

# THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE

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## Topics of the Week.

The oft discussed subject of dress at military rifle meetings is brought up again this week by a correspondent, "Mark IV." The Captain he refers to was seemingly something of a beau, for whom his handsome uniform was too plain; and the same spirit which prompted him to add the collar and tie by way of embellishment, no doubt made him loath to allow the rain to mar its original beauty, and hence the addition of the umbrella to his equipment, in default of the regulation waterproof cloak. We agree with our correspondent that no additional frillings such as he mentions should be countenanced on the rifle range. The more pronounced the simplicity of uniform called for, the easier will it be to enforce compliance with the rules. Care should be taken, however, not to harass the riflemen by absurd constructions of the regulations. An instance of this kind happened at a recent prize meeting, where a range officer compelled a competitor who wore one of the old fashioned serges with belt of the same material attached, to put on over it the pipe-clayed belt worn with his tunic. It was in vain the rifleman protested that if he were allowed to wear the serge at all, the belt attached to it was all that the dress regulations called for. The range officer was obdurate, and the competitor had to leave the butt, where he was about to commence his score, and skirmish about for the loan of a white belt.

A bill providing a pension system for the militia district staff officers and the members of the permanent corps is not unlikely to be introduced at the pending session of parliament, the subject having received considerable attention during the recess. The necessity for such a measure has long been obvious, and we have never lost a seasonable opportunity of calling public attention to the matter. While the details of the proposed measure are yet only matters of speculation, we would not be surprised to find the new pension bill modelled as closely as possible after that parliament so readily adopted last year for the benefit of the Mounted Police.

On several occasions moneys have been voted for extensions and additions to the Royal Military College buildings, and the grants allowed to lapse for one reason or another, roughly speaking because the work was not an immediate necessity, and its initiation was put off until the lapse of time killed the vote. Parliament having thus assented to this contemplated expenditure, there should be no objection raised if at the approaching session it is found desirable to ask for a re-vote of these appropriations. The time has now come when the College must be provided with greater living accommodation for its pupils, or the limit

of attendance be further decreased. It would be a great pity to exclude any properly qualified young men bent upon acquiring the education which this institution affords.

We have to make a further acknowledgment of holiday greetings received, this time from No. 6 company of the Victoria Rifles, Montreal, whose card contains a picture of the regimental armoury building, and a well executed photograph of the company as it was made up in the early part of the year.

The first to answer the circular issued by the Secretary of the Canadian Military Rifle League were Lt.-Col. J. R. Wilkinson, 21st Fusiliers, headquarters at Leamington, Ont., and Lt.-Col. R. H. Davis, 37th Batt., headquarters at York, Ont. Both say they are much in favour of the scheme, and promise their hearty support.

Members of our ambulance and hospital corps will be interested in hearing that in the United States a bill has been introduced to increase the pay of the hospital corps in connection with the army, and that it has good prospects of becoming law. Surgeon General Moore has taken an active part in the matter. He says: "The pay of privates of the hospital corps as now fixed by law is much less than that heretofore given to enlisted men who were detailed on extra duty for the performance of this service and is not commensurate with the duties required of them. This has produced dissatisfaction and discontent among the men and has already impaired the efficiency of the corps. The duties which these men are called to perform are often exceedingly trying and dangerous; they are frequently required to lose rest in attendance at night upon patients who are dangerously ill with fevers or wounds; also to expose themselves to the contagion of diseases, as small-pox, erysipelas, measles, etc., and to perform other duties about the persons of the helpless sick which are often offensive and highly disagreeable. In addition to this strictly professional service, they are required to attend drills and lectures for instruction in the transportation of sick and wounded, and in rendering to them first aid in emergencies. The soldier of the line has certain fixed times for the performance of his duties, and if called upon for a service not strictly military, is paid for it at the rate of 35 or 50 cents per day, while the soldier of the hospital corps is continuously on duty, and has no special opportunity for recreation or for bettering his financial condition by outside work." It must be confessed that Canada has scarcely any hospital corps, but a glance at the militia list will show that we have a Surgeon General, who might interest himself in providing inducements for the growth of such a corps.

A fuss is being raised in England just now over frauds discovered to have been systematically made in the efficiency returns furnished to the government by Volunteer battalions, the records being falsified in order to obtain a larger grant than the corps were properly entitled to. Non-efficient members have been returned as efficient by falsification of the target practice returns. The Duke of Cambridge reminds commanding officers and adjutants that the making up of target practice registers in the office is not permissible under any circumstances; they must be

taken to the range and every man's score entered on the spot, and verified by the signature of an officer and non-commissioned officer. In Canada there is not so great an inducement to falsify the returns, as a man's pay is forthcoming whether he be efficient or not, so long as he has put in the stipulated time at drill. It is a matter of notoriety, however, that in many instances no attempt is made to have the returns, particularly for target practice, correct, and it would not be at all a bad idea for the regulations upon this subject to be more strictly enforced.

Lord Wantage, chairman of the council of the National Rifle Association, is a leader in the movement to present a fitting testimonial to Capt. E. St. John Mildmay, who has retired from the office of Secretary after thirty years service. The fund committee consists of the Duke of Westminster, Brigadier-General Lord Wantage, and no end of other Lords, Earls, Sir Knights, Generals, Colonels, and Esquires, who have made an excellent beginning, for the published list now amounts to nearly eight hundred pounds, from the first twenty-seven subscribers. Four noblemen head the list with the handsome gift of £100 each. Our Dominion Association might gracefully contribute its mite, as a token that Capt. Mildmay's civilities to our representatives have not been unappreciated or forgotten.

A skeptic named Capt. Grant is reported to have said recently, addressing a corps of English volunteers, that "the shots of Wimbledon men would tell so little in war that they would always be inclined to challenge the marker." There is something the facetious critic did not take into his reckoning; the marking is automatic in action and the target could not stand so completely unmoved, nor lie so unconcernedly, as does that on the rifle range when a bullet pierces the bullseye unheeded by the marker.

Elsewhere will be found a report of the annual business meeting of the Council of the Quebec Provincial Rifle Association. It will be noticed that interesting additions to the programme are in contemplation for next prize meeting, these including a special battalion competition for large teams. Quebec has only to try this experiment for the Dominion to follow suit. The poor showing made by the provincial team in the Merchants' Cup Match at the last D.R.A. meeting is referred to, and the blame is properly placed upon the method of choice, which is now to be improved upon.

### Regimental and Other News.

The popular officer who for many years past has been adjutant of the Tenth Royal Grenadiers, Toronto, was married at Harriston, Ont., last week, to one of the belles of that place. This is from the Toronto *Mail's* despatch concerning the affair:—"One of the most pleasing events that has occurred here for some time was the wedding of Capt. Manley, of Toronto, to Mrs. Gordon, of this place, which occurred to-day. In spite of the inclemency of the weather little St. George's was filled to the utmost by friends of the bride, who, with her bridesmaids, was the cynosure of every eye. A pleasant feature of the celebration was the presence of the groom's mother, who astonished everybody by her vivacity and youthful appearance. After the celebration a breakfast was partaken of at the residence of the bride's sister, where a large number of friends gathered. The presence of the Mayor of the town, Mr. Dowling, added not a little to the jollity of the occasion. When the bride and groom took the train for the west on their honeymoon feasting and fun were still the order of the hour, and everyone joined in wishing them *bon voyage* and a happy return."

Four sergeants and some men of the Fifth Royal Scots have asked their discharge because the post of Sergeant-Major has been given, not to the senior non-com. qualified, but to Pte. Niven, a thoroughly competent man who once before held the position, but had to resign during the small-pox riots of a few years ago, because he could not spare the time when the regiment was ordered out. The trouble has been duly written up in the Montreal papers, arguments pro and con being stated at length; but in the meantime Sergt.-Major Niven is not disturbed in his appointment.

### Correspondence.

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

#### DRESS AT RIFLE MEETINGS.

EDITOR MILITIA GAZETTE.—I see that you are inviting communications from your subscribers on matters of interest to volunteers and volunteering generally, and I am very glad of the opportunity to air a grievance, which, I am sorry to say, is very noticeable at the P. Q. R. A., P. O. R. A. and C. R. A. meetings. To be brief, it is the habit some volunteers have of appearing on the field at these competitions improperly dressed, and without any consideration for the Militia Regulations whatever.

One case, in particular, which I would mention, was brought to my notice at the last P. Q. R. A. meeting at Montreal. An officer (a captain) appeared on the field in the morning in drill order, with a white linen collar showing over his jacket and the top hook left unfastened to show a necktie; in one hand his trusty Snider, and in the other a faded gingham umbrella! That he was not a poor weather prophet the sequel will show, for on my way home after the day's shooting I passed this "officer" with his umbrella up to keep off the driving rain and the aforesaid Snider snugly ensconced within its cavernous depths. I really could not bring myself to salute him, and, indeed, what would he have done had I saluted?

Now, Mr. Editor, we have all seen the men who will persist in wearing white collars above the standing collar of the tunic or patrol jacket, and I think that if you start an agitation against these little errors we would soon have an improvement in the dress of the militia force of Canada. At present the range officers are not strict enough in enforcing the regulation concerning the dress of the competitor; let them be distinctly instructed to allow no officer or man to shoot who is not dressed in accordance with the regulations for the Active Militia.

All we volunteers look upon your little paper, Mr. Editor, as a species of oracle, and have no doubt that you have but to turn another cog to have these things attended to in due course, and looking for a favourable criticism on the above in your next issue

I am yours truly

Montreal, 26th December, 1889.

MARK IV.

### Foreign and American Ordnance.

(U. S. Army and Navy Journal.)

Lieutenant William Crozier, Ordnance Department, U. S. A., who was sent abroad last spring to investigate the subject of carriages for heavy guns especially and the subject of ordnance generally, has returned to Washington brimful of valuable information. Acting under instructions from the War Department, he procured three of the latest and most useful types of gun carriages. Two of these, purchased in England, are for 12-inch mortars, and the other, procured in France, is for a 12-inch gun. He also obtained a number of new ballistic instruments, which will be of great assistance to the Ordnance Bureau in designing modern carriages.

In the course of a general conversation with a *Journal* correspondent about his observations abroad, Lieutenant Crozier says that we are fully abreast of the times in the matter of heavy gun construction, but that England, France and Germany are away ahead of us in their carriages. The few type built-up steel guns we have made compare more than favourably with the best of the same kind of guns built in any other part of the world. At the present time, he says, several of the leading foreign powers are giving much attention to wire-wound guns, and the progress thus far made indicates that this is likely to be the gun of the future. England has made some very successful trials with a 6-inch and 9¼-inch gun of this type, and is now having one of 13½-inch calibre built. Russia, also, is building a 6-inch wire-wound gun, which its designers claim will be superior to any of the present style built-up gun.

The subjects of small arms and smokeless powder also receive considerable attention from Lieut. Crozier, whose keen powers of observation led him to other fields than those specially assigned him. Notwithstanding all that has been said and written to the contrary, Lieut. Crozier regards the smokeless powder question as still unsettled, and one that will require much further investigation and experiment before any entirely satisfactory results are reached. He is reliably informed that both France and Germany have found the smokeless powder adopted as the standard powder for their respective countries during the present year objectionable in many respects, and have within the past six months changed to different standards. These he regards as largely experimental. Switzerland, he says, is the only foreign country that has thus far adopted a smokeless powder and stuck to it. The latest

standard, however, adopted by the French has given better results than that used by the Swiss. Lieut. Crozier has obtained some entirely reliable data in regard to the results of the new powder and small calibre magazine guns.

With the Lebel rifle, 0.375 in. calibre, a bullet of 232 grains and powder charge of 43.14 grains, an initial velocity was given of 2,020 feet per second, the pressure being 34,800 lbs. These are the results obtained by the French with the smokeless powder last adopted by that country.

With the Swiss regulation rifle—Reubin-Schmidt—.295 in., an initial velocity of 1,970 feet per second is the highest recorded, a bullet weighing 216 grains and a charge of powder of 31 grains being used. While the velocity was less with the Swiss gun than the French, the pressure was also higher, 37,000 being the official figures, though Lieut. Crozier says many have claimed a much lower pressure. Lieut. Crozier was not able to obtain any definite information of the operations with the German smokeless powder. England, he says, like this country, is still experimenting with reduced calibre rifles and smokeless powder before any definite standards. As far as his observations went, there are three important objections to even the best smokeless powder yet produced. These are, first, the irregularity of pressure, second, quickness to spoil, and third, intense heat from shell, which affects accuracy of fire.

### The New Cruiser Blake.

(From the New York Times).

The English have been enjoying a jubilee over the launch of the new cruiser *Blake*. The British public is inclined to believe that the *Blake* is the most powerful adjunct Her Majesty's navy has received in modern years.

Secretary Whitney, in his last annual report, referred at length to the two new war vessels, *Blake* and *Blenheim*. He laid stress on the fact that these two vessels were designed for higher speed than any vessel which had preceded them. Some of the foreign governments immediately put into execution the construction of similar vessels.

The *Blake* is unquestionably the most efficient cruiser the British have. She lacks nothing in good materials, stores, and fittings. But *Broad Arrow* has this criticism of her:

It came to pass, also, that when the *Sage*, with her nineteen knot speed, was coming into being, the naval mind was getting excited—it is cooling down now—over the question of speed, and grave authorities, who would not repeat their words now, were deliberately talking of the speed of a cruiser as if it gave her fighting powers under all circumstances, instead of only defending power against superior or equal force, if she was properly armed to avail herself of it. To the excited mind of that day, so short a time ago, it seemed everything that there should be not only a match, but an overmatch, for the *Sage* and her like; and as speed got itself included among the weapons, the overmatch aimed was in speed.

The *Blake* is 375 feet between perpendiculars, has an extreme breadth of 65 feet, and a mean displacement of 9,000 tons at a mean draught of 25 feet 9 inches. The hull is built on a longitudinal and transverse combined system, and has 126 water-tight compartments and 90 water-tight doors above and below deck. For protection the *Blake* depends almost entirely on a water-tight deck extending throughout the length of hull, having a maximum thickness of six inches on the top, and a minimum of three inches at the end. This protective deck is about six feet below the water line at the sides, but rises higher amidships to 18 inches, and it is claimed that this maximum thickness of six inches will afford the same protection from the direct blows of shot as would a vertical plane of 12 inches in thickness. She has no vertical side armor above the water line.

Under the protected deck are arranged all the vital parts of the vessel, such as the propelling engine, the boilers, the auxiliary machinery of every description, and a magazine. A cylindrical conning tower, composed of steel faced plates 12 in. thick, affords a defence against small gunshot to the steam steering gear, engine rooms, telegraphs, directors, and voice pipes. The *Blake* will be armed with nine 2-in. 24-ton breechloading guns, bow and stern chasers, mounted on Vavasseur mountings in protected towers; ten 6-in. 5-ton breechloading guns, six on sponsons on the upper deck and four mounted in casements on the main deck; eighteen 3-pdr. Hotchkiss guns and ten Nordenfeldt guns distributed on the upper deck. In addition to the guns she will carry a powerful torpedo armament, including both above water and submerged tubes. Her bow will be strengthened for ramming. The *Blake* is fitted with triple expansion engines designed for 20,000 indicated horse power. With this power it is expected that the vessel will make 22 knots an hour. But the most peculiar feature of the vessel is her tremendous coal-carrying capacity. Her bunkers are constructed for no less than 1,500 tons of coal, and in a pinch this can be made 1,800. This coal supply is sufficient to give her a cruising radius of 1,500 miles. In other words, she can run from England to Calcutta and back again at the rate of ten knots an hour. The *Blake* has two

derrick masts, but practically no sails, the fore canvas being intended for bringing her head toward the wind. The total cost of the cruiser, including her equipment, is \$1,750,000.

The machinery will consist of two independent sets of triple expansion engines, of the vertical type, guaranteed to develop 20,000 horse-power with forced draught, and, by means of twin screws, to drive the ship at a maximum rate of 22 knots; with natural draught the horse-power is to be 13,000, and speed 20 knots. As a very fair space has been given to engines and boilers, and the forced draught is not to exceed an air pressure of 2 inches of water, it is highly probable that the *Blake* will attain a sea speed of over 19 knots an hour. In that case she will be the fastest man-of-war afloat.

In a comparison between the armament of the *Sage* and the *Blake* it is observed that neither ships crew is protected, even against three-pounders anywhere, and most of the men are exposed to all but rifle fire. The *Blake*, it is seen, has twelve shell guns of from 9.2 to 6 inch calibre, while the *Sage* has sixteen shell guns of from 16 to 24 centimetres calibre. The *Sage*, furthermore, has fifteen rapid-fire and machine guns, as against the *Blake's* eighteen. Considering that practically every missile from these guns which hits will penetrate or wound or kill, it is certain that the killing and wounding on one side would be greater than on the other, assuming the gunnery to be equal. It appears to be conceded that the *Blake* could generally overhaul the *Sage* in chase, or get away from her if chased.

To build vessels as a match against individual ships of other nations is to inaugurate a general policy of matches, but at the same time it can never be guaranteed that even in the course of wars these individual ships will meet one another. In brief, the *Blake* may be summed up as a most expensive war ship, possessing all that is desired in the point of speed, well battered, but as a fighting ship not superior to any other of the various types of cruisers in the British Navy.

### In the Mother Country.

Col. Smith, in the course of an excellent address to the sergeants of the 1st Lanark recently, gave the following piece of advice, which we "pass on": "Let me recommend your careful perusal and serious study of Parts VI and VIII of the Red Book of 1889, and you will become convinced that the battle is to the side that is strong in cool-headed and experienced non-commissioned officers. On them depends the cautious progress of the men as they move forward in the attack; under their control rests the judicious expenditure of every round of ammunition; from them it is expected that a correct estimate of what the distance is at which they are from the enemy, and they should see that sights are adjusted accordingly. In this latter section of knowledge there are considerable difficulties in the way of getting practical tests, but it is such an important one that means should be devised whereby experience might be gained in judging distances; such as an afternoon's excursion into the country now and then, to accustom yourselves to estimate the distance of certain objects which you can afterwards actually ascertain by *pacing*; or you may arrange to have some of your number sent off in different directions with their rifles and blank cartridges, and on their firing you could fairly estimate the several distances by the time which elapses between *flash and sound*. The efficacy of your fire in the different zones must greatly depend upon proper appreciation of distances, and hence it is of no ordinary importance that this should form part of your training."

"In educating ourselves we should try, as far as possible, to realize the conditions of war, and make preparations accordingly. There would then be an absence of *fixed targets*, and the presence of *moving objects*. So, should not more time be spent in shooting at a running or disappearing man at unknown distances? As Volunteers we will never be called upon to confront savage troops, against which it is sometimes safest to oppose a solid body, but we know that if ever invasion does come, it will be by the best skilled soldiery of Europe—armed with the most perfect weapons which ingenuity can devise. In face of such foes it would be madness to adopt other than the most open formation consistent with cohesion; and as this means that an extended company would occupy a space greater than any one voice could compass, decentralisation of command must take place from the captain to his subalterns and his non-commissioned officers the moment the attack is launched and the engagement is begun. From this stage forward the actual and immediate control lies with the leaders of sections, and I would therefore ask you not to under-estimate your responsibilities, but rather seek most diligently so to train yourselves, and acquire such useful knowledge as would render you worthy representatives and leaders in a force which patriotism has begotten to stand between its *aris et foces* and the cruel stroke to the foemen steel."

On the subject of the reduction of the allowance of ammunition, "Forage Cap," writing in the *Glasgow Evening News*, says: "Numbers of men have failed to become efficient because of the nature of the musketry regulations, and commanding officers, if they mean to make an effort to keep those men still in the ranks, will be forced to give them target practice at a price well within the reach of the men who have failed. Not only so, the development and practice of the new drill make it a necessity that efficient volunteers, in addition to their class-firing, should be trained to fire by volleys and otherwise, at moving and disappearing objects. With an increasing demand, therefore, in every regiment for more ammunition per man than is at present allowed, our authorities propose that, after January 1st, the allowance per man will be reduced from 90 to 75 rounds. I hope it is only a suggestion. If this reduction is insisted upon, it will do much to cool the ardour of those who are struggling to keep their regiments in an efficient condition, for it will become evident that the present anxiety of commanding officers to keep up the strength of their force is not at all shared by the authorities. It is admitted at once that the reduction is a small one, but it is made at a time when, instead of a reduction, there is room for an increase in the allowance. Who will explain this latest development in the wisdom of those who should do all they can to increase the fighting power of the volunteers? Is it that the authorities consider the proposal a sufficient set-off against an expected demand for more?"

The regulation cavalry sabre is considered by the Duke of Cambridge to be put to too severe a trial of strength when it is used for tent-pegging. His Royal Highness has therefore forbidden its being used for that purpose in future. This leads the *Volunteer Record* to remark: "Those curious people who are always wanting to know things, might ask if tent-pegging, both as a test of the weapon's strength and of its wielder's dexterity, is not a practice which it would be well to encourage rather than otherwise, even at the risk of breaking a sword or two now and then. The reply to these same curious people is, the W.O. authorities have a mortal dread of exposures."

The following gem in the way of instructions given by an enthusiastic volunteer sergeant to his guard, is from the *First Lanark Gazette*:—"Noo, when ye see a Ginerall, ye'll present airms, an' when ye see a Field Officer ye'll present airms, an' when its dark ye'll say 'Halt, wha comes there,' an' he'll say 'Friend,' an' ye'll say 'Pass friend alls well,' but if he says 'Go to h—,' ye'll no say 'Pass go to h—alls well'—(with great vehemence). Aw'll hae nae d— nonsense with my gaird."

In an article on "The Position and Pay of the British Soldier," the *Times of India* has the following:

"All games as they become more scientific become more expensive both in time for practice and for *materiel*, and so it is with war, the most scientific and yet the greatest game of chance in the world. And this is what we are now realizing, and, having realized, are preparing ourselves and copying a great deal that is good, and a good deal of that which is questionable from the nation which has made the best use of its comparatively recent experiences of a big Continental war. But in so doing we have forgotten many little points—but points of importance notwithstanding. In the first place we have voluntary, and not compulsory service, and in the second, our short service is nearly double that of the German army. Three years' hard work is not too long to make a soldier; but double the time and steadily increase the work, and the result is apt to be disappointing in more ways than one. That the work required of our soldiers has greatly increased during the past decade no one will deny, and no one will doubt that it will go on increasing, so long as we introduce new tactical developments and fresh courses of study about every six months without making any compensating excision of what has been obsolete and unsuited to the requirements of modern warfare. "Retain the old, add on the new," is the perpetual refrain, and yet we are surprised that results show an improvement so little commensurate with the increase of work. We want the accuracy of alignment and precision of manoeuvre that characterized the army of Frederick the Great, combined with the marksmanship of the Boers, and the individual intelligence of a higher order than is generally met with among the classes from which we draw our recruits. To take an instance. A company has been away from duty for a month or so, during which time the captain has been endeavouring to draw out the latent—in many

cases very latent indeed—intelligence of his men, and induce them to take an interest in their work by every means in his power; and probably has succeeded in some instances, even if it be only as far to make them acknowledge that a morning spent out over ground where a fight would be possible is better than the monotony of the barrack square, and "right turn, left turn, take the beggar's name down."

Naturally one would suppose that the sequel to this training would be a continuation of similar exercises in the battalion, with the companies, left as far as possible intact, working under their own officers, and every endeavour made to foster a spirit of emulation between companies, so that they might rival each other in carrying out the duties entrusted to them with smartness and intelligence, and do credit to their instruction. This, however, is not what happens as a rule. What is generally heard is something of this sort. "B company finished training? Well, I suppose they are all over the shop, and as unsteady as they can stick after skying about all over the country for the last month with Captain X. He's too full of Clery and Shaw to be any good as a drill. Then follows daily battalion drill, steady parade movements, march past, and *hoc genus omne*, just to remind Tommy Atkins that he is a machine, a fact that in his recently acquired knowledge of ground in relation to tactics and movements of a small infantry patrol he stood in danger of forgetting." And yet what else can be expected? As long as the march past retains such a prominent place at the annual inspection, and so materially influences the report on the efficiency of the regiment, so long will hours of valuable time be wasted in practising it, and no movement requires more constant rehearsal, or is more useless when perfected. By all means have a march past, but place it in a position of less prominence—not first, but last—after the efficiency of the regiment has been tested and an opinion formed on the way in which manoeuvres more suited to the developments of modern warfare have been executed; then have the march past and see how the men look after a long morning's work.

Our army is small in comparison with the vast forces that have been put in the field by Continental powers since 1866, but what we have should be of the best; we have no margin for show. If in the commercial world it is true that time is money, not less true is it in military matters that time is efficiency, but in both cases the time must be utilized to the best advantage. "The Infantry Drill" is an improvement on "The Field Exercise," in this respect; and when it is more generally recognized that Parts I.—IV. are only a means to an end and not the end itself, we shall hear less of the difficulty of getting a year's work into twelve months, and of the extra pressure which the development of modern scientific modern warfare has thrown on the British soldier's physical and mental powers. The grammar of a language once learnt, no one would dream of going over and over it again in endless repetition with a view to increasing his acquaintance with the language. His reading—by which alone he can expect to perfect himself—supplies sufficient examples which keeps the grammar fresh in his memory, and so it should be with drill and manoeuvre; the former, the grammar with its fixed rules, the latter, the language with its multiplex combinations, success in interpreting the latter depending on intelligent application of the former. In some of our larger stations this is fully recognized and acted upon, but there still remain many in which the soldier's education is by no means carried out as an harmonious whole—where a return to "grammar" is the rule after the completion of every instructional course with a view to getting steady for the march past at the next inspection, and where a couple of regiments will spend hours marching round and round each other on a narrow parade ground under the impression that they are fulfilling the highest duty of the soldier in practising steady brigade movements.

## The Rifle.

### THE NEW SERVICE WEAPON.

The battalions of the Aldershot division to be first armed with the new rifle are, the 2nd Royal Scots, 2nd East Kent, 1st Liverpool, 1st Devonshire, 1st King's Royal Rifles and the 1st South Wales Borderers. In view of the immediate change of armament, drill with the Martini-Henry has been stopped for the younger soldiers. The battalions under orders for foreign or colonial service will not be supplied with the new weapons previous to departure.

In reference to the immediate serving out of the "rifle of the future" to the Aldershot battalions, and its more general issue early in the new year, a few details in respect to the weapon itself will doubtless be read with interest. The barrel is 30.2 in. long, the calibre .303 of an inch; the rifling is in seven grooves (.004 deep) on the Metford system, the twist being left-handed, one turn in 10in., or in 33 calibres. The stocks are, unlike the M.-H., of uniform length, the butts being three-eighths of an inch shorter than the shortest of what may, for con-

venience, be designated the old pattern. The total length of the stock and barrel is 4 ft. 4½ in., or, with the sword-bayonet, 5 ft. 1 4-5 in. the length of the bayonet being 1 ft. 4-11-16 in. The rifle, and magazine uncharged, weigh together, 5 lb. 8 oz., the latter when empty 4½ oz., when filled 13 oz. The magazine is constructed to carry eight cartridges, and can be refilled either in position or detached. Two sets of sights are provided, the ordinary rear sight is graduated up to 1,900 yards. There are also extreme range sights, which provide for ranges from 1,800 to 3,500 yards. The breech action is worked by what is technically understood as the bolt principle, the action being protected by a cover when not in use. The rifle may, at the will of the soldier, be used as a magazine or single loader.

#### THE HYTHE MUSKETRY COURSE.

Some seventy officers of volunteers have accepted the offer of the authorities to attend the Special Volunteer Course of one month at the School of Musketry, Hythe. All grades are represented, but naturally the lieutenants form the bulk of the officers attending, as it was mainly intended for the junior ranks. Our crack shots, whether with the match rifle or the Martini, are well represented. Captain Mellish and Lieutenant Freemantle are representative members of the English eight, Captain Barnett of the Irish eight; and the Martini champions are ably represented by Lieut. Davidson and Captain Young of the Scotch twenty, and Surgeon Lowe of the English twenty, whilst one of the lieutenant-instructors is that well known member of the English eight known to all as Lieut. Dutton-Hunt. None of the officers attending are bringing their own rifles, the rule of the school being that the ordinary rack rifle be served out to all alike, and naturally a certain amount of practice will take place with these weapons in order to ascertain their peculiarities and also how they are sighted.

The whole of the officers are unanimous in their appreciation of the great courtesy and kindness with which they have been received, and, in fact, the school may be looked upon as one large happy family, where, after duty, both instructors and instructed meet on a footing of perfect equality. The feeling of regard to the staff is in no way lessened by the fact that they have all given up their winter leave to afford the benefit of their experience to their volunteer comrades, and, judging by the opinion expressed by the staff, they, on their part, by no means regret the leave they have given up, as they have rarely met such an enthusiastic and attentive body of officers to instruct.

Up to the end of last week the course of instruction comprised the following:—Firing exercise: Two lessons of half-an-hour each on parade, morning and afternoon; judging distance drill and practice, both on men and objects, and also by sound; four lectures on care of arms, etc., and four on the science of musketry, and on firing at fixed and moving objects; practical lessons with the Gardner, Nordenfelt, and Maxim guns; aiming drill and practice; the new magazine rifle; and blank firing, independent and volleys. This is not a bad programme for five days' work, and from the foregoing it will be seen that the day's work from 9.30 till 12.30 and from 2 till 5, is calculated to cover a pretty considerable extent of subjects.

Colonel Tongue, the Commandant, vacates his appointment at the end of the special course, and his successor will be Colonel Slade of equipment fame; whilst it is expected that Captain Bagnall, the popular Captain-Instructor of the Right Wing, will shortly be leaving to take over the duties of Musketry Inspector of the Dublin District. He is a capital Martini shot, and altogether a first-rate all-round man, and the Irish capital will find a man exactly to their taste. Major Gouldie, the equally popular Captain-Instructor of the Left Wing, has not been long at the school, but he also will probably shortly be sent to Cork. Lieutenant Martin, one of the Lieutenant Instructors, has just started the new Musketry School at Aldershot, and Lieut. De la Bere, the latest addition to the staff, has only recently gone through a stiff course of signalling, so he is not letting the grass grow under his feet. Lieut. Dutton-Hunt we have already referred to with regard to his shooting, which is not excelled by his genial good nature and scientific acquirements. As the course proceeds, we shall continue to give details and records of the shots made. The school is so unquestionably a success that there is little doubt it will become an annual course, so that the information afforded in our columns will doubtless prove of interest to the force generally in view of that eventuality.—*United Service Gazette.*

A new 3.6-inch B. L. field mortar, the first of the kind built by the Ordnance Department of the U. S. army, has just been tested. Thirteen rounds were fired at Sandy Hook, twelve being simply powder tests. The thirteenth was for accuracy, and, it is reported, gave very good results. Elevated at an angle of 45 degrees, the shell was dropped within the limit contemplated, and the weapon worked smoothly and well. The same charge is used in this mortar as that prescribed for the 3.6-in. B. L. field gun.

#### The Quebec Rifle Association.

The annual meeting of the Council of the Province of Quebec Rifle Ass'n was held at the Brigade office, Montreal, on the 27th ult. Lt.-Col. Mattice, 5th military district, presided, and there were also present Lt.-Cols. Brosseau, 85th Battalion; Fraser, 8th Battalion, Quebec; Majors Radiger, Toronto Rifle Club; Campbell, P. W. R.; Roy, 6th military district; Captains J. S. Hall, B Battery, Quebec; Hood, 5th Royal Scots; Ibbotson, 43rd Battalion; Lieutenants Desbarats, Metropolitan Rifle Association, Ottawa; and the secretary, Major Blaiklock, and the treasurer, Lt.-Col. Martin. The following rifle associations had no representative present:—60th Battalion, Victoria Rifles, 6th Fusiliers, Montreal Garrison Artillery, Sherbrooke R.A., Governor-General's Foot Guards R. A., Victoria Rifle Club, Hamilton, 54th Battalion, Montreal R. A., Hemmingford R. A., and 52nd Battalion.

The secretary presented the twenty-first annual report, in which the Council congratulated the Association on the success of its operations during the past year, and thanks were tendered to the Governor-General, the Lieutenant-Governor, the Dominion and Provincial Governments and others who had contributed prizes for the annual competition. The annual prize meeting was held on the ranges at Cote St. Luc, where there were at present in position twenty second and third class targets, with the necessary firing points, but no marking discs. There was also a portion of a long range butt of 800 and 900 yds., with incomplete target frames and no discs. The drainage of the target pits in the short range butt, as well as the drainage of the whole range, was still defective. The programme of the matches was drawn up pretty much on the lines of that of the previous year, with the addition of the nursery series to the frontier match, and a nursery aggregate team match. It was suggested that there should be added to the prize list a still further attraction for the competitors who, while not nursery men, were still only intermediate shots. It was also suggested that a battalion team match for special prizes might be added to the present active militia match, in which the teams would be from 15 to 20 men each. The entries were very satisfactory, there being 33 teams and 1,826 individual entries, as against 33 team and 1,944 individual in the preceding year. The largest number of entries in any regular match was 153 in the frontier, against 152 in the association match last year, and 503 in the extra series (600 yards), as compared with 413 in the same match in 1888. The marking was done by men brought from Ottawa, no qualified persons being obtainable here at a reasonable rate, but the work was not done so satisfactorily as it should have been. The Council was of opinion that some means should be taken up by the Association to train markers during the season who would be available for the matches. There should be no difficulty about this, provided the different battalions would co-operate with the Association. At the annual matches the railway facilities were all that could be desired, and thanks were tendered the C. P. R. Company for the kind manner in which they met the desires of the Council. At the Dominion matches the province was well represented, and won a large proportion of the principal prizes, Pte. Burns of the Victoria Rifles being especially fortunate in obtaining the Governor-General's medal and \$250. In the provincial contest for the London Merchants' Cup, Quebec only took fifth place, about the worst showing ever made by the province. The Council strongly advocate the changing of the cast-iron rule which obliged the secretary to choose the team from the highest aggregate in the Martini matches at Ottawa, and suggested that in future the mode followed by Ontario should be adopted, and that the secretary with those members of Council present in Ottawa at the matches should pick the team which, in their judgment, would best represent the province. The report was adopted, as was also that of the treasurer.

The election of officers was then proceeded with, and resulted thus: Chairman of Council—Lieut.-Col. Houghton, D.A.G. Treasurer—Lieut.-Col. Martin. Secretary—Major Blaiklock. Finance Committee—Lieut.-Cols. Brosseau and Fraser and Major Bond. Auditors—Captains Fair and Ross.

Representatives to the D.R.A.—Lieut.-Col. Brosseau, Majors Bond and Blaiklock, and Captains Hood and Sims.

Vice-Patrons—The General Officer Commanding the Militia, Lieut.-Cols. Fletcher, C.M.G., Harwood, Hutton, Lyman, D'Orsonnens, Hon. J. A. Chapeau, Sir Geo. Stephen, Sir Donald Smith, Hon. Senator Thibaudeau, Hon. H. Mercier, Hon. J. Shehyn, Hon. Jas. McShane, Hon. J. J. C. Abbott, ex-Mayor of Montreal, Hon. Geo. A. Drummond, Messrs. J. J. Curran, Q.C., M.P., A. T. Lepine, M.P., Andrew Allan, James Slessor, Hartland S. Macdougall, R. B. Angus, A. F. Gault, R. R. Grindley, Wm. Wier, J. Murray Smith, F. Wolferstan Thomas, Jos. Hickson, G. W. Stephens, Gilbert Scott, Hector Mackenzie, L. J. Forget, Duncan McIntyre, H. Montagu Allan, W. J. Buchanan, Geo. Hague, A. M. Crombie, Jacques Grenier and Robert Hamilton (Quebec.)

Executive Committee—Lieut.-Cols. Martin, Fraser, Miller and Bros-

seau; Majors Bond, Stark and Blaiklock; Capts. Hood, Sims, Jamieson and Finlayson.

It was resolved that the selection of the team (eight in number) to fire in the Provincial match at Ottawa for the London Merchants' cup be left entirely in the hands of the secretary.

It was likewise decided that a grant of \$200 be voted to the secretary for his services during the past year.

A sub-committee was appointed to take into consideration the matter of marking at the ranges; and a committee was also appointed to report upon what was necessary to complete the ranges.

It was resolved to petition the Provincial Government to restore the annual grant of \$500; and the secretary was authorized to send out subscription books to the different battalions throughout the province, requesting their officers to become members of the association.

### The Quartermaster.

(From U. S. Army and Navy Journal).

Who sends these verses out of date?  
Sure one who holds the Q. M.'s state,  
And thus proclaims his luckless fate.

The Quartermaster.

Who draws no pay for extra work?  
Who has no chance at all to shirk  
If he would be without a clerk?

The Quartermaster.

When floors give way, and roofs all leak,  
Who is the one they always seek?  
The one who always is so meek?

The Quartermaster.

When shelves are wanted, hen coops too,  
Chests, chairs and tables all made new,  
Whom do they go to interview?

The Quartermaster.

When houses need a coat of paint,  
Which makes the ladies nearly faint,  
Whom do they seek with their complaint?

The Quartermaster.

Who gets no thanks when things go right?  
Who tries to please with all his might,  
Who always fails, the luckless wight?

The Quartermaster.

Who gets the curses, bears the shame?  
And then alone must stand the name  
If things go wrong who is to blame?

The Quartermaster.

Who will go to the "better land,"  
And among the martyrs take his stand?  
To whom will Peter extend his hand?

The Quartermaster.

### Gleanings.

The short service system of three years has been in force in the French army since Nov. 25.

The U. S. Secretary of War has transmitted to the House a recommendation by Major-General Schofield that the Act of last session appropriating \$20,000 to meet the expense of heavy artillery practice be amended so as to permit of the purchase abroad of certain instruments not obtainable in that country. General Schofield says that there is especial need for chronographs and instruments to measure pressure, as it is believed by many artillery experts that the disastrous bursting of heavy guns in foreign service, with great loss of life, has been due, not so much to defective construction, as to some not well understood change in the composition of the powder, which, in connection with the immense mass of the charge, results in the phenomenon of detonation instead of explosion.

A foreign exchange says: "The military men of Roumania are of a susceptible nature, and object keenly to criticism. If anything is said against the service to which an officer belongs, his breast swells with manly indignation; he cries aloud for blood, and if he cannot obtain satisfaction for his wounded feelings in this manner, he will take it in another. The other day one of the editors of the *Lupta* wrote an article disparaging several officers of the army. They sent seconds challenging him to fight; but he refused a duel, observing, in answer to threats, that he should henceforth carry a revolver. While he was on his way to his office four officers pinioned him, took his revolver from him and boxed his ears. It is evident this was considered in military circles a just and proper way for officers to express their resentment, for the commandant of the town before whom the case was laid contented himself with inflicting the nominal punishment of five days' rest."

It is stated that during the year ending Oct. 31 last there were no fewer than 439 suicides in the Austro-Hungarian army, of which 23 were officers, and the remainder non-commissioned officers and privates.

A good story has been told of a medical officer recently on duty at Camp Schofield (U.S.). He was drilling one day a detachment of three hospital corps men, and in order to properly align them, he gave the command "Dress up in left centre."

The increase of suicide among German officers is extraordinary. In one month 23 shot themselves. Our authority, a German paper, says: "The number increased in June, and it is feared will go on increasing." No reason is assigned.

The proposition of Prof. Emmons to convert obsolete Rodman guns into breech-loading howitzers was under consideration at the last meeting of the U. S. Ordnance and Fortification Board, but as all the details as to the process of conversion had not been submitted it was decided to postpone action until the meeting in January.

In *Engineering* for Aug. 2, 1889, Lieut. G. W. Hovgaard, Royal Danish Navy, concludes his article on "The Seaworthiness of Torpedo Boats." He says:—"For any given speed and given sea there will always exist a certain position of boat to the sea in which the rolling is a maximum, so that all that can be done is to try to reduce this maximum as much as possible. It is a matter of experience, that the more the direction of the sea is aft the less is its strength, a fact which is in itself obvious. It must therefore be an advantage to place the point of maximum rolling as far aft as possible. The worst position for the maximum point will be between four points on the beam and on the beam; for not only is the force of the sea very great here, but also its steepness. The mistake of the French naval architects seems to have been that they have sacrificed safety to easiness of motion. They have over-looked the fact that torpedo boats are naturally small vessels, which cannot be sent to sea with stability reduced comparatively to that of big iron-clads, simply on account of their smallness compared to the sea they have to meet."

### To Our Subscribers.

The SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT which appeared in our columns some time ago, announcing a special arrangement with Dr. B. J. KENDALL CO., of Enosburgh Falls, Vt., publishers of "A Treatise on the Horse and his Diseases," whereby our subscribers were enabled to obtain a copy of that valuable work FREE by sending their address to B. J. Kendall Co. (and enclosing a two-cent stamp for mailing same) is renewed for a limited period. We trust all will avail themselves of the opportunity of obtaining this valuable work. To every lover of the horse it is indispensable, as it treats in a simple manner all the diseases which afflict this noble animal. Its phenomenal sale throughout the United States and Canada makes it a standard authority. *Mention this paper when sending for "Treatise."*

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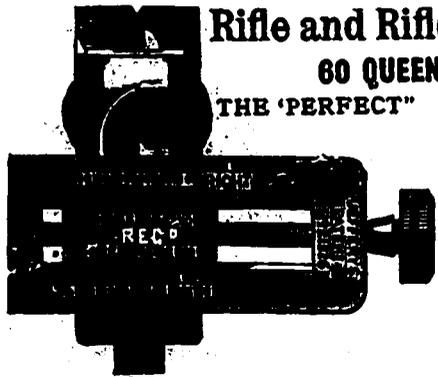
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