

THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE

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NOTE AND COMMENT.

We congratulated the members of the New Brunswick Rifle Association last week upon the re-election of Captain J. Twining Hartt as secretary-treasurer for the ensuing year, and we are this week compelled to sympathise with the members of the St. John Rifle Co. in the loss they have sustained by Captain Hartt's retirement from the command, which is announced in the militia orders just published.

* * *

Captain Hartt's retirement from the active force removes one of the most popular, and among riflemen one of the best known and most highly esteemed officers of the force, and will be a subject of regret from the Atlantic to the Pacific. Although Captain Hartt is still a young man, the honours which he has won with the rifle during his shooting career are such as fall to few men during their lifetime, and we understand his efficiency as an officer is in every respect as complete as his command of his rifle. It is with sincere regret therefore that we see his name removed from the active list.

* * *

"It is an ill wind that blows nobody good," and "what is one man's loss is another's gain." These are the only crumbs of comfort we can think of to console the members of the Queen's Own for the loss they have sustained by the promotion of their popular adjutant, Captain W. C. Macdonald, into their new sister corps, the 48th Battalion. There is, however, one other source of comfort for them in the fact that the position vacated by Captain Macdonald's promotion, has been filled by such an efficient officer in every respect as Captain Mercer.

* * *

A change has been made in the Administrative Distinction of Companies of the Infantry School Corps, and in future companies of this corps will be known by numbers instead of letters. It appears

strange in announcing the numbers which will distinguish the various companies in future that they are numbered in the reverse order to the way in which they were lettered and to the date of their establishment.

* * *

Hitherto the various companies have been lettered from east to west, A company in Fredericton, D company in London, and this lettering was in accordance with the seniority of the various schools according to dates of establishment. Now the order is reversed and the junior school—London—is made number 1. Doubtless this is done according to the ancient and honourable custom of the War Office, which our Militia Department so faithfully endeavour to copy, and is one of those things no man can be expected to understand.

* * *

We desire to extend to Lieut.-Col. Houghton, D.A.G. 5th M.D., our very sincere sympathy in the recent domestic affliction that has recently befallen him in the loss of his estimable wife, who died in Victoria last week.

We understand Mrs. Houghton has been ill for some time past, and the trip to her old home in British Columbia was undertaken in the hope that she might derive benefit from the change. Although her state of health may have been a source of anxiety to her husband and friends, yet love and hope struggle so fiercely against the admission of a possibility of death, that the blow when hope is past seldom falls less heavily on those left to mourn, and with them we feel assured many hundreds of friends in the militia force will feel deeply.

* * *

It is rumoured again that effort are to be made by Torontonians to have the School of Cavalry removed to that city from Quebec, on the plea that its usefulness will thereby be increased, as it will

be more centrally situated for members of the force who are desirous of availing themselves of its course of instruction.

* * *

Facts, however will not bear out this assertion, as the cavalry strength of the Dominion is almost equally divided between Ontario on the one hand and Quebec and the Maritime Provinces on the other; and while the removal of the school to Toronto might benefit the Ontario portion of the force, it would put it altogether out of the reach of the remainder.

* * *

The best solution of the question, if any change is made, would undoubtedly be to bring the Cavalry School to the Capital, which is unquestionably the natural home for such an institution. Ottawa is the true centre of the territory covered by our Cavalry force, and is easily accessible from points both east and west—decidedly more so than Toronto, which is too far west for the eastern forces.

* * *

The Capital of the Dominion is the only capital city in it which has not been given a military establishment of one or other branch of the service; and the most appropriate to be established here is undoubtedly the Cavalry School, as its services would be just what is wanted to give additional eclat to court ceremonies. If the Mayor and Aldermen of Ottawa do not urge this matter strongly upon the attention of the Government, they will be deserving of the severest censure from the electors when they next meet.

* * *

Major Stewart, commander of the Ottawa Field Battery, is having a hard time of it with Toronto stonecutters in connection with his contract for the new drill hall in that city.

Major Stewart has been foolish enough to think that it was his privilege as a free citizen to carry out the work for the building he has undertaken to erect, in

the manner which seemed best to him in his own interests, and under this impression was having his stone brought to the city cut and dressed.

This did not suit the ideas of the stone-cutters of Toronto, who do not intend that Major Stewart is to have all the profit he can make out of the contract, but who want to share it with him, and with this object in view have been making things hot for him.

* * *

Major Stewart has one great advantage in his favour. He is a Scot, and imbued with a full share of the native obstinate determination of that plucky nation, and not likely to give in to anyone if to his personal disadvantage, even if it necessitates his bringing his efficient Field Battery to his protection.

* * *

At the annual meeting of the National Rifle Association of America held in New York recently, a motion was made that future interstate matches should be shot with the national arm—the U.S. Springfield rifle—and factory ammunition. This was strongly opposed on behalf of the New York militia, and it was claimed that they could not give up their Remington rifles now in use, for which the Seventh and Twenty-third regiments load their own cartridges, using more powder and a heavier bullet than are found in the factory cartridges.

The motion was lost.

* * *

There are several interesting features in the above for Canadians, not the least of which is the apparent fact that the tail is allowed to wag the dog on the other side of the line, and the State of New York may dictate to all the states of the Union in the affairs of the N. R. A.; another is the unmilitary ideas which must obtain in the councils of the N. R. A., where volunteers are encouraged to practise with ammunition, if not with arms, which they certainly would not use on active service, for which they are supposed to be training themselves; and a third is the extraordinary ideas as to what constitutes a fair competition which must prevail among the same gentlemen.

* * *

An earnest protest against the ruling of the N. R. A. is made on behalf of the volunteers of states other than New York, by "Shooting and Fishing," and they are advised to sever their connection with the

N. R. A. on account of this and other rulings.

This would certainly be one way of solving the difficulty but it scarcely seems to be a judicious or manly one, or in the interests of the force. It would appear to be a wiser course for the volunteers of all the States outside of New York to take a sufficiently active part in the affairs of the association to control the unruly member, and compel *it* to go the way of the majority or withdraw.

* * *

The solution of the difficulty is not without interest to Canadians, as we have often been urged to send a team to compete for the Hilton trophy. This would no doubt be done if our men, who would have to go armed with their Government Martins and equipped with factory ammunition, were to be met by competitors armed in a similar fashion; but which is not likely to be contemplated as long as the volunteers of the State of New York reserve to themselves privileges such as now pertain to the position they have assumed.

MUSKETRY TRAINING.

General Sir Frederick Roberts is not by any means alone in the estimate which he entertains of a thorough system of musketry instruction.

Numerous officers of distinction and experience in continental armies are quite as pronounced in the expression of their views as to the absolute necessity of a soldier making himself thoroughly conversant with his rifle before he can be of much service to his state.

Reports of inspectors of rifle practice in the United States are replete with suggestions as to the best means of ensuring thorough training on the part of the militia in this necessary part of their duty, and Colonel Chase, Inspector-General of Rifle Practice in Massachusetts, has recommended the consideration of a scheme by which the pay of men who neglect to perfect themselves in the use of their rifle, be reduced or retained in whole, according to the scale of their deficiency.

This is much upon the same line as what we advocate for our militia. It is worse than useless, it is absolute waste, to pay men annually for drill who neglect the most important part of their duty—musketry practice—and there are hundreds, aye, thousands, so paid.

Adjutant-General Sprague, of the State of Maine, issued an order recently in regard to rifle practice in which it provides that, "men failing to use thirty rounds of ammunition, as prescribed by order, before 15th June, will be dismissed from the service."

The Government of Canada last year issued some 600,000 rounds of Snider ball ammunition. About 65,000 rounds of this was for the Military League competition, and over 90,000 rounds for the Schools of Infantry and Artillery, leaving about 450,000 rounds distributed among the active force—say 30,000 men—or 15 rounds a piece, not a very munificent supply when the comparatively slight cost (only \$7,200) is considered.

This issue was distributed for use without other supervision on behalf of the government than such as was afforded by the care to be exercised by the various officers drawing ammunition for their several commands, unless it is claimed that the instructors of musketry at the brigade-camps superintended the use of the portions allotted to the corps assembled in them. This they did to a certain extent, but to ascertain that this supervision was by no means close or effective, it is only necessary to refer to the incomplete list of returns of the performance and percentages of target practice at the camps as they are furnished in the militia departmental report for last year.

At more than one camp the target practice, owing to one cause or another, was not carried out, or only partially so, and the ammunition was carried away to headquarters to be used there, but no returns of its proper application were ever received by the department.

The present unsatisfactory state of affairs as to the annual performance of target practice duty by many members of the force might be very materially improved by the appointment of a good active officer as inspector of musketry for the Dominion, whose sole duty would be the care and superintendence of the target practice of the force throughout the Dominion.

The position would be no sinecure, and would call for the attention of one whose whole heart was in the work. Doubtless the office would be supplemented by assistants, for the work would before long become too heavy for one man to attend to, but of all the money expended on the

militia force there is none that would give a better return to the country for the amount spent.

We would advocate, and advocate very strongly, a much more liberal issue of ammunition to the force for target practice than at present allowed. A step in the right direction was made last year, but it was a very feeble juvenile step, and may be supplemented by a much more healthy stride without any danger to the equilibrium of the Departmental finances.

From the annual report of the Deputy Minister, made last year, we find that the Department spent \$198,533.31 on ammunition, clothing and military stores. From the report of the Auditor General we find that of this sum over \$60,000 was expended on the cartridge factory at Quebec. The report of the Department also shows that over \$60,000 was expended on public armouries and the care of arms.

A total sum of \$1,296,000 was spent by the Militia Department, of which large expenditure the very munificent amount of \$9,600 was devoted to ammunition to train the whole force, permanent and volunteer.

Surely this amount might be very largely supplemented without dangerously encroaching upon the finances.

It is pretty generally admitted, we believe, that it is too much to expect to be able to obtain a thoroughly drilled, well disciplined force, out of the Canadian militia as long as the Government are unable to give them more opportunities for drill and exercise than at present exist.

There is no reason in the world, however, why we should not have a force of 50,000 men, each one of whom might be depended upon to make good shooting at an enemy for any distance up to 600 yards, and this without increasing the expenditure of the Department \$25,000 annually.

A liberal increase in the annual grant of ammunition for target practice, and the appointment of an active intelligent officer to superintend, inspect and improve the use of it, is all that is called for from the Department.

STRANGE ACTION OF A TORONTO MILITIA OFFICER.

Lieut. E. A. Macdonald, an officer of the 12th Battalion, is reported as having spoken at a public meeting held in Toronto on the 28th ult., to discuss Canadian independence, in the following terms: "We have arrived at that state of misgovernment which no change can make worse. Everyone acknowledges that something must be done. Some want imperial federation, others commercial union, and others annexation. Some people say this country is too moral to unite with the Yankees. I do not think that it is, I look

at Quebec and find that every politician is a thief. Nature and Providence intended that the United States and Canada should be under one government, and it is my opinion that it is their ultimate destiny to be united and form one powerful, peaceful and industrious nation." And on being called upon by his commanding officer on behalf of the officer commanding Military District No. 2 for an explanation of his conduct at the meeting, "such conduct," it being said, "being inconsistent with the appointment which you now hold as an officer of the Canadian Militia," replied: "I am not aware that my holding or publicly expressing political opinions or views different from those of my superiors in command of the militia, is an offence, either within the meaning of the Queen's Regulations or the Canada Militia Act. If it is, and I had known it, I would never have become a militiaman. I do not believe it is, however, and until I am otherwise advised, I decline to be questioned by anyone."

It appears to us that whether Mr. Macdonald has or has not the right to express such opinions in public, he has certainly made a serious mistake in accepting a commission in the militia while entertaining such views, and we would strongly recommend him to avail himself of the first opportunity offered to resign from a position which might possibly call for his services to oppose the ultimate destiny which he fancies he sees for this country.

ANNUAL MEETING OF "F" CO., Q. O. R.

The annual meeting of the above Company was held at the Hub on Saturday evening, 20th inst. Owing to Capt. McGee still being on the sick list, Lieut. H. F. Wyatt performed the duties of chairman to the satisfaction of all. The meeting was very enthusiastic, some 40 members being present, and the whole proceedings bespoke a healthy tone. The company is the strongest in the regiment, and held its position throughout nearly the whole of last fall. Reports were received from the Treasurer, Clothing, Recruit and Rifle Committees, all being highly satisfactory. Ex-Col. Serjts. George and Ham took this opportunity of thanking the members of "F." Co. for their kind remembrance on the occasion of their severing their connection with the company last fall. This company had a complete uniform purchased for each member last spring, each one paying proportion of the cost, the balance being borne by the company fund. This season it has been arranged that each recruit is fitted out with a brand new uniform, a slight proportion of the cost being borne by him on joining the company. This ensures good care of a uniform, and also a properly fitting uniform for every man. It has been decided to hold a "hard-times" oyster supper at an early date. By way of explanation I might add that the con-

ditions governing this are: no collars, cuffs or ties, one or two patches on trousers, and the toughest looking specimen gets a prize.

Following are the officers for the ensuing year: Secretary—Col. Sergt. Agnew; Treasurer—Private R. W. Agnew; Rifle Committee—Lieut. Wyatt, Sergt. Bryant, Corporal Campbell, Privates Davison, Rice and Cameron; Recruit Committee—Lieut. Matheson, Sergt. Saunders, Corporals Forster, Crate, Privates Niblock, Davidson, LeMair.

A HISTORICAL LECTURE.

A very successful and interesting lecture on "The Defence of York" was given by Mr. Barlow Cumberland to the sergeants mess of the Royal Grenadiers.

Mr. Cumberland has made a very extensive study of the subject, and of Canadian history in general, so that his remarks were listened to with interest by the large and appreciative audience that had gathered to hear him. After the lecture was over a hearty vote of thanks was tendered to the lecturer, and a hearty three cheers and a tiger added emphasis to it. Among others present were noticed Lieut.-Col. Dawson, Major Mason, Lieut.-Col. Brophy, 91st Battalion, Capt. Howard and Lieut. Chadwick. During the evening Lieut.-Col. Dawson, on behalf of the officers of the regiment, presented Sergt. Major Cox with a sword to replace the one stolen from him last fall. Mr. Cumberland has promised at a future date to give a description of the burning of Washington by the British.

THE NERVOUS VOLUNTEER.

["The defendant created some amusement by stating that the instructor had fired his class for him in former years on account of his being so nervous. As illustrating his condition when handling firearms it was stated that at the last review at Brighton he was in such a nervous state that the blank cartridges had to be taken away from him."—The Times, January 13.]

O pity my sorrowful lot!

I'm a sensitive Volunteer,

Who's dying to fire a shot

In defence of his country dear,

But I can't, for the sound of a gun drives me simply distraught with fear.

I'm perfect in a'! my drill:

I've a beautiful uniform,

(The Government pays the bill),

And, except when the weather's too warm,

My cunningly waxed moustache takes many a heart by storm.

I'm sure I've plenty of nerve—

Or nerves, would be nearer the mark—

And I rarely shy or swerve

When I hear a puppy dog bark;

And, although I burn a night light, I'm not afraid of the dark.

Then, O Mr. Hodson Pratt,

Look sharp and abolish war,

For I'm knocked as flat as my hat

At the sight of a drop of gore:

I'm game to fight a la Blak and White, but I bar the cannon's roar.

P.S.—

I've purchased a pop-gun, since

My conduct gave rise to jeers;

And although it makes me wince,

I've so far conquered my fears

That I hope to take part in the Brighton Review in about a dozen years.—C/c.

Regimental News.

QUEBEC.

Quebec, 20th Feb., 1892. — The 8th "Royal Rifles" have commenced their annual training, and have paraded by half battalions. The right half on Tuesday and the left half on Friday evenings.

On Friday evening, the 12th of February, the regiment had a march out through the streets of the city, headed by their bugle band.

The last regimental orders issued were to the effect that half battalion parades would be discontinued. The next parade will be on Tuesday evening the 1st March.

Extensive preparations are being made in connection with the military sports to be held next week in the drill hall.

I am informed that the annual training of the 9th Battalion will be commenced in the near future. R.M.C. No. 47.

TORONTO.

E. Company, Q.O.R., held their annual company meeting on the night of the 9th instant at the Buglers' rooms, with Capt. Mutton in the chair. The attendance was large, and the statements presented showed the company to be in a most flourishing state; the finances are on a better footing than ever before, and the members with commendable foresight, which might be copied with advantage by other companies, have again set aside a sum towards the furnishing of their quarters in the new shed. The officers and committees for the ensuing year were elected, amid much applause. Secretary, Corporal Blair; treasurer, Lieut. Morton; rifle committee, Privates Watson, T. Keys and Nugent; recruit and clothing committee, Sergeant Lennox, Corporal Edington and Private G. Keys. The company then passed their new constitution and by-laws, which they justly consider a model of brevity and completeness and quite ahead of anything of the kind in the regiment.

With E Company's usual push it was decided to commence recruit drill at once, in order that recruits may be got into the ranks by the time spring drill commences, thus obviating the difficulty which often arises from the ignorance of recruits of battalion drill during the annual 24th May outing. The 30th annual dinner of the company will be held at an early date and the boys are looking forward to one of those enjoyable evenings for which E Company is noted. At this point of the proceedings the chairman called a halt, and the company went into temporary liquidation, or rather vice versa, and turned up smiling and ready for work again in a few minutes.

Votes of thanks were then tendered unanimately to the retiring officers and suitably acknowledged. And Bugle-Major Swift was also thanked for his kindness in granting the use of the buglers' commo-

dious quarters for the meeting, and for company drill. After a most eloquent acknowledgment by the Bugle Major, during which he stated that he had been at great pains to make the new company bugle call for E Company particularly suitable to "Old thirsty-five," the meeting adjourned.

NOTES.

Capt. Knifton's familiar face was much missed amongst us, and nothing but the knowledge that he had got his well-earned step, and that our loss was C Company's gain, would have reconciled us to it.

E Company has more representatives on the Managing Committee of the Sergeants' Mess than any other company in the regiment; so much for our youth, beauty and intelligence.

Col-Sergt. Cauldwell's plea for an old time dinner in place of a smoking party was touching in the extreme and quite won over the smokers from the error of their ways.

Very few companies in the Canadian Militia can equal "E" Co.'s unbroken record of over 30 years efficient service.

DORIC'S GRAND SUCCESS

As intimated in these columns two weeks ago, the members of Doric Lodge, A.F. & A.M., No. 316, G.R.C., held what they pleased to term "A Military Night," on the 18th inst., it being the occasion of their monthly meeting, and only once before in all its history did the Masonic Hall hold such a gathering as was present on this occasion, that being on the occasion of the recent visit of H. R. H. the Duke of Connaught. From the candidate eager for a knowledge of Masonic mysteries to a Grand Lodge Officer, and from a private to a Lieut.-Colonel every rank was represented, and out of 350 members present fully 100 wore, not only the apron and insignia, of this grand order, but wore that apron and that insignia on the grand old uniform that clothes every member of Her Majesty's brave and loyal defenders. Many were those who were carried back to the time when Toronto was a Garrison town, and the spectacle of a Masonic apron on a military uniform was then of no unusual occurrence. The effect was grand and impressive, the various uniforms mingling with the sombre black of the civilian brethren seemed to add a more than usual strikingness to the scene. All arms were represented and on all sides could be seen the sombre coloured Rifleman, the bright scarlet of the line, the gold and blue of the Artillery and the quieter yet handsome uniforms of the Cavalry and the Royal Navy. Up to Thursday night one had no idea of gauging the number of volunteers in Toronto who are members of the Craft, but thanks to the efforts of Capt. J. H. Knifton and the members of Doric Lodge the ball has been started rolling and already we hear of arrangements being made to imitate in various cities throughout the Dominion,

the example set by Doric Lodge at last last Thursday night's meeting.

Lt.-Col. Gibson, 13th Batt., D.G.M., Major J. J. Mason, 13th Batt., G. Sec., headed a deputation of officers of the 13th Batt., and its gallant Colonel endeared himself to all by his remark that he came in his unofficial capacity, and wished to be received with the Hamilton brethren instead of with Grand Lodge honours as was intended. Sergt.-Major Robertson, of the 48th Highlanders, was the candidate of the evening and the chairs were filled by the following:— Capt. J. H. Knifton, Capt. Mutton and Private Qua, Q.O.R.; Capt. Henderson, 48th; Sergt. Major Kennedy, Sergt. Dingwall, Sergt. Pearson, Private Kain, Q.O.R. After the business of the evening had been disposed of, about 250 sat down to the banquet, which lasted from 12 to 3 o'clock, and amongst others to contribute to the programme were Capt. Mutton, Q.O.R.; Major Stoneman, 13th Battalion; ex-Sergt.-Major Sims Richards, 3rd Middlesex; Private Kain; Mr. H. Simpson, ventriloquial sketches; Petty Officer Aronsberg, R.N.; and many others.

Previous to the banquet, it might be noted, the officers' and sergeants' mess dinner calls were sounded by Sergt. Butcher, C Co., I.S.C., and it was amusing to note how speedily these calls were answered by the military brethren, much to the disgust, no doubt, of their civilian brothers who were less prompt to realize or recognize the call. It affords a striking example of how slow many are to forget mere bugle sounds, no matter what time has elapsed since last heard. The members of Doric are indebted to Private Percy, Q.O.R., and member of Ashar Lodge, for the very able manner in which he performed his part of the ceremony. No less than eight sergeants from C Co., I.S.C., were present, while Hamilton sent a contingent of 10, nine from 13th Bn., and one from Hamilton Field Battery.

Among those present were Lieut.-Col. Gibson, 13th; Major Mason, 13th; Major Stoneman, 13th; Major Elliott, G.G.B.G., Markham; Major Higler, 22nd; Colonel Wayling, 12th; Captain Zealand, 13th; Lieut. Henning, 13th; Lieut. Lester, 13th; Lieut. Witton, 13th; Lieut. Waddell, 13th; Lieut. Pain, 13th; Capt. Ball, 22nd; Capt. Atkinson, 39th; Capt. Hendrie, Hamilton Field Battery; Lieut.-Col. Gray, Brigade Staff; Capt. J. K. Leslie, 12th; Capt. Furnival, 12th; Major Manley, 10th; Surgeon Ryerson, 10th; Capt. McDougall, I.S.C.; Lieut. Currie, 12th; Capt. Laws, 36th; Major Sankey, Q.O.R.; Petty Officer Armstrong; Lieut. Wyatt, Q.O.R.; Capt. Lee, Q.O.R.; Lieut. Dwyer, Q.O.R.; Lieut. E.A. Macdonald; Sgt.-Maj. Cox, 10th; Staff-Sergt. Mitchell, 10th; Surg. Ross, Q.O.R.; Capt. A. Henderson, 34th; Dr. Elliott, Toronto Field Battery; Capt. Currie, 48th; Staff-Sergt. Harp, 48th; Capt. Thompson, 12th; eight

Sergts. of C School; Bandmaster Bailey, Q.O.R.; ex-Col.-Sergt. Simpson.

Q.O.R. REVOLVER ASS'N.

The last match of the season will be held in the drill shed on Friday evening 4th March, from 7 to 10.30 o'clock, when the following matches will be fired.

Match 1.—Open to all members. 25 yards; standing, off-hand; revolver, any pattern, not exceeding .45 calibre and 7½ inch barrel; rounds, seven; entries limited to two scores, highest score to count.

Match 2.—Aggregate of scores in No. 1 match to count.

Match 3.—Teams. 1, 5 officers right half battalion vs. 5 officers left half battalion. 2, 5 non-commissioned officers right half battalion vs. 5 non-commissioned officers left half battalion. 3, 5 non-commissioned officers Q.O.R. vs. 5 non-commissioned officers from any battalion or revolver association.

Extra series.—Open to all comers; entries unlimited; rounds 3; highest score to count.

Lieut. Elliott, 12th Batt., having donated 3 medals to the association they will be shot for under the following conditions:

Competitors to be admitted in three classes.

1st class, gold medal; 2nd class, silver medal; 3rd class, bronze medal.

Medals to be shot for in any regular competition highest score in match No. 1 to count.

No competitor will be allowed to win two medals in the same class, but if a competitor who has already won a medal, makes the highest score in his class in any future match he will receive a bar to be given by the association.

Competitors in 2nd and 3rd class after winning medal and bar will be promoted to the next class above them.

The association intend to continue medal competitions at future matches on similar conditions.

The following additional information is given regarding this prosperous association as well as the dimensions of their standard target:

The Association is open to the Active Militia of Canada, Toronto Police Force and Ex-Members of the Queen's Own Rifles.

Members of the Association are entitled to shoot in above Matches other than extra series on paying the entrance fee to each Match.

Anyone paying the membership fee of \$1.00 will be entitled to free entry in Match No. 1.

Prizes in Aggregate match and extra series will be posted up on night of Match.

Competitors to find their own Ammunition.

Ammunition may be had from register keepers at small advance of cost.

No two members will be allowed to use the same revolver, except in the case of the Association's Revolver.

Use of Association Revolver may be had at a charge of 10 cents for the evening.

Size of Target (of Paper):—

First circle on Bulls Eye	1¼ inches.	value	7 pts.
Second " "	2¼ " "	"	6 " "
Balance-Bulls Eye	4 " "	"	5 " "
First Outer Circle	5¼ " "	"	4 " "
Second " "	7 " "	"	3 " "
Third " "	9¼ " "	"	2 " "
Fourth " "	12½ " "	"	1 " "

The committee are sparing no pains to make this the most successful of any yet held under their auspices, and further information will be freely granted by communicating with Col.-Sergt. N. B. Sanson, Ontario Chambers.

Letters to the Editor.

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.]

MARTINI-HENRY AMMUNITION.

DEAR SIR,—Your valuable paper of the 18th February contains this information interesting to the service,—that the manufacture, at the Quebec Cartridge Factory, of 64-lb. and 9-lb. shrapnel and common shell has proved a decided success, and that Martini-Henry ammunition has begun to be made there also. The pros and cons of the shrapnel will be left to the gunners to discuss, but a few words on what interests the infantry will not be out of place.

It seems that the experimental tests conducted by the London *Field* with the Martini-Henry ammunition served out to the volunteers of England, have shown up serious defects in the cartridges, the uneven charges of powder being a most serious one. This is not to be wondered at since the limit of variation allowed at Woolwich Factory in Snider, and no doubt the same in Martini, is four grains weight of powder. A variation of three grains in the Snider will make a difference in elevation of 21 inches on the target at 500 yards, being equal to that between a bulls-eye and an outer.

The report of the cartridge commission of 1885 among other changes recommended the reduction of this limit of variation to one grain. By reason of recommended improvements to that admirable filling machine having been adopted; such as, the base on which it rested being solid masonry, obviating all jarring; changing the motion from a boy's foot to a machine power, giving an even steady movement, also keeping the quantity of powder in the hopper at a uniform height, besides the whole process of filling being carried on with more careful attention, the limit has been reduced to one grain, and, moreover, it has been proved that it can be still further reduced.

Three or four grains less weight in the bullet is immaterial, provided the weights do not vary in each, but let the centre of gravity be in its proper place.

Our coiled shell is the best for Snider, it being a short and uniformly thick cartridge, but the solid drawn shell should be used for the Martini, its length and peculiar shape making it more liable to damages.

The Quebec Cartridge Factory turns out better Snider cartridges than ever came out of Woolwich, so let the best Curtis and Harvey's powder be used and the above points carefully attended to. There is no reason why the same remark should not be applied to the manufacture of Martini-Henry ammunition now being initiated at Quebec.

If I M. Canadian troops will not be satisfied with any ammunition of an inferior quality, it must be the best and nothing but the best for all requirements.

CARBOUCHE

RE MORRIS TUBES.

DEAR SIR,—As advertisers in your paper ever since it has been in existence, we should like to ask, is it possible that our existence is unknown to any single officer in the Dominion of Canada?

Notwithstanding all the exertions of direct address exercised for fifteen years, whereby we have annually sought to communicate with every officer whose name appears in the Militia List, is it possible that any officer does not know the nature of our business? Our general catalogue of last year was specially designed to acquaint the militia of Canada with the resources of our business.

Is it possible that the writer of the letter in your last issue receives the CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE, yet never gives a casual glance at the advertisements?

We are forced to ask, what is the use of advertising if a correspondent may occupy free, a whole column of your issue in directly antagonizing the interests of paid advertisements, without any interest being manifested on your part?

Without wishing to make any personal charges against the writers of the letter referred to, we cannot but question his references to Montreal, which are so absurdly incorrect that we interpret the letter to be hastily written in the same tone of ignorance which has led the writer so completely to ignore our existence.

The Victoria Rifles of Montreal were the first to receive Morris Tube outfits and since the erection of the new Montreal drill shed, the Sixth Fusiliers, Royal Scots, Prince of Wales Rifles, Montreal Garrison Artillery and Sixty-fifth Regiment have been fully equipped with the Morris Tube ranges by us.

For many years we have pressed before the Militia Department the importance, if not necessity of providing this useful adjunct, and through our instrumentality the Morris apparatus will now be found fairly distributed through the schools and garrisons from Halifax to Vancouver.

The vim with which the writer proposes the importance of carrying in the Government stores the tubes and ammunition, exhibits a sentiment we gladly testify to be on the wane in Canada; the officers generally know the cost of uniforms and accoutrements in England, and our published price lists have thoroughly convinced the majority of unprejudiced minds that home industry is worth protecting.

We gratefully acknowledge the patronage of our numerous customers throughout the Dominion, whereby we have been able to establish a Military Emporium worthy the aspirations of our young nation, and we proudly refer to the confidence placed in us by many of the foremost manufacturers of Great Britain whereby we are appointed to represent them on this continent, and among this list for many years has appeared the name of the Morris Sighting and Aiming Apparatus Co'y. Yours respectfully,

JOHN MARTIN & Co.

Sports and Pastimes

The increased interest recently shown in athletic sports by members of the militia force may be a coincidence with our introduction of a sports department or may have been in a degree encouraged by our departure.

Which ever it is, it certainly appears to justify the innovation, and encourages us to continue a feature which ought to be of undoubted benefit to the force.

Members of the force might assist me very materially if they would more liberally supply me with items of news as to the doings of their various regiments. Activity on the part of one corps often urges another on, and the best means of circulating the news of the force throughout the Dominion is through the medium of the columns of the MILITIA GAZETTE.

The activity on the part of militiamen in athletics to which I have referred induces me to believe that the present is an opportune moment to suggest the formation of a Dominion "Military Amateur Athletic Association," for the development of athletic amusements and the encouragement of all kinds of athletic competitions among members of the militia force.

Such an association could not fail to have a most beneficial effect upon amateur athletics throughout the country, and would, moreover, create a bond of union, and unity of interest between members of corps, which would greatly assist in keeping them together.

A very opportune chance for the formation of such an association will occur next month when the meetings of the Dominion Rifle Association, Dominion Artillery Association and Canadian Military Rifle League are to be held in Ottawa and will bring members of the force from all parts of the Dominion together.

And a very appropriate person to call a meeting to discuss the advisability of forming such an association is to be found in the person of Captain P. B. Taylor, of the Governor General's Foot Guards, the popular and energetic secretary of the Ottawa Amateur Athletic Association.

The number of sporting clubs of various kinds connected with the most efficient regiments in the force, is the best evidence of the beneficial effect such organizations have in holding the men together, and the more they are encouraged the better it will be for the corps in which they exist.

The Vics have for years, I believe, been the only corps who supported a cricket club. This year, I understand

they are to have a competitor, and the 43rd "Gatineau Beavers," are said to have an eleven ready for the field who will give the Vics a match at any time.

The Royal Scots and Governor-General's Foot Guards have already met on the ice at Hockey, and another match is now on the tapis to be played in Ottawa. The former corps also have one rink, at least, of curlers, who lately gave a rink of the Vics a close and exciting game.

The 43rd also claim to shine at the "roarin' game," and have announced their readiness to put two rinks on the ice at any time, against either the Montreal or Toronto Brigades, and if against the latter to play with Granites.

The various corps in the larger cities of the Dominion possess athletic combinations, which if banded together as a Dominion Military Association would materially benefit and strengthen the militia force throughout the country, and would arouse an interest in it and its doings which unfortunately does not at present exist.

HOCKEY.

CHAMPIONSHIP OF CANADA.

For the fifth time this season have the Ottawa Hockey Club successfully defended their title to the championship of Canada.

The last match played on Thursday last in the Rideau Rink, Ottawa, was one of the finest of the season, and was exceedingly well contested throughout. Indeed it was more by good luck than by good management that the O. A. A. C. obtained the victory.

The Quebec club were minus the services of H. Scott, who was unable to play owing to a recent accident, and was replaced by C. C. Smith. They were strengthened, however, by the presence and encouragement of a large number of friends who accompanied them from Quebec, among whom were a number of the fairest daughters of the ancient capital; this was sufficient to make any club strive its utmost for victory.

And strive hard the Quebec men did. In the first half the game was much in the Ottawa's end of the rink, and the attacks on the O.A.A.C. goal were numerous; there it was that the luck of the Ottawas came in, for although Morel played splendidly and was a veritable stone wall, there can be no doubt that luck favoured them in keeping the puck out. Once the cap was knocked off Morel's head by the puck, and twice it struck the goal posts.

The pace, however, was too hot to be kept up, and after half time it was evident that the Quebecers had made an error in forcing the game as much as they had. Another mistake they made was to rest by sitting or lying down during half-time interval. The Ottawas after a few min-

utes breathing space were on the ice again, and kept moving about to keep their circulation moving. The effect of their judicious conduct was very apparent shortly after play recommenced as their opponents had rather stiffened up by their rest, than benefited themselves by it.

The best point of the whole game was the feature which has distinguished the Quebec club all through the season. They played the game as gentlemen, and showed again that hockey may be played in first-class form without that roughness and disgraceful swiping which is beginning to ruin the most perfect winter game that has ever been started.

Both clubs were in this respect a striking example to the junior members who have been doing their best to make the game one of deliberate butchery.

The strong feature of the champions was their defence, Russell at point and Morel in goal were simply impregnable, and time and again withstood the most determined onslaughts on their flags by opponents who seemed innumerable, they followed so fast on the puck.

It was not until the second half that any of the forwards seemed to shine particularly and then Kerr and Kirby (H) showed some very magnificent play. The teams were:

Ottawa.		Quebec.
Morel.....	Goal.....	Patton
Russell.....	Point.....	Bignell
Young.....	Cover Point.....	Watson
Bradley... }		Smith
C. Kirby.. }	Forwards	Scott
H Kirby.. }		Scott
Kerr... }		Davidson

The following evening the champions met Queen's College, Kingston, for the championship of Ontario, and altho' the Kingston men made a good struggle, not for victory but to prevent overwhelming defeat, they had difficulty in preventing the game from ending more disastrously than it did, with a score of five games to nothing.

Next week the O. A. A. C. play the Osgoode Hall men of Toronto for the final in the championship of Ontario.

OTTAWA'S RECORD OF VICTORY.

Date.	Against.	Goals Won.	Lost.
Jan. 8.	M.A.A.A.	4	3
Jan. 15.	Shamrocks	8	3
Jan. 21.	M.A.A.A.	10	2
Jan. 28.	Quebec.....	4	3
Feb. 11.	M.A.A.A.	3	1
Feb. 18.	Quebec.....	2	0
Feb. 19.	Queen's Kingston...	5	0

SKATING.

The annual races of the Canadian Amateur Skating Association were held on the M.A.A.A. rink in Montreal on Saturday last. The principal events resulted in easy wins for J. Donohue, the American, who without being pushed distanced Gordon, Carroll, and others who were expected to be able to push him if not beat him.

ARTILLERY UNIFORM FOR SALE.

An Artillery Officer about resigning his commission, offers his complete outfit for sale at a reasonable figure. All nearly new, London made, consisting of tunic, stable and mess jackets, mess vest, dress and undress trousers, riding breeches, dress and undress belts, helmet, forage caps, sabretache and slings, summer great coat and cape, patrol jacket, serge fatigue jacket, sword, gloves, sword knots, fur trimmed winter great coat, fur trimmed winter patrol jacket, fur cap, uniform cases, Webb sword belt, sword support, &c., &c., &c. Height 5 feet 10 inches. Will dispose of any part of outfit. Address "A.B.," CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE, OTTAWA

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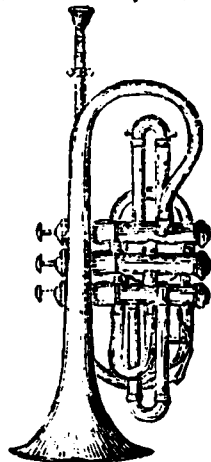


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44 Calibre Army Revolvers, 7 1/2 inch barrels, also 38-44 and 32-44 Smith & Wesson Target Revolvers.

The highest scores and all the principal prizes at the D.R.A., C.R.A. and P.Q.R.A. matches last year, and the P.Q.R.A. matches this year were carried off by competitors who used revolvers purchased from us.

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

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NEW CANADIAN WIND GAUGE
FOR SNIDER AND MARTINI-HENRY
RIFLES.

PRICE \$1.25.

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

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

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

APPROXIMATION PRIZES.

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

3134 Prizes, worth\$52,740

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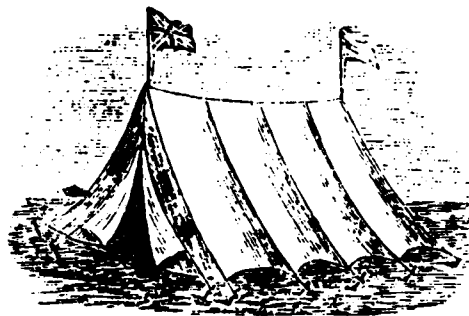
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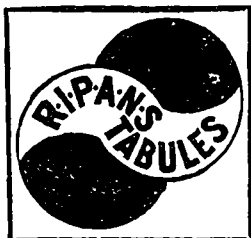
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