THE CANADIAN ZETTE

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

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CONTENTS OF THIS NUMBER

EDITORIAL NOTES.

The militia estimates.
On the regulation equipment.
Radical changes in the drill book.
The ammunition allowance for permanent corps Capt. Rutherford's gun sleigh. Its principle explained.

QUERIES AND REPLIES. Disposition of the scabbard. MILITIA NEWS AND NOTES.

THE ESTIMATES DISCUSSED IN PARLIAMENT.

MODERN TACTICS-(Con.)-Cubt. H. R. Gall. Chapter X-Defiles.

THE MILITIA PASTIME.

Morris tube ammunition reque ted. Cobourg Riffe Association meeting. The Ottawa Rifle Club's programme.

Current Topics.

CIR ADOLPHE CARON made it plain in the discussion on the militia estimates, fully reported elsewhere in this issue, that he was not indisposed to do for the militia force much more than at present, were the funds only at his disposal; but as General Laurie remarked in his address, the Finance Minister, who controls the purse strings, must necessarily be a check upon the Minister of Militia's spendings. The Finance Minister is not likely to be any more generously disposed towards the Militia Department until he ascertains beyond a doubt that such is the wish of Parliament, and it is therefore obvious that the military men especially who have seats in the House should lose no opportunity of putting in a word on behalf of the force to which they belong. Col. Denison, Col. O'Brien, Col. Tyrwhitt, Col. Amyot, Major Prior, General Laurie, and others rendered excellent service in this respect last week, and earned as they will doubtless receive the gratitude of the entire force.

ISTY," our old radical friend whose views on the equipment of the Canadian force formed a very interesting feature of several issues of the MILITIA GAZETTE in 1885-6, has made his reappearance in print, this time in the columns of the Broad Arrow. That is, we suppose it is the same "Misty." He writes from Canada on the subject of Sir Charles Dilke's slight reference to the Canadian branch of the service in his recent criticism of the British army. These remarks, he writes, "embolden me to send a résumé of sundry remarks on our headgear, etc., made by an officer connected with the permanent corps of Canada, and who was attached to General Sir Frederick Middleton's column during the North-West campaign. He maintains that the military forage cap is the most useless article ever made, and was the only implement that the Indians would not pick up:

"These scavengers (said he) would clear an old camping ground of every empty beef tin and broken match box, but never have I seen a creature that would pick up one of the many discarded forage-caps always lying about. Rumour has it that one jaded 'papoose' satiated with the other recreations of prairie juvenile life, picked up a forage-cap, and having tied a piece of 'shagganappi' to it, sauntered down to the nearest slough for a little innocent boating, but he, too, turned away in disgust as the water-logged craft sank promptly to the bottom. It won't stay on without the chinstrap (and that has a way of coming off also); it won't keep off the sun; it won't keep off the rain. Worse still, it is useless with a mosquito net, which, for want of a brim, lay most uncomfortably against the men's faces, and the mosquitos 'to a man' deserted our scouts, and others who wore slouch hats, and made for the artillery."

"In this variable climate it is necessary to have a contrivance for the head of a soldier that will accommodate itself to the freaks of 'Jack Frost' or a broiling sun. It is bad enough to toil under a hot sun in a

fur cap, but what chance of life have men in a 'blizzard' when clad in that military pancake called an artillery forage cap?

"The helmet worn by us (says my Canadian friend), in common with certain branches of the Imperial army, has also very serious disadvantages on active service. At the engagement of 'Cut Knife Hill' our men complained they could not aim properly because the projection in rear of their helmets touched their shoulders when they lay down to fire and tilted the helmet over their eyes. The fact also that they presented an excellent mark (as the 'Half-breeds and Indians afterwards told us) to aim at, resulted in most of our men preferring to be without such a dangerous head covering. I once took one of these helmets from the head of an artilleryman who was waiting with a lot of scouts and cowboys for his rations at the quartermaster's tent, and after the 'hard tack' and beef had all been weighed out, I placed the helmet in one of the scales, requesting some of the slouch hatted scouts to throw their head gear into the opposite side. Seven hats were thrown in before the scales were level. Can we wonder that our men feel disgusted and insubordinate when forced to wear so cumbersome a thing, which leaves them cold in our severe winter, overheated in our broiling suns, and while it hampers their powers to shoot straight invites the bullets of their enemies? As heavy English carriages are unsuited to Canadian roads, and would, if used, destroy their horses, so these accoutrements, which may-but I doubt it-be suitable for European warfare, are destructive to the usefulness of Canadian troops engaged in Indian warfare. Canada can ill afford '5 support any but a useful army, and, however well the articles I have named may look in a picture in the Graphic, they are unsuitable and harmful here."

"Surely there is time now to think out a more serviceable uniform than the Canadians now possess. There is no 'loyalty' in a slavish copy of every detail of the uniform worn by the Imperial army at home, whether suited to the climate and special requirements of Canada or not. The uniform worn on active service by the Imperial troops during recent campaigns was a vast improvement (in point of usefulness) on anything worn 'at home,' but the Canadian troops had no such special dress provided, and were their services required now they would thereby be again heavily handicapped in taking the field against any savage or civilized power." The North-West experiences above narrated appeared in this paper three years ago, but they will bear repetition in view of the fact that in the interval no change whatever has been made in this undoubtedly ridiculous system of dress.

T one fell swoop, the April Army Orders cut out from the drill book A a long series of cumbersome drill movements, whose decease will be a subject of rejoicing by all concerned. The complete list will be published next week, but in the meantime the following summary of the changes of most general interest may be given: All counter marching and right and left about wheels (which are in fact counter marches), are abolished. Thus the artificial fixed front disappears. Forming to the right or left about from fours or files becomes a thing of the past only. Wheeling into line and changing front by wheels is abolished, forming being made imperative instead. This practically does away with the "wheeling like a gate" over which so much valuable time has been wasted, and which has come to be looked upon as almost the perfection of drill. All these changes apply to brigade as well as battalion.

T will be a source of gratification to all interested, as it has been to us, to learn that the authorities are sufficiently impressed with the necessity of making marksmen out of the members of the permanent corps, and the absurdity of supposing that this end could be attained by their

firing only twenty rounds per annum each, to have sanctioned the issue in the past of a larger quantity of ammunition than allowed to the ordinary militia. Our remarks on this subject last week were founded on the erroneous assumption that the allowance to the permanent corps was the same as to the rest of the militia, which we are glad to learn is not the case. This has been the general impression, arising no doubt from the fact that there is no established rule governing the amount of ammunition to be expended by the permanent corps, except that it shall not exceed sixty rounds per man per annum. But even supposing each man fires his maximum, which he doesn't do; the practice is still insufficient; and, as contended for last week, the issue should be increased to two hundred rounds at least.

ANADIAN ARTILLERYMEN will be deeply interested in an illustration appearing in the Illustrated London News (American edition) of the 28th April, of a new pattern field-gun sleigh, as in process of testing on the St. Lawrence, at Quebec. An article descriptive of it also appears, as follows: "The winter equipment for field batteries has been the subject of numerous experiments lately tried by the Russians, and has attracted considerable attention amongst military men. The Russian artillery applied ordinary wood sleighs for the purpose of transport, which necessitated the guns being transferred to wheels before they could come into action. A military correspondent in Canada, Capt. R. W. Rutherford, has favoured us with an illustration of the Canadian artillery at Quebec testing a new pattern sleigh-carriage for a field-gun on the ice of the River St. Lawrence, with a view of the city and fortress in the background, which appears on our front page. Being Adjutant of the School of Artillery there, his explanation of this improvement, designed by himself, has some military interest."

[TS principle," the article continues, "is a separate sleigh or 'bob,' as it is called there, for the gun carriage, and one for the limber. Each 'bob' is so built as to be alterable to suit the gauge of any snow road, which is important in Canada, as the width of the track varies in the different provinces. They are each provided with a toboggan bottom, to prevent them from sinking into the deep snow. The draught and equipment are the same as on wheels, and there is the same drill; the gun-carriage and limber are merely lifted off the wheels and put on the sleigh. When not in use, the sleigh is easily packed for transport, and two waggons carry all the sleigh outfit for a field battery of four guns, with ammunition and other need-The arrangement is so designed that the gun, whether on wheels or on the sleigh, is always ready for action; in firing it the recoil is checked by iron chains passed under the runners, as in the old pattern sleigh. This new sleigh has been thoroughly tested in deep snow over the roughest and heaviest roads. It has been fired with service charges, and, in fact, tried in every possible way; and has been found to work most satisfactorily in every respect. It has been favourably reported upon to headquarters in Canada for the winter equipment of the field batteries throughout the Dominion."

Queries and Replies.

DISPOSITION OF THE SCABBARD.

O. Please interpret clause (e) of section 266 of R. & O. Does it mean that company officers of a battalion; are permitted to hook up the scabbard when wearing the

patrol jacket?

I know that this habit is included in, but does not "all other officers" mean those officers who wear jackets. My contention is, that it is not intended that an officer should hook up his scabbard under the tail of his jacket, much less to do so with the sword in the scabbard, as in my opinion it looks just as un-military to see an officer expose three or four inches of the lining of his jacket as it is to see the flannel collar of his shirt appearing above his jacket or tunic.

I would like our friend "Linch-Pin" to give his views on this.

A. In a previous paragraph (c) of section 266, officers are divided into two classes, viz.: those who wear their sword belts over and those who wear them under the tunic; we would therefore interpret "all other officers" to mean those who wear the sword under the tunic, viz., "general staff, personal staff of general officers and officers of cavalry (except dragoon guards) and rifle regiments," all of whom do not hook up sword belts whether in full or undress uniform. All officers except the above mentioned wear the sword bett hooked up both with tunics and patrol jackets. On patrol is the side of the sword bett hooked up both with tunics and patrol jackets. jackets there is usually a slit left in the side which permits the jacket to sit gracefully over the scabbard-hook, thus avoiding the difficulty referred to by our correspondent.

GOSSIP OF THE MILITIA.

Holiday preparations amongst the city Militiamen.

Toronto, Montreal and Ottawa busy-The Thirteenth suffers from Hamilton's apathy-Sudden death of a brave volunteer-Linch-pin on weaknesses in the system.

THE sudden death is announced at Battleford, N.W.T., of Fred Merrigold. Deceased was a member of the family of the late Registrar of Oxford, Col. James Ingersoll. On the Fenian disturbance in 1865, Mr. Merrigold volunteered under Capt. (now Col) Beard, and was for some time in this city. On the landing of O'Neil at Fort Erie, in connection with the late R. Terquand deceased assisted in the formation of No. 6 Company, 22nd Battalion, and was for nineteen years under Capt. McCleneghan as an officer of that corps. Attached to the North-West through Col. Richardson, deceased established himself at Battleford, and was exceedingly useful in giving shape to the official wants of the registry office in that remote region. For some time he was in the government service in connection with the telegraphic extension, and on the last uprising was at his post as a soldie:, and under Col. Otter took part in the battle of Cut Knife, for which he was awarded a medal for distinguished bravery. Late letters from Battleford indicated that Mr. Merrigold suffered from rheumatism, and he projected a visit to the springs at Banff.—London Free Press.

Commenting upon a report that the Sixth Fusiliers of Montreal are to visit St. John, N.B., on Dominion Day, the Fredericton Capital says: "Would it not be well for the two Fredericton companies of the 71st to join their Montreal comrades in St. John on Dominion Day, if not selected to go to camp at that time.

A despatch from Montreal, dated the 10th inst., says: Capt. Valcourt, of the 84th Battalion was accidently shot at St. Cimon, county of Bagot, on Saturday last. He was at the rifle range preparing to fire when he was struck by a stray bullet which shattered his thigh. It was thought at first that the limb would have to be amputated but Dr. Hindgston dressed it and all would probably have gone well had not the patient become delirous during the night and got out of bed. He stumbled and fell and the bandage give way. Medical aid was procured but Capt. Valcourt died before

Toronto.

UST about the time, says the *Empire*, when the sun shone at its hottest on the 29th ult., the Queen's Own Regiment assembled at the armoury and went through the customary initial exercises before receiving marching orders. About half past two the order was given, and some 550 men under Col. Allan, to the sound of sacred two the order was given, and some 550 men under Col. Allan, to the sound of sacred marches by the excellent band of 45 pieces, marched to the excellent band of 45 pieces, marched to the church of St. George the Martyr, on John street. The church was pretty well filled with the soldiers. The service opened with the processional hymn "Onward Christian Soldiers," led by the surpliced choir and taken up by the congregation. A short form of evening prayer was then intoned by Rev. F. M. Webster, a special lesson being read by the rector of the church, Rev. George Cayley.

The sermon was preached by Rev. G. E. Lloyd, of Penetanguishene, chaplain of the regiment, taking for his text Galatians, v., 9: "A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump." The preacher spoke of the responsibility each individual soldier should feel with regard to his conduct as a member of the regiment.

THE YORK RANGERS.

"C" company of the 12th Battalion, paraded for the first time in their new hall, College street, on the 1st instant. Captain Furnival was in command and was assisted by Lieut. E. Verral. There was a large attendance and the company promises to be one of the finest in the regiment. Clothing and accoutrements were issued and arrangements were made for meeting every Taesday and Friday for drill preparatory to going into camp. Colour-Sergt. James Spanton, late of Her Majesty's 74th Norfolk regiment, has been engaged to act as drill instructor. He is now on his way from England.

THE ROYAL GRENADLERS.

The Royal Grenadiers mustered at the drillshed on the 3rd inst., to the number The Royal Grenadiers mustered at the drillshed on the 3rd inst., to the number of nearly 300, Major Dawson in command. Headed by their band, the battalion marched to the Moss Park rink, where they were put through general movements. While in the middle of one of these the electric lights went out, leaving the building for a time in total darkness. On returning to the drillshed Major Dawson announced that the church parade will take place on Sunday week, May 13. The battalion will assemble in the Queen's Park at 2.45 p.m. and march to St. Stephen's church at 3.30, when the Bishop of Toronto is expected to preach.

The commanding officer has made the following appointments in "D" company: To be sergeant provisionally, Corporal Thomas G. Blake, vice Nelson resigned; to be lance-sergeant provisionally, Corpl. George Scully; to be corporals provisionally, Pte. Thomas Dean, Edwin Stephens and Albert Roberts; to be lance-corporal, Pte. Edward Kendall. Leave of absence has been granted to Surgeon Ryerson for three months,

Kendall. Leave of absence has been granted to Surgeon Ryerson for three months,

dating from 25th April.

After parade the officers assembled at the armoury to inspect and report on the

condition of the "waist belts" in possession of the regiment.

Artillery, Davidson, adjutant of the 1st Brigade of last week by Lieut.-Col. McDonald, Mayor of Guelph and the council of that city, to convey an invitation to Major Dawson and the officers and men of the Royal Grena-diers to spend the 24th of May in the Royal city. The Guelph people want them to leave Toronto the evening before and camp in the Exhibition Park, but as it is only a two hours' run it is probable that they will not leave until Thursday morning. companied by the artillery there will be a parade in the morning. At noon a royal salute will be fired by the artillery, on the market place. After luncheon the Grenadiers will perform the beautiful ceremony of trooping the colours. During the afternoon there will be athletic sports, in which the Grenadiers have been invited to take part. The most interesting feature will be a tug-of-war between the Grenadiers and Artillery for a silver cup.

THE SUPERANNUATION QUESTION.

I notice that in your editorial notes you refer to the question of superannuation of

staff officers. You say that it is not creditable to the country that the possibility of being reduced to want should stare in the face any public servants, and also that a gratuity of two years' pay (or \$3,400) each will be asked from Parliament for retiring D. A. G's. Now, the pay of a D. A. G. is only \$1,200 per annum, but he is allowed \$500 extra as an allowance; this \$500 might be swept away any day by an Order-in-Council, so that you will readily perceive on what a slender financial footing a D. A. G. stands. A Minister might claim that \$1,200 being the annual pay, a gratuity of \$2,400 should be given. You never know when the Ministers are going to be seized with a spasm of economy. The present Minister has informed us that in the militia staff we have men who have been devoting the best years of their life to the service of their country in a profession which is not a money-making profession. Let me ask the Minister to re consider these small figures, and at the same time the case of the officer I mentioned in the last GAZETTE.

THE MILITIA LISTS.

"X Pounder" has a paragraph in the last GAZETTE which he says will interest me. He wants to know why the Canadian militia in the Imperial Army List of January, 1888, is that of November, 1883! If he can tell me why the Militia List of January, 1888, is inaccurate, I can possibly answer him the other question. The

Seniority List, for one thing, is all upside down.

If "X Pounder" likes questions of that kind, I will give him another. Some time last year an order was issued, by which the word "Provisional" was not in future to form part of the name of the "1st Provisional Brigade of Field Artillery." In the official gazette, 20th April, 1888, Militia General Orders (No. 4), "certificates granted," we find the names of two bombardiers and several gunners given as belonging to the "Provisional Brigade Field Artillery." Do you know where this brigade is to be found? Perhaps the first order changing the name intended that the word "First" should be struck out, and not "Provisional."

TOMMY ATKINS AS A MARKSMAN.

If the Canadian Thomas Atkins were allowed to go travelling through the country attending rifle matches, the daily press would soon be enquiring whether the Permanent Corps were kept up for the purpose of pot-hunting. "C. T. A." says that the low rate of pay prohibits him from attending rifle associations' meetings. Here he has one right under his nose, his presence at which would cost him nothing for travelling expenses. His absence is rather because his daily pay does not permit him to purchase sufficient ammunition to enable him to attain a state of proficiency to meet his militia brethren on something of an equal footing.

his militia brethren on something of an equal footing.

If "C. T. A." has extravagant habits in spending money on "beer, 'baccy, and beauty," the militiaman does the same as regards "wine, women, and weeds," so that

really there is not much in that part of his argument.

The great point is the absence of trained musketry instructors in the schools, consequently in the militia. Money spent on sending some 10 officers and 50 n. c. o. and men to Hythe for a thorough course of training would be money well spent. However, I would not confine their selection to the Permanent Corps. There are men in the militia who would—had they the opportunity of becoming so—make very efficient instructors, and their corps would be in a position of deriving great advantages from this training, which at present is beyond their reach. Knock off the Wimbledon Team, but send the same number of men to Hythe, and the militia would feel the benefit of the money at present voted for a few crack shots.

LINCH-PIN.

Montreal.

OMPANY and recruit drill has been going briskly on at the Vics' armoury during the past week, with considerable enlisting and fitting out added. The competition for commanding officers' prize for first company showing 55 bona fide service men and a waiting list came to an end early in the week, No. 6 Co. presenting a muster roll of 61, closely followed, same day, by No. 5 with 57. Recruiting closes 10th instant, with indications, at present, that by that date the weakest, company to-day will also be over-strength.

Private P. Costigan, No. 2 Co., died last week, and was buried with military honours on Saturday afternoon. The funeral was largely attended by the comrades of the deceased.

On Sunday afternoon a church parade was held, the regiment marching from the armoury to St. James the Apostle's Church, 265 strong, and making a splendid ap

pearance for the first daylight parade.

The recreation department continues a strong attraction and even members who do not take a prominent part in the amusements provided are interested, and gather round to see the results of matches going on. A bowling team of four men defeated the M.A.A.A. team by 1840 pins to 1852—3 strings each man—but lost a 10 man team return match with La Club Canadien by 71 pins, the next evening.

Busny.

The Straubenzie testimonial committee have met with such success in their canvass that they have felt themselves justified in ordering from Messrs. Henry Birks & Co., jewellers, St. James street, the handsomest solid tea service in stock, which is to be presented to Mrs. Straubenzie. The banquet has been fixed for Friday next, to take place at the St. Lawrence Hall. Mrs. Straubenzie will come down from Kingston to attend it, when the presentation will take place.

The Star says that at the mess dinner of the officers of the Victoria Rifles at the remoury this week it was decided to have an excursion to Toronto this summer, at a

date not yet fixed upon.

Ottawa.

On Friday evening last an entertainment was given in the Grand Opera House, by the Lotus Glee Club of Boston, in aid of the Sharpshooters' Monument Fund. There was a full house, an additional attraction being the presence of the Governor General and Lady Lansdowne. Upwards of a hundred dollars was netted. To Staff Sergt. Newly, G. G. F. G., who was Quartermaster Sergeant of the Sharpshooters' company, is due the credit of getting up the entertainment and pushing it through to successful completion. This enterrainment took the place for this year of the customary anniversary celebration.

A deputation from the Queen's Own Rifles of Toronto, consisting of Major Hamilton, Capt. Thompson, Capt. Mason and Lieut. Peuchen, spent Sunday and Monday in Ottawa, making arrangements for the visit of the Queen's Own to this city on the 24th. The regiment will make their headquarters the drill hall, where they will be the guests of the corporation,

Several promotions have been made in the Princess Louise Dragoon Guards conequent on the retirement of Pay-Sergt. Botterell. Corpl. A. Powell has been pro-

moted to succeed him in that office; Trooper F. O'Connor becomes a corporal vice Powell, and Trooper Chas. Olmstead has been made a lance-corporal.

THE FOOT GUARDS.

In consequence of the visit of the Queen's Own Rifles, the Guards have decided to forego their trip to Montreal for the 24th, and will instead leave for that city on Saturday afternoon, 26th inst., by boat, arriving there Sunday morning, and after having a church parade they will spend the rest of the day in sight-seeing, and leave for Ottawa in the evening.

The new uniforms for the Guards are expected to arrive about the 15th inst. The chevrons to be awarded for long service will arrive at the same time, so that the men may sport both when they go abroad on the 26th.

There will be a church parade of the regiment at Ottawa on the 20th inst.

Capt. Fred White, of No. 6, has obtained leave of absence for six months, during which time Lieut. John Hodgins will have charge of the company.

THE FORTY-THIRD BATTALION.

The Hull, Billings' Bridge, and Amprior companies of the Forty-third will join with those with headquarters in this city in the Queen's Birthday parade in honour of the Queen's Own Rifles.

A class of instruction for non-commissioned officers of the regiment was organized on Monday evening last. It will be conducted by the Adjutant, Capt. Evans, and Sergt.-Major Laurie.

The band of the regiment are organizing an excursion to Montreal, to give the musicians and their friends an opportunity of hearing the celebrated Gilmore's band when it visits there shortly.

Hamilton.

INSPECTOR G. E. Sanders, N. W. M. Police, was in town a few days ago obtaining recruits for the force which he represents. Mr. Sanders got 12 able bodied and altogether desirable men.

THE THIRTEENTH BATTALION.

The monthly parade of the battalion took place on 3rd inst., the strength of about three companies turning out. The officers were well represented, Lieut. Col. Gibson being in command and Lieut. Tidswell acting as adjutant in Capt. Stuart's absence. The battalion, headed by their bugle band, were marched from their temporary quarters to the drill hall, where they were put through several movements by Col. Gibson, and the manual by Major McLaren. all of which were fairly well performed. Col. Gibson addressed the men at some length, expressing his dissatisfaction at the lack of interest in the welfare of the battalion, and exhorting those present to use their influence with absent comrades and friends generally to unite in bringing the corps up to its old standard. He further remarked that owing to poor turn outs and lack of interest generally he had decided that the battalion should not go to camp this year.

It is to be hoped that on the completion of the new drill hall, an increase of membership and interest will be noticeable, and there is no good reason why such should not be the case. If men can be obtained (and surely there are plenty), who will sign their engagement papers with the fixed idea that such engagement will be faithfully carried out, and come imbued with a feeling of esprit du corps most necessary for the welding together, prosperity and efficiency of every regiment, there can be no doubt that the Thirteenth would compare favourably with any regiment in the Dominion.

The trouble appears to have been in the past that a number of men have joined for the sole purpose of drawing the small government allowance at the end of annual drill. Men of this stamp are absolutely of no use to the battalion, and if men cannot be got who will attend drill for drill's sake, and the sake of their regiment, it would be far better were the regiment disbanded. The officers undoubtedly take great interest in their work, and if the citizens generally would but lend a helping hand, the desired end would speedily be attained.

If, on the occupation of the new drill hall, it were possible to form a species of club, with duly elected officers, setting apart a room for the use of the men, surely great benefits would be derived. Nothing tends so much to promote fellowship, good feeling and *esprit du corps* as something of this kind.

THE FIELD BATTERY

The battery paraded on Friday evening, Capt. Hendric in command, other officers present being Lieuts. Bankier and Duncan.

cers present being Lieuts. Bankier and Duncan.

The drill was gone through with in the new drill hall for the first time.

GIRTH.

Gleanings.

While at no time in the world's history were there so many men under arms and undergoing the training necessary to make them effective life-destroying machines, there are certain features of the modern preparations for war that are at least hopeful. One is that small bore quick-firing rifles are being adopted on all sides, and the principal reason for this is, that they will wound, not kill, more frequently than the larger bores, and this is a decided advantage, because a dead man is but one man lost to the enemy, while a wounded man requires two men to carry him to the rear, and is therefore, equivalent to a loss of three men to the fighting line. Another good point is the steady progress of the Red Cross Society, and the large measure of attention which all military authorities devote to hospital management and ambulance system.

ological discoveries in Spain, and thereby won a grand prize of 20,000 francs, found by Don Francisco Martorell y Pena. They have unearthed no less than thirty ancien stations once inhabited by man between the city of Carthagena and Almeria on the Spanish coast. More than 2,000 prehistoric objects have thus been discovered. In the more ancient stations no metal was found, only diorite hatchets, perforated shells, and primitive potsherds being discovered. Next, however, copper is found in the shape of axes, arrow-heads, knives, and so forth, together with the foundry and workshop of an ancient metallurgist, showing his moulds, earthenware crucibles, and coppery cinders. In a cave tomb at Fuente-Alamo female skulls were found having silver ribbons and diadems round them. A male skeleton had beside it a bronze sword which had been rivetted. The vases resembled those of early Greece or Troy, and had been fashioned without the aid of the potter's wheel. A bracelet of thick gold wire weighing 114 grammes has also been found.

THE FORCE BEFORE PARLIAMENT.

An interesting discussion on the current year's appropriations.

Details of the vote passed—Claims on the pension list—Canadian made ammunition in British Columbia—The Biennial drills condemned—And relative expenditures on permanent and volunteer militia criticised—

Sir Adolphe fsvors a more generous policy—Canvas

suits for the artillery; Ranges for the riflemen; and midsummer schools

for the studious.

In the House of Commons on Friday last the appropriations for pensions and for the militia service were passed after brief but interesting discussion on several of the items.

THE PENSIONS.

An inquiry by Sir Richard Cartwright elicited from the Premier that Mrs. Gowanlock, whose husband was killed by the Indians at Frog Lake in 1885, will probably be granted a pension of \$400, the same as paid to Mrs. Delaney, wife of the Indian agent killed at the same time.

Col. Denison, on the item of \$4,530 for pensions for veterans of 1812, urged that these pensions should be paid next year in advance, as is the practice with other pensions. The Minister promised to give the request consideration. There are 151 of these pensioners still on the list, being seventy less than last year, and they get \$30 each annually. Two applications just presented are being considered by the department. Col. Kirkpatrick urged the government to continue the pensions to the widows of these veterans, but the Minister said there was no possibility of this being done.

Hon. A. G. Jones, of Halifax, on the item of \$25,000 for pensions to militia men on account of rebellion of 1885, asked if any decision had been arrived at in the case of Capt. Fortune of the 63rd Battalion, whose application has been before the department for some time. Sir Adolphe Caron replied that under the first report made in Capt. Fortune's case he was granted a gratuity, but representations have since been made to the department, and a report has been sent in by a new board of physicians, causing his case to again be submitted to the council, where the Minister's recommen-

dation is now being considered.

On the item of \$4,324 for pensions payable on account of the rebellion of 1885, to Mounted Police, Prince Albert Volunteers and Police Scouts, Mr. N. F. Davin, M.P., called attention to what he considered the unfair treatment accorded to the Regina volunteers, who had been excepted from the grant of land for services in suppression of the rebellion, owing to the contention that they were home guards. He read documents to prove that they were regularly constituted militia. He also complained of the exceptions made in the issue of medals to the Mounted Police, and asked that medals should yet be issued to 150 of these who had been on important duty during the outbreak but had not been called under fire. Dr. Sproule endorsed Mr. Davin's claim on behalf of the Police, and also put in a claim for the Wood Mountain volunteers, who like those of Regina had been refused acknowledgment as militia. Sir Adolphe promised to reconsider these cases, in the light of the new evidence adduced. Consideration was also promised to a request made by Mr. Watson, M.P., that the pension granted to the mother of the late Capt. Brown, of the 90th, should be made equal to that granted the parents of the late Lieut. Swinford of the same corps.

THE MILITIA SERVICE APPROPRIATIONS.

At the evening session the estimates for the militia service were considered and pasced after interesting discussion carried on mainly by the military men in the House. The amounts of the several appropriations, which are substantially the same as last year, are as follows:—

Salaries, Military branch and district staff.	
Major-General commanding the Militia—pay and allowance. \$4,000	
Aide-de-Camp to General Officer commanding 1,000	
Adjutant-General at Headquarters—pay	
do do allowance 600	
District Deputy Adjutants General, six at \$1,200 each 7,200	
do do allowances, six at \$500. 3,000	
Inspector of Artillery and Warlike Stores—pay	
do do staff allowance 500	
	\$14,100
Brigade Majors, Salaries, Transport expenses, etc	15,100
Ammunition, including artillery ammunition, and manufacture of small	•
arm ammunition at cartridge factory at Quebec	55,000
Clothing and great coats	90,000
Military stores	60,000
Public armouries and care of arms, including pay of storekeepers, care-	
takers, storemen and armourers	60,000
Drill instruction \$40,000	
Drill pay and other incidental expenses connected with the drill	
and training of the Militia	
	290,000
Contingencies and general services not otherwise provided for, including	_
grants to artillery and rifle associations and bands of efficient corps	38,000
Government grant to Dominion Rifle Association	10,000
Dominion Artillery Association, government grant towards artillery com-	
petition to be held in Canada, or for sending a team of Dominion	
artillerymen to compete at Shoeburyness	2,000
Royal Military College of Canada	59,000
Improved Rifled Ordnance	გ,000
Permanent forces—pay and maintenance of A, B and C hatteries, Schools	
of Artillery, at Quebec, Kingston and Victoria, B.C\$172,700	
Cavalry and Infantry Schools at Quebec, Fredericton, St. Johns,	
P.Q., Toronto, London and Winnipeg 350,000	

Military properties—drill sheds and rifle ranges	10,000	
Care and maintenance of mititary properties	12,000	
Construction and repairs of military properties	75,000	
Barracks in British Columbia		97,000 4,000

Total \$1,319,900

There is a reduction of \$3,400 in the appropriation for salaries for military branch and district staff, this being caused by the reduction of Deputy Adjutants General from eight to six in number.

On the item for brigade majors' salaries, Hon. David Mills called attention to the claims of Col. Aylmer, Brigade Major of No. I District, for having discharged the duties of the Deputy Adjutant General during the absence of Col. Jackson in the North-west in 1885, and his subsequent attendance at the sittings of the Claims Commission. Sir Adolphe Caron explained that the delay in settlement arose largely out of a difference between the two officers respecting the amount of the account, but that the claim was in a fair way of settlement.

An increase of \$4,300 in the appropriation for brigade majors' salaries and expenses was inquired about by Hon. A. G. Jones of Halifax, eliciting the information from Sir Adolphe Caron that this was caused by an addition of two of these officers. One of these is Col. Gray, appointed some time ago in No. 2 District, the other is yet to be appointed, in the Eastern Townships, the appointment of a separate brigade major for this section being deemed necessary in the interest of the efficiency of the service.

Speaking of the action of the government in gradually placing the districts in charge of the officers of the permanent corps, Col. O'Brien commended the policy. "In the first place," he said, "the appointment of the commandant of the Infantry School as Deputy Adjutant General brings the school itself more directly in contact with the force, and prevents, to some extent, the tendency, always had by these corps, to assume a professional standing above that of the ordinary militia."

A CHARACTER FOR THE CARTRIDGES.

Hon. A. G. Jones inquired if any changes had been made at the Quebec Cartridge Factory during the year with the view of improving the ammunition. Sir Adolphe Caron, without answering the query as to the changes, read a letter he had received from Lt.-Col. Holmes, commanding "C" Battery in British Columbia. As, he said, it is the opinion of a practical man, who has been one of the leading shots in Canada during most of the competitions that have taken place, I think it will satisfy public content that have taken place, I think it will satisfy public content that have taken place, I think it will satisfy public content that have taken place, I think it will satisfy public content to the competitions that have taken place, I think it will satisfy public content to the competitions that have taken place, I think it will satisfy public content to the competitions that have taken place, I think it will satisfy public content to the competitions that have taken place.

opinion more than anything that I could say from personal knowledge:

""C' Battery has just completed going through the annual practice and has fired 4,000 rounds of Snider ammunition of Canadian manufacture, which was sent with the corps to British Columbia. As I have heard of discontent being prevalent regarding its reliability, although I had never seen any of it in use before, our supply here being of English make, I was prepared to find fault with it, if necessary. I must say, however, that what we have just used is really as good and reliable as any I have seen anywhere, and I should be a judge, as I stood 5th in the Wimbledon team for 1873, and have always been a fair average shot. Peters also agrees with me as to its good quality, and speaks highly of it, and says all the fault found with it of late years is groundless. I thought you would like to have an opinion from British Columbia in this matter, as I presume some one may possibly bring up the same remarks which have appeared in the papers against the cartridge factory."

papers against the cartridge factory."

"Now," said Sir Adolphe, "this is the evidence of an officer who is not only a very good officer, but who is known to be a first-rate rifle shot. Major Peters is also known to be a capital shot and great sportsman, and is one of the best officers we have in the force. Relying upon information which I received from competent officers such as these, I believed that the cartridges manufactured in Canada were not perfect at first. Like every other new enterprise it required skilled men and skilled labour, and that skilled labour could only be acquired by the experience which we possess today, and which is making of the cartridge factory a success." In answer to enquiry as to the cost of manufacture of these cartridges, Sir Adolphe said it was \$20.00 a

thousand.

522,700

ALLEGED SHODDY UNIFORM.

Mr. Lister having complained that the trousers issued to the force last summer were shoddy and wore out in a few days, Col. Tyrwhitt said he had taken so much interest in this matter that this year he had gone through the stores. His attention having been drawn particularly to the trousers, he found the cloth to be of an unusually good character, and the clothes much better finished in every way than they have been previously during the last twenty years. His corps had been using the issue of the year before last, and found them of fair quality. The trousers issued during the present year are of exceptionally good quality and much better finished than usual.

Sir Adolphe Caron read an article from the Toronto Globe, concerning a visit paid by Col. Gibson, M.P.P., commanding the 13th Batt., to the factory of W. E. Sanford & Co., military clothing contractors, at Hamilton, in which that officer highly praised the clothing turned out there.

MILITIA OFFICERS SPEAK UP FOR THE FORCE.

Col. O'Brien complained that while the city corps got their drill pay every year, the rural corps are only called out every two years.

Col. Denison endorsed this complaint. He saw that for some years back, while the amount for the ordinary militia had remained in the neighbourhood of \$290,000, that for the permanent force had increased. He thought the amounts for each were out of proportion. There was \$290,000 for drilling the ordinary militia of the country for this coming year, against \$522,700 set apart for permanent schools. In 1883-84 the drill pay was \$314,473.50; and for the permanent schools \$226,726.81. In 1884-1885 the drill pay was \$270,151.19; and the permanent corps had increased to \$280,945.51. In 1885-1886 the drill pay was \$281,207.91; and the permanent corps had again increased to \$350,858.87. In 1886-1887 the drill pay was \$290,000, and the permanent corps \$482,700, and for this coming year the drill pay is estimated at \$290,000, while the permanent corps is estimated at \$522,700. He regretted very much that some move was not being made in the direction of increasing the amount spent on the ordinary militia of the country as well as on the permanent corps. If the present policy was pursued he considered we would soon not have any militia, but only expensive schools in which the militia are to be trained.

In 1873, some fifteen years ago, we expended on the militia \$1,248,663; while we had a gross expenditure of \$19,174,647. Then we were drilling 45,000 men, or in other words all the militia we had in the country, and we were drilling them every

year. In 1886-87, drilling only some 18,000 or 20,000 men, the militia expenditure was \$1,193,692, while the gross expenditure for all purposes in Canada reached the sum of \$35,658,161.10. If we increase our expenditure on the militia in anything like the ratio of the general expenditure, we would now be spending on it in the neighbourhood of \$2,000,000 a year. He regretted that within the past few years so much had been devoted to the permanent schools, while the amount for the militia

He did not advocate that the permanent corps should be disbanded, recognizing that they did a great deal of good, but rather that the whole life blood of the militia should not be drained into the schools, as these show very small results for the large expenditure of money upon them. If something like the old system were adopted, it appeared to him that it would be a great advantage to the country. Now, the plan adopted is that any one who wishes to join any one of these schools has to go in either as an officer or a private. When the original schools were formed twenty years ago, a captain and half a dozen non-commissioned officers were told off from a regiment to carry them on, and anybody, whether an officer or private or anybody else, could go into one of these schools and be drilled for the small sum of \$50. There were no doubt a great many young fellows in the country who would be willing to go in if they could go in that way, and get their certificates, but at present they do not care to go in either as officers or privates.

On the subject of the strength of the force, Col. Denison read from a letter which he had recently received from an officer living outside of Toronto, the following being excerpts:

"We used to have about 45,000 men drilled evey year, then it was reduced to 35,000, now we drill 19,000, but keep on the rolls 37,000. The General recommends that the force be reduced to 18,000, and drill them every year, probably in a year or two they will again economize and drill some corps two or three years until we have no militia, and the defence of this country is left to the permanent corps consisting of say 3,000 men; 18,000 men are no use, we should drill 50,000 men twelve days every year, and this could be done at a very small increased expense, the same brigade staff general expenses would do for 50,000 men. The same officers would look after a company of 60 men men as well as 40, same care of arms, instruction, drill sheds, the only increase would be averaging city and rural corps: Pay, \$6; rations, \$2.25; clothing, transport, contingencies, \$3; \$11.25 difference between 18,000 and 50,000—32,000 men at \$11.25 or \$360,000—or a great deal less than we now pay to support 950 men at the schools. I would also like to give you some examples from the public accounts.

"The following city corps cost in pay \$25,000, 7th, 2nd, 10th, 13th, 14th, 1st, 5th, 6th, 3rd, Governor-General's Foot Guards, 3,000 men, add \$9,000 for clothing, ammunition, etc., per year. and \$8,000 for care of arms, instruction, etc., we find that these 3,000 well drilled men that in the recent rebellion turned out as promptly and marched and fought as well as any there, did not cost the country as much to support as the 100 men at one of the schools, 3,000 men against 100 for the same money. Again take a field battery of artillery, of whom Lt.-Col. Irwin says they are as efficient as they will be under existing circumstances and of whom the General also speaks very highly: Pay, \$9 per year; instruction and care of arms, \$200; rations, \$230; clothing, \$150; \$1,480—this, for about 60 men, would be slightly increased.

The country can afford to thoroughly equip, drill and clothe the men in a rural company, as cheap as it can keep one private at the schools. Most of the schools are asking for more men and money. If they get more, five or six regiments will not go to camp next year, and so on until the militia cease to exist, when the excuse for maintaining the schools will also cease. We want good schools, well equipped with the best men we can get in the country to manage them.

* * In conversation with some officers it was suggested I should write to you and give you some figures, and if the people want regulars by all meaus let them have them, but they must be prepared to pay for them and even then, say in a war with Russia, militia would have to be again organized."

This letter, Col. Denison thought, showed conclusively the value of the militia as compared with the permanent corps. In conclusion he hoped that the Minister of Militia would bring down in the Supplementary Estimates an amount sufficient to drill the whole militia force of the country. He would like to see him show that, in looking after the permanent force, he is not altogether unmindful of the militia.

Major General Laurie felt that he would be recreant to duty if he did not say a word on this question. The total sum to be voted for the militia is \$1,319,000, and only \$250,000 of that is given for drill purposes. We are to have a militia composed of 37,000, and yet we are only to drill of that number 20,000 men, so that 17,000 are to remain undrilled. He maintained it to be very desirable that the whole 37,000 should be drilled. He was not opposed to any of the expenditure made in connection with the permanent force, but he had had reasons to change his views since he had been on active service in the militia, with regard to the value of a permanent force. He thought it unreasonable that we should have a militia expenditure of \$1,300,000 a year, and that the force proper should only consist of 20,000 men drilled, because the amount devoted for drill purposes is but \$250,000.

amount devoted for drill purposes is but \$250,000.

He did not wish to draw comparisons between the country and the city militia, but contended that similar treatment should be dealt out to each. The city militia have special advantages for perfecting themselves through the opportunities they have for assembling for drill purposes, but the country militia, although they have not such favourable opportunities for improvement, have done themselves and Canada great credit by the way they have turned out. Concerning the expenditure, he knew it was the Finance Minister who checked the Minister of Militia in this case, but he thought the House would back up the Minister of Militia in asking for a sufficient sum to enable the whole force to be drilled. While for \$1,300,000 we could now drill only 20,000 men, he felt satisfied that on an expenditure of \$1,500,000 we could drill double that number.

Major Prior concurred in what had been said by Col. Denison and General Laurie with regard to the desirability of the militia being trained every year. In his district, the brigade in which he held a commission had not been out for drill for the past four years, which was not fair to the officers or men. The officers were put to heavy expense in getting their uniform and making their course through the schools and obtaining certificates; but when the force is not allowed to go out, they could never become proficient, and the whole thing developed into a farce. In regard to the clothing, he asked the Minister of Militia whether he could not give more clothing to the artillery. He did not think it was fair to put the artillery on the same footing as the infantry, because they have a great deal of hard and dirty work to do, which the infantry have not, especially in the shifting of ordnance, which wears out clothing quicker than ordinary work. The clothing is supposed to last for five years, but that it should last that long is out of the question, especially in the case of the trousers.

THE MINISTER'S VIEWS.

discussed several times, and I believe, in so far as I am personally concerned, in the policy of having training schools. That is the system which has been adopted in every country in the world, and I think unless you have some way of training these men within the period of time which their civil occupations will allow them to give to military matters, it is quite impossible to expect that they can acquire the efficiency they ought to have. When the Imperial troops were in Canada it was different, as we had then our military schools, which were drawn from the Imperial troops, and were models which our volunteers were called on to copy. I believe it is desirable the militia force should be drilled every year if possible, but we must proceed gradually. Canada has been called on to incur heavy expense for very important public works, and it is essential that, without neglecting in any way the military service, we should be as prudent as possible in our expenditure in that service. I hope the day will come before long when it will possible for Parliament to add to the money which is now voted every year for drill purposes a sum sufficient to drill the entire force. I fully concur with what has been said about the rural militia. The city militia are certainly equal to any militia I have seen, but we must remember that, in times of trouble and when the militia force has been called upon to do duty for the protection of the country, the rural corps have been equal, in every respect, by their pluck and their powers of endurance and in every way, to any regiment from a city.

In answer to my hon. friend from Victoria (Major Prior), I may say that the matter he has referred to has already been brought under my notice, and I must admit that I agree with him, and that for two reasons: I believe that, from an economical point of view, it would be a saving if we issued, as we did during the troubles in the North-West, a canvas suit for artillery purposes. In regard to the artillery, who have to do the heavy duty of handling heavy ordnance, I think we could issue a suit of canvas such as the artillery have for training in England and in Canada. If that can be done—and I can almost say it shall be done—I can tell the hon. gentleman who, for one, has brought the matter under my notice, that the reasons he has given from his standpoint, as a practical officer belonging to that branch of the service, have had great weight in getting me to arrive at the conclusion to which I have arrived.

NO SURRENDER OF THE TORONTO RANGE.

An inquiry having been made by Sir Richard Cartwright as to what had been done with respect to the rifle range at Toronto, held to be unsafe, Sir Adolphe replied: Those who take an interest in militia matters know how difficult it is in a large and growing city like Toronto or any other great commercial centre to find rifle ranges which are sufficiently close to be available for the purpose intended. When the ranges are only a moderate distance out of town volunteers will not go there, holding, and I think properly, that they should not be put to even a small expense to reach rifle ranges on Saturday afternoons, when they are enjoying their half holiday. In Toronto this difficulty arises. The great prosperity of that city has led the agricultural associations to be anxious to obtain possession of the rifle range for the purpose of increasing their own properties for purposes in which we all take a deep interest. but in exchange I am offered a range five or six miles, and I am told by others 14 miles, from Toronto. To make this change would be tantamount to telling the volunteer force of Toronto that they must give up rifle practice. My first duty is to look after the volunteer force, and that duty I am prepared to perform. I fully understand that it is necessary for the department to make the ranges perfectly safe, and I think there can be no difficulty whatever in making them so, according to the reports I have The plan is to erect a kind of revetment or an iron screen behind the ranges, which would prevent the possibility of any bullets escaping from the limited space within which rifle practice would take place. Unless we can keep a range which will be available for militia purposes within a reasonable distance of the city it would be quite impossible to keep the force up to its present position in Toronto.

A MIDSUMMER COURSE AT THE SCHOOLS.

On the vote for the schools being proposed, General Laurie said that in his opinion these institutions were of the very greatest importance to the militia, affording as they did a badly needed training place for the non-commissioned officers.

Col. Amyot drew the attention of the Minister to the fact that a great many young gentlemen, students from the universities and elsewhere, are unable to attend them because in the months of July and August, when they would be free to attend, the schools are closed, as that is the time chosen for the holidays. He asked the Minister to keep those schools open during July and August and a short time in September, and allow the officers to take their holidays at some other time. He had received letters giving the names of some young men who are ready to go and qualify themselves for the militia, but who cannot go except during those months. Another plan would be to send a detachment from the schools to Quebec, Montreal, Toronto and other cities to afford an opportunity to the young men to qualify themselves during those holiday months.

Sir Adolphe Caron said he fully understood that it was very difficult for young gentlemen who are following their legal or medical course in the universities, to be able, during the ordinary time which is fixed for the training of the militia, to leave their ordinary avocations for the purpose of following a short course or a long course in a training school. It must be remembered, however, that the officers in those different schools are worked very hard, and it is necessary they should have some holidays. But he believed without making a definite promise, that is possible to arrange in some way or other, so that in July and August, and possibly the beginning of September, there might be a special course.



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Modern Tactics.

[By Capt. H. R. Gall-From Illustrated Naval and Military Magazine.]

(Continued from Page 349.)

CHAPTER X .- DEFILES.

DEFILES are long or short, with flanks accessible or inaccessible. A long defile, with inaccessible flanks, if scientifically defended, even by a numerically inferior force, may be looked upon as an almost impassable obstacle; i.e. a causeway of considerable length, or a gauge through precipitous heights inaccessible to infantry, if defended in rear with guns and infantry posted so as to command the passage and the exit, cannot, in these days of arms of precision, be forced without an expenditure of life too appalling to contemplate. Such passages, if they cannot be turned or surprised, may be deemed impassable.

A short defile with open though inaccessible flanks, such as a bridge or a ford over a river, so long as the actual passage remains under the aimed fire of the defenders' guns or entrenched infantry, will rarely justify an open assault.

History affords instances of bridges of considerable length having been forced in the presence of highly-trained and disciplined troops; but since the days of Lodi and Arcola, owing to the increased accuracy of firearms, unless the defenders' artillery and rifles are both silenced and compelled to withdraw out of range, an open frontal assault in column can hardly be expected to succeed.

Circumstances may arise which necessitate a causeway, a bridge, or a mountain defile with heights inaccessible being held in front; for instance, to enable reinforcements to come up, or troops still outside to reach the passage.

Such instances most frequently occur during a retreat, when the entrance to a defile with inaccessible flanks may have to be guarded to enable the rear-guard to be withdrawn in safety from a position it has been holding in front of it, to prevent the enemy following up a retreating force, and attacking it before it has entered the defile, or during its passage. Nevertheless, after covering the withdrawal of any troops outside, the main defence would still generally be in rear.

The chief danger to be apprehended is that the defence in front may be prolonged so as to enable the assailants to enter and issue from the passage in contact with the last of the covering party, and thus nullify the defence of it from the rear.

Flanks Accessible.

Defiles with flanks accessible must be defended from the flanks at the entrance, as the assailants will direct all their efforts to securing the flanks, before entering the passage which they command.

The attack on a mountain defile with accessible flanks, if they cannot be turned, will be more or less costly, according to the command, and cover afforded to the defenders posted to sweep the approaches, and will be characterized by the drawbacks incidental to all front attacks.

Hollow roads, railway cuttings, &c., constitute defiles of a minor description, and must be defended on the flanks which are more or less easily accessible.

Narrow lanes, especially if they are deep, can best be obstructed by cutting down trees and laying them across.

Embankments may be classified as causeways of minor descriptions. A deep transverse cutting will cause a considerable amount of delay, and the material or earth taken out can easily be disturbed so as to be difficult to collect again; and in such situations trees, planks, &c., wherewith to bridge the chasm, are not often procurable.

Bridges and Fords

are defiles, but their defence depends greatly upon the width of the river, and on local conditions. A bridge is easily defended when it is low down in a re-entering bend, and when the defenders' side commands the other, and the enemy's side does not possess good cover.

The defence of a bridge, or a ford, will be influenced chiefly by the following three considerations:

1st. Cover on the defenders' side.

2nd. Cover on the assailants' side.

3rd. Cover on both sides, as in the case of a river running through a town, or village.

In the first instance the main defence would usually be from the cover on the defenders' side, from which they would endeavour to prevent the assailants getting down to the bridge, and oppose them vigorously during any attempt at actual crossing.

In number two the defendants would (unless they commanded the other bank) retire some distance, and take up an entrenched position so as to command the bridge, and the exit from it, and thus endeavour to nullify the advantage of the cover possessed by the assailants.

In number three the defence would be in front of the bridge first, and afterwards behind; every advantage being taken of the cover afforded by the houses, enclosures, &c., to prevent the enemy approaching the bridge.

If likely to be overwhelmed and obliged to retreat, the defenders must be careful to retire in time to get across the bridge safely before the assailants can rush it, or bring their guns to play upon it. There are then two courses open to the defenders, viz., to blow up the bridge, or defend it from the rear; if they are expecting reinforce ments and want to use the bridge, the latter course will be adopted, i.e. if the nature of the second position justifies the attempt to cope on more equal terms as regards cover with an enemy who has already overcome serious obstacles. It is a useful maxim to be borne in mind at all times, that troops falling back are difficult to rally, and should not, if avoidable, be called upon to defend a second position. If reserves

are available, it is advisable to let the old fighting line (if it has suffered much) fall back, and form up in reserve of a new one composed of troops who have not been seriously engaged.

General Skobeleff is credited with having said that every army is composed of three classes of men, viz., the very brave, moderately brave, and cowards. And it is a question which cause a commander most trouble, the recklessly brave soldiers, or the cowards; and what he has to consider is the normal amount of endurance of an average man. Strict discipline is the best sateguard against man's inherent fear of death; hence we find the Prussians enforcing what we call "fire discipline," to an extent unknown before the introduction of the breech-loading rifle.

A defile in a military sense is any combination of country or circumstances which obliges a force to march with a tactically restricted front in proportion to its strength. Hence, defiles of all descriptions are dangerous obstacles when within striking distance of an enemy.

On the other hand, in the possession of the defenders they often enable an inferior force to bar the way to a much stronger one. The famous line, -

In you straight path a thousand might well be stopped by three, under certain circumstances may still be applicable, although the weapons of modern war necessitate, in a manner not intended by Macaulay when he wrote his Lays of Ancient Rome, that

Men fight, not as they fought in the brave days of old.

Belligerents now only arrive at the stage where their forefathers commenced a battle, after facing war's leaden hail passively for several hours, or advancing over a fire-swept zone for a distance varying from three miles to within charging distance.

CHAPTER XI.-CONVOYS.

Perhaps no part of a soldier's work during a campaign of any duration is less genial than convoy duty, it is often dangerous, at all times tedious, and few men during a war deserve better and fare worse than those whose lot it is to keep open the lines of communication.

Land Convoys

are of various descriptions and importance. The introduction of a convoy of ammunition or food into a beleaguered city may be covered by a series of movements ranking amongst grand operations of war.

History records numerous instances where convoys of sick and wounded, or of women, children, and civilians, carrying with them every description of human wretchedness, have started forth from a partially invested and ill-provisioned town, only to perish miserably, or to be captured outside. The protection of such a caravan usually entails a serious military operation, apart from the actual conduct of the convoy, which, if attacked, cannot be expected to offer any protracted resistance. The ordinary convoys are those plying between a force in the field and its base.

If the country remains openly hostile, and the communications are insecure, no precaution should be omitted to protect the waggons or animals from being looted or captured. With this view an escort composed of cavalry and infantry is usually provided, and the commander is expected to offer a determined resistance against a serious raid, and secure himself against marauders.

With regard to the conduct of convoys, a few rules have been generally accepted; but their application must vary with the country, the composition of the convoy, and the character and proximity of the enemy. No convoy, whether composed of waggons or pack-animals, or a combination of both, should exceed a mile in length on a road, allowing for the waggons to be stretched out in single file. If there are pack-animals, or beasts driven on the hoof (bullocks, sheep, &c.), they should head the convoy, and have the benefit of the best of the road in wet or dry weather.

Escorts usually consist of one third cavalry for reconnoitring purposes in front and on the flanks, and two thirds infantry. It is seldom that a convoy travelling alone, with merely its immediate escort, will be expected to repel an attack of the three arms combined; thus guns have rarely accompanied a convoy, although in future Gatling or machine guns will doubtless infore frequently be added.

A long line of waggons or pack-animals is an unwieldy and extremely vulnerable array, and travels slowly in proportion as its length increases. For every reason, therefore, including speed (always an important consideration), whenever the country admits of their moving on a more extended front, the waggons, &c., should be closed up, and the length of the column reduced. A certain percentage of spare waggons and animals should always be provided in case of break-downs. The first object of the commander is to get to his destination as quickly as possible, and he should endeavour to get on to his new camping-ground early, in order to water his cattle, and park before dark. The loading and unloading of pack-animals requires time, and should be carefully superintended, or sore backs will soon appear amongst them.

In disposing of his escort, a commander will recognize the extreme importance of obtaining the earliest possible information of an intended attack, and for this reason the cavalry should reconnoitre widely to the front and flanks, the infantry being distributed in front and in rear of the convoy, with a strong reserve about the centre to

be moved rapidly in any threatened direction.

Defiles, at all times dangerous situations for troops on the march, are especially awkward for convoys. In the event of a defile being reached by the main body of a convoy before the advanced cavalry have had time to reconnoitre satisfactorily on the flanks and beyond it (and also with a view to saving as much time as possible), the leading half of the convoy should be halted and parked at the entrance, while the rear half keeps the road and closes up. By the time the second half has reached the pas sage, the required information may have been obtained, in which case it can push through, preceded along the heights on either flank, if accessible, by a portion of infantry, which, on reaching the far side, takes up a position to guard the entrance. Detachments should also be left to guard the flanks during the passage of the remaining half of the waggons

(To be continued.)

The Militia Pastime.

AST week the shooting gallery bulletin board at the Victoria Rifles' armoury shewed a match on between past officers and the sergeants' mess, which was shot on Friday and proved the closest contest yet held, the past officers winning by four points, on totals 437 to 433-10 men a side, 7 rounds each range, at 500 and 600 yards.

The fifth spoon competition, series B, was shot on Saturday; 200 and 500 yards, 5 shots each range, and was won by Pte. G. Cooke, with 48 points.

The prayers of all shooting men are desired on hehalf of their friends in the 5th District. The middle of May is upon us and no ranges, no moves yet in that direction and no hopes of any practice for weeks or months to come. Verily are we made to suffer for the sins of omission on someone's part.

In connection with this affliction a deputation from the executive of the Province of Quebec Rifle Association, consisting of Col. Bond and Major Campbell, of Montreal, had an interview with the Minister of Militia at Ottawa on Tuesday morning, to urge him to take steps at once to fit up the new range. It was pointed out to Sir Adolphe that if it is not at once equipped, Sergt. Marks, of the 6th Fusiliers, and Pte. McAfee, of the Prince of Wales regiment, who are members of this year's Wimbledon team, will have to come to Ottawa for spring practice. The Minister promised to have the work begun at once.

I believe the volunteers of Great Britain are now supplied, if desired, with Morris tube ammunition, in lieu of a portion of the blank allowance.

As some of our battalions have procured Morris tubes and targets, wouldn't it be a good idea for the Canadian authorities to do for their volunteers what Great Britain has done for hers. There's no doubt that for practical purposes there is no comparison between the use of Morris tubes and blowing off blank, the former being a first-class training for the use of the rifle for what it is primarily intended—to shoot, the latter being generally regarded as a bit of fun. I would suggest an allowance of 40 rounds for each recruit, and 10 rounds yearly for each trained man, which would be for a six company battalion, allowing one-third recruits per annum, 5,880 rounds costing just about \$100. Montreal, 2nd May, 1888.

The Cobourg Rifle Association.

The annual meeting of the Cobourg Rifle Association was held in Victoria Hall on Saturday evening, 28th April, the President, Lt. Col. J. Vance Graveley, presiding. The yearly report of the Secretary Treasurer, Mr. E. A. Macnachtan, was read. In brief, it was as follows:

The Cobourg Rifle Association is to be congratulated upon its continued success. This is largely attributable to the arrangements carried out by the Association during the past two years in holding regular, systematic weekly practices.

The Association is deeply indebted to its Patroness, Mrs. J. Vance Graveley, for the warm interest which she, together with her husband—the President—always takes in every Volunteer movement. We especially thank her for the valuable challenge cup which she presented to be shot for by the Volunteers of this county.

The match held in August last was largely attended and keenly contested. There was a large increase in the number of competitors both in the military and individual matches. So marked was the improvement in shooting that five of the competitors went to Ottawa, took part in the Dominion matches, and were successful in carrying off a number of prizes. A pleasing feature in connection with the match was the presentation of prizes to the successful competitors by the D. A. G. of the District, Lieut. Col. Villiers, and the commendatory and encouraging remarks made by him on that occasion. The total amount of the prize list was \$156.50, and the Treasurer has a balance in hand of \$10.71 to begin the season with.

The following officers were re-elected:— Lady Patroness,—Mrs. J. Vance Graveley. President,—Lt. Col. J. Vance Graveley. Vice-President,-Lieut. D. McNaughton. Secretary-Treasurer, -- E. A. Macnachtan.

Council,- Capt. H. J. Snelgrove, Capt. John McCaughey, and Sergt. George

The "premier shot," Mr. E. A. Macnachtan, announced that he would offer a challenge cup, to be competed for at the Association's weekly practices, and awarded to the marksman whose total number of points aggregated highest at the end of the season. Mr. Macnachtan's kind offer was accepted with thanks.

The Ottawa Rifle Club.

On Saturday, 5th May, the Ottawa Rifle Club inaugurated what promises to be the most successful season of the Club's existence, if numbers count for anything. There were thirty-five competitors, including several new faces: some tyros, and others men who have developed skill with the rifle in other places and coming to Ottawa to stay will help to increase the strength of the already formidable rifle club, an institution of which all its members feel justly proud. Amongst the latter class are Dr. B. F. Hurdman, still on the militia list as surgeon of the 55th Megantic Battalion, but for several months past practicing his profession in this city; and Mr. J. W. McDonald, sergeant in the Arnprior company of the 43rd Batt., who also has become a citizen of Ottawa.

The Rifle Club's officers this year are: president Major Perley, H.Q.S.; 1st vice, Mr. F. C. Lightfoot; 2nd vice, Capt. E. Waldo, R.L.; managing committee, Capt. J. Wright, 43rd; Lieut. G. R. White, G.G.F.G., and Mr. Jas. Grant; secretary-treasurer, Mr. E. D. Sutherland. There is a radical change in the shooting programme for the season of 1888, Snider shooting at 600 yards being dropped except for two matches, and the 400 yards range substituted. This is on account of the prevailing idea that the Snider rifles cannot be depended upon to send our Snider ammunition to the desired mark at any greater distance than 500 yards. Another change consists in dropping the 200 yards range at three Snider and four Martini matches—a change not so commendable in view of the fact that Canadian marksmen's shooting at 200 yards is far inferior to that of the Englishmen, our Kolapore cup team almost invariably leaving the 200 yards range badly handicapped for the rest of the match. The club fixtures include eighteen spoon competitions, to take place without regard to weather. Nine of these are Snider and nine Martini; and the two rifles will be used week about,

with the exception that the Martini has two consecutive innings on the 21st and 28th July. The first match took place on the 5th May, and the last will be on the 20th October. The club will take take a holiday from the 28th July to the 22nd September, during which period the Provincial and Dominion meetings will engross the attention of the members.

Two spoons are offered for each competition, a dessert spoon as first and a tea spoon as second prize, the second spoon being in nine of the competitions reserved for the junior member making the highest score—a "junior" being one who has not already won two spoons, except in the case of new members, whom the committee will classify according to their known records. On any day when the second spoon is not reserved for the juniors, there will be an additional spoon offered to that class provided there are at least seven entries. Taking the season over the spoons pay for themselves and their engraving, the entrance fee for each competition being 25c. A member may

shoot with the club or for the club aggregates without entering for the spoon.

The aggregate prizes are as follows: In the Snider series a prize presented by Lieut. G. R. White, for the best aggregate of two scores at 200, 400, and 500 yards; two at 400 and 500 yards; and one at 200, 500, and 600 yards. In the Martini series, a prize by Major Perley for the best aggregate of two scores at 200, 500, and 600 yards; two at 500 and 600 yards; and one at 800 and 900 yards. The club also offers a silver dessert spoon for the best aggregate made by a junior in each of the above series. For the grand aggregate, combining the Snider and Martini aggregates, the first prize will be the D. R. A. medal; the second, the O. R. A. madal; and the third a prize by Mr. F. C. Lightfoot.

The programme was opened on Saturday last, four targets being used, and the shooting being expeditiously performed. It was a Snider match, at 200, 400, and 500 yards, seven shots at each; position, kneeling at 200, prone at other ranges. The light was dull, and atmosphere exceedingly moist, making elevation abnormally low, and there was a stiff but steady right wind. The score was as follows:

athetland, E. D	29 28 29 30 29 27 25 27 30 24 29 29 27 29 26 27 30 22 27 27 24	89 86 86 82 82 82 79 78	Watters, Lieut. Ellis. McJanet, T Boville, T. C King, R. P Pratt. H Morrison, N Cox, Capt. C. F Coste.	25 22 23 10 17 23 24 10 25 20 18 23 18 10	19 25 24 21 3 10 3 21 5 21	68 66 64 64 63 62 55
Caylor, J. D. 22 Carwather, J. H. 22 Sell, Capt. B. B. 23 Hutcheson, J. E. 25 Brown 22 amieson, W. A. 11 JcKay, H. 22 mith, F. D. 22	28 23 22 28 25 20 20 28 24 25 23 21 10 25 24 26 21 21	75 73 73 72 69 68 68 68	Lightfoot, F. C. Moodie Slade Matthews, Jas Bishop Stewart, R Scott, C. S. Hurdman, Dr. B. F	23 11 17 11 23 1 18 10 12 21	3 12 7 15 1 14 5 11	55 53 49 48 45 43 33 52

Sutherland takes the senior spoon, and the junior rests between McDonald and Nutting. The former is a new member and has not yet been classified; chould he be declared a senior, Nutting gets the spoon; otherwise they will have to shoot off for its possession, a new rule of the club establishing that ties are to be decided in future by firing three shots at the longest range, and additional single shots until decided.

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