

# THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE

A Weekly Journal devoted to the Interests of the Active Force of the Dominion.

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THE MILITIA GAZETTE aims at being the recognized medium of instruction and information for Canadian militiamen and rifle shots. Communications on the subjects to which its pages are devoted are respectfully invited. Anonymous communications will not be regarded. No name will be published, except with the writer's consent. The editors will not be responsible for the views of correspondents.

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THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE,

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## NOTICE.

SUBSCRIBERS will not in future be sent receipts for moneys remitted for subscription fees. The number on each printed address label indicates the last issue for which payment has been received, and a change of this number will be equivalent to a receipt. Our friends are reminded that all subscriptions are payable in advance, so that the second year's subscription of any one whose label shows a less number than 75 is now due. We have to thank many for responding to this notice in past issues; but there are great numbers yet in arrears, and we would be greatly obliged if they will not let this matter escape their attention. Please strengthen our hands by remitting promptly.

## Comment and Criticism.

READERS and subscribers all! We wish you the merriest and happiest of Christmasses, and we know of nothing in any part of this Dominion that should prevent all Canadians from thoroughly enjoying this festive season. At least, from a military point of view, the prospect is eminently satisfactory. Peace and good will reign everywhere, yet the impetus given to the volunteer movement by the active service of 1885 remains, and in each province we find renewed interest taken in militia matters, and the force occupying a better standing in public

opinion, and more thoroughly alive to the necessity that exists for reaching a yet higher standard of efficiency. If we could only be assured that the GAZETTE has had some share in keeping up this ambitious spirit it would be the most acceptable Christmas greeting that could be offered us.

ONE word more. Many of our subscribers have given us unsolicited praise, and a few have frankly criticized us, and both classes of correspondents we wish to thank for these evidences of kindly feeling. To our friends we would hint, that the best way they can help us now is by increasing our subscription list. Each subscriber on our list could, if he were so minded, easily procure us one more subscriber. Let each think that this would just double our subscription list, and more than double our power of performing satisfactory work. At this season of good will and good resolutions, we commend the GAZETTE to your friendly consideration. Let those who are in arrears pay up, those who have been taking the paper without intending to pay, if there are any such, drop it, and let all get us new subscribers and new advertizers.

PERIODICALLY we come across a growl in some of our contemporaries because all the men engaged in quelling the rebellion have not received the medal, and often the growl is accompanied by an insinuation that some discrimination has been made, either by the general in command, or by somebody else in authority; in fact, that kissing has gone by favor in this matter. Now we may as well say plainly that we do not believe a word of this, and that we do believe that every case will be ultimately decided upon its own merits by the Imperial authorities. Moreover we are in a position to know positively that, so far as Sir Fred. Middleton is concerned, that officer recommended for the distinction, militia, volunteers, and mounted police alike: consequently we hope no more will be heard of such unfair complaints, for, as we have said, it is certain that all who can show a just claim to receive the medal will in due time be awarded it.

WE have good reason for believing that, although they are not organized as a purely military force, some, at least, of the Mounted Police will receive the medal, but the difficulty in their case is to decide just who should have it. It would be manifestly unfair to give it to all of them indiscriminately, for on the same grounds it might be claimed by every man, woman and child who was in the North-West at the time of the rebellion, nor can they be considered as on a parallel footing to those troops who, although they never smelt powder, took up arms expressly to help quell the insurrection, and who travelled long distances with that one special object. Probably the fairest way with the police would be to restrict the medal to those who had the luck to be actually under fire, whether at Duck Lake, Cut Knife, Batoche, including those who were on board the *Marquis*, or at Frenchman's Butte, and it is probable that any distribution to them would be arranged on some such basis. Indeed, we understand a recommendation has already gone forward embodying this view of the case.

IN England there is a large number of volunteer engineers and they have made themselves exceedingly useful, so much so that nearly all the regiments can show in their ranks men wearing two medals for war service in Egypt and the Soudan, where some also have found their last resting place. Commenting upon the good quality of the work done by this branch of the auxiliary forces, the *Volunteer Service Review* says: "In signalling day and night; in the telegraph and electric schools; in all the minute details of proficiency of submarine mines, and in laying them out both in a heavy sea and in a tidal stream; in all cases, the Volunteer Engineers who had completed or were doing their second year of training, and many who had only completed their first year, were perfectly fit and qualified to take their place as trained and effective sappers in the ranks of the regular army." Compare this with our condition. We have *only three companies* of engineers left in the Dominion, and if they are efficient it is due to their own energy, and not to any special encouragement they have received from the government. We should have in Canada 2,000 military engineers of one kind or another, including men trained in telegraph, submarine mining, and torpedo work, and the sooner the Militia department sets about securing them the better it will be for the country.

COMMENTING upon our condemnation of the system which, in the urgent demand for recruits, allows deformed men occasionally to get into the active force, the *Volunteer Service Review* imagines that the fault lies not so much with the regimental surgeons as with the regimental commanders, points out that a lot of good men, who at present hold aloof, would be attracted into the ranks were the conditions of enrolment as regards health, chest measurement, etc., of a more stringent character, and argues that the popularity of some regiments which have already raised the standard is ample proof of the soundness of its views. We are quite willing to have the blame for enlisting unsuitable men saddled on the commanding officers; in fact we do not care where it is placed, provided the defect is remedied by some means or other; but we think the instances given are scarcely applicable, inasmuch as it was regiments already popular which were enabled to adopt stringent rules, because from their popularity they could afford to restrict their membership, rather than that they have become popular because they have adopted them. Two or three of our corps are in a position to exact such conditions, but not the bulk of them.

THE articles which we are reprinting from the English service periodicals, show a very satisfactory tendency in many ways; a tendency to consider the auxiliary forces as of real service, instead of pleasure seekers; and a tendency to consider the men in the regular army sentient, intelligent beings, instead of machines. The necessity which the conditions of modern warfare has enforced of giving the men some slight opportunities to exercise their individual judgments is the reason for this state of affairs in the regular service: the necessity for using the auxiliaries for active work occasionally has proved their value, and the result we hope will be that both branches will be greatly benefitted and brought nearer together in fact and in feeling by the natural and steady modifications now taking place.

#### Obituary.

ON the 14th instant there passed away at his residence, Aylwin village, P.Q., an officer, who, although perhaps not well known outside his immediate circle, was an example to the force. Capt. J. C. Chamberlin, commanding No. 6 Kazabazua company of the 43rd battalion, was one of the best types of the rural commanding officer, having for many years maintained a thoroughly efficient company at a great distance, not only from his battalion headquarters but from any point from which his men could gain any military experience by contact with other troops. Until the reorganization of the 43rd in 1881 the company was independent,

and had been alternately under the control of No. 4 and No. 5 district. In whichever it was it soon became a byword with the several D.A.G.'s, as a pattern, and at every camp turned up without a vacant place. The spirit infused into the men by the captain is clearly shown by the fact that for this year's camp some of his men footed it a hundred and twenty miles through the wilderness to be on hand when wanted. Capt. Chamberlin was an old man, having attained the age of 65 years, but he was one of those small, compactly built, lively men who never seem to age, and the forty-third will mourn and miss his enlivening presence when next it gathers in battalion camp. Captain Chamberlin took a second class certificate from the military school at the time that those institutions were managed by the Imperial army, and had been in command of his present company nearly fourteen years.

#### Ontario Artillery Association.

MAJOR KING, of the Welland Canal Field Battery, has given notice that he intends to move for the amendment of the constitution of the association, in such a way that the eighth rule will read as follows, the words in italics embodying the proposed changes:

"8. A general meeting of the association shall be held *annually immediately after the firing and other competitions of the Ontario batteries*, at such place *in Ontario* as may be appointed by the executive committee. No alteration of the constitution of the association shall be made excepting at such meeting; twenty-one days' notice of any motion involving such alteration shall be given in writing by the member intending to propose it at the general meeting, to the secretary, *who shall give notice thereof to members of the association by publishing it at once in the 'Canadian Militia Gazette.'*"

This resolution, if carried, would establish the GAZETTE as the official organ of the Ontario artillery association. It appears to us that it would be decidedly a benefit to all large artillery and rifle associations to have a duly recognized organ: the National Rifle Association of Great Britain recognizes the *Volunteer Service Gazette*, and we know of no other publication in Canada than this which could be utilized by like associations in the Dominion.

#### New Publications.

WE have received a copy of Sergt.-Instructor Munroe's little book on squad drill\*, in which he attempts, and very successfully, we think, to simplify that groundwork of all military knowledge. In his preface he points out the difficulties which that part of the Field Exercise presents to recruits, "one of which is the constant reference in its pages to other parts of the book, reminding them of movements already learned, and also referring to movements with which they are yet unacquainted, thereby omitting long details and much necessary information (no doubt a good thing for conciseness in a great work of the kind, intended more for the guidance of the staff of the army than for the perusal of those less advanced), as it was never intended for a self-instructor."

Acting on the principle of supplying these omissions, Sergt. Munroe goes carefully through part one of the Field Exercise, supplying every note and word of command likely to make the instruction plainer to the recruit. It is when he gets to the drill in two ranks that the benefit of this is most apparent, for in such sections as 42, changing front by wheeling or file formation; 44, marching, wheeling, and forming in files; 45, part 2, forming fours on the march; 46, fours forming squad, where many commands are grouped together and generalized in the Field Exercise, the book under notice gives the words of command and definite instructions for each variation in full. A few useful paragraphs are added, instructing the recruit how to size, form single rank or files, number, &c., all of these being useful additions. A comparison of the texts of the two books will forcibly impress on everyone the many familiar procedures which have been learnt by seeing others do them, and not from any written description, and how impossible it would be for any man to teach himself squad drill without some such aid as now given.

We can recommend Sergt. Munroe's little work both to those needing to learn their squad drill, and to those who have to teach it, or in more general terms, to the whole Canadian force, or for that matter to all soldiers using the Imperial Field Exercise as their text book on squad drill.

Lieut.-Col. Labranche has prepared and handed over to Mr. Scriver, secretary of the volunteer veteran association, a list of 200 names of those who served during the Fenian troubles of '66 and '70. The Dominion Parliament will be petitioned during the approaching session to grant compensation to those men for services rendered. They expect that they will receive medals and scrip, as those who served in the Northwest affair.—*Halifax Chronicle*.

\*Squad drill elucidated, by J. B. Munroe, Sergt. Instructor, C Co., I. S. C. Toronto; Hunter, Rose & Co. 50 cents.

## Future of the English Volunteer Force.

From the "Army and Navy Gazette."

NOW that a committee has been assembled at the War Office to consider the future of the volunteer force, we trust that among the many points for reflection which the present state of that body presents, the all-important one of discipline will not be lightly passed over. Much as the volunteers have advanced in soldierly qualities during recent years, discipline, properly so called, cannot be said to exist among them. Commanding officers' orders are unfortunately nothing more than solicitations and appeals to the interest or enthusiasm of those under their command. It has become so much the custom to scoff at the volunteer colonel, and deny his claim to his rank, that the feeling which prevails in society permeates the ranks to a greater or less extent, with a result detrimental to discipline and all regimental good order. No matter how important the occasion, not a man can be compelled, in spite of his elaborate form of enlistment, to attend any parade except at his convenience. A uniform is supplied to each man - in the vast majority of cases at the public expense - and yet there is no power by which he can be obliged to wear it, if he has not the inclination to do so. From the annual inspection, even, his assertion that his business or his state of health prevents his attendance is considered by many commanding officers a sufficient excuse for absence. There are, in fact, many thousand volunteers who year after year get leave from the inspection, utterly disregard the orders which are sent to them at frequent intervals, and when the 1st week or two in October comes, have to be induced by coaxing and threats to scramble anyhow through the requisite number of drills and fire their class, so as to be returned as efficient. This achieved, they hand in their rifles and go their way, to be seen no more till a detached staff takes them in hand again the following October. But it is not only impossible for volunteer officers to compel attendance on parade: even when the uniform is donned, and a man appears in soldier's guise at drill, he is almost as much as ever his own master. No breach of discipline that he may commit, except in the rare cases of his being brigaded with the regular troops, is a military offence, or can be in any way specially punished as one. No matter how much a volunteer may disgrace his uniform by drunkenness and insubordination - even by personal violence to a superior officer in the discharge of military duty - the barren remedy lies only in the ordinary police court. Of course, in such a case the offender would be dismissed from his corps, and might be called upon to pay his capitation grant under his private agreement with his colonel. This latter penalty is, however, rarely enforced, for in most instances the regimental staff are only too anxious to hush any such matter up, and prevent its destroying the character and reputation of the regiment. As a matter of fact, the existing Volunteer Regulations were framed years ago, for a different class of men from those who now mainly compose our "citizen army." From being the plaything of the middle classes, volunteering has sunk deeply into the heart of the people, and the average private in our urban corps is a mechanic or workman of some kind. On him the rules of the service, which seem to be summed up in the Kindergarten threat, "If you are not good, you shall not play," have really very little, if any, hold. He joins either because he likes soldiering, because he wants to show himself off in uniform, or more frequently, perhaps, because some of his friends who are volunteers persuade him that it is a pleasant recreation. In many - indeed most - cases, he does his duty, and becomes a valuable adjunct to the military strength of his country. But if he does so, it is owing entirely to his own enthusiasm, and not in any way to the binding power of the contract he solemnly swears to fulfil. He may be, and frequently is, an utterly useless burden to the force, a hard bargain even at the low price the country pays for him - ill drilled, utterly undisciplined, and unable to shoot. And being all this, he may still nominally fulfil the terms of Government "efficiency." It is to this fact that we would call the notice of Lord Harris' committee, feeling sure that it will admit the necessity of important modifications in the terms of the present contract, if the volunteers are to become, as the majority of them earnestly desire to become, really reliable as a defensive force. The country has seen recently that there exists among the volunteers a comparatively large body of enthusiastic soldiers, whose efficiency is only limited by their opportunities; but no greater mistake could be made than to judge the whole of the 200,000 by those who attend at Aldershot and elsewhere for a course of practical military training. We strongly urge the advisability of drawing the reins of discipline much more tightly than hitherto. Special penalties ought to be attached to breaches of discipline and insubordination when under arms, whether at Aldershot or on the regimental parade. When a man puts on a military uniform he ought to be made to take upon himself military responsibilities, and to distinctly understand that as long as he wears a soldier's dress he ceases to be a civilian. It is our firm belief that such action on the part of the Government would be esteemed a compliment by the majority of the present

volunteers, who are fully aware that stringent rules are not made to intimidate the loyal majority, but to repress and keep in check the ill disposed, and that the greater the responsibility attaching to the performance of any duty the more honorable and important such duty becomes. No man is obliged to become a volunteer; but when he has joined the service, power ought to be given to commanding officers to compel the performance of work which, though undertaken voluntarily, ought to be, if necessary, rigidly fulfilled. On one point we entirely disagree with certain correspondents who lately addressed letters to the *Standard*. Some foolish people would seek to ignore and in every way lower volunteer rank. If the volunteer force is to exist as a military institution, and if the non-commissioned officers and men are to be made to obey orders willingly, something will have to be done in the direction, not of unmilitarising but militarising the commissioned ranks. It is in every way more essential that the officers of a force like the volunteers should have a recognised military status than even linesmen or militiamen, for we fail to see how discipline is to be properly maintained in such an organisation if Jack in the ranks, who has committed some serious offence, is encouraged to reason with himself, "I'm as good as he is; he's no officer, he's not." The linesman and militiaman are under restraint after their parades are over. The volunteer, when he is dismissed parade, goes his way. Could any army officer, after due reflection, advocate the inculcation of feelings of contempt for authority in an armed body, and in face of the fact that the man whose position is sought to be lowered is actually in possession of a commission signed by his Sovereign? It is simply a marvel to us how discipline has ever been maintained at all in the volunteer army, with the deep-rooted opinion existing in many quarters, openly given vent to in the public press, and read by non-commissioned officers and men in their offices and workshops, that a commission granted by the Sovereign to a volunteer officer is no commission at all, and that Col. Smith, Major Jones, and Captain Robinson are not colonel, major or captain at all, but only plain "misters" arrogating to themselves an authority which they have not. It is a state of affairs which cannot be tolerated any longer, if the volunteers are to be raised to a position which we firmly believe they would willingly assume - that of a reliable home reserve, not for use in case of invasion only, but to be embodied, under certain conditions, on an emergency, such as a European war. The one great requirement of the force is discipline, a discipline which will make every officer and man liable to certain pains and penalties if he fails to obey orders and render himself thoroughly effective. We hold that it would be better to have 100,000 men who could be implicitly relied upon than 200,000, such as we have at present, the majority of whom are, indeed, "civilian soldiers," and regard themselves as such, and who consider their officers only civilians too. Unfortunately, they are encouraged to do so by a few small-minded men who, forgetting the nation and its requirements, set aside all reason and common-sense, and would seek to convert what might be made a valuable institution into a veritable national menace.

### Officer and Man.

IT is not to be denied that many an individual possessed of abilities of a kind that might be of the greatest use to him travels through life without utilising, and even without discovering, his powers. So, too, a very large proportion of officers go through their military career without utilising an immense power for good which, to a greater or less extent, they all have ready to their hand, viz. the exercise of a thorough moral ascendancy over their men. They appear to think that by dint of a steady continuance of drill they can count on implanting, in time, the best standard of discipline and smartness into those set under them. It is true that this system may produce an effect more or less satisfactory to the eye in time of peace: but with the rough usage of active service the veneer soon falls away, and exposes the rough unpolished surface of the inferior workmanship below. The main elements of success in battle are true discipline and thorough training on the part of the troops, and it should, therefore, be the aim of every officer, while times of peace yet afford the opportunity, to infuse these requirements into his men in the most effective way. In our service, as Lord Wolseley has very truly observed, we are apt to work in the reverse way to what a little reflection and common sense would show us to be the right way. The Archduke John, in his excellent lecture on this subject, given in Vienna some three years ago, pointed this out in the statement that one is very apt to work from outwards inwards instead of the reverse way. We should not endeavor to cure a lunatic by controlling his physical vagaries with a straight waistcoat, but by examining and treating the brain and nerves. If officers were generally to base their instruction on an appeal to the hearts and brains of their men, the desired results would be attained with a comparatively small expenditure of time, and built up on more lasting foundations. Excellence in details of parade is in our army insisted on

as the first point in the efficiency of the soldier, to the neglect of his ability to work well and intelligently in the field. As the Austrian general puts it—"Parade drill is a luxury, and only to be indulged in after the soldier has thoroughly mastered his field duties." And to thoroughly ground the soldier of to-day in this latter branch of his work is no difficult task, since he is now fairly educated, and is quite capable of grasping the "why" and the "how," in addition to the "what," provided that they are intelligently explained to him. But it is necessary to the success of the system that the instruction be given by the officer himself in a way that commends itself as thoroughly intelligible and attractive to the pupil. Officers are still to be found who maintain that discipline is irreconcilable with short service, and that it is merely a matter of continuous drill and merciless suppression of all individuality of the soldier; but can there be a doubt in any reasonable person's mind that their ideal is a false form of discipline, a gloss that only stood well in peace, if we may read correctly, between the lines, in the accounts of the Peninsula campaign? If theirs were the true discipline they would be right in saying it could never be instilled into a short-service army; but in our army, at least, there exists germs of a far stronger and less debased form of union between officers and men, which in these days should be more easy of development than formerly. In old days it took an officer some years of service to gain a standing sufficient to impress the old soldiers under his charge, and even then he was, as a rule, ignorant of his duties, and, therefore, not altogether the man that they would entrust with the responsibility of their lives in action. Now all this is altered; after a service of comparatively a few years the officer finds himself an older soldier than any of his men, and, under the influences of compulsory promotion tests, and the more soldierly spirit of the age, he is at least fairly well up in his work. On these grounds alone the young soldiers who come under his charge are inclined from the first to respect him as being an old soldier, and to trust themselves to the direction of his superior knowledge. It only remains for the officer to foster and intensify these sentiments, and he will have forged the true link of discipline that will lead the men to follow him, if called upon, even into the jaws of death. One great component of true discipline is a perfect confidence on the part of the men in the "professional" ability of their leader, and the other is a personal liking for him. The first can only be gained by an officer who thoroughly understands his work in the field, and who has proved it practically both there and in the instruction room. Incompetency, hesitation, or inefficiency on the part of an officer are recognised with greater promptness by his men than by the sharpest inspecting officer, and he never so popular with them in quarters, he will still be deficient of that power over them in action which is neither the result of affection nor fear, but of a confiding deference to superior wisdom, to superior talent, to superior force. Having once gained this position by a self-training and the proper development of his soldierly qualities, the officer will do well to strengthen this relationship by instituting a common bond of sympathy between himself and his men. The first step towards this end is by taking an interest in, and showing respect for, each individual man in order to induce each to beget a respect for himself. The soldier finding himself no longer a mere atom in a herd, but an individual whose efforts to improve himself will be watched and furthered in the right direction, will be encouraged to put forward his best efforts both morally and physically, and will retain the while a lively feeling of gratitude to him who first prompted this improvement. But to attain these desirable ends it is necessary that officers should cast aside the present widely-accepted and exceedingly comfortable doctrine that "lots of drill is all that the men want," and should devote a larger amount of time, energy, and tact to the study of the individual characteristics of their men and the better development of their varying powers. It is worse than useless to endeavour to do this in a disjointed or half-hearted manner; men are like sheep, albeit canny sheep—if one of them recognises in his officer a genuine fellow feeling and desire for his good, the impression will spread like wildfire amongst the rest; but similarly, if one man detects any pretence or display of what is not actually felt, or any desire to curry popularity on the part of the officer, the eyes of all will in a twinkling be also opened to it. A clever and impartial military critic writing in the *Militar Wochenblatt* some time back, said, with a good deal of truth, "The British officers in peace time only play at soldiering," but it is to be hoped that the recent memorandum of the commander-in-chief will bring about among them a closer application to their work, and consequently a closer professional bond between them and their men. In carrying out the above principles the good done to his men reflects back a compensating benefit on the officer. If he be a student of that most interesting of studies, human character, he finds here ready to his hand an entertaining volume, such as no other walk of life could open to him; and if he has anything of the common love of power he cannot fail to be gratified at finding himself possessed of an almost mesmeric influence over his men. It is only then, perhaps, that he thoroughly realises his responsibility, and his advantages over men of his own standing in other

professions for doing good in the world. Besides instilling into his men the best of soldierly qualities, discipline, and efficiency, he can, without posing as a saint or inflicting excessive virtue on any one, do much in the way of spreading among them a good practical morality in the shape of straightforward honesty of thought and purpose. In this way and in one other can, and ought, every officer to do his country a good turn. In the late manifesto of the Social Democrats calling a meeting in Trafalgar Square on the day of the Lord Mayor's procession, the authors issued a bombastic denunciation of the army, with the good feeling so justly attributed to them, calling those who have been defending their interests at the cost of their lives "miserable hirlings." This in the clubs would be glanced at with a smile, but it might have a different effect in the barrack reading room. Tommy Atkins does not always see things in the same light as his officer, although their interests are identical: it therefore rests with the better educated of the two to lead the other, and point out to him the truth of such matters. Tommy Atkins in the pit sees nothing but pathos in the blood-curdling drama, of which the stagey action and utterances are sending his officers into fits of laughter behind the curtains of the box. The child once shown the sheet, turnip, and candle that go to make up its "bogey," instead of cowering before its next appearance, laughingly explains its mysteries to a circle of timid play-fellows. An officer should never meddle with politics, but in these days, when false doctrines are being spread about, and when time-expired soldiers are leaving the colors daily to return to their civil occupations in all corners of the empire, if their minds have been properly formed by the officers during their service, and they have imbibed a strong and honest loyalty for their Queen and country, a considerable leaven of good seed is scattered abroad which will on its own ground, and without forcing, effectually check the artificial growth of the poisonous weed of socialistic agitation and other fungi threatening to rot the roots of the Constitution, by verbose agitators, whose real aim is the filling of their own pockets with the hard-earned pence of a gullible public. Wherefore, by exercising aright his professional superiority, and making full use of his moral influence, the British officer has it in his power, especially in these days of short service, so greatly to improve the relations between officers and men as enormously to promote the efficiency and make lasting the discipline of that army of which the whole nation is so justly proud.—*Broad Arrow.*

### Field Duties and the Requirements of the Times.

A GOOD deal continues to be written and said about the late memorandum of the Commander-in-chief as to the want of knowledge among all ranks as to the performance of field duties. Now, whatever deficiency exists in the points animadverted on, we do not hesitate to say that the great body of the officers of the army are not only willing but eager to learn, and only require to be instructed; but this instruction they cannot receive unless the superior officers are willing and able to impart it. We heard a great deal at one time about the deficiencies of commanding officers, but were led to believe that a system of selection had been adopted which would at all events ensure the country against incapable officers being selected for commands. There may be great difficulties in peace time in the way of selecting the most capable officers, but there is no difficulty whatever in rejecting the incapable ones; they are known to every one.

Now the fact is, we have not got rid of the old leaven; there still remains at the top of the military hierarchy a proportion of officers who, whilst hardly venturing to say that military progress is a mistake, do not believe in it, and do not welcome it, and this fossil element is, strange to say, not without its representatives in the Press. Nothing but the bitter experience of a European campaign will convince such as these of the necessity for the training in which His Royal Highness has declared them to be wanting.

But we must confess that the higher military authorities themselves are not innocent of the fault of lagging behind the requirements of the times. Are there not many important questions closely affecting the efficiency of the army still undetermined? Whilst the great continental nations are providing themselves with the best form of repeating rifle, we are still tinkering about a new and, as we have attempted to show, an unimproved type of the single Martini-Henry.

Again, whilst it has been proved to the satisfaction of the best military critics, after close examination of the lessons taught by the great battles of the Franco-Prussian and Russo-Turkish campaigns, that movements in close order can no longer be attempted in the face of a determined enemy armed with modern weapons, the drill book provided for our infantry goes no deeper into the subject than the movements of a battalion, and we are still experimentalising as to what may be the best form of attack.

Further, the army corps formation, which in continental armies is a reality, is with us but a name. During the last twenty-five years we have



had a very close acquaintance with the army, and in many ways it has made considerable advances; but much remains to be done, and the safety of the country demands that all officers, from the highest to the lowest, should use their powers, not to obstruct, but to promote the efficiency of the army.

We learn that His Royal Highness has issued a memorandum that the firing of volleys during the progress of an attack is not to be limited to the long ranges, but that they are to be maintained right through the attack. This rather looks like an abandonment of any extended form of attack, for we do not see how any volleys, save by the very smallest groups, could be fired by an extended line. Have the authorities arrived at the conclusion that it will be best for the British line to march straight up to the enemy, companies halting in succession and firing volleys by word of command?—*Broad Arrow*.

### Correspondence.

The Editor desires it distinctly understood that he does not hold himself responsible for the opinions expressed by correspondents.

#### TUGS OF WAR IN GENERAL, AND THE GUELPH TUG IN PARTICULAR.

DEAR SIR,—Permit me to correct an error into which you appear to have fallen in your report of the tug-of-war contest at Guelph.

The start was protested by me because the line was fully ten inches to the good of the Q.O.R. before the pistol was fired, and not because my team lost the drop. There was therefore no favor granted by the Q.O.R. team in pulling the second time, for the judge, referee and starter all agreed that it was an unfair start, and the second pull was ordered accordingly.

While on this question I would suggest a more satisfactory way of starting these contests. At present the result depends in a large measure on the drop, with very often a doubt as to the fairness of the start. Now, I take a tug-of-war to be a struggle, in which the strength and lasting powers of the competitors are to be brought out—not so much their luck in dropping.

I would suggest that the teams be allowed to put their strain on and that a central spot be marked when the rope is stationary, and then let the time and pull begin.

My suggestion has met with favor wherever I have made it, and as there may be many tugs-of-war during the winter, I hope it may be acted upon.

Truly yours,

FRED. F. MANLEY,  
Capt. Royal Grenadiers' Team.

Toronto, Dec. 15th, 1886.

#### THE OLDEST VOLUNTEER CORPS IN CANADA.

To the Editor of the Canadian Militia Gazette.

DEAR SIR,—With reference to the subject discussed in "Queries and Replies" in your issue of 16th December, permit me to add the following: The oldest volunteer corps in Canada and, I think, in the British Empire, is the late Halifax field battery, at present No. 6 battery, Halifax brigade garrison artillery, Capt. Anderson commanding. From public documents it would appear that early in the settlement of Halifax, (Nova Scotia) on the occasion of a threatened invasion, a volunteer company of artillery was formed, as a means of assistance to the Royal troops in defence of the town, and the members of the corps aided in the formation of the earth works, then hurriedly thrown up, one of which was situated at the present Royal Engineer yard. Although the official records of the earliest days of the company have been lost, traces of its existence may be found in the public records of the province, as far back as 1795. I have seen a copy of a muster roll returned to Adjut.-General MacColla, bearing date May, 1804, which shows the strength of the company to have been 105 members, since which time it has maintained its efficiency, meeting frequently for drill, for many years weekly.

On the enrollment of the militia, in accordance with a provincial act passed in 1859, His Excellency the Earl of Mulgrave (then lieutenant-governor) found this the only volunteer corps, and "sole representative of the local forces of the province" (which fact he was pleased to refer to, in his speech during the debate upon confederation in the House of Lords) and gave his sanction to the constitution and rules, then revised and adopted by the company for its government. From the formation of the corps until 1864 its members were uniformed entirely at their own expense and served without pay.

Since the year 1800 they have worn scarlet facings and gold lace, a permission granted them by His Royal Highness, the late Duke of Kent, at that time commander-in-chief of the forces in Nova Scotia. A general order published by one of his successors, commanded the company to parade with Her Majesty's forces, as a field battery, upon Her Majesty's birthdays and for firing the salutes at the opening and closing of the provincial parliaments. For many years the battery was armed with six 3-pounder bronze field guns, at first without limbers, and drawn by hand. Upon the recommendation of Lieut.-Governor Sir Richard Graves Macdonnell, about the year 1866, the Imperial government forwarded a fully equipped battery of 6-pounder Armstrong guns for their exclusive use, which was formally presented to them by his successor, Sir W. Fenwick Williams Bart. When the battery was changed to a garrison battery, these guns were forwarded to the royal military college at Kingston, where they now are.

The terms of admission to the company were very stringent, and although there was no definite term of service, the *esprit-de-corps* was such that the company always maintained its full strength; many of the members have served 15 years and upwards. At one time a silver medal was provided from the battery funds, and presented to members on completion of twenty-one years' continuous service. There are several still living who received this decoration.

This corps maintained its strength and efficiency as volunteers for many years, under difficulties of no ordinary kind, and with a unanimity without example in the province—and probably in the Dominion. Major Graham, late commanding officer, or Capt. Anderson, the present one, who has, I believe, the battery books and papers in his possession, could probably furnish further information. In conclusion, permit me to add the following extracts from records.

"To this company belongs the honor of having under very adverse circumstances, at all times maintained their organization and discipline. When I first arrived in this Province your corps was the *only one* which had thoroughly maintained its efficiency and you were, in fact, the sole representatives of the local forces of Nova Scotia. I thank you for the able and willing manner in which you have at all times performed your duties since I have been in this province."—*The Marquis of Normandy*.

"I am particularly pleased with the fine and soldier-like appearance of the men of the field battery."—*Lieut.-Gen. Sir C. Hastings Doyle*.

"I thank you for the alacrity and good will with which you have turned out to perform your duties on this occasion. It affords me the greatest pleasure to accept the honorary command of the corps."—*Lieut.-Gen. Sir W. Fenwick Williams, Bart.*

The motto of the battery was

VOCAT PATRIA AD SUMMUM.

### Queries and Replies.

Referring to the discussion as to the proper uniform for cavalry officers to wear at church parade, we have just received the following from our Quebec correspondent:

Dear Sir,—I sent you a reply to the query by Button-stick, and was much surprised to find it published, with an added paragraph, to this effect: "The Queen's Regulations prescribe undress belts for review order." Now they do nothing of the kind. Full-dress everything, of course, in review order, for if you don't wear it then when will you.

A TROOPER.

We acknowledge the error. Inadvertently we got "review" and "field day" order mixed up. The paragraph referred to is Section XII, par. 35.—ED.

### Mess Room Yarns.

"That reminds me."

PLAYING SICK FOR A FRIEND.

During the war about twenty Confederate prisoners were at Fort McHenry, stored away in a fodder loft under guard. One morning Capt. Ned Bridges was playing an innocent game of cards when the sick call was sounded—the signal for ailing soldiers to report at the surgeon's office and be examined.

"Lieutenant," said Capt. Bridges, turning to a young soldier, "answer sick call for me, and let us finish this game. Go down there and personate me, and tell the doctor you want another box of his liver pills."

The obliging lieutenant marched out and proceeded with other soldiers, under escort of the guards, to the surgeon's office. When the name of Capt. Bridges was called the lieutenant's face appeared at a little office window.

"Doctor," he began, "them pills you gave me helped me up considerably, but I want another box. I think another box will fix me up all right."

"Didn't them pills cure you?" asked the doctor abruptly, looking over his spectacles at the bogus Bridges.

"No, but another box will fix me I think."

"Well, well," said the doctor, half to himself, "I'll have to change the treatment on you."

Thereupon he picked up a graduate glass, and from various bottles mixed the most infernal mess that mortal ever saw.

The lieutenant shuddered.

When the villainous compound was made up, the doctor stirred it vigorously and viciously, and, handing it out, said—

"Drink that."

The lieutenant took hold of the glass. Cold chills ran up and down his spine.

"Doctor," he stammered, "I'd-I'd er heap rather take the pills."

"Drink it!" stormed the doctor, and in the excitement the medicine went down the lieutenant's throat.

When the lieutenant returned to the fodder loft he was very glum. When the game of cards grew monotonous Capt. Bridges turned and asked:

"Lieutenant, get them pills?"

"Naw!"

"Well," said the captain, "you needn't be so snappish about it. What did the doctor say?"

"He said he was going to change the treatment on you, and if you don't git well it ain't my fault, for I've taken the nastiest d--d dose for you that ever I saw!"—*Volunteer Service Review*.

### Regimental Notes.

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

**Sarnia.**—The band of the 27th battalion gave one of their popular concerts on the 30th, at which they were assisted by much local talent, both vocal and instrumental. The programme was varied and interesting, and the audience, which was large, considering the severity of the weather, appeared pleased with the efforts of all who took part in the performance. Mr. Skeffington led the band in the absence of the bandmaster, Dr. Hartmann. There is a prospect that similar concerts will be given monthly throughout the winter.

**Calgary.**—No decided answer has as yet been received by Major Hatton regarding the acceptance by the Militia department of the corps recently organized here under the name of the Alberta Mounted Rifles. Great dissatisfaction is felt by the men who enrolled, and by the citizens generally, at the delay, as the people of this country think they are as much entitled to representation in the militia as any other part of the Dominion. It is to be hoped the delay will be of short duration. One thing is certain, the Alberta rifle association will send no more teams east to shoot unless they can go as militia. If the department take any interest in associations they ought to be more punctual in seeing to their welfare.

**Halifax, N.S.**—The annual meeting of No. 3 company 63rd rifles, was held on the 9th. The reports of the committee of management and treasurer showed the company to be in a prosperous condition. The parades of the company during the year have been largely attended, and the shooting average has improved steadily the past four years, being 24.75 in 1883, 25.50 in 1884, 28.75 in 1885, and 36.19 in 1886. For the first time since the company's separation from the 1st Scottish, eight years ago,

they have succeeded in winning the battalion silver bugle, competed for by teams from each company. To further improve the average shooting the company have opened a shooting gallery above their recreation rooms and find the practice with the Morris tubes to be beneficial. The company still retains in its ranks 27 Northwest men of the 32 who received medals at the presentation last May. Two of the retired men have become honorary members. Sergt. Lofstford Woolrich was unanimously chosen by the company as 2nd lieutenant, Sergt. Dixon having been offered the position but declined to serve. The captain was requested to recommend Sergt. Woolrich's appointment. Private Stanley H. Romans was elected a lance corporal, and 10 ice was given to the corporals and lance-corporals that Sergt. Woolrich's place would be filled by the one among them passing the best examination sometime during the winter. The committee of management elected were: Lieut. C. J. McKie, Lieut. Woolrich, Sergt. L. Dixon, Lance-Corpl. E. Shaw, Pte. C. W. McLeod. Capt. Cunningham was elected treasurer and Sergt. Dixon secretary. The meeting decided to hold a sleigh drive and to ask the co-operation of the 1st Scottish company.--*Mail*.

**Peterborough.**—The annual dinner of No. 4 company of the 57th battalion was held at the Morgan House, Peterborough, on Wednesday evening last week. A bountiful spread was provided, and everything passed off happily. Among those who made speeches in reply to the toasts to the several ranks were Lt.-Col. Rogers, Major Bell, Capt. Birdsell, Lieut. Hill, Sergt. Distin, Corp. Wright, Corp. Kay. The other companies were spoken for by Messrs. Geal, Kirby and Seofield. "The Ladies" brought gallant responses from Messrs. Seofield, Geal, Wright, Kirby, Hill and Dickson. Messrs. Hamilton and Geal put in a good word for the bank clerks; Lieut. Hill, formerly of the cavalry, spoke for that corps, and the toast list was brought to a close with that of "the host and hostess," responded to by Mr. Morgan.

**Ottawa.** A meeting of the members of the Governor-General's Foot Guards was held on Friday evening last in the orderly room of the drill hall, for the purpose of organizing a regimental snowshoe club. There was a large attendance, including representatives from each company. Lieut.-Col. J. P. Macpherson presided, and Sergt. J. B. Taylor acted as secretary. The chairman having expressed his desire to see such a club formed, and pointed out the benefit to be derived by the regiment from having its members thus kept together and interested in each other during the winter months, it was unanimously decided that a snowshoe club should be at once established. The subscription fee was fixed at the nominal sum of 50 cents. It was decided to invite Major General Middleton to become patron of the club, and the election of officers was proceeded with as follows: Honorary president, Lt.-Col. Macpherson; president, Capt. Wallo; vice-presidents, Major Todd and Capt. Toller; secretary-treasurer, P. B. Taylor; captain, Capt. and Adjutant Hodgins; whipper-in, Staff-Sergt. Newby; Committee—Bandmaster Bonner, Col.-Sergts. Ross and Davis, Corpals. Nash and May and Ptes. MacCraken and Heinrichs. There is a representative of each company on the committee. With the excellent choice of officers which has been made, the club ought to be a great success. The first tramp will shortly take place.

The Rifles' snowshoe club inaugurated the season's tramping on Monday evening, when after a good bit of exercise, the Coffee House was resorted to for supper, and some ten or twelve members received the customary "bouncing" incident to joining the club.

Sergt. P. B. Taylor of the G.G.F.G., is likely to receive a commission in that regiment shortly. Sergt. Taylor held that rank in Capt. Todd's company of Sharpshooters.

**Toronto.**—Col. Miller, the commander of the Q. O. Rifles is reported to have handed the regiment over to his probable successor Major Allan.

K company, being the Toronto University company of the Queen's Own Rifles, gave a concert on the 14th, in Convocation hall, University college. A large audience was present, and an excellent musical and literary programme was rendered, in which the University Glee club took part. Miss Geikie and Dr. A. J. Geikie, Mr. Mercer, Miss Gunther, Messrs. J. L. and W. A. Geddes, Miss Berryman, Mr. Walter Sparkes and Mr. W. Restall contributed musical numbers, and Lieut.-Col. Denison and Mr. Gorme gave readings. During the intermission Mrs. Blake presented the prizes won at the recent rifle match to the successful marksmen. The students were in high spirits and added to the enjoyment of the evening, and all the arrangements, including the programme cards, were well executed. The following is a list of the prize winners:—

Nursery match—1 Lieut. Mercer, 2 Pte. J. H. Senkler, 3 Pte. Harrison, 4 Pte. F. H. Moss.

Aggregate match—1 Corp. Mustard, 2 Pte. T. E. Elliott, 3 Pte. J. A. Duff.

Trophy—Pte. T. E. Elliott. The trophy is a bronze horse, presented by several ex-members of the company. It was competed for for the first time last year, and was won by Sergt. Cronyn. If won by anyone three times it becomes his property.

General match—1 Pte. T. E. Elliott, 2 Sergt. Hamilton, 3 Sergt. Crooks, 4 Pte. Redden, 5 Pte. A. G. Smith, 6 Corporal Mustard, 7 Lieut. Mercer, 8 Pte. E. C. Senkler.

Ex-members' match—Ex-Sergt. May.

Range prizes—200 yards, Sergt. Crooks; 400 yards, Sergt. Hamilton; 500 yards, Pte. A. G. Smith.

**Winnipeg.**—The annual meeting of the 90th battalion club was held Wednesday night in the club rooms. President Watson in the chair. The officers elected for the year were as follows:—

President, Major Boswell; 1st vice-president, Sergt.-Major Watson; 2nd vice-president, Corp. Mitchell; secretary-treasurer, Lieut. Broughall.

Executive committee—Bandmaster Johnston and Sergeant Bailey; A company, Sergeant Ridler, Privates Quigley and Lamb; B company, Sergt. Timewell, Corporal McMillan, Private Swan; C company, Sergeant Morgan, Corporal Cameron, Private Barrett; D company, Sergeant Edie, Corporal Bowden, Private Lore; E company, Color-Sergeant Dickson, Lance-Corporal Munroe and Private Davis; F company, Sergeants Mount and Smith, Private Russell.

The receipts for the past year were \$693.90, and the expenditures were \$599.95, leaving a balance of \$93.95. To this was added the proceeds received from "The Tricky Troubadour," \$701.65. The club was therefore placed financially in a good position for the coming year. It was decided to make arrangements for offering a rifle trophy for team competition, and to organize a gymnasium for the winter.

After the business was transacted Lieut.-Col. MacKeand took the chair, the principal business of the meeting being the discussion of the proposed regimental trip to the east next summer. Lt. Broughall being called upon, briefly outlined the scheme, which was that a special train should be chartered to take them down and back, the round trip to take about fourteen days. Toronto and Montreal were to be visited, and there were to be a couple of days to allow members of the battalion to visit friends. Letters from Montreal and Toronto stated that were the 90th to visit those cities and

give some kind of an amateur entertainment, they would be patronized by crowded houses, and in this way the expenses of the trip would be greatly lessened. The lacrosse team would go along and would play matches with eastern teams. A discussion participated in by many present followed, nearly all the speakers being heartily in favor of the idea. Lt.-Col. MacKeand was finally called upon to give his views. He said that nothing would personally give him greater pleasure than to head the 90th on a visit to Toronto and Montreal, where he was sure they would be heartily welcomed by their comrades. But before deciding whether to go a great many matters of detail had to be attended to. In the first place new equipment was absolutely necessary. Sometimes he said he felt ashamed of the Militia department for letting the 90th remain so long attired in the east off uniforms of a pre-Adamite generation. (Laughter.) They could not go down east in their present uniforms. He suggested that a committee should be struck to examine into the feasibility of the scheme, and report at the next regimental meeting. A committee consisted of Lieut.-Col. MacKeand, Capt. Worsno, Lieut. Froughall and Sergt. Shera was accordingly appointed.

**Sarnia.**—Dr. Hartmann, late bandmaster of the 27th Batt., and his family have gone to Toronto, where he has accepted the position of instructor to the Massey Manufacturing Company's band.

No. 7 company is continuing to drill once a week through the winter. The members are talking of giving a military entertainment in the spring, under the auspices of the staff officers of the battalion. The entertainment will consist of drill exhibitions, tableaux, martial songs, etc., offering an entirely novel attraction to Sarnia, and one which is looked forward to with interest. The company has of late received a number of new members into its ranks and promises to be one of the finest companies in the service.

## News Notes.

The unsettled state of affairs in Europe at the present time makes any information respecting the strength of the armies and navies of the several great powers of special interest. These are so immense that a contest involving any considerable number of them would be a titanic one, the masses of troops, dwarfing even the legions of Xerxes. The following shows the score:—

	Army.	Ironclads.	Marine.
Russia.....	2,200,000	38	28,358
Germany.....	2,650,000	27	26,000
Austria.....	1,103,819	12	9,764
Turkey.....	595,000	15	30,000
Great Britain.....	653,772	74	58,000
France.....	2,500,000	47	50,000
Italy.....	2,142,000	18	30,000

It may be noted that Italy possesses the six most powerful ironclads in the world.

The cable brings word of the death at the ripe age of 86 years, of Horatio Ross, one of the best examples of a sportsman and marksman which Great Britain has had for a half century past. Speaking of his death and his work, a writer recently said: "He was not only a great hunter himself, but was the father of great rifle shots. Hercules, Colin and Edward, his sons, are all more or less renowned for their prowess with the rifle, and the name of Edward Ross has of late years almost eclipsed that of his father, for he not only won the Queen's prize, but alone holds the gold and silver medals of the National rifle association. Hercules Ross won the Cambridge cup, and was the champion shot of India for three successive years; while in 1863 Mr. Ross and his three sons formed four of the Scotch eight in the International challenge match for the Elcho shield. But stranger still, the expert use of the rifle is not merely confined to men of the family, but extends in a remarkable degree to some of the ladies. Mrs. Horatio Ross, *nee* Miss Macrae, has in her day been a splendid shot with her rifle, and Mrs. Colin Ross is scarcely less dexterous with her gun. Mr. Ross became a leader of volunteers in 1859, going as a pupil to the school of musketry at Hythe, and seeking instruction from General Hay in the art of military rifle shooting. These two crack shots past many an afternoon together on the 'shingle' in friendly contest at the experimental target, and many were the bullseyes implanted by them, firing standing at the 600 yds. distance. It is now more than half a century since Mr. Ross astonished the world as a steeplechase rider on his famous horse Clinker, against Capt. Douglas on Radical, over Leicestershire; and indeed, steeplechase riding, as now practiced, may be said to date from that event, it being the first steeplechase on record. In former days, when duelling was in vogue, Mr. Ross was accounted the best pistol shot in Europe, yet such was his consideration for the feelings of others that he never had a serious quarrel. But as a proof of his dexterity he once killed 20 swallows before breakfast with a duelling pistol. As a pigeon shot he was not a whit less noticeable. At the Red House, in a match with Lord MacDonald, he killed 52 pigeons out of 53 shots at 30 and 35 yards rise. In 1828 he won the Red House club cup, scoring 79 out of his 80 birds at 30 yards rise. Nor will it be merely or entirely by his unrivalled skill and dexterity with the fowling piece, the rifle and the pistol that Mr. Ross will be remembered in the sporting world. His success as a steeplechase rider has already been referred to; but it remains to add that he likewise in his day proved himself an expert yachtsman, while his feats as an athlete in walking are remarkable. He walked from the River Dee to Inverness, a distance of ninety-seven miles on one occasion without stopping; again, after a laborious contest in shooting partridges with Colonel Anson in Norfolk, when the latter retired from sheer exhaustion, Mr. Ross was so fresh that he challenged any of the bystanders to walk to London, a distance of seventy miles. Mr. Ross lived in Wyvis Lodge, near Wyvis, a mountain in the Highlands of Scotland. The walls teem with trophies of the chase in the shape of deer heads, etc. The sideboard in the diningroom groans under the weight of the numberless prizes won by his rifle at the butts. Among these are the Wimbledon cup, only competed for by winners; the Association cup and the Duke of Cambridge cup. In 1867, at Cambridge, after two long days' shooting at 900, 1,000 and 1,100 yards, 15 shots at each range each day, he—then in his sixty-sixth year—vanquished some thirty of the best rifleshoots of the kingdom and added thereby the Cambridge cup to his collection. For a short time he sat in Parliament. The sport, there, however, was not to his taste."—*Forest and Stream*.

The Chinese government are rapidly augmenting their fleet. Ships are being built in England and in other countries on the latest improved lines of construction. The *Marquis Tseng*, late Chinese minister to this country, who has been appointed First Lord of the Admiralty in China, has arrived at Peking and taken over the duties of his new office.

According to an official report received from Wady Halfa, large numbers of the Black troops who originally formed part of the Egyptian army, and afterwards, from one cause or another, went over to the rebels, have latterly deserted the rebel camp and taken refuge at Wady Halfa. Several, however, were recaptured before they reached our lines, and were conducted back to the rebel headquarters, where they were cruelly tortured to death by impalement and burning, the penalty being inflicted as publicly as possible, so as to act as a deterrent to others. The deserters state that the Black troops who are still with the rebel force, besides many of the tribesmen, will surrender at the first opportunity, as they are greatly dispirited by their past sufferings and are unwilling to undergo any further privations. General Grenfell paid a visit to Wady Halfa recently. Colonel Kitchener urges an immediate advance from Saikin upon Tokar, as the friends are, he states, unequal to the task of reducing the rebel camp there.

Towards the realisation of his projects for the increase and entire renovation of the French navy, and to encourage the legislature to grant the extraordinary credit of two hundred million francs, Admiral Aube, the minister of marine, has attempted the construction of a new engine of naval warfare, entirely after his own design and personal directions. It was launched recently at Toulon and placed under the command of Lieutenant Campion, his own son-in-law, preparatory to undergoing a series of experiments which, if proved satisfactory, would justify the addition of fifty similar vessels to the Republican fleet. As it is, wonders are expected from the new model, which is shaped like an ordinary torpedo-boat. It appears nothing more or less than a floating gun-carriage, and with coals and stores on board draws but 6-6 ft. water. She carries a single 6-in. gun of 11 tons weight, on deck, behind a port-hole mantlet of forged plates, that also screens the roundhouse abaft to protect the commander and stersman, whilst by an ingeniously contrived series of scuttles in her decks the gunners are enabled to shelter from the fire of small arms and big guns directed upon them by an enemy. The entire cost of the new vessels with their fittings will not exceed £10,500 each.

A letter from Singapore gives a gloomy picture of the state of affairs in Acheen. It is impossible to foresee when the Dutch-Achinese war will come to an end. The Dutch have nothing like sufficient troops to conquer the natives, and are being compelled to retire to the northern point of Sumatra, and to act strictly on the defensive. Vessels under neutral flags, which used to take a short cut through the narrow waters separating the small islands off the north of Sumatra, have been warned by the Dutch Government to proceed by another route, as the Dutch fleet is no longer able to protect them against the Achinese pirates. The smuggling of rifles, ammunition, and even of artillery, is being actively carried on by the latter, who have thus been enabled to open a regular siege upon the Dutch coast fort at Segli. The sufferings of the Dutch forces from a disease called "beriberi" are intense.

At Kohat, India, Sepoy Aziz Khan, of the native troops, was sentenced by a court-martial to seven years' transportation for disobeying orders and drawing his bayonet and stabbing Lieut. J. A. Brown in the arm. Sir Frederick Roberts has, however, commuted the punishment to imprisonment with hard labor for two years, giving the following as his reasons:—"The prisoner has committed two of the gravest military offences which it is possible for a soldier to commit—he disobeyed an order, and he used his arms against the person of an officer. But I have considered it right to mitigate the punishment which the general court-martial has justly awarded him, because it is proved by the evidence of Lieut. Brown himself that he provoked the assault by hitting the prisoner with his open hand on the back. In rising his hand against a sepoy, Lieut. Brown acted in a most unofficer-like manner, directly tending to the subversion of discipline and deserving of the strongest condemnation. I hereby publicly and severely reprimand Lieut. Brown for his conduct, which no provocation can excuse, and which proves him to be unfit to hold the responsible position of adjutant. Lieut. Brown is now acting adjutant of this regiment; he is deprived of his appointment and will revert to his duty as wing officer."

There are few subjects that should cause more anxiety at present than the arming of our fastest and most powerful merchant steamers in the event of war, so that when they found themselves unable to escape the enemy when conveying the necessary food supply, they could act on the offensive. There are few ironclads even which could swim after being rammed by a vessel of 3,000 tons, with a velocity of seventeen or eighteen knots. For this purpose it would be necessary to have a long-ranged gun of great penetrating power on a turn-table, so that it could be fired within a few degrees of the line of keel, and by the least touch of the helm hit the opposing force either ahead or astern, as she might be. Certain machine guns should also be carried to destroy torpedo boats. These vessels, were war threatened, could be officered by officers on the retired list and Royal Naval Reserve. The armament prepared in our dockyards at present, for some thirty or more merchant steamers, is altogether behind the times. As we have before hinted, the owners of the Cunard, White Star, and other first-class steamship companies, would only be too glad, from patriotic motives, to meet the government half way, the more particularly if the admiralty decided in future to charter only such vessels as had a seventeen knot speed, and were sufficiently well-built to carry one or two long heavy guns. History may yet repeat itself, and our future enemy may find a British merchant vessel quite able and willing to destroy even one of his commissioned ships.

It is announced as probable that the plateau of Courbevoie will be used for military manœuvres, whilst the Champ de Mars is taken up with the Exhibition. However, the selection of this spot is to be the myre carefully studied as the permanent "civilianising" of the Champ de Mars is one of the questions on the order of the day. The rising ground on which Courbevoie lies may be remembered as facing the Arc de Triomphe de E'Toile, beyond Neuilly. It was crowned with a redoubt during the siege of 1870; and when in the following year it was taken by the Versailles troops it became one of the chief centres of attack against the Communists.

A Mandalay correspondent of a Rangoon paper writes that a sepoy has been sentenced to fifty lashes for insulting the religious feelings of the Burmese by scraping some gilding off a pagoda.

The French minister of war has decided that the Kepi, or newly arranged forage cap, shall be worn in future by the foot artillery and engineer corps, as well as the infantry of the line. Another idea is to join mounted sappers to cavalry regiments, for the purpose of cutting down telegraph posts and severing wires, besides breaking railway lines and destroying bridges. The men detached for these duties will carry the necessary tools and appliances, and be subject to the orders of an officer of engineers.

Our Trading Column.

This column is established for the purpose of enabling our friends to exchange, purchase, sell, or otherwise advertise articles they desire either to acquire or dispose of. It is not available for commercial purposes.

The cost of announcements in this column for each insertion will be one cent per word for the first ten words one-half cent for each additional word. Each advertisement will have a register number in our books, and all communications regarding it must be forwarded through the GAZETTE, but it must be distinctly understood that this office incurs no other responsibility or liability in connection therewith. Address, with stamp for return postage, Canadian Militia Gazette, Box 316, Ottawa.

WANTED TO PURCHASE.—Rifle mounted officer's saddlery. Describe and quote prices. Register No. 3.

FOR SALE.—Two pairs of new black silk stars for rifle tunic or patrol badges. Price one dollar per pair. Register No. 6.

FOR SALE.—Officer's Uniform, Lieut.-Col., R. Artillery. Half price, except a few articles bran new. List on application; all in good condition. Register No. 8.

FOR SALE.—Rifle Officer's Uniform; height 5 ft. 9 9 in., chest 37 inches; Tunic Mess-suit, Patrol, Nickled Sword, &c., cheap. List on application. Register No. 10.

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NOTICE.

TENDERS will be received at the Department of Inland Revenue, until noon of Monday, the 3rd January, 1887, from parties desirous of leasing the privilege of ferrying across the river Ottawa, between La Passe, in the Province of Quebec, and Gower Point, in the Province of Ontario, in accordance with the terms and under the conditions set forth in the Regulations, copies of which can be procured from the Inland Revenue Department at Ottawa.

Each tender must state the amount which the party tendering is willing to pay per annum for the privilege referred to, which amount will be payable in advance, the terms of the lease being for five years from the 1st May, 1887.

Each tender must be accompanied by a cheque marked "good," on one of the chartered banks doing business at Ottawa, for one-half the amount of the per annum tender. This amount will be credited on account of the first year's rent in the case of the accepted tender, and all other cheques will be returned, except in the event of withdrawals, in which case no refunds will be made.

All communications must be addressed to the undersigned, and endorsed on the envelope, "Tender" for the La Passe Ferry.

WM. HIMSWORTH,  
Secretary.

Department of Inland Revenue,  
Ottawa, 14th December, 1886.



NOTICE.

TENDERS will be received at the Department of Inland Revenue until noon of Monday, 3rd January, 1887, from parties desirous of leasing the privilege of ferrying across the River Ottawa, between Fitzroy, in the County of Carleton, in the Province of Ontario, and Onslow, in the County of Pontiac, in the Province of Quebec, in accordance with the terms and under the conditions set forth in the Regulations, copies of which can be procured from the Inland Revenue Department at Ottawa.

Each tender must state the amount which the party tendering is willing to pay per annum for the privilege referred to, which amount will be payable in advance, the terms of the lease being for five years from the 1st May, 1887.

Each tender must be accompanied by a cheque marked "Good" on one of the chartered banks doing business at Ottawa, for one-half the amount of the per annum tender. This amount will be credited on account of the first year's rent in the case of the accepted tender, and all other cheques will be returned, except in the event of withdrawals, in which case no refunds will be made.

All communications must be addressed to the undersigned and endorsed on the envelope "Tender for the Quyon Ferry."

WM. HIMSWORTH,  
Secretary.

Department of Inland Revenue,  
Ottawa, 14th December, 1886.



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No tender will be entertained unless on one of the printed forms and all the conditions are complied with.

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A. P. BRADLEY,  
Secretary.

Department of Railways and Canals,  
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**A. CAMPBELL,**  
 Postmaster-General.  
 Post Office Department,  
 Ottawa, 21st May, 1886.