

THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE

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THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE, P. O. Box 316, Ottawa, Ont.

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Topics of the Week.

We would remind commanding officers and captains of regimental teams that the time for closing the entries for the Military Rifle League competitions is drawing near, and it behooves them to complete without undue delay their arrangements for participating in what is evidently going to be an important and exciting contest. Every corps in the Dominion should be represented in this friendly rivalry, and it is understood that the arrangements made are such that the crack shooting battalions cannot monopolize all the trophies.

This raises the question—which can be considered the crack shooting corps? There are a few regiments that can enter for a prize competition half a dozen first class shots, but how many even of these can put twenty, or even ten, shots of equal excellence into the field. It will probably be found that the season will develop much unexpected latent strength and weakness, and nobody need be surprised to see a comparatively dark horse canter in an easy winner. Consequently we hold that there is nothing in the prospects to prevent any battalion possessing a dozen fair, steady shots, from competing with an even chance of a creditable record, and the impetus to general proficiency in shooting which the competition promises will be sufficient reward for the trouble, independently of any prospect of prize winning.

One factor which may have a decided influence on the result, and which cannot be estimated beforehand, is winter practice with Morris tubes. During the past six months many of our militiamen have had opportunities of using this aid to out-of-door target practice, and these corps will undoubtedly be much stronger for this opportunity. Last year the Victoria Rifles, of Montreal, which had for some years previously fallen off as a shooting battalion, put into the field a very strong team, and they themselves attribute all their success to the tube practice which they had kept up during the preceding winter, and which enabled mere nursery shots to fairly hold their own with veterans

throughout the season. This winter many additional gallery ranges were established, and next winter it is to be hoped that every company headquarters in the country will be equipped with Morris tubes and their accessories.

There was a rumour early in the session that the Government, yielding to the pressure of the military representatives in Parliament, purposed to increase the militia grant sufficiently to allow the whole enrolled strength to drill annually, but there is yet no indication that so desirable a consummation will be actually reached. That some remedy for the present state of affairs is required is manifest, for it is becoming yearly more difficult to maintain rural corps on an efficient footing, and their officers are becoming discouraged. What with the uncertainty of being called out, the impossibility of securing the same men for successive camps, and the necessity of keeping back the partially trained men to the recruits' level, the outlook is not encouraging.

Captain Adaye, in his lecture on the drill and training necessary for the English volunteers, of which a synopsis appears in this issue, shows very distinctly what is desirable in the Old Country, and with a few adaptations the lecturer's arguments hold perfectly good for our Canadian militiamen. That no recruit should be passed into the battalion until he has completed a course of recruit drills; that no men should attend a camp until they have done some company drills, and that more time should be given to musketry instruction are propositions that our D.A.G.'s will heartily endorse, but is there a genius amongst them who can solve the problem of achieving these desiderata?

Our antipodean cousins are not afraid to pay their volunteer staff, as will be seen from the following item from the last issue of our enterprising exchange, the *Colonial Military Gazette* :—

"In comparison with the pay of officers of other branches, that of the officers of the N.S.W. Public Schools Cadet Corps appears to us to be excessive. All of them are amateurs, and their pay is as follows: Commanding officer, £586; staff officer, £550; adjutant, £500. We say that these rates are out of all proportion to those paid to officers holding very much more responsible positions, and to the worth of the services rendered. Even the sergeant-major gets £275, which is as much as a major in a British cavalry regiment receives. Eleven hundred pounds would be ample for division among the four, whereas they draw the tidy sum of £1,911. And for the £1,100 we would have got professionals into the bargain.

Armourer Sergeant Ronan, of the 12th Battalion, has invented a new style of Orthoptic which it is declared may be used in skirmishing as well as in ordinary matches, is always in position and does not need to be removed when not in use, as it does not interfere with the sight being in the corner of the eye instead of in front. Riflemen are referred to his advertisement in another column.

Drill and Training of Volunteer Infantry.

(United Service Gazette.)

Major-General Philip Smith, C.B., commanding the Home District, took the chair at a well attended meeting yesterday of the Royal United Service Institution, on the occasion of the reading of a paper on this subject by Captain W. Adye, Royal Irish Rifles, Adjutant 15th Middlesex Rifle Volunteers.

The lecturer in the first place indicated the conditions of efficiency which a rifle volunteer has to comply with in order to be returned an "efficient," described the general system of annual training prevailing throughout the force in order to meet these requirements, and then pointed out some of what he considered the many shortcomings attached to the present efficiency qualifications.

1. An entire absence of any progressive course of instruction either for officers or men. The description of drill performed at one parade must necessarily be more or less the same as that carried out at the preceding one, so long as fresh men are present on each occasion.

2. With the exception of a few corps, and those with numerous outlying companies, officers and non-commissioned officers do not drill with and train their own men. Our "Infantry Drill" lays special stress on the method of company training. The Army Order of January 1, 1889, says: "The careful training of the soldier in ordinary times by those whose duty it will be to direct his fire and lead him in action has become of paramount importance."

3. Volunteer parades are almost entirely confined to practice and instruction in drill and close order movements. Practice in extended order, outposts, skirmishing, the attack, and other field manoeuvres, is carried out to a very limited extent.

4. The number of drills or rather attendances laid down for the efficiency of a trained volunteer are too small. They not only require to be increased but made more comprehensive.

5. The extension of the large number of drills now held in corps distributed over such a lengthened period of time. The reason of this is by no means obvious, and the consequences arising from such an arrangement are unfortunately very detrimental to true efficiency.

6. The system of inspection. The annual inspection should not count as a drill towards efficiency, or if it is included it should be understood that every man attending it must have performed some of his efficiency requirements before it takes place. Numbers of men are often present who have done little or no previous training in the year.

7. Musketry. The conditions laid down for efficiency cannot be termed severe. There is a popular notion that the volunteers constitute an army of marksmen or good shots; but volunteer officers will generally admit that, with the exception of a small percentage of men who go in for fine range shooting, the vast majority of the men of any corps shoot very indifferently, even at range practice, and that military shooting, like field training, is almost unknown.

8. As regards the enrolment of recruits, there is much reason to fear that sufficient care is not always taken in their acceptance as volunteers.

9. Distinct regulations should be laid down regarding signalling, ambulance, cycling, and other extra subjects. They should not form any part of the efficiency conditions. Some rules are also urgently required regarding the practice of the bayonet exercise and physical drill. It is needless to say that these latter are very essential for the development and training of all bodies of men. These practices are continually performed by regulars, but they should on no account enter into the instruction of a volunteer during his efficiency drill.

All the drill that volunteers get now, if properly carried out on some system, is or ought to be amply sufficient as the preliminary training for war purposes, more especially when we consider that time is limited with them. Therefore, what do they require further? The lecturer offered the following suggestions:—First, the issue of an official text-book, as short and simple as possible, containing orders for drill movements, a system of training for the recruit and trained volunteer, and some plain rules for tactical manoeuvres with complete examples, extracts from the authorized books of instruction on encampments, dress, and equipment of volunteers, instructions for special parades, such as inspections, field days, etc., a syllabus of the annual training of corps, musketry, and the company school. Second, a Field Service Manual for mobilisation, giving complete directions as to selection of trained and medically fit men, clothing, stores, ammunition, transport, etc.

Captain Adye then turned to the official conditions of efficiency, and made the following propositions:—

1. Not less than twelve company drills, and six battalion drills, exclusive of inspection, or any public functions such as guards of honour, march pasts, etc. Not less than one hundred rank and file and twenty officers and sergeants to be present at a battalion drill, and not less than

twenty-five rank and file, with five officers and sergeants, at a company drill.

2. All company drills to be completed before battalion drills are attended or commenced.

3. Every officer and man must drill with his own company and no other at parades other than battalion.

4. Corps to hold so many drills counting towards efficiency, and no more. The whole series of drills to be compressed into the smallest possible period compatible with local circumstances, the period in no case to extend over six months of the year, if possible shorter. Corps to be at liberty to hold any number of non-efficiency drills.

5. Detail of company training. Captains to select as far as possible their own dates and places for holding their parades. Not more than fourteen or fifteen per company to be held annually, thereby allowing a narrow margin for unavoidable absences, and ensuring a progressive course of construction, made up as follows:—Eight to be held in the drillshed or ground, which should include not less than three musketry exercises, the other five to embrace a detailed course of company instruction to be laid down in an official text-book, containing also a short series of lectures. The remaining six company drills to be carried out in the field, or some open tract of ground if necessary, in combination with one or two other companies. These should all be in uniform and in light marching order, and invariably include skirmishing and field manoeuvres with blank ammunition, and always based on some minor tactical scheme.

6. Not more than nine battalion parades for efficiency should be held. They might be made up as follows:—Five close order parades, the remainder manoeuvre parades in the country, which should include a brigade drill; all in light marching order.

7. No men should attend a camp until they have completed at least nine company drills. If a corps as a complete body goes into camp, the week's instruction should include nothing but practice in field manoeuvres, camp work, and if possible musketry. From what one hears, it is to be feared that some regimental camps are anything but conducive to the best results. Here, again, a syllabus of training at camps should be authorised.

8. Recruits' training. No recruit should be passed into the battalion until he has completed twenty recruit drills. In order to ensure a progressive and good sound individual course of instruction, the lecturer advocated the following recruits' programme of drills. Thirty drills to be performed during the first year's service. (a) Not more than thirty or thirty-five recruit drills to be held during the season, as after a man's twentieth attendance he can make up his efficiency drills with his company. (b) These drills to include fifteen squad and company close order parades, ten musketry, and five skirmishing, etc. The regulations to direct that two officers or non-commissioned officers must be present at each parade. (c) The enrolment of recruits by all corps should be confined to certain months of the year—say from November 1 to January 31, or end of February, after which date the recruits course of training commences, and not before. The contract of service to be made with the Government, and not with the corps.

9. Musketry. A certain number of days, say four or five, should be set apart for each company, for class firing, during which the members of a company must attend.

For trained volunteers the following musketry course is suggested. Five rounds individual firing at 200, 300, 400 and 500 yards respectively. Classification—45 points to become second class shot (obligatory for earning the grant); 65 points to become first class shot; 75 points to become a marksman. All members who become second class shots to fire not less than twenty rounds in section or group volleys or skirmishing or attack practice. In fact, after all trained volunteers have once become second class shots they should annually fire not less than forty or sixty rounds in nothing but some description of field practices. All badges for individual firing should be abolished, and badges substituted to be worn by the men of a company which has made the best percentage of hits in the field practices, and another badge for the best section (and sergeant) in a company in this respect. A great deal can be done to improve the military shooting of corps provided the system of giving prizes is based on some sound practical foundation. A good two-thirds of the prize fund should be devoted to "field practice," entries to be as far as possible by squads and half companies under their own officers and sergeants; the prizes for individual firing should be based on the results of the annual course of class firing.

10. It should be laid down that all company officers, sergeants and corporals should, in addition to the other requirements for efficiency, be required to attend not less than six parades, to include firing exercises, judging distance, guard duties, reconnaissances and outposts. The whole to be specially examined annually for proficiency certificates. To excite emulation and bring forward the best men in a corps, Captain Adye advocated an addition to the Regulations regarding sergeants' proficiency.

Firstly, the nature of their duties for peace administration and training and for war should be clearly embodied in the text-book referred to above. Secondly, the non-commissioned officers should be frequently inspected and examined under arrangements to be made by the brigadier. A somewhat similar system is required as regards volunteer officers.

In conclusion, the lecturer remarked that the volunteers, as a whole, gave much of their time, and in many cases money, to learn the work of soldiers, but that the greater part of their labours was expended in waste on account of a faulty system of training, which evidently originated and has been continued in accordance with the ideas and possible requirements of a bygone time.

Regimental and other News.

Toronto.

Battalion drill of the Queen's Own Rifles for the season of 1890 opened on the 2nd inst.

The regiment paraded at the drill shed at eight o'clock 487 strong, under the command of Lt.-Col. Hamilton, Capt. Mason acting adjutant during Capt. Macdonald's absence through illness, and, headed by both brass and bugle bands, marched up Jarvis to Carlton, where some column movements were performed, returning home via Yonge, King and West Market streets.

It is quite evident that the company drill performed by the companies during the winter has been beneficial in more ways than one, not only in keeping the men enthused, but the usual rustiness so terribly familiar to us all on first parade nights was absent—due, without doubt, to the fact of the winter drills.

Some 65 recruits are at present passing through the various stages of the goose-step.

During the winter a non-com. class has been undergoing a course of instruction at the hands of Lieut. J. T. Crean "I" company, and the results of the examination were announced in the orders of the evening.

Sergeants' certificates have been granted to the following:—Corpl. McNeil, "A" company; Corpl. Wright, "D" company; and Acting Corpl. Donaldson, "D" company.

Corporals' certificates have been granted to the following:—Ptes. Gilmour and Meadows, "A" company; Pte. Hopwood, "B" company; Ptes. Hire and Perkins, "C" company; Ptes. Thompson, Porter, Smith W. E. and Simpson G., "D" company; Ptes. Coffin and Matthews, "E" company; Ptes. Godfrey, Kelly, Campbell and Crate, "F" company; Ptes. Worthy, Routh and Steward, "G" company; Ptes. Pafford, Rose, Green and Argles, "H" company; Acting Corpals. Donaldson, Evans, Gray and Drynan, "I" company; Pte. Harcourt, "K" company.

The following promotions were also contained in the orders of the evening:—

To be sergt. instr. in musketry, Pioneer Sergt. Harp, vice Lewis, discharged.

"D" company—To be sergeants, Corpl. H. A. Wright, vice Dingwall, placed on supernumerary list; Corpl. J. W. Jardine vice Moggridge, placed on supernumerary list. To be corporals, Pte. F. D. Porter, vice Whitacre, discharged; Pte. J. E. Thompson, vice Wright, promoted; Pte. G. Simpson, vice Jardine, promoted.

"F" company—To be sergeant, Corpl. J. Agnew, vice McKenzie, placed on supernumerary list.

On the basis of the percentage and average attendance during the year, the merit for attendance of the various companies has been decided as follows:—1st, "D" company; 2nd, "E" company; 3rd, "A" company; 4th, "F" company; 5th, "G" company; 6th, "B" company; 7th, "H" company; 8th, "I" company; 9th, "C" company.

REVOLVER ASSOCIATION.

At a meeting held in the orderly room on Thursday evening, the 3rd inst., a revolver association, to be known as "The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada Revolver Association," was formed, with the following board of officers:—President, Capt. H. M. Pellatt (donor of the regimental trophy); vice-president, Lieut. M. S. Mercer; sec'y-treasurer, Corpl. W. S. Duncan; executive committee, Lieut. D. F. Crean, Staff-Sergt. J. F. Crean, Staff-Sergt. Harp, Staff-Sergt. Ashall. The constitution and by-laws are in course of construction and will be submitted very shortly. This is the first revolver association formed in connection with any of our regiments, and from what I have heard an enthusiastic crowd promise to make small arm shooting very popular. The board of officers is composed of very efficient and hearty workers, and it will be through no fault of theirs if this association does not stand pre-eminent.

BREECH-BLOCK

Steps are being taken to form a volunteer naval artillery corps in this city. As they are asking nothing from the Government but the loan of arms they will in all probability be granted permission to

organize. The committee who have it in hand are Messrs. A. Aronsberg, C. H. McDonald, F. X. McGee, Chas. Hunter and Douglas. Any person wanting information should address 71 King St. W., Toronto.

St. John, N.B.

The annual meeting of the New Brunswick Brigade Garrison Artillery was held at the Victoria Hotel, St. John, N.B., on the 31st ultimo.

On calling the meeting to order Lt.-Col. Armstrong referred in the most feeling terms to the loss sustained by the corps in the death of Major Seely. The following resolution was then moved by Surgeon Daniel, seconded by Captain Langan, which was passed unanimously:

Whereas, we are called upon to mourn the loss by death of Major Geo. B. Seely of this brigade;

Resolved, that we, the officers of the N. B. B. G. A., place on record an expression of our deep sorrow and regret for the loss of a brother who, since his connection with this corps in 1885, has taken the greatest interest in it, and has been both a strength and an ornament thereto. As a battery officer he was not only respected and beloved by his men, but by his painstaking attention to his military duties, indefatigable zeal and honorable ambition to place his command at the head of the list, he succeeded in gaining for No. 1 Battery a position for efficiency which was second to but one in the whole artillery of Canada. As a member of the regimental committee his cool, clear judgment was invaluable and he was ever ready and willing to give to its deliberations the benefit of his presence and advice. We admired him for his manly bearing, his intellectual ability, his firm integrity and his patriotism; we loved him for his constant courtesy, his fidelity and his kindness of heart.

Resolved, that we send a copy of the foregoing resolution to his widowed mother, to whom we would also most respectfully extend our warmest sympathy in her deep affliction.

A resolution was also passed thanking the Royal Infantry School for their kindness in attending the funeral and according to the remains of the late Major George R. Seely a soldier's funeral.

The regimental and band committees submitted their annual reports, showing the finances of the corps in a satisfactory state. The officers as usual voted their annual drill pay to the purposes of the brigade.

The following were elected regimental committees: Captain and Paymaster George F. Smith, Surgeon Daniel and Captain Jones; Band, Capt. Crawford, Dr. White, Lieut. Tilley.

Votes of thanks were given to the City Council for their liberality in granting two lots of land in Carleton for drill shed purposes, and to J. T. C. McKean, architect, a former member of the corps, for his kindness in gratuitously drawing plans for a drill shed.

A vote of money was passed in aid of the drill shed fund.

At the adjourned annual meeting of the officers of the 62nd Fusiliers held on the 3rd inst., Lieut.-Col. Blaine presiding, reports of the band and regimental committees were read, showing a balance on hand in both funds. The officers agreed to put their pay into the regimental fund as usual. The following committees were appointed: Regimental, Asst. Surgeon Maclaren, Major Sturdee, Lieut. Churchill; Band committee, Capt. Edwards, Lieuts. Cleveland and Sterling; Club committee, Lieut.-Col. Blaine, Major Sturdee, Major Hartt; Drum and fife corps, Lieuts. Hetherington, Parks and McAvity.

Hamilton.

The same routine of drills has been indulged in this week: company drill one night and shooting the next, all except "A," "F" and "H," and these companies had a holiday as their tour of drill came on Good Friday. There is a battalion parade ordered for next Friday evening, and no doubt there will be a noticeable improvement in the steadiness of the drill after all this company work.

There was a fair turn out of members of the Victoria Rifle Club on Friday morning when a spoon competition was held at the ranges. The firing began at 9 o'clock, and although there were some good scores made the first two pairs had the advantage from a weather point of view, for after they got through the wind veered around from west to east, and a thick foggy haze enveloped the targets, followed by rain, making the sighting very bad. The ranges fired at were 500 and 600 yards, 10 shots at each. The following are a few of the scores:—

	500 yds.	600 yds.	Total.
A. Murdock (spoon).....	44	44	88
H. Marris (spoon).....	42	41	83
E. Skeddon.....	40	40	80
W. M. Goodwin.....	42	34	76
E. D. Thomson (M. H.).....	36	39	75
A. Pain.....	41	30	71
D. Garson.....	38	28	66

According to the Hamilton papers there is a great deal of trouble just now in the 77th. Col. Otter held a meeting of the officers at the

Dominion Hotel, Hamilton, last week, and gave them some sound advice on military etiquette, which was badly needed if all accounts are true. It is to be hoped, however, that white-winged peace will soon reign over the old 77th, and that they will be able to take their place this year as one of the best battalions in camp.

Lieut. Carpenter, of "A" Company, I.S.C., Fredericton, (late of the 13th) was in town during the holidays visiting his people. He paid a visit to the drill hall and was much pleased with the condition of the armouries; he leaves on Monday for Kingston where he is taking a course.

H. A. M.

Halifax.

At a meeting of No. 4 Company, 63rd Rifles, on the 1st inst., Capt. W. J. Butler informed the company that owing to press of business he had been obliged to tender his resignation. This information was received with deep regret, and a vote of thanks was tendered Capt. Butler for the valuable services rendered to the company during the past three years.

Sergt. Gullen, another valuable member, who is very popular, and has done good work in the company, has also left the service. The following were elected to fill the vacancies in the company organization:

Treasurer, Lieut. Blackmore;
Secretary, Corpl. Somers;
Auditors, Messrs. Blackmore and Somers.

The 27th Battalion band at Sarnia is \$300 in debt, and has undertaken to raise the money by private subscription. One prominent citizen has guaranteed \$100.

On the 11th the officers of the 63rd will celebrate the departure of the Halifax contingent for the North-west by a dinner at the Halifax Hotel.

Lord Wolseley is expected to assume the Irish command, when Sir Redvers Buller will probably succeed him in the Adjutant Generalship.

London.

The re-organized 7th Fusiliers held their first church parade on Sunday afternoon last, under command of Lt.-Col. Tracy. The route of march was lined by citizens anxious to see the new regiment, and the praise bestowed was well merited, for the gallant Fusiliers never looked to better advantage. The service was held at St. James' Church, London South, and the following patriotic sentiments expressed by the rector, the Rev. Canon Davis, during the course of his sermon, are, I think, applicable to the whole force, and are worth repeating. I quote from the London Free Press:

"Remember, that as your Queen has trusted the defence of her Canadian dominions in the hands of the volunteers of this country, you are therefore justified in regarding yourselves as the Queen's soldiers, called to preserve the Queen's rights, and that such a position links you at once with the regular troops of the British army. You are part and parcel of that body before whose onward march and determined rush the greatest nations of the earth have quailed; part and parcel of that body whose record of victory has only been excelled by personal bravery. Remember these things, volunteers, and if it should ever be that you should be called upon to join your voices in the shout of battle; if it should ever be that you should be called to defend your country or protect the rights of your fellow subjects or your own, remember to act as the men of Corunna and Waterloo acted, as the men of Inkerman and Balaclava acted, as the noble and the brave at Trafalgar acted—soldiers of a country whose standard has never been disgraced. The volunteers of Canada have made for themselves a name of which they may be proud. They have faced danger and willingly borne hardships. They have faced the cruelest, meanest kind of warfare, and have rushed to the charge with that old British cheer of their forefathers which has never rung out clearly that it was not followed by lasting victory.

The battalion marched back to the drill shed by way of Victoria bridge in quarter column.

Morris tubes have been obtained, and already practice is being made preparatory to the coming season's field work. Great rivalry already exists between the different companies, thanks to their energetic Colonel.

On Tuesday evening last the 7th were inspected for the first time by Lt.-Col. Smith, D.A.G., the six companies turning out a total of about 250 men. At the close of the inspection the officers were highly complimented by the Colonel on the proficiency attained. This inspection closes the annual drill of 1889, which, by permission from headquarters, owing to the late period of last year when reorganization was commenced, has been extended to the present time.

Church parades will probably be held monthly during the summer. Lieut. Wm. Butler, adjutant of the 7th, intends taking a cavalry course at Quebec, with the praiseworthy ambition of qualifying himself in the highest possible degree for his responsible position,

One night in each week has been set apart for physical training with and without arms.

Chatham, N.B.

The 73rd Battalion made a great success, both financially and artistically, of a concert which they held here on the 24th March, and which they repeated in Newcastle a week later. The entertainment was opened with a selection by the Battalion Band, and the manner in which it was rendered must have surprised the greater part of the audience, as it displayed the careful training the band had received under the skilful leadership of Mr. Kaine. The chorus "Let the Hills and Vales resound" was nicely sung, as was Miss Carter's solo "The song that reached my heart." Mrs. Kaine showed herself a talented musician, her violin solo being particularly fine.

Mr. Sheridan was very amusing in his comicalities, and Capt. Cragie brought down the house with his local hits.

The rest of the programme was successfully rendered, the grand march of the Cavalier Guards, officered by Masters W. Norton and B. Wyse, sending every boy away delighted. It was, certainly, very well done and was the result of a month's hard training under the guidance of Mr. J. D. B. F. Mackenzie. Mr. Mackenzie has always taken an active interest in the band and the efficient and creditable state in which it is at present is very largely due to his exertions, backed up by an efficient committee.

The Late Major Seely, N.B.B.G.A.

Major George B. Seely, of the New Brunswick Brigade Garrison Artillery, who died at St. John, N.B., on the 21st ultimo, from diphtheria, was born at Oromocto, N.B., in 1851, his father being the late Abner Seely, and his mother a daughter of the late Hon. John A. Beckwith.

While attending the village school at Oromocto the boys of the place formed themselves into a cadet corps, and young Seely was appointed their first captain. Removing to Fredericton, he attended the Collegiate school, and in 1866, during the Fenian Raid, it was announced that the late Judge Wilmot, who held the rank of Lieut.-Colonel, and who afterwards became Lieut.-Governor, would address a meeting. A large number were present, including the boys from the school. Judge Wilmot made an eloquent address, appealing to the patriotism of his hearers to go forward to quell the invaders. The next morning, saying nothing to anyone on the subject, young Seely, being then a fine stalwart youth, and large for his age, presented himself for enrolment and was accepted, and had soon donned the uniform, and, with rifle on shoulder, started to join his company. On the way he passed his school mates, who, in surprise, asked him what he meant; he cheerily shouted back, "I've done with Homer for a while. I heard Judge Wilmot last night." At St. Andrew's with his company he soon became very popular, and was thought highly of as a soldier.

Returning after the affair was over to Fredericton he entered the University of N.B., and in time graduated without special effort with honours. He then studied law at Fredericton and St. John, and during this period he obtained an infantry certificate under the 78th, now the Seaforth Highlanders. In 1874 he was admitted to the bar, and after practising in Fredericton he removed to St. John in 1880, and entered into partnership with the late Mr. T. H. McMillan. In the spring of 1885 he was appointed a captain in the N.B. Artillery, and in the fall of that year he took a special course at Quebec, receiving a first-class artillery certificate, obtaining the high standing of 91 per cent. of the marks. As a battery officer he was very successful, his battery taking the second prize in the general efficiency competition for garrison artillery in Canada in 1888. In January of last year he was promoted to the majority of his corps, the members of his battery presenting him with a valuable testimonial and address on his promotion.

From fear of contagion the Board of Health at St. John declined to allow a military funeral, so his remains were quietly and mournfully followed by his brother officers and members of the corps to the railway station, whence they were conveyed to Fredericton. Here, by the kindness of Lieut.-Col. Maunsell and Major Gordon the Infantry School Corps preceded the hearse, the band playing an appropriate march, and after the burial service of the Church of England had been read, three volleys were fired over the grave, and the remains of Major Seely were laid at rest by the side of his father in the old burying ground in the City of Fredericton.

Major Seely was a most popular officer in his corps and in the militia generally among all who knew him. His knowledge of military matters was admitted by all, and he was constantly referred to on such subjects by his brother officers. Of erect and commanding appearance, with a deep full voice, with self-possession and ability, strong in mind and body but gentle in manner, he had all the traits which go to make a good officer.

The Rifle.

AMHERST, N.S.

A number of persons interested in improving marksmanship with the rifle have organized a rifle club, with the following officers: Major G. E. Church, president; Lt.-Col. M. B. Harrison, vice-president; Major J. Albert Black, secretary; R. H. Tremaine, treasurer. The executive committee consists of these officers and Capt. Jephtha Harrison, D. D. Betts, Dr. Dobson, Lieut. R. Soy, and Dr. Bliss. By-laws were passed. The president and Capt. Harrison were appointed to report on a range. Membership is open to male residents of the county, over 16 years of age, on being recommended by two members, accepted by ballot, and paying one dollar. The rules for shooting are those of the N. S. Provincial R. A. It is intended to have monthly shooting matches during the season. The expenses of the club are to be met by each member paying \$1 a year and 25c. for each shooting, whether he take part therein or not.

The *V. S. Gazette* of March 29th last prints the following, which certainly speaks for itself:—

Totals of 44 shoots last season by Sergt. Fulton, (G.M.), Queen's Westminster. Volunteer positions, and without striking out a single bad score.

88 92 95 84 96 97 94 93 98 91 90 88 93
 94 94 80 92 91 87 86 91 88 94 87 96 94
 88 96 90 80 91 87 89 96 93 87 95 89 92
 90 95 93 97 91
 Average, 91.5.

MORE ABOUT THE NEW RIFLE.

An official army order gives all the details of the mechanism of the new magazine rifle with which the army is to be supplied. The weight, with magazine empty, is 9 pounds 8 ounces, the new sword-bayonet, 15½ ounces, the scabbard 4¾ ounces, the magazine, when filled with 8 cartridges, 13 ounces. The length of the rifle is 4 feet 1 inch, and the sword bayonet 1 foot 4 inches.

The magazine consists of a sheet-steel-box inserted from under the body in front of the trigger-guard through an opening in the body. It is held in position by a spring in the body, engaging in a notch on the magazine. It will contain eight cartridges, and may be filled when in position in the rifle or when detached by inserting the cartridges one by one. A spring at the bottom of the magazine presses upward a movable platform, forcing the columns of cartridges also forward. A "cut-off" is fitted to the right side of the body, which, when pressed inward, stops the supply of cartridges from the magazine, so that the arm may then be used as a single loader. When the "cut-off" is pulled out, the lower edge of the bolt, on being driven forward, engages the top edge of the uppermost cartridge in the magazine and forces it into the chamber, and so on until the magazine is emptied. The magazine can be removed by pressing a small lever inside the trigger-guard.

One magazine is attached to each rifle, being secured from loss by a chain-link. A spare magazine is also issued with each arm. The stock, like that of the Martini-Henry rifle, is in two pieces, the fore end and the butt. Under the hinder part of the small of the butt is a projection forming a so-called "pistol-grip." The butt is secured to the body by a "stock-bolt." The butt plate is fitted with a trap giving access to the unoccupied portion of the stock-bolt recess, which is arranged to contain an oil bottle and a jag.

The rifle is provided with two sets of sights. The foresight and the backsight are fixed in the usual position on the barrel. The foresight is a square block, with a vertical cut through it, showing a fine line of light. Aim is taken by fitting this square in a corresponding square notch in the backsight, so that lines of light of equal width may be seen on each side of it, and aligning the central line of light on the point to be hit. The lowest or "fixed sight" is that for 300 yards. Using this sight, a head and shoulder figure can be hit at any distance between 375 and 150 yards, while a six-foot figure can be hit up to about 500 yards, without in either case aiming off the figures. The highest graduation is for 1,900 yards. The rifle is also fitted with extreme range sights. The front sight, which is called the dial sight, is graduated from 1,800 yards up to 3,500 yards. There are two kinds of ammunition pouches, one holding forty rounds and the other fifty. The cartridge is made of solid drawn brass and is charged with ordinary gunpowder pressed into the form of a pellet, with both ends slightly rounded.—*Manchester Guardian*.

It seems to be decided that the Duke of Cambridge will shortly relinquish the position of Commander-in-Chief of the British Army, and it is stated that Queen Victoria will not exercise the prerogative of appointing her son by patent, and that the Duke of Connaught will be made General Commanding-in-Chief for a term of five years, with provisions in a royal warrant which may be held to give that term a definite character.

Correspondence.

This paper does not necessarily share the views expressed in correspondence published in its columns, the use of which is freely granted to writers on topics of interest to the Militia.

THE QUEEN'S OWN RIFLES OF CANADA REVOLVER ASSOCIATION.

EDITOR MILITIA GAZETTE,—For many years the necessity of having such an association in connection with the regiment has been apparent, but until the present there have been difficulties in the way. The last three years have given an immense impetus to rifle and revolver shooting amongst the "boys in green," and the shooting contingent is now so large that something has to be done to fill up the gap between ranges on the commons on Saturday afternoon. To those who are unacquainted with the method of firing at the different ranges, it may be interesting to know that when a man has fired at the first range he has about an hour to wait before he can begin at the next, as his comrades have to finish, so at the three distances he will have about two hours on his hands, and to utilize this time is partly the object of the new association. But another, and not by any means less important object, is to furnish a source of amusement to those officers and men who, not being rifle shots, are attracted to the commons through interest in their companies, and to those who happen to reach the ranges too late for the regular practice. But to the officers more especially does this new departure open up a field for instruction, and presents a pastime as attractive and scientific as ever rifle shooting has been. There can be few officers who do not know the value of a revolver when it comes to close quarters. In fact, their very existence might depend on having and knowing how to use one.

It has been decided to open the association to members of the regiment only, and the enthusiastic meeting in the orderly room on Thursday, April 3rd, shows the feeling of the officers and men on the subject. It will be seen from the *personnel* of the staff of the new association that these are workers, no less than four of them having held previously offices of an equally important nature in connection with rifle associations. Capt. H. M. Pellatt, donor of the handsome trophy for rifle shooting, is president (that means another trophy.) Lieut. M. S. Mercer, the indefatigable secretary-treasurer of last year's rifle committee, vice-president; Corp. W. S. Duncan, 32 King street west, secretary treasurer. The executive committee are: Lieut. J. F. Crean, secretary-treasurer for Regimental Rifle Committee, 1890; Staff-Serjts. W. Ashall and W. Harp. The secretary-treasurer will be pleased to accept challenges from any of the outside revolver associations.

W. S. DUNCAN,
 Secy.-Treas.

Losses in Battle Compared

At the battle of Ligny, both victors and vanquished suffered a loss of over 25 per cent. of their total numbers, in an action which lasted from 2 P. M. to 9 P. M. approximately. That implies that at the end of the day some 50,000 killed and wounded covered the area on which the fighting took place. Let us compare this battle, one of the bloodiest but certainly not the bloodiest of the many that took place during the Napoleonic era, with the very bloodiest fighting of all which has occurred since the introduction of the breech-loader, and between the same nations an essential factor to be borne in mind: we allude to the battle of Vionville. In this action, which began at 9 A. M. and lasted till late into the night, 58,000 Germans of all arms fought against 95,000 French—and lost, the Germans 22 per cent. of their strength and the French 13 per cent. of their strength. In these figures the troops present on the field but not engaged are included, whereas at Ligny practically all the men on the ground were on both sides brought into action. Now, the real strain on the discipline and endurance of the troops depends on the rapidity with which the losses are suffered, with the closeness with which dead and wounded lie, and with the ghastly nature of the wounds inflicted. At Ligny the losses could only be inflicted during the short space of time in which the attacking troops were passing over the narrow stretch of fire-swept ground, a stretch barely one-tenth the width of that the Germans had to cross at Vionville. Almost the whole of the loss was suffered on an area about two miles long and barely a quarter of a mile broad. In other words, some 50,000 dead and dying were piled together on half a square mile of ground; whereas at Vionville the dead and dying were distributed over an area eight by two, and these men were killed mostly by small bore rifle bullets or fragments of shell, instead of being mowed down by solid shot and 14-bore balls. But the strain on the troops is ultimately produced by the horror of what the men see around them. There can be no doubt that the field of Ligny was a far more vivid presentation of hell upon earth than any of the fights of the last war. Yet the steady old shoulder-to-shoulder discipline stood it on both sides, for neither was demoralized at the close of the day, whereas both French and Germans had about reached the end of their tether as night fell on August 16.—*Army and Navy Gazette*.

Cavalry Tactics.

(United Service Gazette.)

Sir Beauchamp Walker, we feel convinced, represented the views of our most practical soldiers when he stated, during the discussion after Lieut.-Colonel White's lecture on range-finding, at the United Service Institution, that in his opinion no man ought to be given the command of a cavalry regiment who was not a rider to hounds, and, moreover, a good one too. Quick decision, cool courage and presence of mind are qualities which must be developed to a high degree in anyone who aspires to take a line of his own in Leicestershire or handle a regiment on the battlefield. Our cavalry quarters are no longer what they were as regards hunting, unfortunately, and the recent unpleasantness at Colchester even suggests a period when officers will not be able to put in a regular appearance at the covert side at all; but, should these evil days come upon us, there is still polo, drag-hunting, and steeplechasing to fall back upon, inadequate substitute as these sports will form. We need not, however, anticipate evils, and may still hope that the training of the hunting field will be open to the future leaders of our squadrons. We dwell in the age of theory, and so much importance is now attached to nice calculations and scientific rules that there is a considerable risk of the great fact being lost sight of that, after all, no matter what methods are in vogue, it is nerve and resolution which in the long run turns the scale. Victorious generals have repeatedly disregarded the prevailing and accepted formulas of the science of their age, and the great principles which decided the fates of empires have ever remained substantially the same. A good system of organization, steadfast resolution in the field, and a broad grasp of general principles, have ever carried the position, and ever will; while indecision or want of energy, however scientifically it may conduct its troops, will never lead them to victory. This is especially so in cavalry encounters, and the idiosyncrasy of the leader here particularly asserts itself. The Archduke Charles said of the French cavalry of his time that it was badly mounted, badly equipped, rode badly, and yet performed most brilliant achievements because it was handled well and thrown into the combat with decision and resolution. The swoop of horsemen must be rapid, sudden and opportune, or otherwise the best riders, magnificently mounted and admirably armed though they may be, will find themselves out-maneuvred, and able to make but small impression on the day's doings.

In 1870 the German cavalry, in spite of their careful training, made their power little felt, because they were handled with indecision and without dash. As the war went on experience taught them better tactics, and before its close they had added many laurels to their standard. The sacrifices a mistaken bravery entailed on them in the battle-fields round Metz pointed a moral which they did not fail to appreciate, and afterwards we no longer see them attacking unbroken infantry, but waiting till fire has done its share of the work, and the foe is shaken and demoralised, ere they advance against him. If towards the latter end of the war they did not accomplish as much as some have expected from them, it must be remembered that there was little cavalry then in the field against them, and less opportunity therefore for stirring feats of arms; while the losses the French Franc-tireurs inflicted on them perhaps made their leaders over careful of them, and brought about the fatal tendency to keep troops "in cotton wool." At this stage of the war there was a decided leaning towards utilising them in combination with infantry, and thus hampering their full movement and action, a most fatal error, and one which cannot be too much reprobated. It is condemned out of the mouth of one of the German cavalry leaders themselves—namely, Verdy du Vernois, who has written that "the cavalry which cannot emancipate itself from infantry is not worth the money it cost to keep up." It is to be hoped that the adoption of mounted infantry into our service may tend to prevent our troopers being ever thus tied down, and that there may be no excuse to claim them for any but their own proper work. The example set us in the recent German Imperial manoeuvres shows cavalry used, in spite of what may be expected from modern fire, in large masses on the battle field ready to be thrown suddenly into the scale as opportunities may occur, and kept intact and at hand for this purpose.

In front of the contending forces at the commencement of future campaigns it is expected that collisions on a large scale will take place between the squadrons of the opposing powers, and the results which ensue will seriously affect the course of future events. On such occasions there will still be an opening for the display of the peculiar and uncommon qualifications, physical and moral, of the born cavalry leader—the quick eye, the firm seat, the daring resolve, and swift decision which are but seldom found combined in one individual, and yet which are absolutely indispensable in any one who aspires to fame as a general of horse. It is to be regretted that in our service but few opportunities are given to our officers to practise and develop such gifts. Few men among them know what 5,000 or 6,000 cavalry look like on parade. Fewer still have ever attempted to handle even a third of such

a force, and none can be said to have had anything like sufficient practice in so doing. But if we are to be equal to taking effective part in hostilities on the Continent we must be possessed not of one, but of several men who are born cavalry soldiers, are enthusiastic in their professional views, and have had, at any rate, experience in peace time of perfecting themselves in the art of leading their men. It is to be regretted that one or two more camps of instruction cannot be annually formed in other places besides Aldershot, where perhaps yeomanry might be brigaded for a few days with regulars, and a respectable force of cavalry thus be placed at the disposal of our rising men. Above all, horse artillery and cavalry should always be found in combination, and an end put to the anomaly of batteries and regiments quartered in isolation from the troops they would be associated with on service. Horse artillery and cavalry mutually support and rely on one another in war, and should therefore in peace time live together, work together, and prepare together for the eventualities they will have to face together when called into the field.

CANADIAN MILITARY RIFLE LEAGUE ENTRANCE FEES.

BATTALIONS intending to take part in above competitions are respectfully requested to forward their entrance fees to the Treasurer without delay. Remit either by Registered Letter or P. O. order (made payable to Capt. John Bruce) and addressed to Capt. J. Bruce, Court House, Toronto. Entrance fees for the season 1890 \$10 per (regimental) team, or when more than one team is entered, \$10 for the first and \$5 for each additional team of ten men.

DATES OF COMPETITIONS—Saturday, 17th and 31st May, 14th and 28th June, 12th and 26th July, and 9th August.

ENTRIES CLOSE 30th APRIL.

W. R. PRINGLE, Secretary.

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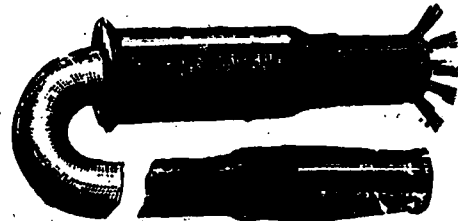
Field Martini Henry Target Rifles	\$30.00
Turner " " " "	30.00
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Turner's Celebrated Target Snider Rifles (checked stocks)	28.00
P. Webley & Son Best Quality Snider Rifles	26.00
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All the above Rifles are of the best quality, thoroughly tested, and made straight before being sent to customers. Nickel Silver Hanging Verniers with or without wind gauge. Wind Gauges, Orthoptics, Goggles, Spectacle and Hat.

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Forms of tender, containing full particulars relative to the Supplies required, dates of delivery, &c. may be had by applying to the undersigned, or to the Indian Commissioner at Regina, or to the Indian Office, Winnipeg.

Parties may tender for each description of goods (or for any portion of each description of goods) separately or for all the goods called for in the Schedules, and the Department reserves to itself the right to reject the whole or any part of a tender.

Each tender must be accompanied by an accepted Cheque in favor of the Superintendent General of Indian Affairs, on a Canadian Bank, for at least five per cent. of the amount of the tender, which will be forfeited if the party tendering declines to enter into a contract based on such tender when called upon to do so, or if he fails to complete the work contracted for. If the tender be not accepted the cheque will be returned.

Each tender must, in addition to the signature of the tenderer, be signed by two superintendents acceptable to the Department for the proper performance of the contract based on his tender.

This advertisement is not to be inserted by any newspaper without the authority of the Queen's Printer, and no claim for payment by any newspaper not having had such authority will be admitted.

L. VANKOUGHNET,

Deputy of the Superintendent-General of Indian Affairs.

Department of Indian Affairs,
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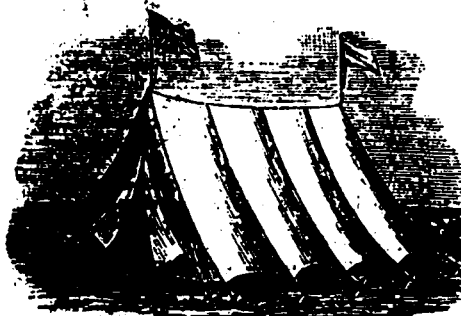
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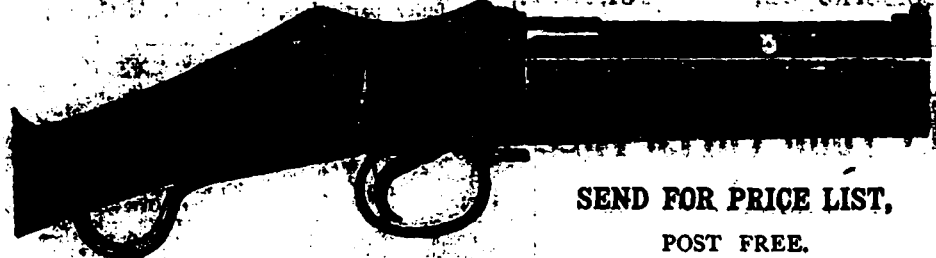
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5 Best Scores for Volunteer Position	Aggregate	96	95	95	94	93
5 Best Scores for any Position		97	96	94	94	93
5 Best Scores at 300 yards, for Rifle presented by Messrs. Jeffery & Co.,		35	35	35	34	34
5 Best Scores at 600 yards, for Rifle presented by T. Turner, Esq.,		34	33	33	33	33

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