND MARTINI-HENRY RIFLES.

PRICE \$1.25.

The following score was made by Staff-Sergt. John Ogg in a match at Guelph on the 13th June, with one of my Special Webley Martini Henry Rifles at Queen's Ranges and position :

200 yards.....	5 5 5 5 4 5-34	} 103
500 yards.....	5 5 5 5 4-34	
600 yards.....	5 5 5 5 5 5-35	

Send for New Price List. ADDRESS

R. McVITTIE, 66 Harbord St, Toronto, Ont.

## Province of Quebec Lottery.

NEXT BI-MONTHLY DRAWINGS

May 4th and 18th.

3,134 PRIZES

WORTH - \$52,740.00.

CAPIT'L PRIZE,

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Quarter Ticket, - 25c.

Ticket, - - - \$1.00.

11 Tickets for - \$10.00.

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1 Prize, worth \$15,000.....	\$15,000
1 " " 5,000.....	5,000
1 " " 2,500.....	2,500
1 " " 1,250.....	1,250
2 Prizes, " 500.....	1,000
5 " " 250.....	1,250
25 " " 50.....	1,250
100 " " 25.....	2,500
200 " " 15.....	3,000
500 " " 10.....	5,000

### APPROXIMATION PRIZES.

100 Prizes, worth \$25.....	\$2,500
100 " " 15.....	1,500
100 " " 10.....	1,000
999 " " 5.....	4,995
999 " " 5.....	4,995

3134 Prizes, worth .....\$52,740

S. E. LEFEBVRE, Manager,  
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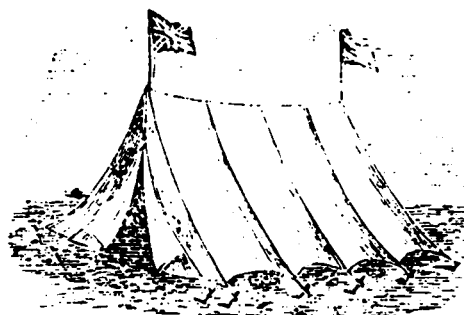
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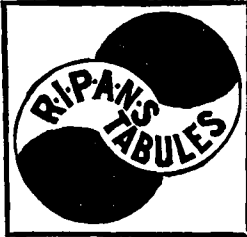


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For Sale by Grocers and Druggists in 1b., 1/2lb. and 1/4lb. Bottles. TRIAL SIZE, 5 cts. Mention this paper.

**THE RIPANS TABULES** regulate the stomach, liver and bowels, purify the blood, are pleasant to take, safe and always effectual. A reliable remedy for Biliousness, Blotches on the Face, Bright's Disease, Catarrh, Colic, Constipation, Jaundice, Chronic Liver Trouble, Diabetes, Disordered Stomach, Indigestion, Dysentery, Dyspepsia, Eczema, Flatulence, Female Complaints, Foul Breath, Headache, Heartburn, Hives, Nausea, Nettle Rash, Pimples, Rush of Blood to the Head, Sallow Complexion, Salt Rheum, Scald Head, Scrofula, Sick Headache, Skin Diseases, Sour Stomach, Tired Feeling, Torpid Liver, Ulcers, Water Brash and every other symptom or disease that results from impure blood or a failure in the proper performance of their functions by the stomach, liver and intestines. Persons given to over-eating are benefited by taking one tabule after each meal. A continued use of the Ripans Tabules is the surest cure for obstinate constipation. They contain nothing that can be injurious to the most delicate. 1 gross \$2, 1/2 gross \$1.25, 1/4 gross 75c., 1-24 gross 15 cents. Sent by mail postage paid. Address **THE RIPANS CHEMICAL COMPANY, New York.**



Capt F C Wurtele,  
Box 1044,  
22 Jan 92

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**TENDERS.**  
INDIAN SUPPLIES.

SEALED TENDERS addressed to the undersigned, and endorsed "Tender for Indian Supplies," will be received at this office up to noon of SATURDAY, 14th May: 1892, for the delivery of Indian Supplies, during the fiscal year ending 30th June, 1893, duty-paid, at various points in Manitoba and the North-West Territories.

Forms of tender, containing full particulars relative to the supplies required, dates of delivery, &c., may be had by applying to the undersigned, or to the Indian Commissioner at Regina, or to the Indian Office, Winnipeg.

This advertisement is not to be inserted by any newspaper without the authority of the Queen's Printer, and no claim for payment by any newspaper not having had such authority will be admitted. The lowest or any tender not necessarily accepted.

L. YANCOUGHNET,  
Deputy of the Superintendent-General of Indian Affairs.

Department of Indian Affairs,  
Ottawa, March, 1892.



SEALED TENDERS marked "For Mounted Police Clothing Supplies," and addressed to the Honourable the President of the Privy Council, will be received up to noon on Wednesday, 27th April, 1892.

Printed forms of tender containing full information as to the articles and quantities required, may be had on application to the undersigned.

No tender will be received unless made on such printed forms. Patterns of articles may be seen at the office of the undersigned.

Each tender must be accompanied by an accepted Canadian bank cheque for an amount equal to ten per cent. of the total value of the articles tendered for, which will be forfeited if the party decline to enter into a contract when called upon to do so, or if he fail to supply the articles contracted for. If the tender be not accepted the cheque will be returned.

No payment will be made to newspapers inserting this advertisement without authority having been first obtained.

FRED WHITE,  
Comptroller N. W. M. Police.

Ottawa, April 4th, 1892.

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