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A Canadian Cavalry Association.

Cavalry, we are told by the cable this week, are for the future to have no opportunities for brilliant performances such as have made immortal names for their brigades in the past. A writer—unnamed, and perhaps unknown and unknowing—has so declared in a German newspaper, and the world is to take his word that the future duties of cavalry will be to serve as outposts, to conceal infantry, to escort single detachments, and so forth; and in the faces of a superior enemy to dismount and seek protection by the use of the rifle. The lance, now being re-introduced in France and Germany, is declared to be absolutely useless in this age of repeating rifles and smokeless powder. Now all this may be true, or it may not, but the Canadian cavalry need not be anxious on the subject, as our militia do not set the military fashions.

Our cavalry, however, should take into serious consideration the very unsatisfactory position they occupy in the Canadian service, owing to lack of organization, the absence of a recognized leader, and of any system of comparing notes or communicating ideas or experience. Each troop, or regiment of cavalry where one has been formed, goes about its drill pretty much after its own fashion; there are no competitions, no reports from which the relative efficiency of the corps may be ascertained, and no prizes offered as an additional incentive to acquire proficiency. The cavalry are a moribund institution, or series of institutions. So were the artillery once—but what a change the Dominion Association has wrought! The whole system of instruction is arranged through this organization, and its competitions take place not only upon the central ranges, but upon every drill ground on which the artillery practise, a uniform system of instruction and reward being carried on throughout the whole Dominion. All ranks are stimulated to the performance of work quite outside of that possible in the twelve days regulation drill, for as the amount of instruction which can be given at the camps is altogether too limited, much dependance has to be placed upon work done voluntarily at local headquarters, where a uniform system is followed, inspired by the central organization.

A Cavalry Association and a Cavalry Inspector would similarly work wonders for this branch of the service; and were an effort made we are confident a strong, vigorous association could readily be established and maintained, with the financial assistance of course which the Department of Militia might be expected to give were an inclination shown by the cavalry officers to have the money applied in the same wise manner as that now spent on the artillery by their association and on the infantry by their numerous rifle shooting organizations. Perhaps the Military Institute could take the proper steps to organize the cavalry,

and it could at all events give valuable assistance to the project. We would like to have the subject discussed through the MILITIA GAZETTE, and shall open our columns to all who have a suggestion to offer.

Messenger Pigeon Service and the League.

From that fruitful source of new ideas, the Secretary of the Military Rifle League, there comes the suggestion of an immediate practical use to which to put the messenger pigeon service which General Cameron is endeavouring to establish in Canada, and the idea is certainly one to be commended. It is proposed that teams whose ranges are distant from the telegraph lines, should have birds to convey their scores to the nearest office, thus saving a great deal of time as well as adding a new interest to the events. While it is hoped that pigeon service will be adopted by a number of teams mainly through love of the sport, there are others who will derive substantial advantage from the introduction. The Prince Edward Islanders, for example, had a great deal of trouble sending and receiving their scores last season, on account of a cable company, as well as the C. P. R. telegraph company, having to handle the messages, and it is doubtful whether these could be sent next season at anything like the same cost. But the establishment of two pigeon stations, at Charlottetown on the Island and Sackville on the mainland, will enable the scores to be sent quite independent of the cable company, and with greater despatch than could otherwise be secured. Capt. Weeks has commenced preparations to train the corps of pigeons, and as he is an enthusiast about the birds it is safe to say that the project is in good hands. It is expected that a number of corps in out of the way places will adopt pigeon service, now that the idea has been promulgated. In the meantime those who know Secretary Pringle's capacity for making a success of anything he undertakes, will be disposed to congratulate General Cameron on his latest ally.

[Note and Comment.

An Army Order, published elsewhere in this issue, on the subject of decorations and medals, will be read with great interest in the Dominion, where since the armed unpleasantness of 1885 the wearing of medals has become so comparatively common. No longer will it be permissible to wear miniature medals in uniform; and from the wording of that part of the order prescribing that miniatures will be worn in evening dress (plain clothes) in the presence of members of the Royal Family, Viceroys and Governors General, and on public and official occasions, one would infer that they should not be worn in evening dress except on such occasions as specified.

The banquet tendered to the Minister of Militia, Sir Adolphe Caron, by the officers of the Fifth and Sixth Military Districts, took place on Monday evening, at the St. Lawrence Hall, Montreal, and the occasion proved exceedingly pleasant. Sir Adolphe was presented with a bronze statuette of himself before being called upon to reply to the toast of the evening. The Minister delivered a practical address, pointing out the various improvements noticeable of late years in connection with the

militia, and laying particular stress upon the importance of rifle shooting and the efforts made to encourage it. Four of Sir Adolphe's colleagues in the Ministry attended the banquet, these being Hon. Mackenzie Bowell, Hon. J. A. Chapleau, Sir John Thompson and Hon. C. C. Colby. The two last named bore testimony to the fact that the militia had an earnest advocate in the present Minister, and it was not his fault if the Government as a whole would not consent, in view of other pressing demand for the money involved, to give his department many things for which he persistently pleaded.

Col. Herbert, the new commandant of our militia, is expected to sail for Canada on the 15th November. It is gratifying to note that his appointment has been very favourably received by the English service press. The *Broad Arrow*, perhaps the most outspoken journal when adverse criticism is called for, says: "Col. Herbert is known as a good officer who has done remarkably well in the service, in which he is one of the youngest colonels."

Addressing the 5th V. B. Royal Scots, at Leith recently, Brigadier General Macdonald gave some advice which might be heeded with profit by Volunteers on this side of the water. "The Volunteer force," he said, "should not be a pampered force; it should not be a force in which officers and men had not to make some personal self-sacrifice. There was something they wanted more, and that was that the middle and upper classes of the country should take a more real interest in the Volunteers than they did at present." Having expressed regret that so many men of influence dissuaded their sons, their nephews, or their partners from joining the Volunteers, he called upon the ladies of the country to lend their powerful aid towards recruiting the Volunteers with the best class of young men.

Were the gallant Brigadier General in Ottawa this week, he would see a striking example of military ardour on the part of the ladies of the Capital, who have organized a Naval and Military Exhibition in aid of a local charity, and at considerable trouble and expense have arrayed themselves in attractive imitations of the uniform of the swell corps of the Dominion, and have gone through the military drill before the eyes of admiring thousands. There was a grand opening performance, at which many men of note were present, including Sir John Macdonald, Sir Adolphe Caron, and our Minister of Marine, Hon. C. H. Tupper, whose wife had been expected to command the handsome "H. M. S. Pictou," a central figure in the large drill hall where the exhibition was given. It is safe to say that the young men of the Capital saw hitherto unthought of beauties in the military uniform, and the local corps should take advantage of the opportunity to recruit.

Such of these young men as have not yet joined the militia, should make early application to the Governor General's Foot Guards, in which corps there seems to be room for a few recruits with loftier ideas of soldiering than to regard it only as a means of making a few dollars. Certain members have gained unenviable notoriety this week by parading in print a lament that having signed their drill pay away for a company fund their officers will not allow them to change their minds now and draw it out. The captain of the company in which the "strike" has occurred has promptly proposed a settlement, offering to pay the strikers their wages—for as such they seem to regard the Government allowance—on condition that they give up their uniforms in exchange. Officers everywhere will agree with him that mercenaries are poor stuff for a volunteer corps, and the presence of even a few of these in the ranks hurts any regiment by repelling men of a better class. Ottawa has rapidly become a great city; and, with only one regiment to maintain, this with the exceptional advantages enjoyed might easily be the swell corps of the Dominion. It is well officered, active men of influence in

the community holding its commissions, and were all to take a firm stand such as that indicated above the result ought to be good. The eyes of the whole Dominion are upon the Guards, and little difficulties that in other corps would pass unnoticed are unfortunately picked up by the ever-watchful correspondents at the Capital, and wired—as the latest has been, else we would not give it prominence—to all quarters, and the good soldiers who form the backbone of the regiment are much annoyed at the unenviable notoriety thus given their corps in the minds of an undiscerning and unreflecting public.

Decorations and Medals.

By Army Order just issued the following amendments are made in Part II, Section XII, of the Queen's Regulations, 1889:—

1. In paragraph 55, the following will be substituted for lines 16 to 20:—Stars of Orders will never be worn with the patrol jacket, the stable jacket, or the mess jacket, and only with the frockcoat when the cocked hat is also worn. Abroad Officers of the Army will wear their stars when foreign officers wear theirs.

2. The following will be substituted for paragraph 58:—Ribands of medals and decorations will be worn with undress or mess uniform by Officers. These ribands should be sewn plain on to the cloth of the coat or jacket, without intervals. They should not, like medals, be made to overlap, and when there is not sufficient room to wear the ribands in one row, they should be worn in two rows, the lower being arranged directly under the upper. The riband of a Knight Grand Cross, or Knight Commander of any Order, is not to be worn, the riband of the Companion of the Order being in these cases substituted. Officers in uniform will not wear miniature order or medals.

Miniature decorations and medals will be worn in evening dress (plain clothes) in the presence of members of the Royal Family, or of Viceroy and Governors General, and on public and official occasions.

Retired Officers are authorized to wear miniature decorations and medals in evening dress on all public and official occasions.

Regimental and Other News.

The 51st Battalion, Peterborough Rangers, may make Ottawa the scene of their Queen's Birthday outing next spring, as the suggestion of a visit to the Capital appears to be well received. If they do visit Ottawa it is expected that the Guards will be invited to pay a return visit to Peterborough.

Another match was fired on the 16th instant between teams of six men each from the Essex Rifle Association and the Detroit Light Infantry, and the Canadians won by 8 points. The range totals were: Essex 200 yards, 172; 400 yards, 141; 500 yards 180; total 493. Detroit—200 yards, 169; 400 yards, 136; 500 yards, 180.

The 7th Battalion Rifle Association, London, held their meeting this week for the election of officers, and for arranging for the annual match. The following were elected office-bearers for the ensuing year: Patron, Hon. John Carling, M.P.; Hon. Presidents, Lieut.-Col. Smith, D.A.G.; Lieut.-Col. Aylmer, Lieut.-Col. Lewis, and Mr. W. J. Reid; President, Lieut.-Col. Tracy; Vice-Presidents, Majors Marshall and Butler, and Capt. Payne; Secretary, W. E. Hiscott; Treasurer, Capt. Harper. Executive—Capt. Payne, Capt. Harper, the sergeant-major, colour-sergeant, and one other sergeant from each company. The matches take place on Thanksgiving day at the Western district rifle range.

The Prince of Wales' Rifles, Montreal, had their first muster of the season on Tuesday evening. It was a good one, and the officers, by their numbers, set the men a good example. Lieut.-Col. Butler was in command. After drilling for a time the men were drawn up for the presentation of the regimental prizes. The lucky marksmen received their prizes from Mrs. Bond, Mrs. Butler, Mrs. Curran and Miss Butler. Happy and congratulatory speeches were delivered by Mr. J. J. Curran, Q.C., M.P., Lieut.-Cols. Bond and Butler, Lieut.-Col. Evans, who was the first adjutant of the battalion, and Major Bond.

Toronto.

Before the members of the Military Institute, on Monday evening, 20th inst., Major Mayne of the Royal Military College, Kingston, delivered a very instructive lecture on "The Supply of Ammunition in the Field." The lecturer divided his subject into three parts: First, the supply to army corps, second, supply to divisions; and third, supply to battalions in shooting line. The subject was treated with special refer-

ence to the latter division and the practical methods of supplying a division, presuming the battalion to be under the well-directed fire of the enemy. The use of animals in the transporting of ammunition to the front was deprecated, and the lecturer advised that first, the men sent to the front should be well supplied, and second, that relays should be sent up with large supplies to be distributed when in line. Under no consideration, it was advised, should men be sent from fire line to the rear for ammunition.

THE QUEEN'S OWN.

Toronto, 19th Oct.—The combined band concert by the bands of the Queen's Own and 13th Battalion of Hamilton, at the Academy of Music last Monday night was a grand success, a very fashionable audience filling every seat.

Both bands were at their best, and applause irrespective of either band was amply bestowed after each piece. Mr. Harry Jarvis, tenor, made a very pleasing break in the programme; his singing of the "Death of Nelson" was very fine, an encore having to be given. The Queen's Own band accompanied him, and did so in a manner that reflected great credit on themselves and on their bandmaster, Mr. Bayley.

On Wednesday evening the regiment paraded 504 strong, and headed by both bands marched to Wellington street, where company and battalion drill was performed for about an hour and a half. After parade the members of B Company were entertained by Capt. Pellatt to an oyster supper, at which the prizes won at the recent company match were presented by Major Delamere in his own inimitable manner.

A, C, E and G Companies held their company matches at the ranges on Saturday, with large turnout of members to all of them. The shoot off for the Trowern medal at 500 yards was won by Corpl. Gilby, C Co. This is the prize that three tied for at the regimental match.

Evidently the same luck as followed the regiment last fall is again on their track, the parade of Sunday to Woodgreen church having to be cancelled owing to the inclemency of the weather. The parade is postponed for two weeks, and Col. Hamilton reminded the men that no matter whether the regiment goes out of the shed or not he wants to see a full parade no matter what the weather is like, only about 275 men braving the elements to answer to roll call.

Nothing definite is known as yet about the proposed field day on November 6. Quite a lot of disappointment will be caused if this recent and decidedly beneficial parade be dispensed with. At the same time, numbers of the men, and rightly, too, are indisposed to give three holidays a year out of about four to soldiering at their own expense. It is to be hoped that some way of solving the difficulty will be found, and that the field day will be a recognized institution for many years to come is the ardent wish of

BREECH BLOCK.

The first 10-inch B. L. steel rifle built by the U. S. Army Dept. was tried at Sandy Hook Sept. 16 and 17, giving entirely satisfactory results. Six rounds in all were fired. With a full charge of 255 lbs. brown prismatic powder and shot weighing 571 lbs., an initial velocity of 1,953 ft. per second was given, the pressure being 37,275 lbs., or only slightly above that of the 8-inch gun with a much smaller charge. The muzzle energy was 15,098 lbs. This is the first gun of this calibre built by the Army Ordnance Bureau. The work of furnishing and assembling was performed at the Watervliet Arsenal. The tube jackets are made of Whitworth steel and hoop and breech mechanism of American steel. The piece weighs 29 tons and is 32 calibres length of bore. It was finished and delivered at Sandy Hook two months or more ago, but was not tried until this week because of the difficulty encountered in getting the proper grade of powder. Capt. Smith, who is now acting Chief of Ordnance, witnessed the trial.

As considerable difference of opinion exists as to the position of the guides and the men of the rear rank on receiving the command, "For manual exercise—Open order," we have taken the advice of the most competent authorities, and the following may be accepted as the correct solution of the question. The right-hand man of the rear rank of each company, and the rear rank man of the left of the line, step back to mark the place where the rear rank will rest. The guides, of course, take post as for firing (para. 17, part X. Infantry Drill), but as the right-hand man of the rear rank of each company has already fallen to the rear, he cannot, in accordance with the general rule, take the place of the guide when the latter falls to the rear. There is no authority whatever for saying that No. 2 of the rear rank would, under the circumstances, move up. There will, of necessity, be a gap on the right of each company; but that, so far from being a disadvantage, is an improvement, as it shows the individuality of the companies. The same rule applies to the firing exercise.—*Broad Arrow.*

TOPICS FOR RIFLEMEN.

It is an achievement worthy of special honour for a Canadian team to win the Kolapore Cups against the picked men of the Empire, as on five occasions they have done at Wimbledon. And such honour is bestowed by the Dominion Government, in the shape of a commemorative medal, in gold, presented to each of the eight men contributing to the victory. The team of 1889 are on the eve of receiving their reward, and if they have had to wait a considerable time for it they will we are sure agree that the handsome medal just received from the maker's hands, and about to be distributed, is well worth waiting for. A departure has been made from the conventional plan hitherto followed of a Maltese cross or ordinary coin-shaped souvenir, and it is deserving of note that the design adopted, emblematic of the Indian Empire, in honour of the donor of the trophy, was the happy suggestion of the Commandant of the winning team, Lieut.-Col. Thos. Bacon.

These Kolapore medals, it should be remembered, are not given by the Dominion Rifle Association, who send and bear the expenses of the team, but are given directly by the Dominion as a mark of special distinction. As such they should be greatly prized.

We are having an engraving of the medal prepared, and hope to have it completed in time for insertion in next issue.

Much speculation was indulged in during the past shooting season as to the effect the Military Rifle League would have upon the attendance at the Dominion Rifle Association meeting, and the more enthusiastic spirits predicted an immense increase, causing the Association to take the precaution of increasing their accommodation up to five hundred, in place of the four hundred odd who fired last year. The total, however, remained about the same, the actual number of persons paying entry fees being 412 in 1890 and 416 in 1889; these figures including for both years a few who entered but, being unable to attend, had their fees refunded. There was, however, an actual increase in the attendance of the Canadian militia, for last year's total included fifteen members of Her Majesty's Army and Navy, while this year these had but one representative. Upon reflection it can be easily seen that the new men brought out by the League matches would hardly feel warranted, in their first season, in facing a Dominion competition, but an analysis of the entries made from figures kindly supplied by the Secretary of the D. R. A., shows that the League can justly claim credit for having materially increased the entries from at least six corps. These, with the increases compared with 1889, were as follows: B Co. Infantry School Corps, from 0 to 6; Montreal Garrison Artillery, from 1 to 6; 21st Essex Fusiliers, from 1 to 6; 37th Haldimand Battalion, from 1 to 4; 53rd Sherbrooke Battalion from 2 to 7; and the 54th Richmond Battalion from 4 to 8—the total increase from these six corps being 28 competitors; and this for the first year of the League is a great achievement. These were the entries by Military districts:—

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	T'l.
1890	24	84	49	70	82	0	11	22	38	11	6	15	—412
1889	24	76	43	76	64	1	20	33	50	12	4	13	—416

Whilst on the subject of the League, the latest suggestions as to next year's programme will be read with interest, and we outline them as transmitted by the Secretary. He reports a general feeling in favour of the entry of company teams of five men, so as to enable isolated rural companies to join in the practice. Ten seems still to be the favourite for the battalion teams; but for the benefit of the corps who have twenty men available (second teams not having a ghost of a show to figure in

the prize list) it is suggested that there be a separate competition for twenty men teams; the entire expense connected with them to be borne by the company and the twenty men teams respectively. For the dates, ranges, and order of shooting, this seems to be an acceptable plan:—

1st match, in May—200 (kneeling), 400 and 500 yards, 7 shots.

2nd match, in May—500, 400 and (kneeling) 200 yards, 7 shots.

3rd match, in July—200 (standing), 400 and 500 yards, 7 shots.

4th match, in July—500, 400 and (kneeling) 200 yards, 7 shots.

5th match, first Saturday in August—200 kneeling, 200 standing, 400 and 500 yards, five shots at each, to be fired in uniform.

It will be noticed that in the programme thus drafted the 600 yard range is left out, for the encouragement of the new shots. An interesting innovation suggested by the Secretary himself, and to which we refer elsewhere, is the introduction of messenger pigeons as an auxiliary to the telegraph service.

THE NEW RIFLE, AND RANGE PRACTICE.

An interesting letter on this subject appeared in a recent issue of the *Broad Arrow*, over the signature of "Emeritus," in which the writer says:—

"The magazine rifle recently issued to a considerable part of the army is, I hold, as regards the barrel, an excellent weapon, the action also, in principle, is good; but, apparently through bad metal and defective workmanship, there has been some justification given to those who decry the rifle. The present system of targets for range practices is, in my opinion, unsuitable for any kind of military shooting, and very much more so now that the magazine rifle is our arm, than when the soldier had the Martini-Henry, and for the following reasons:—

First, The length of the bullet of the magazine cartridge in comparison to its diameter is much greater than the M-H. bullet; and the magazine bullet owing to its nickel case being also very light, is very easily affected by a side wind, particularly at the long ranges; if it is necessary to allow 8' for wind when using the M-H. rifle at any distance, it would require 12' or more when shooting with the magazine rifle.

Secondly, any soldier when using the M-H. rifle could without difficulty use the wind-gauge on the back-sight, but it is a somewhat more difficult task for him to turn the fore-sight of the magazine rifle into a sort of wind-gauge; I consider that the idea of having a wind-gauge of any sort on a military weapon is unpractical, as it would never be used on service.

"I am confident that the present system of teaching men in their range practices that everything depends on direction and comparatively little on elevation is radically wrong. It must be wrong to teach a man that, in order to hit the target at a long range with a side wind blowing, he must aim at some spot (perhaps the marker's mantlet) that has been found out and verified by perhaps the Colour-Sergeant or some of the best shots in the company with their trial rounds: I feel certain that the same man in action would in any case fire straight at his object. I cannot imagine even a good-natured enemy signalling that all the shots are going to the right or the left, and the commander of the firing section telling his men that the wind is very strong, and that they must aim still several more feet to the windward. With due respect to the musketry authorities in the army, and in all humbleness of spirit—my apology being that several years of range work have given me some experience in the matter—I make the following suggestions:—

"That as no ordinary soldier would dream of making satisfactory practice at an isolated file of men, unless under the most favourable circumstances, at a greater distance than 350 yards, I would advocate that beyond this distance, from 400 to 600 yards, the target should be as follows:—Six iron targets, each 2' + 6" should be joined together, a band of 6" wide, at a height of from 1' to 1' 6" from the ground, should be painted black, extend the whole breadth of the target, and should be the hull. A band of 6" wide on either side of this band should be the centre, and a band of 6" wide on either side of the centre should be the outer. The whole target for scoring purposes would be 2' 6" high, and 12' broad, the part of the target above 2' 6" from the ground would merely show the soldier where, in case he shot high, the bullet hit. Over 600 yards the dimensions might be increased, the bands being 1' instead of 6" wide, and the number of iron targets increased to eight; thus the target for scoring purposes at 700 and 800 yards would be 5' high and 16' broad.

The editor of the *Broad Arrow* has a critical notice of the above letter, in which he says:—

"With a view to impress upon soldiers, to a greater degree than

he thinks exists at present, the value of correct elevation, 'Emeritus' would substitute for the present targets, devised to show the merit of central shooting, of skill in handling the rifle, in aiming, in judgment of elevation and of wind, long narrow targets on which, if a soldier aims at, say one extreme edge of the black band representing the bull's-eye, and strikes the opposite end, whether owing to unsteady shooting or to strength of wind, he will score a bull's-eye, aiming at Peter striking where Paul may or may not be standing; whereas another soldier, firing with judgment at the same spot, but striking 13 inches above the black line, would score a miss, though the shot would undoubtedly be a better one.

"'Emeritus' thinks the sights of the magazine rifle perfect for correct elevation, but perhaps not so good as those of the M-H. for direction. He probably means that when the backsight has been correctly adjusted to the necessary elevation, the peculiar form of the sights will cause the group of hits to be less oval than that which would be made with the M-H. sights; but this is very doubtful, because the real causes of greater vertical than lateral deviation must always be present, outside the rifle and its sights, in the physical and mental infirmities of every firer. The wind-gauge is said to be unpractical, as it would never be used on service; we believe, on the contrary, that a wind-gauge would be considered by the great majority of practical soldiers to be not only an advantage, but a necessity on service; especially with the magazine rifle, the bullet of which must necessarily from its construction, have a comparatively weak sectional density, and also be seriously affected by a side wind.

"An allowance of 16-feet for wind at 800 yards is not, as our correspondent supposes, of rare occurrence. At long-range firing practice, 1,600 yards for example, some 100-feet has been found necessary; with the lighter .303-inch bullet, losing its velocity more rapidly than would a lead bullet, much more would be required. A sight which by its construction enables the firer to aim at his mark, and at the same time gives the requisite wind allowance, must be right in principle; and in this sense, the recognized, though rough wind-gauge on the M.H. rifle would be more useful than the magazine rifle sight which is not designed for wind-gauge, though in skilful hands wind allowance to some extent can be made with it.

"The wind-gauge discounts the natural impulse of a man under excitement to aim straight at his mark, not always, be it remembered, a perfectly level line of men, but often a mark of even more importance, such as a bridge head a portion, of road that must be crossed, gateways or windows on which it would be of the utmost value to keep up a rain of well-directed fire. In such cases without a wind-gauge it would be absolutely necessary to aim to one side of the object and at some mark probably less distinct than a marker's mantlet, to aim at Peter in the hope of hitting Paul, a method which 'Emeritus' condemns on principle, but apparently supports by his system of targets.

"We understand that the Small Arms Committee object to a wind-gauge on the grounds that a soldier may after using it forget to move it back to zero, and might then if he aimed with it miss a single man at close quarters. The soldier must be trusted with an elevating sight. Why not go a little further and trust him with a wind-gauge? The former is a far more likely source of error, and of far graver error than a wind-gauge could be. Rushes at close quarters are seldom made by single men; a soldier, supposing he were to aim deliberately—not very likely in his excitement—though he might miss his man, would probably hit another near him. For this trifling and problematical error, it seems unwise to abandon the immense advantages which a wind-gauge would afford in all cases excepting in wild panic-struck fire.

"The importance of collective fire, and the necessity for its being thoroughly directed and controlled, is now fully allowed; to be effective it must have both good elevation and good direction, not depending on the individual knowledge of possibly poorly-trained men, but on the intelligent judgment of the section commander. To admit of this, the rifle should have a wind-gauge, and both wind-gauge and elevating sight should be so graduated that the soldier can by command and without personal thought adjust each as ordered. Individual firing, except by order, or when it is unavoidable owing to men having lost control, is, we hope, a thing of the past."

TORONTO'S RIFLE RANGE.

A number of the leading rifle shots in the local corps on Saturday accepted the invitation of Mr. J. H. Boyle to examine a piece of land near Mount Dennis station, about seven miles from the city. Mr. Boyle is interested in the property and has put it under offer to the city. He is better known as the manager of the Exhibition Association wharf. The proposed range is ten minutes' walk from the station; is a level marshy piece of ground of seventy acres in extent, surrounded by hills of about 65 feet in height. An extreme distance of 1,300 yards can be obtained. The sun looks down on the spot from a favourable position

and there would no doubt be very high scores made, as there is little chance of a wind affecting the bullets. There are, however, several very serious objections to the place from a rifleman's point of view. The most important is that it is very dangerous. Immediately over the hill are several houses, and, as the ground is laid out in building lots, more will soon go up. Bullets are certain to occasionally land among these places, and no rifleman would run the risk of accidentally shooting a resident by consenting to fire on such a range. The ground is wet, but this could be overcome by an extensive system of drainage. Lying where it does, a heavy mist would occasionally hang over it, making it impossible to fire in the early morning. It took the riflemen but a very few minutes, when they saw the danger, to decide that the ground would not be acceptable. The unanimous opinion was that there must be a water background to any range in the vicinity of Toronto. A boat coming towards the danger line could thus be seen and warned. When land lies to the rear of targets people cannot be seen approaching. It was suggested by a gentleman present that the land between the butts on the Garrison common should be filled in, and a steel shield erected on the high bank in rear of the targets. Small boats could then run near the shore, or large ones a longer distance out.—*The Empire*.

The Giffard Gas Gun.

Lists have been opened for the subscription of the £250,000 capital, in £1 shares, desired by the Giffard Gun and Ordnance Co., Limited, whose specialty is the wonderfully operated weapon of which our readers have already heard, and concerning which the following, from the company's prospectus, will be of interest:—

M. Paul Giffard—the inventor (with his brother) of the well-known Giffard Injector—has, after many years study and at great outlay, perfected his system for the use of liquefied gas as a substitute for gun-powder or other explosives, to the satisfaction of some of the leading authorities in Europe. Since perfecting the 6, 8 and 12 millimetre guns as applied to sporting and rifle purposes, and also pistols of varied calibre, M. Paul Giffard has been devoting his entire attention to the perfection of a rifle suitable for military purposes, as also the application of his invention to cannon and other warlike instruments, in which he claims to have already achieved results sufficiently satisfactory to justify his belief that the adaptation of liquefied gas for war materials will be successful. This company is formed to acquire and work M. Giffard's Gun and Ordnance patents, together with all improvements thereupon, for the United Kingdom, India, and the whole of the British colonies with the exception of Canada.

It is the intention of the directors to dispose of the rights and royalties in India and the Colonies to subsidiary companies. The vendors have had many enquiries in this direction, and they anticipate that this company will realize a large sum on the conclusion of these negotiations. The vendors state they have already entered into a contract for the sale of the rights for the United States of America, including North and South America excepting Canada, for a very large sum to the principal firm of gun and ammunition manufacturers in that country, and that they have received substantial offers from the leading manufacturers in the principal European countries to whom the guns have been submitted, and whose approval has been accorded. The completion of the negotiations in regard to these is now pending. The Chamber of Commerce of St. Etienne have signified their appreciation of this invention, by awarding to Monsieur Paul Giffard the unusual distinction of a gold medal and an award of 10,000 francs.

The liquefied-gas gun appears to be destined to create a new era in the manufacture and use of all classes of sporting guns and rifles, also pistols and saloon arms. By it many of the difficulties which hinder the adoption of magazine rifles are obviated. Guns of 6, 8 and 12 millimetres are capable, according to their calibre, of firing from 50 to 300 consecutive shots without recharging. The following are the claims advanced by M. Paul Giffard in respect of his new weapon:—

1. Absence of the usual report, fire, smoke, dirt and stæll.
2. Great precision, the force used being capable of the most accurate adjustment.
3. No recoil.
4. No heating of the gun, even when fired with the greatest rapidity.
5. The gun is small, light and inexpensive, and can be handled with perfect safety.
6. The projective power does not deteriorate, but is as effective after a lapse of twelve months as when the reservoir or cartridge is first loaded, and is not affected by damp.
6. The reservoir containing the liquefied gas is small and light and the cost is very small.
8. Spherical or elongated conical bullets and small shot can be used

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In order to realise the practical advantages of this invention, it is only necessary to remember that the gun is supplied with a metallic reservoir charged with liquefied gas, fixed under the gun, and holding, charged in rapid succession as may be desired, without loss of effect. To re-charge the weapon it is only necessary to substitute a full reservoir for the empty one; this can be instantly done, the reservoirs being made interchangeable. They are light and cheap, practically indestructible, and can easily be supplied through gunsmiths.

The purchase price of the Giffard patents, patent rights and improvements for the United Kingdom, India, and all the British Colonies, with the exception of Canada, including the whole of the expenses up to the allotment and the guaranteeing of the working capital, has been fixed by the vendors at £200,000.

The Artillery.

In the last *Proceedings* of the Royal Artillery Institute, Woolwich, there is a useful paper by Captain W. J. Honner, R.A., on the subject of the control of artillery fire in action, in which he lays down these measures:—

(a) Except under very exceptional circumstances never change the equipment, ammunition, or organization of a battery about to proceed on service; or, in other words, train and equip each battery in peace time for the service required from it in war.

(b) Establish a uniform system for "Controlling fire in action," and let nobody practise any other system.

(c) The officer commanding a battery or controlling its fire when in action should never be spoken to or interrupted except on very urgent affairs.

(d) "Section commanders" should not as a rule lay a gun or bore a fuze. (It must be remembered that a section commander has to superintend two guns. If he lays one he neglects the other. He should, however, watch the laying and boring of fuzes most carefully, and always look over the sights when the gun is laid.)

(e) Fuzes should never be bored at the gun. A man requires all his time to lay correctly.

(f) Men should be able to lay a gun or set a fuze with almost mechanical perfection. (Constant practice against time will tend to produce such a result. The work is dry, tedious and monotonous, but its importance cannot be overlooked.)

In conclusion, Capt. Honner remarks: "Have we any provision for supplying casualties amongst our Nos. 1 or pointsmen? I hope this point will not be overlooked. Would it not be advisable to grant an extra retaining pension to men who have proved themselves to be good pointsmen. They will surely be required on the morning after our first artillery duel."

SIEGE OPERATIONS.

The principal artillery camp to be held this winter in India, is, it is stated, to be devoted to siege operations, for which purpose two regiments of infantry, besides six batteries of artillery, and the necessary sappers, have been detached. *Appropos* of this camp, the *Times of India* has a useful article, pointing out that siege artillery is a branch in which absolutely no progress has been made in India. Mountain batteries have their screw-guns, which are at least an improvement on the 200-lb. gun. Horse and field batteries are getting their 12-pr. breech-loaders, which place them on a level, if not above, the best armed artillery in Europe; fortress artillery are being furnished with 6-in breech-loaders, and are looking forward to the 10-inch guns of the same type; while even the present muzzle-loaders are capable, as Sir F. Roberts said last year, of great development if differently mounted. Siege-trains, however, are exactly where they were. The 40-pr. and the 25-pr. muzzle-loading guns with the 6-3 in. howitzer, form the only ordnance available for breaking earthworks, and yet there are really good siege-guns in England, if only India would adopt them. Our contemporary says:—"Allowing the howitzers to remain for the present (though the possibility of taking really heavy pieces to the front when the loads are divided on the screw system should not be overlooked) we have a really good siege-gun in the 5-in. breech-loader, which, though it weighs 5 cwt. more than the present 40-pr., throws a heavier shell containing a much larger bursting charge. Its muzzle velocity is greater than 300 ft. a second, while its energy, the true measure of power, is double that of the 40-pr. The 4-in. breech-loader could well replace the 25-pr. R.M.L., though heavier. It is a gun, like the 10 in. B.L., that is surprisingly good for its size, even when compared with its sisters. In muzzle velocity, it equals the 6-in., while its shell, though weighing only 25 lbs., carries more powder than the present gun. It is also possible that the 4-in. quick-firing gun may find a position for itself in a siege-train, as a rapid succession of shell on one spot in an earthwork will soon make a breach. Truly, our siege artillery needs a camp of exercise, but it needs modern guns still more. Possibly they may follow the camp." Meanwhile, the re-arming of the

Royal Horse and Field Artillery proceeds but slowly. Eleven batteries in India have received the new 12-pr. guns. The home authorities have promised to re-arm 27 batteries during the current financial year.

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MAKER OF REGULATION BOOTS of every description. The League Shooting and Marching Boot, the best Boot for 200 yards kneeling, and the most comfortable for marching. Price, \$5.00 and \$7.00.

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Of the finest quality. Prices for Tested and Guaranteed Rifles:
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Rifle Covers.—Double Thickness Brown Canvas lined; specially made in two sizes for Martini and Snider, large enough to hold Rifle with Sling attached, with solid leather nose cap and outside sling for carrying on shoulder. Price \$2.00 each.

Solid Leather Hold-all Shooting Bag \$3 00
Brown Canvas Double Thickness Shooting Bag 1 50

Pickering's Blanco, supersedes Pipe Clay, for Helmets and Waistbelts, 25c. per tin. Needham's Polishing Paste, the best for Buttons, Buckles, &c., 5c. and 10c. per tin. Rifle Slings, best quality, 40c. each. Day & Martin's Waterproof Blacking for Waistbelts, Pouches, Leggings, &c., 25c. Military Leggings, 75c. per pair. Day & Martin's Real Japan Blacking, in jars, 25c. Rifle Requisites of every description at bottom prices.

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Having recently become equipped with a first-class Printing Office, the MILITIA GAZETTE is now in a position to fill orders for all descriptions of Military Printing, and respectfully invites trial orders. All work will be promptly and neatly performed, at satisfactory prices.

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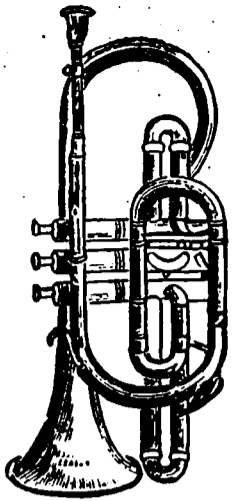
THE KOLAPORE MEDALS.

A picture of the handsome gold medal just presented by the Government of Canada to each member of the Canadian eight who won the Kolapore Cups at Wimbledon in 1889, will appear in the Canadian Militia Gazette next week. Accompanying it will be a brief story of how they won their victory, together with the names of the team.

Those desiring extra copies should order immediately, in order to ensure delivery. Address

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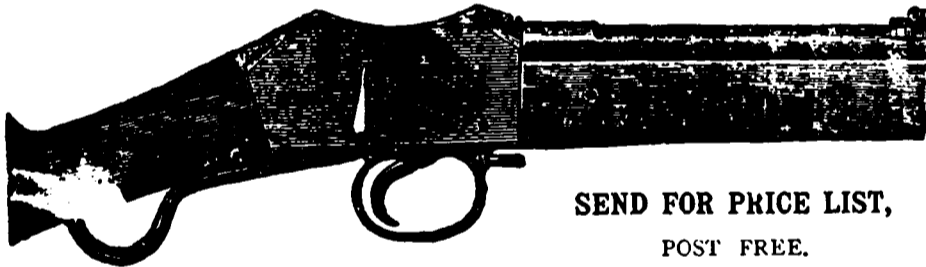
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All our rifles are guaranteed to shoot straight and maintain the elevation.

Our rifles are used by the leading rifle shots in Great Britain and the Colonies. The best proof
of their popularity is that about 60 per cent of the total number of Target Rifles submitted for Govern-
ment view at Enfield are of our make.

£1,500 CAPTAIN MORRISON (Sutherland Volunteers), using one of Jeffery's
best quality Rifles, during the 1889 Wimbledon Meeting, won The
Grand Aggregate, The Canadian Silver Shield, The Gold Cross and £25, The Volunteer Aggre-
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5 Best Scores for Volunteer Position	Aggregate	96	95	95	94	93
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5 Best Scores at 500 yards, for Rifle presented by Messrs. Jeffery & Co.,		35	35	35	34	34
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