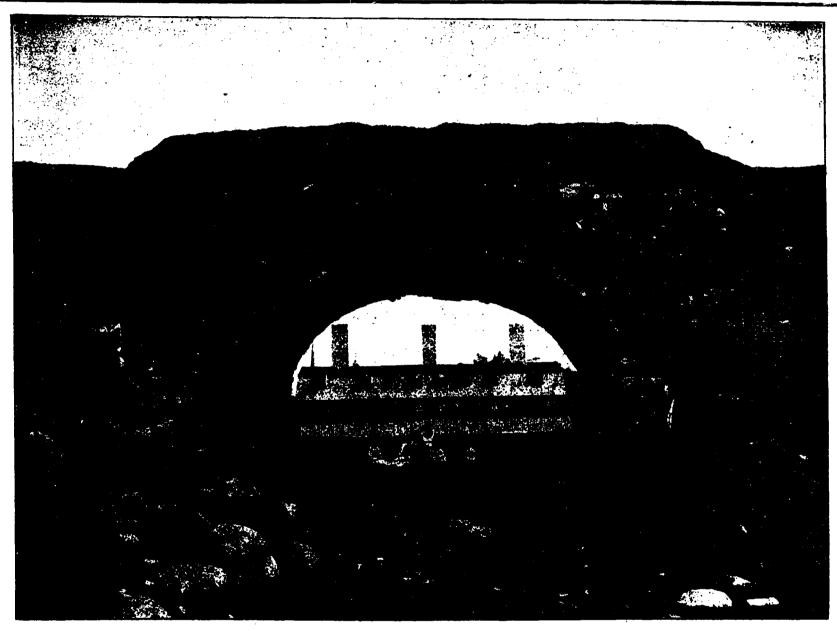
THE CANADIAN

MILITIA GAZETTE.

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MONTREAL, JULY 28th 1892.

\$2.00 a Year. \$1 50 in advance.



PART OF THE OLD FORT AT ANNAPOLIS ROYAL.

THE OLD FORT AT ANNAPOLIS ROYAL.

A good deal of public attention has lately been directed to the historic old fort at Annapolis, N.S., by the announcement that the Dominion Government intended selling by auction the military ground at that place for building lots. The matter was promptly brought up in Parliament, and it is reassuring to learn, on the authority of the Premier, that no such step is contemplated. Disposing of old Annapolis in this way would be nothing but a piece of barbarous vandalism. Far too many of the venerable relics of our history have been allowed to go to ruin by the neglect of the Government, whose fear of spending a few dollars on military and historic matters of moment is only equalled by the readiness with which larger sums are disbursed for much less worthy objects; but to job out the ordnance land at Annapolis—the oldest settlement in Canada—would be disgraceful.

A brief summary of the history of the place may be of interest. It goes back to the spring of 1605, De Monts

and Champlain, with a certain number of men, entered the bay called Annapolis and erected a few buildings on the north shore of the basin opposite the island, situated at the mouth of Annapolis river. Lower Granville now covers the site of this first Canadian settlement. The settlement was called Port Royal on account of the beauty of the scenery. On the map of Champlain, 1605, the buildings of Port Royal are delineated very plainly. We all know that Captain Argall destroyed that establishment in 1613. The French, under Biencourt, a son of Poutrincourt, continued to occupy the country, and although more frequently engaged in hunting than in other avocations, they were careful enough to cultivate the piece of land which had been ploughed by Louis Hébert in 1605. The land embraced the site of the present town of Annapolis Royal. Near by is the place chosen by the Scotch settlers of Sir William Alexander, who arrived there in 1623, but could not hold their ground against the French of Biencourt and Latour. During the summer of 1629 the Scotch came back and founded the Scotch Fort, where Annapolis is now. This colony was ruined by the

war, and those who did not die of wounds or starvation, took refuge in Massachusetts, with the exception of two or three families, who remained amongst the French. In the early part of August, 1632, Razily occupied the Scotch Fort, in accordance with the recent treaty of peace. The French gathered very soon on that spot, thus abandoning old Port Royal (Granville now-a-days) and forming another one of the same designation upon the new site. As for the ruins of the Scotch Fort, they were still visible in the early years of the present century. La Hêve was considered by Razilly as the headquarters of his colony in Acadia; D'Aulnay de Charnisay, who succeeded him after his death, transferred the population of La Hêve to Port Royal, between the years 1636 and 1640. Then followed those celebrated wars, during which Port Royal was besieged five or six times within a period of sixty years. On the 16th October, 1710, Captain Subercase surrendered the place to Admiral Nicholson, and since that event the country has remained in the hands of the English. Queen Anne was then on the throne. In 1713 she signed a treaty of peace with the King of France (Louis XIV.) by which the conquest of Acadia was confirmed. Next year Her Majesty died; the year after Louis XIV. followed. It is a matter of doubt as to when the present fortifications were erected; but they probably date back to the beginning of the last century.

MILITARY RIFLE LEAGUE.

THIRD MATCH, 9TH JULY.

in to the Secretary:—	
Montreal G.A., 1st team 86	ĺί
1st Brigade F.A 82	25
82nd Batt 81	
Saskatchewan Prov. R.A 80	
59th Batt 79	
No. 2 Co'y, R.C.I 77	
Montreal G.A., 2nd team 74	
"A" Battery, R.C.A., 1st team 72	
71st Batt., Fredericton team 68	37
Fort Saskatchewan R.A 68	
No. 4 Co'y, R.C.I	
No. 1 Co'y, R.C.I 50	
78th Batt., 2nd team 58	
King's County R.A., 2nd team	73
"A" Battery, R.C.A., 2nd team (5 men short) 25	59
Montreal R.A. (7 men short))1

The returns so far received are very incomplete. In hopes of receiving a number of additional scores, we defer publication of the result until next issue.

FOURTH MATCH, 23RD JULY.

TO OUR SUBSCRIBERS.

Commencing 15th August, each issue of this paper will consist of 16 pages of reading matter, bound in a separate cover; size of page will be enlarged to about 9 by 14 inches. It will be issued semi-monthly instead of weekly, and the title will be changed to The Canadian Military Gazette. All matters of interest to the Canadian force, such as rifle scores, regimental notes, &c., will receive careful attention.

After 1st September, the present advance rate of \$1.50 will be discontinued, and all new subscriptions, and those unpaid, will be at rate of \$2.00 yearly. Anyone sending \$1.50 before that date will receive the paper for twelve months.

We feel confident that our readers will be pleased with the appearance of THE CANADIAN MILITARY GAZETTE; it will be the professional "News-magazine" of the Canadian soldier.

REGIMENTAL NOTES.

LONDON, ONT.

The Seventh Fusiliers were inspected on 21st inst. by Lieut. Col. Smith, D. A. G. of No. 1 District. The battalion turned out over two hundred strong, and all the officers were present with the exception of Major Marshall, who was unavoidably absent. On Thursday the right half of the battalion was inspected, and last evening it was the left half's turn. The whole battalion was mustered. The officers put their companies through drill movements, and then a somewhat novel thing occurred in the calling out of several non-coms, to drill the companies, each man acquitting himself creditably, and Sergt. Freeland, of No. 1 Company, and Corp. Rose doing particularly well. At the conclusion of the parade, Lieut. Col. Smith complimented both officers and men in the highest terms. Lieut.-Col. Payne, the popular head of the Battalion, has plenty of reason to feel proud of the result of the inspection, and more especially so in regard to the way the non-coms. showed the effect of the schooling which they underwent in the special classes inaugurated by him last winter.

TORONTO.

At present it is a matter of doubt whether the new Rifle Range will be sufficiently advanced to permit of the Ontario Rifle Association holding their meeting on the 22nd August as intended, or necessitate a postponement until September or October.

Capt. Mutton, Secretary of the Association is still sanguine of holding the meeting on the 22nd prox., and is ever on the alert, taking care that as far as lies in his power nothing will remain undone to make the meeting the most successful in the history of the Association.

According to the "Toronto News" the city has already paid \$24,000 in interest on the Drill Shed site, and about all that is to be seen for it is a little more than a hole in the ground. It is altogether possible that representations will be made to the Government with a view of urging the contractor to make more speed, but the prophecy that the volunteers would be drilling in it during the fall of 1892, seems just a little far from realization.

A very handsome and striking picture of the Royal Grenadiers Sergeant's Mess daily attracts the attention of large crowds at Walker's store, Queen Street W. The picture is by Farmer Bros., and is one of the largest in the city. One of the features of the picture is the strikingly large number of Staff-Sergeants. The picture is about the best authority for the statement that the affairs of the Mess are in a flourishing condition, and certainly it would be hard to find a finer looking body of men in any regiment.

Major Henderson's Company of the 48th Highlanders hold what promises to be a very successful moonlight excursion on 8th August, per Str. "Garden City." Music will be provided by the band of No. 2 Co. R C.I. and the Pipers of the 48th.

Without fear of contradiction I can safely say, that never in the history of rifle shooting in Canada have Canadian readers been so splendidly furnished with the detail of Bisley shooting as they have during the past week through the enterprise of the Toronto Mail. It easily leads the field and the reports of other dailies fade into insignificance beside it. The Mail has certainly put the rifle shots and in fact the volunteers of Canada under a deep and lasting obligation by its enterprise in the matter.

Orders have been issued to the 48th Highlanders for muster parade, Wednesday eve, 27th inst.

Lt.-Col. Otter, D. A. G., and Major Gray, B. M., will be present.

The shooting at the 4th League Match on the Garrison Range on Saturday last was anything but high. A hot close day, with very little wind, and that little fishtail, seemed to have the faculty of getting a bullseye for one shot and a miss or an outer for the next. Despite the unfavorable conditions, Capt. Bruce, R. G., put on the magnificent score of 96, and Sergt. Thorn, Q. O. R., a 91 at 200, 500 and 600 yards.

Some dissatisfaction exist in some quarters at the rumor that the 12th Batt. team scores, some of which were made on other than the appointed days, are going to be recogn-The only reason for this it seems was to take advantage of the presence of Lieut. T. Mitchell and Staff-Sergt. Simpson, to put their scores in previous to their departure for Bisley, which certainly is a very novel proceeding, and, from what I hear, totally different from the action of the Grenadiers, who I am informed did not use either Lance Corpl. Windatt or Staff-Sergt. Dent on any of their teams this

While the firing was going on Saturday, a steamer having an excursion on board called at Dufferin street wharf to take on more passengers. This of course delayed the firing, and it exasperated the volunteers in no little degree to hear the inferior band on board strike up "Yankee Doodle," after a delay of half an hour had taken place. On the many uncomplimentary remarks passed it would not be advisable to dwell. Breech Block.

QUEBEC.

The following officers are attached to the Royal School of Cavalry for a course in equitation:

Captain D. R. Dupuis, 14th P.W.O., Kingston.

Lieut. W. C. V. Chadwick, 10th Royal Grenadiers, Toronto.

Lieut. F. L. Vaux, 42nd Battalion, Brockville.

Other officers are expected to arrive shortly, which will make a large attendance for a summer course.

Lieut.-Col. J. Elton Prower, of the 8th Royal Rifles, and family left for England on the 13th inst. per SS. Labrador. A number of his brother officers were at the wharf to wish them a safe journey and a speedy return.

The following were the winners in the June spoon competition:

1st Class. Corporal Hawkins, 87-85. Total 172. Silver table spoon.

2nd Class. Sergeant Hay, 70-69. Total 139. Silver dessert spoon.

3rd Class. Private F. B. McNaughton, 64 74. Total 138. Silver tea spoon.

The spoons above mentioned which are given as prizes by the 8th R. R. Rifle Association are made of solid silver and have the regimental crest engraved on the handles. They are keenly competed for by the members of the regiment. This is the first year in which such prizes have been given, and the success attending the same is a safe guarantee that they will be in order in the future.

The inspection of No. 3 Battery, Quebec Garrison Artillery, under command of Captain H. D. Morgan, took place on the evening of the 30th ult. in the drill hall. Major Wilson and Captain Fages of "B" Battery, R.C.A., were the inspecting officers.

Upon their arrival they were received with the usual salute, after which a careful inspection was made of the arms, ac-

coutrements and clothing.

The inspection consisted of the manual and firing exercises, company drill, etc., done by command of the officers. Detachments were then told off for 40 pr. and 60 pr. gun drill, the gunners being examined as to their duties, etc.

The roll call and presentation of shooting prizes brought the work to an end.

A detachment of some fifty men of "B" Battery, R. C. A., under command of Major Wilson, with Captain Fages and Lieut. Benyon (attached officer) left for Isle-aux-Coudres at 3.30 in the morning of the 22nd inst. per tug boat "McNaugton." This detachment will reinforce the one sent some little time ago, under command of Captain Farley, for the purpose of rendering assistance to the government cruiser "Constance." They will no doubt give a good account of themselves and bring matters to a climax.

Lieut.-Col. Forsyth, of H. M. Customs, accompanied the

detachment.

The band of the Queen's Own Canadian Hussars performed on Quebec's magnificent promenade, the Dusserin Terrace, on Friday evening, and thousands of the citizens were present and enjoyed the music.

R. M. C. No. 47.

PETERBOROUGH.

The annual inspection of the 57th Battalion, Peterborough Rangers was held on 2nd inst., while on a regimental visit to that place; a short account of the trip has been given in a recent number of this paper. On the morning of Saturday, July 2nd, the Battalion again paraded 319 strong for inspection. After muster parade before Capt. Strange, District Paymaster, the regiment was marched on to the Common and put through a rigorous inspection, company by company, Battalion movements followed. The company and battalion manouvres were very well executed, and the inspecting officer was pleased to say that he was well satisfied. tainly the Rangers were a credit to themselves and a credit to their town, being neat, of excellent physique and their arms and acoutrements in splendid shape.

The Ambulance corps, 13 strong, and the Pioneer corps 7 strong, an addition this year to the force, can boast of being as well equipped as any such corps in Canada. tention should be called to the Brass and Bugle bands, the former 30 strong, the latter 20 strong. They were the

objects of well merited applause.

Never before in the history of the 57th has there been such rivalry between the companies as this year. The prize which was offered for the best company was the cause and decision of Col. Montizambert after Inspection was accepted. He found it very difficult to decide between companies "A" & "B" they being so nearly equal, but he finally gave it to "A" company.

VICTORIA, B. C.

"C" Battery R.C.A. will shortly march to a camp several mlies out of the city, where they will remain for several weeks. Langford plains will probably be the place selected. move is made partly on account of the prevalence of smallpox and partly for the usual summer outing.

PROVINCE OF QUEBEC RIFLE ASSOCIATION.

The annual matches of this Association, which begin on the 9th August, promise to be very successful, a large number of entries coming in from Ontario as well as from Quebec; Toronto, Hamilton, Ottawa, Sherbrooke, Richmond, will each send in many competitors, while the contingent from Montreal is expected to be very strong.

The officials will be as follows:

Executive Officer Lieut.-Col. Mattice, B.M.

Range Officers-Major Hodgins, G.G.F.G., Capt. Young, R.C.I., Capt. Edwards, R.L.

Statistical Officers—Major Walsh and Mr. Jackson.

Secretary Major Blaiklock, Royal Scots.

Treasurer Major Radiger, V.R.C.

Assistant Treasurer - Capt. D'Orsennens, 85th.

Quartermaster - Capt. Lydon, Royal Scots.

Entry Clerk Sergt. Elliott.

Secretary's Clerk -Mr. Norman Fletcher.

In charge of Register-keepers-Sergt. Smith

In charge of Markers Sergt. Tabb.

OUR TEAM AT BISLEY.

Now that the Bisley meeting of 1892 is finished, an account of the doings of our men there will be in order. While at Cambridge, matches were fired against two local teams—the Suffolk Regiment and the Cambridge Rifles—16 a side in the first match, 8 in the second. We won in both cases—scores in the first being 888 to 825, and against Cambridge 557 to 504.

Practice was steadily carried on from arrival down to day of departure for Bisley, the men shooting chiefly at Queen's ranges, but doing a little at 800 and 900 yards. Aggregate results were as follows:

Aggregate scores at Queen's ranges, 200, 500, and 600 yards. Practice at Cambridge:—

ι.	Lieut. T. Mitchell 6	53
2.	Lieut. MacAdam 64	41
		39
4.	Staff-Sergt. Marris 6	37
5.	Staff-Sergt. D. Mitchell 6:	28
6.	Staff-Sergt. Simpson 6.	28
7.		26
		25
9.	Staff-Sergt. Ogg 6:	20
		18
	·	15
	Capt. McMicking 6	I 1
13.	Lieut. Wilson 6	1 1
14.	Staff-Sergt. Rolston 60	8 c
15.	Sergt. Short	96
		93
17.	Lieut. Williamson 5	85
18.	Staff-Sergt. Dent 58	84
19.	Pte. Gamble	78
G	rand aggregate of all shooting at Cambridge :	

ı.	Lieut. T. Mitchell	800
2.	Pte. Windatt	794
3.	Staff-Sergt. Marris	783
	Staff-Sergt. Ogg	789
	Staff-Sergt. Simpson	779
6.	Staff-Sergt. Armstrong	778
7.	Lieut. MacAdam	768
8.	Capt. Smith	763
9.	Capt. McMicking.	75 ²
10.	Capt. McRobbie	747
11.	Lieut. Revell	744
	Lieut. Wilson	743
13.	Staff-Sergt. D. Mitchell	737
14.	Capt. Jamieson	730
	Staff-Sergt. Dent	726
	Lieut. Williamson	722
	Pte. Gamble	
	Sergt. Short	
	Staff-Sergeant Rolston	

It is much to be regretted that Lieut. Horsey was too ill to fire in more than one or two of the first practices, and was unable to take any part in the subsequent shooting at Bisley.

On Tuesday, 12th inst., the team arrived at Bisley, and fired in all possible matches from then until the end of the meeting. The chief event to Canadians was the Kolapore cup match, which was fired on Friday, the 15th, in fairly good weather. Result, another win for Great Britian, in spite of a substantial lead of the Canadians at the 200 yards range. We give the detailed scores of the British and Canadian teams and the range totals of the representatives of Guernsey and Jersey, who ran us very close for second place.

THE KOLAPORE CUP.

Mother Country (Major Thorburn, Captain).

	200		500		000	Tot.
Rothon, W Chicken, N	4454453	29 27	4445534	3.1 2.5	5555454	3391 2880

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Muirhead, T.... 4453534 29 5522554 28 2555455 31..88 Wattleworth, C. 3545354 29 3445545 30 5344544 29..88 Trask, Sergt... 4455534 30 5355453 30 2244354 24..84 Dalglish, Lieut... 4325552 26 4553454 30 2535444 27..83 Grier, Lieut .... 5244355 28 5354445 30 2454532 25..83 Thompson, J. L. 5345433 27 3525355 28 3353432 23..78
```

Canada (Lieut.-Colonel Massey, Captain).

Windatt, Pte ... 4353444 27 5555454 33 5553455 32 92 Mitchell, S-Sergt 2445444 27 55554553 32 5254555 31 90 McAdam, Lieut . 5554444 31 5555255 32 3445242 24 87 Ogg, Staff-Sergt 5455355 32 4354423 25 2355355 28 85 Simpson, S-Sergt 5554345 31 5355534 30 2252434 22 83 Marris, S-Sergt 5443344 27 5555543 32 0323425 19 78 Mitchell, Lieut . 3445544 29 4324552 25 2342444 23 77 Armstrong, S-St. 3443454 27 3244452 24 4334203 19 70

231 233 198 662

Guernsey (Capt.—Lieut.-Colonel Tardiff).

Totals. 224 225 219-659

Jersey (Capt .-- Lieut .- Colonel Robin).

Totals. 217 224 217 658

It will be seen that at the longest range the Canadian team were last, while they led the field at 200 yards.

THE OUEEN'S.

In the competition for this, the great prize of the meeting, our representatives did not come up to the form of last year's team, which had three men in the final hundred. This year none of our men were so fortunate. Staff-Sergt. Simpson came nearest to it, ranking 127th with 87 points; then came Staff-Sergt. Rolston, 142nd with 87, Staff-Sergt. Dent, 240th, with 85, and Private Windatt, 264th, with 84. In the fourth "Hundred" the names of Captains Smith and McRobbie appear, each winning £2.

PRINCE OF WALES PRIZE.

Seven shots at 200 yards, and fifteen at 600 yards.

Canadians have always done well in this competition, Capt. McMicking of last year's team winning 1st prize, £100 and badge. This year, Lieut. Revell was 5th with 91 points, and Lieut. McAdam 7th, also with 91 points, each winning £5. It may be mentioned that there are only 19 prizes in this match.

THE ALEXANDRIA.

is fired at 500 and 600 yards, seven shots at each. There are 325 prizes for which prizes aggregating £1,000 are given. The following eight members of the Dominion twenty came in for prizes.

39, Staff-Sergt. Simpson	62 points
45, Staff-Sergt. Marris	61 "
66, Pte. Gamble	61 "
83, Capt. Smith	60 "
96, Lieut. Revell	60 "
224, Capt. McRobbie	
229, Pte. Windatt	57 ''
246, Staff-Sergt. Ogg	57 ''

THE DAILY GRAPHIC.

200 yards 7 shots, standing.

57, Staff-Sergt. Ogg	29 [oint:
62, Staff-Sergt. Marris	. 29	"
108, Capt. Smith	. 28	• •
100. Lieut. Wilson	20	

"TID-BITS," -FIRST SERIES.

Unlimited entries; 7 shots each, at 500 and 600 yards. Staff-Sergt. Simpson took first place with a score of 64

points, winning £6.

THE MARTINS.

7 shots at 600 yards.

47,	Pte. Windatt	32 points
73.	Lieut. McAdam	31 "

THE CANADIAN M
ST. GEORGES.
7 shots at 600 yards.
35, Staff-Sergt Ogg. 31 points 68, "Armstrong. 30 " 132, "Simpson. 29 "
GREGORY.
7 shots, at 200 yards, standing.
8, Lieut. Wilson
THE PALLISER.
This was a match confined to the Canadian team for three prizes, aggregating in value £20, kindly given by Major Edward Palliser. It was fired with the new service rifle, the Lee-Metford, and Cordite powder. The prizes were won by Sergts. Simpson, Marris and Rolston, in the order named.
ASSOCIATION CUP.
200 and 600 yards—7 shots at each.
In this match Pte. Windatt especially distinguished himself, making a "possible" at 600 yards, and a total of 67 points. He finished second in the competition, winning £15. Several others of our team were also well up, the following taking prizes:— 17, Staff-Sergt. Armstrong
21, Capt. Jamieson 63 " 27, Capt. McMicking 63 " 35, Lieut. Mitchell 62 " 45, Lieut. Williamson 61 " 49, Staff-Sergt. Simpson 61 " 55, Lieut. Revell 61 " 56, Staff-Sergt. Ogg 61 " 72, " Mitchell 61 "
THE BROOKWOOD.
Unlimited entries-7 shots at 500 yards.
The first prize in this match was taken by Major Macdonald, the Adjutant of the Canadian team; he made seven bulls-eyes, winning £10 for his skill. Lieut. Mitchell made 34, and took 10th place, Capt. McRobbie, 33 and 20th place.
THE CARRINGTON.
7 shots at 600 yards. 14, Capt. McMicking
THE ARMOURERS COMPANY.
7 shots at 900 yards.
Ligart Popull

/ shots at ooo yards.	
14, Capt. McMicking	31 points
THE ARMOURERS COMPANY.	
7 shots at 900 yards.	
4, Lieut. Revell	30 ''
KYNOCH AND WEBLEY.	
7 shots at 500 yards.	
The only Canadian prize-winner in this match vectors. Simpson, ranking third on the list with 34 p	vas Staff oints.
THE PAVILION.	

THE	PAVILION.
7 shots	at 800 vards

9, Capt.	McMicking.	•	32 points

VOLUNTEER AGGREGATE.

For best scores in 1st stage Queen's, Martin's and St. Georges.

43,	Pte.	Windatt		142 points
43,	rte.	Windatt	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	142 point

ALL-COMERS AGGREGATE.

For best scores in Alexandra, Graphic, Daily Graphic and Daily Telegraph.

16, Lieut. Revell	179 points
22, Sergt. Marris	177 ''
26, Staff-Sergt. Ogg	177 ''
37, "Simpson	175 ''

GRAND AGGREGATE.

For best scores in 1st stage Queen's, Alexandra, Martins, St. Georges, Graphic, Daily Graphic and Daily Telegraph.

23, Staff-Sergt. Simpson	215 points
31, Pte. vvindati	212 11
118, Staff-Sergt, Ogg	304 11

LONDON CORPORATION.

This competition is open only to Colonial and Indian Volunteers, and it is not to be wondered at that our men took all the prizes, there being little outside competition.

It is an aggregate match, covering the same competitions as in the Grand Aggregate. Prize winners were as follows:

	Bo Barri Time Williers Were its follow	S .
l.	Staff-Sergt. Simpson	215
2.	Pte. Windatt	
3.	Staff-Sergt. Ogg.	313
1.	Capt. Smith	304
Ξ,	Sprot Marrie	303
5.	Sergt. Marris	300
0.	Capt. McMicking	299
7.	Lieut. Wilson	295
8.	Licut. Revell	293
9.	Staff-Sergt. Dent	292
10.	Staff-Sergt. Armstrong	280
11.	Staff-Sergt. Rolston	200
12.	Lieut. McAdam	200
12	Lieut Mitchell	285
	Lieut. Mitchell	284
14.	Pte. Gamble	282
15.	Capt. McRobbie	279

The foregoing list comprises the individual and aggregate competitions. Our team also competed for the Mackinnon Cup, fired for by volleys, by teams of ten men from England, Scotland, Ireland, Canada and Jersey. We came out third, being beaten by Scotland and Jersey, but having the satisfaction of getting ahead of England and Ireland. The team from the little island of Jersey deserve special mention for their excellent shooting, being only two points behind Scotland.

ARTILLERY FIRE.

By Captain W. L. White, R.A., School of Gunnery, Shoeburyness.

(From Proceedings of the Royal Artillery Institution.)

(Continued from page 230.)

They then spread themselves out along the position, keeping under cover, in rear of the places that their guns are to occupy when in action, approaching the actual firing position in a crouching posture, so as to be sure that the objective can be seen over the sights and at the same time avoiding being seen by the enemy. When these positions are selected, they must kneel or lie down in them and examine the target through their telescopic sights, thus making known to the battery commander that their positions are selected. When satisfied that all the positions for the guns have been taken up, battery commanders will signify the same to the Lieut.-Colonel by signal, the Lieut.-Colonel will then give the signal for the batteries to advance to the firing position. This they will do independently, but so as to come into the firing position simultaneously, each gun being driven so as to come into action on the ground selected for it by its own layer.

When the ground is suitable it is convenient to reverse and come into action rear, and, if possible, and too much labour is not thrown upon the detachments, this should be performed under cover and the guns run up to the crest of the position by hand.

The guns are immediately layed at the elevation ordered. All instructions having been previously given, no word of command should be heard until the new elevation, following the first round observed, is given.

It has been objected by those accustomed to the old dashing method of coming into action, that the above proceedings are lengthy and a waste of time. This, however, is not the case. At ranges of 2500 yards and upwards the position of the batteries is not generally disclosed, if reasonable precautions are observed until they open fire, or perhaps, sometimes, until their simultaneous appearance on the firing position and then the sooner they open fire the better, and they are likely to do it quicker if they have been previously instructed rather than if these instructions are only communicated to them when in position. Considering the terrible ordeal of the artillery duel in which they are about to engage, and that "the choice of the first artillery position will frequently be decisive of the advance "(German Field Artillery Regulations, para. 265) it would be a piece of criminal carelessness if every possible step were not taken to ensure success before they are committed to the combat. No one can deny that it is easier to communicate detailed instructions to a small group in close proximity than to a battery at full interval, that has, perhaps, already drawn and is standing under the fire of the enemy, and "it must be well understood that regulations can only be quietly and accurately carried out so long as one is not under fire " (von Rohne). The eight or ten minutes employed in giving these instructions is but a small percentage of the time taken up by the artillery duel and is really a saving of time, as all ranks come into position with a full knowledge of what is required of them, and they are enabled to proceed to work more quickly and with greater confidence, and are thus likely to arrive at an effective fire much sooner than if they were hustled into a position without being aware of the business before them. Besides this, in a great action, batteries are frequently detained for some time in preparatory positions while the whole of the artillery is being massed to the front and while the reconnaissance is being completed, the time at disposal would then be ample for these dispositions.

An axiom among foreign gunners is that "the best protection from the fire of the enemy lies in our own fire," therefore if we can be the first to open an effective fire the enemy are little likely to find even our range correctly; indeed, a German text-book goes so far as to say that "the victory will be to the artillery that first finds the range." All the more reason then that we should not enter upon this important process without first taking every possible step to compel victory.

In spite of the desirability of this detailed pointing out it will not always be possible and this will generally be the case during the later stages of the fight, but it will often happen that instructions can be given before the fire has ceased on the first position, an advantage that will greatly accelerate the opening of an effective fire after the advance into the second position. Under such conditions it is desirable that the Lieut.-Colonel, having selected the firing position, should leave his adjutant on it as a marker and himself return and lead his batteries into action, or at all events the leading battery to which the others should conform, in order that he may take full advantage of any opportunity of describing the target to his battery commanders. The batteries being thus led straight into the firing position, it rests with the descriptive power of the battery commander to rapidly describe the target.

Very few men are gifted with the power of graphically describing in a few words exactly the target and the portion of it upon which they wish the guns layed, and it is a matter of the greatest importance that this power should be exercised on every available occasion, for not only will it thus become increased, but gun-layers and sectional officers will soon become accustomed to any peculiarities in description and after a few days will readily pick out what is desired to be indicated. Halts on the line of march, or when halted in position, or standing fast during a field day are admirable opportunities for these descriptive exercises. For the above reason it is again apparent why intelligence as well as good eyesight is necessary on the part of the gun-layers.

This hurrying of the batteries into action, without even a previous reconnaissance on the part of the commander, will often happen in the case of Horse Artillery when employed with cavalry; the time during which any fire effect is possible is so fleeting and the target is so unmistakeable, and at such a short range, that any detailed pointing out would be neither possible nor necessary.

"The deployment of a brigade division for action with a given simple and clear tactical idea, with a defined target,

must be constantly practised, or at all events discussed to the minutest detail.... Field days are, as a rule, little suited for this important exercise. The artillery duel, which is usually only indicated by a few rounds, in reality takes so much time to carry out that the loss of time arising from a quiet preparation for the occupation of the position would not be appreciable. The commander of a brigade division however, who, on field days, wishes to make with his battery commanders an initiatory reconnaissance of the position to be taken up, a complete survey of the target, etc., would be certain to hear the reproach that his guns have appeared very late, if not too late. But, even if he is willing to incur this reproach, he would hardly have time to make a systematic division of the objective, for at manoeuvres everything is constantly on the move. The state of affairs, which often on the battle-field remains stationary for hours, changes here in the course of a few minutes. Changes follow one another as in a kaleidescope, and the eye in vain seeks for a stationary object in the general rush." (Von Rohne, "Regulation of (Von Rohne, "Regulation of fire in Masses of Artillery.")

The following extracts from the German "Field Artillery Drill Regulations" will be found of interest to compare with

the foregoing:--

273. Every artillery position must be examined by the leader of the batteries who, for this purpose, should ride on ahead. He must avoid attracting the attention of the enemy to the position about to be taken up. The immediate inspection of the position should be accomplished on foot, according to circumstances, and accompanying persons (orderlies, trumpeters, etc.) should be left somewhat in rear.

283. Special stress is to be laid on the screened occupation of a position, and in opening fire in such a manner as will as much as possible surprise the enemy. When no cover is available this must be accomplished by quickness of move-

ment.

286.....Battery commanders should not be sent for before the preparatory position is taken up.... In the firing position they must personally verify on foot, or by means of one of their dismounted attendants, whether the object to be fired at can be seen over the sights.

The commanders of brigade divisions who have already ridden ahead remain in the position selected and keep the enemy in view, while, as a rule, the battery commanders per-

sonally lead their batteries into action.

Whether the position selected should be marked, and how it is to be marked must be decided according to the circumstances of the moment.

287. In cases where the condition of the ground renders a more careful selection of the spots, where individual guns have to be unlimbered, necessary, the gun-leaders may be taken to the front for this purpose, should such a proceeding be possible of accomplishment unseen by the enemy. The gun-leaders seek out on foot the most suitable places for their guns. Equality in the intervals between guns is not in sisted upon. The section officers remain with the battery, the gun-leaders await on foot the arrival of the battery and give the necessary commands to their guns to halt and unlimber.

It may be pointed ont with reference to the last part of paragraph 287, in the British service the guns would receive the order in the preparatory position to "Advance for Action," and on reaching their markers would unlimber and come into action, either to the front or rear as indicated by signal, without any word of command being necessary.

289. On elevated positions the crest of the position must not be crossed before opening fire. The guns, having been unlimbered, will be run up by hand, as far as possible simultaneously, and so far as will just admit of the objective being

seen over the sights.

To sum up the arguments for and against this pointing out of the target to everyone concerned, it seems that it should be done whenever possible, in order that we may take every advantage of the enemy before entering on the artillery duel, and that it will seldom be possible in its entirety at the later periods of the fight, and never in the case of Horse Artillery in cavalry actions.

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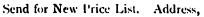


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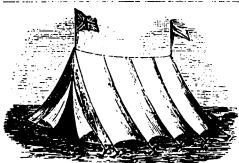
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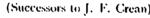
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