

THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE

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NOTICE.

We have been sending the GAZETTE to a large list of officers and others who we thought were sufficiently alive to militia interests to wish to become subscribers, and while we have no intention of taking advantage of the law which enables us to count these amongst our debtors, we would request all those who wish to receive the GAZETTE in future to remit their annual subscription, and those who are not pleased or do not sympathize with the military force sufficiently to wish for the paper to notify us to that effect, and to return promptly any future copies sent them.

COMMENT AND CRITICISM.

The *Citizen* this morning announces, we presume with some degree of official authority, that the Imperial Government have decided to defray the cost of the medal about to be presented by Her Majesty to the Canadian forces engaged in the suppression of the North-west insurrection. The medal will be of silver, bearing on the obverse an effigy of the Queen, probably from a similar die as the late English medals, with a coronet and veil, whilst the reverse will bear a wreath of maple, with a suitable inscription.

Now that the winter season is upon us with its attendant indoor drills, the various battalions will no doubt form associations for amusements of different kinds as well as for instruction, and it would be well that the formation of such organizations should receive the sympathy and personal interest of company officers. Much good will arise from keeping the men together as much as possible by other means than drill, and in no better way can this be done than by snow shoe tramps, athletic meetings, and such like. The battalion that takes the lead in all such matters outside their military training will always be found the readiest to perform their regular duties when such are required of them, and will pull better together when commanded by those who they feel take an interest in their welfare and are willing to assist them in carrying out any scheme productive of harmony and goodwill.

The medical officers of corps seem almost an anomaly on drill evenings, and literally have nothing to do except, perhaps, to smoke a cigar in uniform and look on at proceedings entirely devoid of interest to themselves personally. During the approaching season, however, much good might be accomplished by a course of ambulance instruction in each battalion, and, of course, city battalions offer a much better field for such than their less fortunate rural brethren, both on account of the greater facility for getting the men together and also because they have access to more commodious premises in drill halls to conduct their work. Even if no opportunity is likely to present itself in the near future for the practical application of ambulance work, yet information gained in such matters is never thrown away, and might often be turned to much advantage in civil life. A short course on "Emergencies" might be made very interesting and instructive, and would be a decided benefit to many who are often in a position to render valuable assistance to their fellows in times of accident before the arrival of a professional man.

Major Macpherson's forthcoming book on military law as applied to the Canadian Militia, noticed in another column, will be in every way a desirable addition to our military manuals, while the catechetical form which he adopts is calculated to greatly simplify rather a hard subject. Every officer has, or is supposed to have, in his possession a copy of the Militia Act and of the Regulations and Orders issued by the Department of Militia and Defence, but very few have the Queen's Regulations, and still fewer have the Army Act and Rules of Procedure. By the Militia Act the force is made subject to the Queen's Regulations, and from the time of being called out for active service and also during the period of annual drill or training, and also during any drill or parade, &c., is subject to the Army Act and all other laws applicable to Her Majesty's troops in Canada. It is, therefore, very necessary that all officers should have a knowledge of what these books contain, and it was the difficulty experienced in obtaining this necessary knowledge that induced Major Macpherson to bring out the present work.

We give elsewhere a full description of the Harston-Henry rifle, with full copies of the reports forwarded for the preliminary tests of the new arm. It will be a source of gratification to our readers to know that a Canadian officer has invented so promising a weapon, and we sincerely hope that his expectations may be fulfilled when the alterations that he is now working at shall have been completed. One of the most important features about the new action is its simplicity and consequent cheapness, a saving of a dollar a rifle, and probably much more, being made on the Government cost of the Martini-Henry. We will await with interest the results of further trials.

By a curious co-incidence we had no sooner got the description of Capt. Harston's breech action into print than the letter which we publish, suggesting a cheap breech for the Enfield barrel, was received from the eastern part of the Dominion. If, as our correspondent suggests, and we are inclined to agree with him, a new rifle is desirable, why should we not use the Harston action if it proves a good one? We must, however, question our correspondent's statements respecting the Snider breech action—we think there are too many motions required in getting it ready for each shot to make it advantageous, and it does not fulfil the condition of being always ready when a shot is wanted, probably the most requisite point about any weapon for modern military service, when the only chance of pinking an enemy is while he is "on the fly."

We are indebted to the courtesy of Capt. Donaldson, secretary, for the results of the Field Battery shifting ordnance competitions for the Dominion Artillery Association prizes, which were held at the same places and on the same dates as the firing competitions, results of which we have already published. It will be seen that the Kingston battery win the handsome challenge cup in extremely short time, followed closely by Montreal, while the Canal battery was pressed hard for third place by Durham and Richmond. Last year the cup was won by the Quebec battery, when the conditions were somewhat different, so that no comparison of time can be made. We will announce the results of the other competitions in the D. A. A. programme as they are received and made up.

THE HARSTON-HENRY RIFLE.

Previous to the outbreak of the North-west insurrection Captain Greville Harston, of the 10th R. G., submitted to the Militia Department an improved breech action, applicable to all rifles operated on the falling block and hinge principles, such as the Martini-Henry and Snider actions. The rifle submitted was a M.H. altered to take the new action, and this was severely tested at the Quebec cartridge factory. The official reports of these tests we append, showing that the action gave good results. Further improvements and tests were prevented by Capt. Harston's departure for the North-west, but we understand that in a short time a rifle with all the defects reported in the first model remedied, will be submitted for further trials, the results of which the inventor regards with confidence.

From the official specification of his invention we take the following description of it:—

"This invention consists in such a formation and arrangement of the parts of the action and lock that the striker or needle works through the block or breech piece in the direct line of the longitudinal axis of the barrel, being axially coincident therewith; the hammer is concealed and acts directly upon the rear end of the needle; and also to an improved extractor more especially adapted for breech loaders constructed upon the falling block principle, the improvement of which consists in the employment of a loose extractor without a pin or centre to work upon, and fitted in position in the body of the breech; the extractor has two arms set at a suitable angle to each other, and the outline of the extractor nearest the barrels may be a continuous curve with a rounded nose in such curve at the junction of the two arms; the end of the one arm is shaped for throwing out the cartridge and fits up

to the barrels in the ordinary manner when the parts are in position for firing, the end of the lower arm bearing against a portion of the under side of the block."

The invention also embraces a sliding top to cover the breech and exclude dirt or wet from the action, similar in principle to that seen on some American repeating rifles.

REPORT OF MAJOR PREVOST TO THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF MILITIA.

With reference to a B. L. Rifle, submitted by Capt. C. G. Harston of Toronto, for my examination, and to be tested, I beg to report as follows:

1. The "breech block" in this rifle is pivoted to a frame distinct from the one in which is fitted the lever intended to actuate the block. Thus two distinct frames or bodies are used in this system. The upper frame to which is fixed the breech block with a firing pin set in a recess and resting on a spiral spring, and the under frame to which are fixed the lever actuating the breech block, the sear spring with its swivel, tumbler, &c., and hammer for working the firing pin. The connected or interdependent action of these two distinct portions of the mechanism of the rifle relies upon the perfect adjustment of the two distinct frames in which they are respectively set, which adjustment is secured by only two ordinary size screws. And if the frames get out of adjustment the several parts of the mechanism ceasing to be in their relative positions for accurate action, the loading, the firing, the extracting, each or all are interfered with.

Efficient B. L. rifles of the block pattern and most of the bolt pattern have a single solid body or frame of metal into which the moveable parts of the breech and firing mechanism are pivoted or fitted in.

The connection of the different parts with each other is thus secure and perfect, in fact just in the same manner as the different parts of one machine on a single solid bed.

2. Prolonging from and forming part of both of the frames above mentioned I found bands of metal on top and underneath the wooden stock. These on the wood are subject to its shrinkage or swelling out, and thus are liable to further interfere with exact adjustment of the parts when the rifle gets exposed to hard usage, is taken apart for cleaning, &c.

3. Several tests were applied to the rifle in accordance with a memo. which I drew out, and a copy of which was supplied to Capt. Harston. I enclose a copy of the above memo. herewith annexed. During these tests the "lever" broke, partly due to a flaw in the metal, and also in obtaining a sufficiently sharp extraction of the fired shells. After repairs the first test, which had been interrupted by the breakage was re-applied, and the rifle stood it well. The extraction of the fired cartridge shells was good throughout. There were no missfires, though over one hundred rounds were fired. Test No. 1, for rapidity of firing, was dispensed with. Test No. 4 was made concurrently with the other tests, the rounds fired throughout being made to count for No. 4 test.

4. A specimen rifle of more perfect manufacture would have been desirable for these tests.

5. Much of the above mentioned defective construction might be remedied and the principal still maintained. There are several features in this rifle which, if perfected, may give exceedingly desirable results.

6. If, as represented by Capt. Harston, this rifle can be manufactured at a cheaper rate than the regulation M. H., it would, in my opinion, be advisable to have a number of them manufactured and put in the hands of the permanent corps for experimental service.

OSC. PREVOST,

Major., Supt. Q.F.C.

MEMO. FOR TESTING CAPT. HARSTON'S RIFLE.

1. Ascertain the number of shots which can be fired in one minute irrespective of accuracy—Capt. Harston firing his own rifle if he chooses.

2. Dust—The mechanism to be exposed to a fine sand blast for 2 minutes, fired 20 rounds, removed, replaced, sanded again for 2 minutes, and fired 20 rounds more. Dusted again without cleaning, the breech freely open and fired 4 shots.

3. Rust—The breech mechanism to be cleaned from grease; the barrel greased and plugged, and the butt of the rifle immersed to the height of the chamber in salt water for 10 minutes, exposed to the open air 2 days and then fired 20 rounds.

4. Endurance, &c.—To fire 180 rounds; any miss fires to be investigated and see if the ammunition or rifle is in fault.

OSC. PREVOST, Major.

REPORT OF COL. COTTON TO THE INSPECTOR OF ARTILLERY.

In accordance with instructions, I, together with Major Prevost, examined the rifle submitted by Capt. Harston. His inventions claim to be—

1. An important improvement on the M. H. breech action and lock, principally on the latter, whereby the spiral spring, which is variable and to a certain extent uncertain, has been done away with and replaced by the ordinary > shaped spring.
2. Strength of stock. The wooden stock is continuous instead of being divided as in the M.H. ; but to accomplish this, Capt. Harston has doubtfully divided the mechanism into two principal parts, differing from the M.H., which is assembled in one solid metal box.
3. Increased extracting powers of his lever, which being longer, has that advantage.
4. Simplicity.
5. Cost of manufacture.

In these respects I agree there is an advantage in Capt. Harston's invention.

The whole question then remains whether the advantages are not counterbalanced by the loss of the compact action. I am inclined to the belief that Capt. Harston's rifle stands a very favorable comparison.

There are, however, some minor points and defects (in my opinion) which without in any way affecting the principle of the invention, ought to be rectified and again readjusted before a final decision is made.

The defects alluded to are—

1. The employment of a small swivel to connect the main spring and tumbler.
2. The shortness and slimness (very slight) of the dropping breech block.
3. Unnecessary length of main spring.

These can be easily adjusted.

The rifle went safely through the ordeal of the tests made by us, and which were similar to those to which the M.H. was subjected. These tests have been reported on in detail by Major Prevost.

As to the advantage in cost of manufacture I can of course give no opinion.

The recoil in common with the M.H. is enormous, but this in no way concerns Capt. Harston's invention, being due to the shape of the cartridge and chamber.

W. H. COTTON,
Lieut.-Col., Com. R.S.A.

DOMINION ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION.

In the shifting ordnance competition for field batteries, carried out during the past summer in accordance with the D. A. A. conditions, published in our issue of the 25th August, the results are now made up and the winners determined. The prizes are: 1st, the Gzowski Challenge Cup, valued at \$100, to become the property of any battery winning it two years in succession, and \$30; 2nd \$20, and 3rd, \$10. Col. Gzowski was fortunately present at the performance of the winning battery at Toronto. The Gananoque battery lost their chance in consequence of the gun slipping repeatedly. The following are the scores:

Prize.	Battery.	Actual Time.	Points Added.		Points deducted. Score made by Round.	Total Corrected Time.
			Talk'g	Drill.		
		min. sec.				min. sec.
\$30 and cup 20 10	Kingston	2 10	.....	2	10	2 02
	Montreal.....	2 12	.....	.....	4	2 08
	Welland Canal..	2 28 ² / ₅	.....	.....	12	2 16 ³ / ₅
	Durham	2 24 ² / ₅	.....	.....	.....	2 24 ² / ₅
	Richmond	2 25	.....	.....	.....	2 25
	Ottawa	2 42	.....	.....	.....	2 42
	Quebec	3 23	.....	.....	24	2 59
	No. 1 batt., 1st br.	4 04 ¹ / ₂	.....	.....	.....	4 04 ¹ / ₂
	No. 2 " "	4 05 ¹ / ₂	.....	.....	.....	4 05 ¹ / ₂
	Toronto.....	4 35	.....	.....	8	4 27
	Hamilton	4 48 ² / ₅	.....	.....	8	4 40 ² / ₅
London	4 46 ² / ₅	.....	3	4	4 45 ² / ₅	
Gananoque	withdrew from competition.					

In a recently published book entitled "The River Column," Major-General Brackenbury bestows higher praise than any they have yet received, upon the Canadian Voyageurs. Speaking of the difficulties which had to be fought against, he declares that "without the aid of the skilled Canadian voyageurs the ascent of the river, if not impossible, would have been far slower and attended with far greater loss of life;" and further, "that without their services the descent of the river would have been impossible."

"A NOODLE" SPEAKS.

"MY DEAR MISTY,—I fear my memory is going fast, for just at the moment I fail to remember the wind up of my last letter. But, however, let me just scratch you off a few lines on the "feet" of the militia. The feet proper can't be beaten, as the late North-west business proved, and no troops could have outmarched our men, who, had they been better clothed, and equipped with suitable working appointments, would have beaten their already splendid record. Those who saw the men, and more especially the unfortunate fellows who wore the boots and shoes, &c., will not be likely to forget the tramp-tramp over the prairie last April with Middleton's column. If their memory has lost the impression made during the wading through the melting snow and slimy mud of the muskegs and sloughs by day, few, if any, will be unable to recall the awful mornings when it became necessary to put on the above mentioned boots and shoes just before sunrise. What a sight it was, as one by one, from the Lieut.-Colonels downward, they hopped about one foot bare with the other half way down the leg; just about the instep is the first graze I think with a water-logged boot. Well, my dear Misty, the sight was indeed a sad one, for almost any man looks sad with both fore fingers in the tags of his boots jumping about in his anxious search for an object to kick, the popular and generally effective custom adopted with a refractory boot. Those who have travelled on the prairie will understand the difficulty these poor fellows had to contend with, for objects to kick are not found in the abundance that they are in the eastern part of Canada. Therefore cases occurred, most pitiful ones, where some, in consequence of the eternal flatness, would often complete a tiresome circuit of the entire camp before the necessary object was found, and by the time the wandering hero had waited for his turn and departed for his other boot, the "fall in" likely would destroy his breakfast or disarrange the final touches of his toilet. Boots and shoes of all leathers and manufacture flourished, or rather withered, during the North-west marches. And it speaks wonders for the determination, hardihood and good temper of the troops, when we knew what was weighing on their soles.

"I think you will agree with me my friend, that if we cannot march with the Indians the next best thing is to go as near that desirable quality as possible. I maintain and can, if you wish, find some who will sustain me, that it can be reached; and one of greatest and most necessary changes to acquire that gift is serviceable style of foot gear. Even you, yourself, have on occasions had a sore toe, or perhaps you have also found a boot that refuses to go on. I might surmise also that after kicking all the paint off the furniture, changing your socks, soaping your heel, &c., as you have got over or into the obstacle. But it has been noticed that the furniture is often scarce about the tents of troops on the war path, at least we found it so; also occasions do crop up when a man finds himself minus soap for his face and hands, much less for his heels.

"No quality will impose more respect for our powers among the Indians or any foes than endurance in marching, therefore every nerve must be strained to perfect this, and when it requires only a good instead of bad pair of boots, one naturally asks "why the dash don't we get them?" well, "why the dash don't we?" dashed if I know. There is no doubt a great diversity of opinion exists regarding the most suitable, but no person could advocate for the future such styles as were in vogue during the tronales.

"The subject of the feet is to my mind the most important matter to be considered by those who desire, a change for the better, in fitting out the militia for active service. No cheap and nasty affair will suit for a campaign. A poor article gives out, and once a man's feet are gone he is useless.

"The principal aim in shoeing a soldier should be to give him an article that will come on and off easily, but at the same time of good lasting stuff. In order to explain what I mean as the best by far of all boots and shoes for the purposes in question, let me point you to the "beef boot" as worn by the Quebec *habitant*. I can see the look of dismay and disgust on your face, and even I will grant it is not as pretty as some of the elastic side shoes that departed for the seat of war, but you would alter slightly your ideas if forced to wear the latter. The beef boot referred to is pretty well known, but only in the Province of Quebec is it found in perfection. It requires soling and must be hand made. It stands water better than anything if well greased, the uppers are light and flexible, and when tied at the top, garter fashion, it completely keeps out snow. This lightness is a great blessing, and a wad of snow does not slip down the leg and worry the wearer by melting. Its great advantage, however, is in the fact that at night men turn into camp, light a fire, slip them off and dry their socks, while some poor wretch with a regulation long boot is looking round for a friend, or endeavouring, by the aid of the spokes of a wheel, to remove his

from his poor feet. The "beefs" will allow any number of pairs of socks, a great advantage again for those who have them.

"The ordinary boot man can only boast of one pair on his feet at most, though he may be possessed of a dozen. But in the morning the scene I mentioned above goes gaily on while the beef boot (kept damp) slips comfortably on the foot ready for work without kicking, and more important still without swearing. It is, however, most important that they should be soled well, and the work, though simple in making, must be good.

"P.S.—I will give you my ideas on some other parts of our man after your answer to this, which, if like some of your last, will show signs of wavering in some pet convictions."

This monster is quite mistaken regarding my wavering; it is quite untrue, and if he were to publish my remarks you would be convinced that his attacks on the good old style quite disagrees with my opinions.—MISTY.

HOW TO ENCOURAGE YOUNG AND INEXPERIENCED SHOTS.

BY J. H. BISSET.

It is a fact and one very much to be regretted that out of so large a number of young men who swell the ranks of our citizen army so few become skilful and expert with the rifle. After the drudgery of drill is gone through, the work of shooting is entered upon by the recruit generally with enthusiasm. But after a few appearances before the targets, with very indifferent results, the young shot gets discouraged and the rifle is thrown aside, to be again used only when the requirements of class firing insist on his presence again at the range. It need not be said that this performance is gone through rather reluctantly, and after two, three or more years of such a course, the once enthusiastic volunteer drops out of the force altogether. The question may be asked, who is to blame for this? Is it the volunteer himself? Or those over him? Or is it in the system under which our volunteer force is regulated? In my opinion all three are not blameless in the matter. Of course there are always in every company some men—not a large number—who will never become good shots, in fact could not hit a haystack at 100 yards, owing to physical incapacity, as defective eye sight, excess of nervousness, &c., yet I venture to say the great majority of these might with a little perseverance on their own part, along with some attention and encouragement from others, become if not first-class shots at least good average ones.

A very common mistake that young shots fall into is, that they should make good scores at once, and when they don't do so they get disheartened, and the usual result of such low scoring is that the firing points are abandoned. Now it ought to be strongly impressed on them that to be a good shot requires a great amount of experience and close attention on the part of a beginner, seeing that light, wind, state of atmosphere, and other thousand and one conditions have to be borne in mind and acted on in producing a good score. And though they may not make a good score at the present, yet they are acquiring a store of experience which will afterwards lead them on to success. The recruit on his part should doggedly persevere notwithstanding seeming failures repeated again and again, until victory finally crowns his efforts. The result is not only in his becoming a shot, it also teaches him what can be done by industry and perseverance.

The recruit before attempting to fire at the target ought to go through the course of position drill as detailed in the rifle exercises, and for the thoroughness of this the sergeant-instructor of the company should be held responsible. In some rifle corps, Morris tubes and aiming apparatus are used by recruits and third-class shots with the very best results. They initiate the novice to hit an object, decrease his nervousness, and he goes to the range in full confidence that he will hit the target. As a consequence there is a large increase in those corps of first-class shots and marksmen. All aids of this kind should certainly be taken advantage of. When the recruit enters upon shooting for the first time he ought to be under the superintendence of the sergeant-instructor, who should, if possible, be a good shot; failing his being so, an old steady shot, who can give clear and concise explanations to the beginner. Too great importance cannot be attached to the first attempt. The sergeant-instructor should first fire two or three shots at each range as an example, and to show how the shot will hit the target. This may not be so necessary with the Martini, but with some of the old Sniders it was so. He ought then to stand behind him when aiming so as to be able to detect any errors that may be made in holding the rifle, if he pulls or jerks when in the act of firing, what allowance must be made for wind, light, atmospheric conditions should all be explained to him, and shown practically by the instructor. All corrections should be made in a judicious and kindly manner, and not in a harsh and sneering

way as is sometimes done. Nothing so much annoys and vexes a beginner, anxious to do his best, as to find that his attempts are made the subject of sneering and harsh remarks.

Suitable and convenient times should be fixed and arranged for target practice, and ranges if possible should be easy of access. No difficulty should be put in the way of the young shot as to time and opportunities for shooting.

Monthly competitions confined to recruits and third-class shots should also be held, at which prizes consisting of small sums of money or articles either useful or ornamental, such as books, rifle covers, verniers, pendants, crosses, &c., should be given. After the first or second competition these might be subdivided into two or three classes according as their number was large or small. In most companies two classes would be quite sufficient. 1st. Those who make an average of 60 per cent. or magpies, and 2nd. Those under that figure. It would then be an object of ambition to get into the higher class, and to continue in it. Some arrangement like this would also be carried out in future years, whereby those who got into the first class among the recruits would compete with the more experienced shots, who would also be divided into two or three classes as found convenient. At the end of the second year those who made a certain percentage, say 60 or 70, would in the third year compete with first-class shots. Of course it is understood that prizes as mentioned above would be shot for, the money for which might partly be obtained from company funds, officers and men and friends of the company also subscribing to the prize fund. In these remarks I take for granted that the officers, commissioned or non-commissioned, especially the former, take an active interest in the improvement of the shooting powers of the company, and the only way of doing so is by encouraging in every possible way by their presence and otherwise the young men who join their company. No one should be an officer of a company who is not prepared to give a part of his time to this laudable object.

In addition to what has been said I think if the "powers that be" could see their way to give an increase of capitation grant to all who obtain a certain number of marks, along with money prizes such as are given to line battalions, there would not only be an improvement among the recruits, but in the volunteer force generally. Forty shillings might be the grant allowed to marksmen, thirty-five shillings to first-class shots, and thirty shillings as at present to those who fall into the third-class, with money prizes to the three or four highest scorers in each company, and more valuable ones to the highest in the battalion, and still higher prizes to the best in the whole force. It would then be an object of ambition for each volunteer to endeavor for his own sake and the advantage of his company to secure the highest grant, and to do so doubtless most determined efforts would be made. By some such plan, Government with a little expenditure of money and without pauperizing, would make our volunteer force second to no continental army for shooting power.—*Prize essay in the Volunteer Record.*

MOUNTED INFANTRY.

BY COL. I. F. MACANDREW, BENGAL STAFF CORPS.

Mounted Infantry, though an arm that at present finds no favor among the military authorities of Europe, is probably destined to play a great part on behalf of those who first carefully organize and use it. For us it appears specially adapted, being unquestionably a weapon of warfare of very great power suited to the abnormally varied conditions of the service of the British Army. As infantry is the only arm that is safe by itself when not overmatched, and which can act effectively in all sorts of ground, and even alone in the attack and defence of fortified posts, it stands to reason that a force of infantry able to march as fast and as far as cavalry, if properly trained and organized, must be an immense addition to our army. Indeed this has been proved on several occasions, though not so often as might have been expected. The reason is that mounted infantry has hardly ever had fair play, for there are certain conditions which must be observed if it is to realize the advantages which military common sense would expect from it. These conditions are three—two of which are imperative, and the third, in our opinion, very desirable. They are—First. The force should be a strictly infantry one and used only as such. Secondly. It should be specially equipped and trained for the service it is to perform. Thirdly. We think it should be composed of selected officers and men drawn for their special qualifications from the regiments of the line, and the commanding officers of its battalions should have power to return such as were found to be unsuited to its service.

The idea of mounted infantry is by no means a new one. The original Dragoon was a mounted soldier who fought on foot, but he degenerated into an inferior cavalry soldier, and the improvement which

subsequently took place was in the direction of making him an efficient horseman, and thus the cavalry came to be called Dragoons. Napoleon organized a camel corps for service in Upper Egypt, which we believe was infantry. It is said to have done good service, but organization probably consisted merely in mounting the French infantry soldiers on camels. The corps did not last long, and we have not come across any detailed account of its organization. Sir Charles Napier, whose earlier depreciation of the camel must have been modified on more extended acquaintance, embodied a camel corps in Sind after he had broken the power of the Ameers at Meanee and Hydrabad, and this corps did excellent service and was very efficient. Each camel carried two men, a driver in front and an infantry soldier behind. When going into action the soldiers dismounted and fought on foot, and the drivers were trained to manœuvre the camels in accordance with the movements of the soldiers, and be ready to take them up at any time. This corps cost little more than a regiment of native horses—irregular cavalry as they were then called—but it was disbanded from motives of economy, shortsightedly, as we think, for, if the saving was imperative, it would have been truer economy to have disbanded one of the cavalry regiments. When the mutiny war broke out in India a corps of camels and drivers was raised and put under the command of a special officer. On this a battalion of the Rifle Brigade was mounted, as in the Sind corps, and the colonel of the battalion of course commanded the whole. After a short time this corps became fairly efficient. At the battle of Calpee the battalion was moved over three miles in twenty minutes, and was put down quite fresh at the critical point of the battle, which it may be said to have won. This corps, and detachments of the 71st and 72nd Regiments mounted on camels, were found equal to the long and sustained pursuit of Tantia Topee. When, after the death of Kunr Singh, his followers baffled the troops sent to suppress them in the jungles and hills of Upper Allahabad, the present Sir Henry Havelock Allan organized some mounted infantry from men of the 10th Foot, the horse being the mount on this occasion, and their activity and power of marching finally broke up these bands. In the American war of Secession Sheridan's mounted infantry, who became thoroughly trained in the latter period of the war, then did very conspicuous service. They could move faster than Lee's retreating army, and they headed him and took up such strong positions in his front and infantry alone could dislodge them. To do this, Lee had to deploy and fight, thus losing time and enabling Grant to come up with and compel him to surrender. So marked was the influence of this arm on Grant's final operations that Sir Henry Havelock Allan wrote a book on the subject, in which he expressed an opinion that the days of lance and sabre cavalry had gone by, and advocated substituting mounted infantry for cavalry. With this view we never sympathized, and subsequent events have proved it to be erroneous, but this does not touch the utility of mounted infantry as an adjunct to our army.

The opinion of Sir E. B. Hamley is very decided. He says ("Operations of War," 4th Ed., pages 438-39), speaking of the way in which the German cavalry scouted and covered the movements of their army in 1870-71:—"The inability of cavalry to engage with infantry applies quite as forcibly to small as to large bodies; and a single infantry division spread before the French army in the form of outposts and patrols would have speedily put a limit to the enterprises of the Prussian horsemen. But the slowness of movement of infantry renders the arm inapplicable to the prolonged maintenance of so extended a chain at such a distance from the army. Some force which should combine the celerity of cavalry with the formidable fire of infantry would exactly suit the case; and such is to be found in a corps of mounted riflemen. Nor would the performance of such a duty by any means exhaust their functions. For seizing a post or a defile before infantry could arrive there and which cavalry would be incompetent to hold—for rapidly turning a flank—for executing distant enterprises against communications, mounted riflemen seem the inevitable solution of a problem, the conditions of which are speed of movement with ability to contend with any kind of force. The Prussians propose to meet the case by arming their light cavalry with a better weapon. But this is only to create a more expensive and less efficient kind of mounted riflemen. Size and weight of man and horse are worse than superfluous, where celerity, accuracy of aim, and readiness in obtaining cover are the requisites. Light men on small horses, steed and rider active and enduring, with excellent weapons and careful training, will compose a description of force such as not been seen on any modern European battle field, but which will at small cost produce great results. Its strength would be such as, after providing for the covering of the army on its march in its most extended order, should keep in hand for the day of battle a force which, joined to an equal force of cavalry, should raise the total of those two to the proportion hitherto considered necessary for the cavalry alone. But, indeed, mounted riflemen would be so generally

effective, that the only limit to their numbers need be the means of maintaining them."

We have quoted the above, for it is the opinion of an admitted authority on such a subject, but we are bound to say that the constitution of the force here recommended is not altogether clear. It is spoken of in one place as the mounted infantry which we are recommending; in another, as if the writer meant it to fight on horseback, when he talks of its "covering the army on its march in the most extended order." If this be meant, it is not our idea, which is that the force is to be always an infantry force and to act on foot alone, using its mount only for the purpose of marching. But we think it not only possible, but highly desirable to combine with this mounted infantry some cavalry and artillery—screw guns carried on animals with all the men mounted—equipped for rapid and independent movement in all its details. Such a brigade, combining all arms for the purpose of rapid marching, would prove a most potent engine in the hands of a general who knew how to use it. In addition to the functions mentioned by Sir E. Hamley, we may add that the infantry, if so employed, might form a reserve to the cavalry, "covering the army on its march in the most extended order," and be at hand to deal with the "infantry outpost and patrols" which, Sir Edward says, could have foiled the Prussian Horse. It is eminently fitted, as shown by Sheridan, to detain a retreating army. The brigade of all arms mentioned is the very body to make a reconnaissance in force. It is supremely qualified to rapidly reinforce posts which are pressed, as shown at the battle of Calpee, to hunt down guerilla insurgents, to protect long lines of baggage, and to intimate and maintain that pursuit and interception which alone makes victory decisive. With a brigade so organized cavalry alone would not care to meddle. It could withdraw from the action of artillery, even when the ground was favorable to the use of that arm, because artillery dare not leave its own infantry far behind in the face of such a brigade. And, if properly handled, ordinary infantry could never touch it. The use of such a force would, very soon after the opening of a campaign, justify its embodiment both on the score of strength and economy.—*Colburn's Magazine.*

To be continued.

MILITARY PUBLICATIONS.

"MILITARY LAW," BY MAJOR MACPHERSON, G. G. F. G., PRELIMINARY NOTICE.

We have seen the manuscript of a work on Military Law, which is about to be published by Major Macpherson, of the Governor-General's Foot Guards. His reasons for preparing the book he gives as follows in the preface:—

"My own experience of the difficulties attending the study of military law, as applicable to the militia of Canada, has led me to believe that a work on the subject would be welcomed by my brother officers and the members of the force generally.

"It is a heavy task for the student to master such large volumes as the Queen's Regulations, the Army Act, and Rules of Procedure, or to extract from them the information of which he is in search. These books cover every conceivable point that could possibly arise in every branch of the British army and in every part of the globe in which it may be quartered, and consequently much of their contents do not apply to Canada.

"There are in England many works on the subject, of great merit and of a scope far beyond that at which I aim, but these, of necessity, present much the same features as the books on which they are founded, and do not, of course, contain any reference to our own Militia Act, or Regulations and Orders, which is the first authority we are required to obey.

"My object has been to present, in the form of a simple and concise catechism, those portions of the law which every officer ought to know, and which he might find himself called upon to administer.

"Beside each question I have given the authority for the answer, so that the reader may turn up the original, should he require confirmation or further information.

"I have confined myself as much as possible to the above mentioned authorities, but where they did not cover the points I desired to bring forward I have availed myself of the admirable works of Major Gorham and Major Sisson Pratt. The chapter on evidence has been compiled from Taylor on Evidence."

The work begins with explanations as to the meaning of and necessity for military law apart from civil law, then proceeds to the Militia Act and Regulations and Orders, and gives the law respecting enrollment and retirement, care of arms, penalties and prosecutions, notices and orders, aid to civil power, actual service, &c. The next chapter is devoted to the Army Act and Queen's Regulations, and deals

with the subjects of arrest and trial, power of commanding officer, prisoner's preparation for defence, courts martial, procedure at trial, friend of prisoner and counsel, evidence, finding and sentence, confirmation and revision, penal reductions from pay, imprisonment, courts of inquiry, &c. The last chapter consists of a short compilation of the law of evidence, and presents in a compact form the rules which should govern at all trials.

We are aware that Major Macpherson's book has been ready for the printer for some time past, but being anxious to secure official endorsement he decided not to publish it until he had placed it before Major-General Sir Frederick Middleton. That officer, than whom there is probably no one in the British army more capable of expressing an opinion upon the subject, and who is as painstaking and conscientious as he is able, declined the sanction of his name until he had made a thorough examination of the work. He has recently been able to spare the time necessary to do this, and has intimated to Major Macpherson that he has found his statements of the law to be perfectly correct. This endorsement from the Officer commanding the Militia will at once give the book a standing, and we hope to see a copy of it in the hands of every officer of the force. It will be invaluable to those attending the military schools, preparing for examinations, &c.

The book is to be printed at Messrs. Lovell's Montreal publishing house, which is a sufficient guarantee that the work will be well done.

PERSONAL.

Col. Powell, A.G., was able to resume his office duties yesterday.

Major Gordon, Captain of the "A" School of Infantry, has been appointed an aide-de-camp to Sir Leonard Tilley, Lieutenant-Governor of New Brunswick.

Capt. Peters' handsome face adorns a late number of the *Amateur Photographer*, as the first taker of photographs under fire. It will be remembered that Capt. Peters, while in command of "A" Battery in the North-west, succeeded in securing views of the engagements in which that corps participated, and the number contains some interesting reproductions from there. We hope to say something further on this subject later.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE TUQUE FOR WINTER.

To the Editor of the Canadian Militia Gazette:

SIR,—In your issue of the 17th inst. I notice an editorial note on the head-dress for our winter climate. You suggest the "tuque" as being more adapted to the comfort of the wearer than the ordinary clumsy wedge. The suggestion is a good one and should certainly be given a trial.

When I was in the North-west during the late rebellion I was quartered for a day at Qu'Appelle station, or Troy, en route for the north, and whilst waiting there I paid a visit to the camp of the 91st Regiment, under the command of Lieut.-Col. Scott, M.P. They were forming up prior to marching off to a church parade, and as it was cold (for it was then the second week in April) the men wore the "tuque" instead of the ordinary "glengarry." I noticed that each company had different colors, such as scarlet, brown, and dark blue. If the whole battalion had had the same color it would have looked much better; still the effect was very good, and in my estimation looked much better than if they had worn the clumsy wedge. I was so much pleased with the "tuque" that I purchased one for myself, which I found exceedingly comfortable during the remainder of the campaign when the nights were cold.

One of the Ottawa contingent to the North-west.

OTTAWA, Nov. 20th, 1885.

"HONORS FOR THOSE WHO WERE AT THE FRONT."

To the Editor of the Canadian Militia Gazette:

SIR,—In your issue of Nov. 17th, I notice a letter written and signed by "The Odd File."

Now, sir, both he and "Volunteer" must be possessed of a very acute sense of hearing, as they seem to have detected a "growl that has been rumbling through the ranks of those who were at the front."

It would seem by this last statement that both he and "Volunteer" think that only those who were fortunate enough to be at Batoche, are to be considered as having been to the "front."

The "Odd File" wants a different pattern of medal, or a different colored ribbon to distinguish "we who were at Batoche" from the rest of the volunteers."

Might we not suggest a special issue of tunics to "Volunteer," "Odd File," and the rest of their grumbling friends, with the word Batoche painted across the breasts in white. We would not be in the least jealous.

It is rather a sweeping assertion to accuse those who were at Batoche of growling, as I am sure the Royal Grenadiers, and the 90th Battalion, and A Battery, R.C.A., do not begrudge us poor mortals who were at Fish Creek, Cut Knife, or Frenchman's Butte, wearing the same decorations as themselves.

I think it would be better taste to say the least of it, if the "Odd File" would remain silent on a subject which perhaps older, and possibly wiser, heads than his must have fully discussed.

"CUT KNIFE."

A NEW SERVICE ARM REQUIRED.

To the Editor of the Canadian Militia Gazette:

SIR,—Now that our Snider rifles are getting played out I would suggest to the authorities to have a good rifle of their own and not purchase cheaply the worn out Martini-Henry, discarded by the British Government. The new Martini-Enfield, 40 gauge, has been proved a splendid weapon from having met a low trajectory. I would say take its barrel and put on it a Snider action, which is not so costly as the Martini breech action, and use the same 40 gauge ammunition which would obviate all mistakes of mixed ammunition on the field. The Snider was proved in the North-west to be a very good rifle, from its breech action being safe, simple, easily worked, easily repaired when out of order, and standing well all the vicissitudes of our climate. Mind I say nothing of its shooting qualities. We want a truer shooting rifle than the Snider, but with its simple breech action. If the above combination is possible, and there is no reason why it should not be so, we would then have as good a rifle as that used in the British service at a smaller cost.

FORTY GAUGE SNIDER.

AMUSEMENTS.

(If the active organizers of regimental games, company clubs, and similar winter occupations for the militia will forward us accounts of their doings we will gladly publish them. This, we hope, would have the good result of encouraging the organization of similar clubs where there are none at present.)

OTTAWA.—A football match, Rugby rules, was played on Thanksgiving day between teams of the 43rd O. and C. Rifles and the P. L. Dragoon Guards, which proved most entertaining to the spectators, as the ground was very slippery and only a few on each side were in practice, and some, notably Dr. Coleman P.L.D.G., were laboring under the misapprehension that football was a game in which kicking still had a prominent place. Two half hours were played, and, when time was called the score stood, Rifles 22 points, including two goals; Dragoons, nothing. Capt. Evans captained the Rifles' team, in which good play was shown by Bray, Kerr, McCormack, Pratt and Clendinning; while Lieut. Humfrey, Captain of the Dragoons' team, was ably seconded by Bolard and Martin. It should be said in explanation of the one-sided score that the Rifles had a much more numerous list to select from than the Dragoons.

"A" company, G.G.F.G., has for many years past taken an annual fall tramp to Aylmer, nine miles from the drill hall, where they take dinner, have a good time generally, and return in the wee sma' hours by train or some other conveyance less susceptible to weariness than their own legs. This year they started at four o'clock on Saturday afternoon. There was a good turn out, numbering nearly sixty, including fifteen of the band under Bandmaster Bonner. Owing to the fine afternoon a great many people were out of doors, and the trim and soldier-like appearance of the volunteers as they passed through the principal streets won many expressions of admiration from the onlookers. In Ottawa and Hull the mud on the streets was too deep for pleasant walking, but the Aylmer road was found dry and smooth, and good time was made to Aylmer. Holt's hotel was found as hospitable-looking as ever, gaily illuminated, with a great display of bunting. The sound of the approaching band had caused a large gathering of Aylmerites in front of the hotel, who gave a hearty welcoming cheer as the redcoats arrived. During the interval between the time of arrival and the dinner bugle, the company held a brief business meeting, when it was decided to join with the Ladies' Aid Association in erecting a brass tablet in the Drill Hall to the memory of Rogers and Osgood. At last the welcome call was heard, and all fled into the dining-room, which was found gaily decorated in honour of the occasion. Amongst other greetings the words "Welcome to Major Todd's Company on their return from the North-west" were conspicuous. Major Todd took the head of the table, with Mr. Cormier, Mayor of Aylmer and Warden of Ottawa County, who was once again present to extend the freedom of the town to the visitors. Mr. McConnell of Aylmer, Assistant Surgeon Grant, and Bandmaster Bonner on his right. On the chairman's left were Lieut. Shannon, Lieut. Humfrey, P.L.D.G., and Pte. L. Brophy, of B Co., Guards, the last two having been invited to dine once more with the Sharpshooters whose pot luck they had shared in the North-west. Another welcome visitor present was Pte. French, of the Montreal Vics., formerly an exceedingly popular member of Major Todd's company. The vice-chairs were occupied by Color-Serjants Deslauriers and Winter. The dinner served up gave every satisfaction. In this connection the elaborately prepared "bills of fare" deserve mention; they reflect great credit on the decorative skill of the executant. They abounded in figures of military men of various ranks disporting themselves in divers manners, and the exhibition of hilarity there apparent seemed to have quite an enlivening effect upon the company. Dinner and the usual toasts over the tables were cleared away and the company spent the evening in singing and dancing, and also in promenading outside listening to the fine playing of the band, which, from the balcony of the hotel, treated the Aylmer folks to a number of selections. At about 10 o'clock a corporal's guard started to march back to Ottawa, and some time later the rest of the company started in buses on the return journey, all highly satisfied with the pleasant proceedings of the long-looked-forward-to annual dinner.

REGIMENTAL NOTES.

STRAY SHOTS FROM MONTREAL.

The Royal Scots have secured the Academy of Music for an entertainment to be given on the 18th Dec. The 65th Batt. band have been engaged and will play some of their choicest selections.

Their "Tug of War" team thinks they can pull a team from any other battalion in the Dominion.

The officers have adopted a new style of winter head-dress and have forwarded a pattern to the Militia Department for approval.

It has been suggested that the Militia Department should request commanding officers of battalions to send forward their ideas of the newest and best method of fitting up armories, arm racks, &c.

The Royal Scots have organized a Snow Shoe Club, and expect to take Saturday afternoon tramps—in uniform—during the winter.

The Sixth Signalling Corps are well up. What are the other corps doing? How can a company officer be appointed to the command of a battalion without having a first-class certificate? [Give it up.—Ed.]

MONTREAL.—The Victoria Rifles' Association held its annual presentation of prizes on Monday, the 16th inst., in the Victoria Rink, which was well filled with admirers of the corps. Headed by their band they marched into the rink and formed a square around the prizes, which were exhibited on a table covered with the Union Jack. The following officers discharged the duty of making the presentation: Lieut.-Col. Van Straubenzee, D.A.G.; Lieut.-Col. Gardner, 6th Fusiliers; Lieut.-Col. Oswald, Garrison Artillery, and Lieut. Col. Crawford, "Vics." After the presentation the men piled arms, and Lieut.-Col. Van Straubenzee, addressing them said he regretted that he was not able to be present at the annual inspection this year, but he had heard from Col. Worsley that they had made a most creditable turnout. Letters were read from the Mayor and from Col. Powell, A.G., regretting their inability to be present and thanking the men for the effective service rendered in guarding the Exhibition buildings.

TORONTO.—Lieut.-Cols. Denison, Grasset and Gray, on behalf of the Toronto Militia, urged the city council last week to assist in the erection of a new drill shed, the present building being altogether inadequate for drill purposes, and lacking other desirable accommodation. A larger shed was wanted in a central locality. The scheme would involve an expenditure of between \$75,000 and \$80,000. As the government would do nothing unless the city guaranteed about half the amount, the deputation proposed that the council should submit a by-law for the sum required to the rate-payers, in whose hands they were satisfied to leave their case. The matter was referred to the executive committee.

THE TARGET.

ANNUAL MATCHES OF THE 7TH FUSILIERS' RIFLE ASSOCIATION.

The Fusiliers held their annual prize meeting on Thanksgiving day, when there was an extremely good attendance, so much so that a number of the competitors were obliged to shoot in a very bad light at 600 yards, as the short autumn day drew rapidly to its close. The weather was dull and cloudy, with a strong wind blowing across the range in a 3 o'clock direction, in view of which drawback the scoring was good, and the shooting altogether much better than that of last year, which shows that the work of the battalion in the North-west has not shattered their nerves to any great extent. Snider rifles, Dominion aggregate positions.

1ST OR COMPANY TEAM MATCH.

For the Regimental cup, valued at \$200, and \$20 divided between the winning team. Open to teams of eight from each company; five shots at 200, 400 and 500 yards.

Table with 4 columns: Rank, Name, Score, Total. Rows include 1st-D Company, 2nd-E Company, 3rd-G Company, and B, A, C and F Companies.

The winning team were Capt. Tracy, Lieut. Cox, Lieut. Payne, Sergt.-Major Byrne, Sergt. Manigault, Sergt. Westland, Pte. Smith and Pte. Rogers, Capt. Tracy leading with a score of 61.

2ND MATCH—NURSERY.

Open to members of the battalion who had never won a prize in any association match; five shots at 400 yards.

Table with 4 columns: Rank, Name, Score, Total. Rows include Lieut. Pope, Pte. Keenan, Pte. Hiscott, Pte. McCausland, and Drum-Major Lawless.

3RD MATCH—GENERAL.

Open to the battalion; five shots at 200 and 500 yards.

Table with 4 columns: Rank, Name, Score, Total. Rows include Capt. Tracy, Pte. McKenzie, Lieut. Hayes, Pte. Hiscott, Lieut. Payne, Pte. Smith, Pte. Richardson, Bandmaster Hiscott, Sergt. Neillson, Sergt.-Major Byrne, Pte. Barlow, Lieut. Pope, Pte. Hanson, Capt. Dillon, Pte. Rogers, and Capt. Butler.

4TH MATCH—MEMBERS AND EX-MEMBERS.

Open to all members of the battalion and to ex-members not connected with any other battalion; five shots at 200, 500 and 600 yards.

Table with 4 columns: Rank, Name, Score, Total. Rows include G. W. Pitt, Lieut. Hayes, Pte. Hiscott, Capt. Dillon, Capt. Tracy, Capt. McKenzie, Pte. Barlow, Sergt.-Major Byrne, Lieut. Payne, Pte. Smith, Col.-Sergt. Jacobs, and Sergt. Manigault.

5TH MATCH—AGGREGATE.

Open to the battalion; 2 prizes, the winner to have his choice; 200, 400, 500 and 600 yards, conditions as in other matches.

Table with 4 columns: Rank, Name, Score, Total. Rows include Capt. Dillon, Gold medal for highest score made by a company sergeant in 3rd Match—Sergt. Neillson, and Gold medal for highest score made by any Bandsman in 4th Match—Bandsman Hiscott.

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PRIZE MEDAL 1851.

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Notice to Contractors.

SEALED TENDERS addressed to the undersigned, and endorsed "Tender for Removal of Snow, Rideau Hall," will be received at this Office until FRIDAY, the 27th November, inst., for the Clearing and Removal of Snow, &c., from the roofs of buildings, out-buildings, walks, avenues or roads, &c., at Rideau Hall.

Forms of Tender and Specifications can be had at this office, where all necessary information can be obtained.

Each tender must be accompanied by an accepted bank cheque, made payable to the order of the Honourable the Minister of Public Works, equal to five per cent. of the amount of the tender, which will be forfeited if the party declines to enter into a contract when called upon to do so, or if he fails to complete the work contracted for. If the tender be not accepted the cheque will be returned.

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

By order, A. GOBEIL, Secretary.

Department of Public Works, Ottawa, 19th November, 1885.



CONTRACT FOR SUPPLY OF MAIL BAGS.

SEALED TENDERS addressed to the Postmaster General, (for Printing and Supply Branch), and marked "Tender for Mail Bags," will be received at Ottawa until 12 o'clock, noon, on MONDAY, the 2nd NOVEMBER, 1885, for the supply of the Post Office Department of Canada with such Cotton Duck, Jute and Leather Mail Bags as may from time to time be required for the Postal Service of the Dominion.

Samples of the Bags to be furnished may be seen at the Post Offices at Halifax, N.S., St. John, N.B., Charlottetown, P.E.I., Quebec, Montreal, Ottawa, Toronto, London, Winnipeg, Man., Victoria, B.C., or at the Post Office Department at Ottawa.

The Bags supplied, both as regards material and manufacture, to be fully equal to the samples, and to be delivered from time to time in such quantities as may be required at Ottawa.

The contract, if satisfactorily executed, shall continue in force for the term of four years, provided always the workmanship and material be satisfactory to the Postmaster General.

Each tender to state the price asked per bag in the form and manner prescribed by the form of tender, and to be accompanied by the written guarantee of two responsible parties, undertaking that in the event of the tender being accepted, the contract shall be duly executed by the party tendering for the price demanded. Undertaking also to become bound with the contractor in the sum of two thousand dollars for the performance of the contract.

Printed forms of tender and guarantee may be obtained at the Post Offices above named, or at the Post Office Department, Ottawa.

The lowest or any tender will not necessarily be accepted.

WILLIAM WHITE, Secretary.

Post Office Department, Canada, Ottawa, 1st October, 1885.

N.B.—The time for the reception of tenders for the supply of Mail Bags has been extended by the Postmaster-General for one month (until noon on Wednesday, the 2nd December, 1885), certain changes having been made in the form of tender, as shown in the amended form of proposal to be had from the Postmasters of the following places:—Halifax, N.S., St. John, N.B., Charlottetown, P.E.I., Quebec, Montreal, Ottawa, Toronto, London, Hamilton, Winnipeg, Man., Victoria, B.C., or at the Post Office Department at Ottawa.

WILLIAM WHITE, Secretary. Post Office Department, Canada, Ottawa, 24th October, 1885.

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Statutes of Canada.

THE Statutes of Canada are for sale at the Queen's Printer's Office, here; also separate Acts since 1874. Price lists will be sent to any person applying for them.

B. CHAMBERLIN, Ottawa, May, 1885. Q.P



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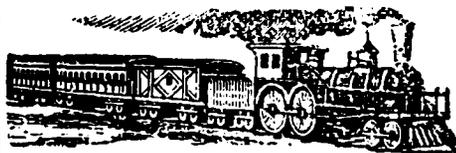
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