THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE

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

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CORRESPONDENCE.

THE MILITIA GAZETTE aims at being the recognized medium of instruction and information for Canadian militiamen and rifle shots. Communications on the subjects to which its pages are devoted are respectfully invited. Anonymous communications will not be regarded. No name will be published, except with the writer's consent. The editors will not be responsible for the views of correspondents.

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Comment and Criticism.

THE Manitoban thinks the money granted to rifle associations is wasted, inasmuch as these do not aid in developing a general knowledge of rifle shooting, and that the same sum might be better utilized in providing free ammunition. While we do not go so far as our contemporary, we think much more might be done by rifle associations to encourage and bring out new shots. As a rule the control of the associations is in the hands of the oldest members, those whom experience has made the best shots, and usually the competitions are arranged to suit their views rather than to bring out or bring on the green shots. Consequently, as is charged, we see the same old names on the prize lists year after year. Now that our rifle associations are setting their affairs in order for a fresh season's work suppose they resolve to be magnanimous, and arrange their programmes so as to fetch out the biggest crowds, and defer their own prize winnings for the larger meetings, those of the Provinces and Dominion, which are specially designed to bring together the pick of the shots. Give the youngster cheap ammunition and all the help you can, at least until he can make good shooting as a regular thing, and by that time his taste for rifle shooting will be developed, and he will stick to it without any need for further encouragement.

THE days of Wimbledon are numbered. If the matches are held there this year it will be for the last time. It appears that some property in the rear of the ranges belongs to the Duke of Cambridge, and stray bullets have been making things uncomfortable for his tenants, so Wimbledon must go. The annual gathering there has long been threatened, and threatened institutions live long, but now the fiat has gone forth. Of course the National Association, which is a prosperous one, will be able to find another range, but the old memories can scarcely be carried there, and the annual meeting by any other name will scarcely be the same thing. What we Canadians will do without a "Wimbledon" team to discuss is hard to realize.

THE discussion of the most likely sources of supply of horses for the Imperial service is exciting more interest in England than any one would have imagined possible, and we consider no excuse necessary for once more reminding Canada that now is her chance to build up a big trade. On the 4th inst. Lieut.-Col. R. G. Haliburton, late Canadian militia, delivered a lecture before the Royal United Service Institution, showing what Jamaica could do in the way of breeding horses in the mountains. He took a very sanguine view of the matter, which, however, was scarcely endorsed in the ensuing discussion, the authorities present agreeing that the hot climate and dampness militated against the maintenance of the necessary standard of height and weight. It was, however, conceded that superior horses for mounted infantry purposes could be procured very cheaply in Jamaica.

URING the discussion Col. George Philips said:-- "As regards the horses in Canada, where I went last summer in conjunction with Colonel Ravenhill, after travelling many thousand miles and seeing a vast number of horses, we rejected an immense number because they did not come up to the standard of measurement. We could have bought hundreds of horses if we had taken them at 15 or 15.1 hands. We took nothing under the standard, 15.2, for the reasons I have stated. Of course, for mounted infantry, there is no doubt the smaller and hardier the ponies the better they go along, and the easier they are to manage. I believe that on the eastern slopes of the Rockies in a very few years there will be as fine a breed of horses as we have now in Australia. They have climate, water, and magnificent grasses. I know of one gentleman who has a thousand picked mares on his ranche, and is going in for breeding horses for the English cavalry. The great difficulty we found out there was finding saddle horses. Very few people in Canada ride, and consequently in a country like that, where attention is given to draft horses, there is naturally a want of shoulder, which is the most essential thing for a cavalry horse. I think that in the future the eastern slopes of the Rockies, even without encouragement from our Government, will be able to supply us with thousands of horses."

THE garrison artillery of the country appears to have some claims on the militia authorities which have been too long neglected. In regard to armament, Col. Irwin, Inspector of Artillery, in his official report of last year says: "With the exception of the Digby and Yarmouth bat-

teries, who were enabled to send detachments for practice with rifled guns, the other outlying batteries are generally only efficient in a moderate degree as infantry, with an elementary knowledge of gun drill, acquired by drilling with an obsolete smoothbore gun, which generally forms their only armament, and until the garrison artillery can be organized at or near the most important defensive positions where they can have the opportunity of practising with modern and serviceable equipments, their efficiency must be limited to that which can be acquired as infantry only." This states the case pretty plainly, but we are not aware that anything has been done in the interval since that report was published to remedy matters. There must be a huge collection of old useless smoothbores lying about the country, and if these were sold the proceeds would do something towards providing 40-pr. rifled pieces of position for our garrison batteries to drill and practise with. The artillery deserves well of the Dominion, and we hope something will be done to help them increase their efficiency.

In our correspondence columns will be found an interesting letter pleading the cause of the smallbore—that is of the distinctive match rifle as contrasted with the military weapon. While admitting that the smallbore shots have done good work in teaching accuracy to military shots, we think they can teach them nothing more now and have consequently served their turn. The fact that interest in this class of shooting has diminished both in the United States and England, as well as here, would seem to disprove our correspondent's claim that its disfavor here was the work of any clique, and the fact that last year the Martini military rifle and match rifle were used side by side in the D.R.A. matches is another argument, according to our lights, to prove that the time has come to abolish any distinctively "smallbore" match from its programme.

THE annually published militia list, corrected up to the 1st January last, has just appeared. It is of course like its predecessors in general make up, the most apparent change being the prefixing of the letters N.W. to the names of those who served in the campaign of 1885. Last year we presented in tabular form the state of our force as respects officers, taken from the list, and in a couple of weeks we propose to do the same with this year's list, so as to give an idea of the work being done by the schools in the direction of making the officers efficient.

A MEETING of the Executive Committee of the D.R.A. was held on Thursday last, when Lieut.-Col. White, chairman, Col. Panet, Lieut.-Cols. Bacon, secretary, Macpherson, treasurer, and Macdonald, Majors Perley, Blaiklock and Anderson and Captain Toller were present. Some business in connection with this year's Wimbledon team was settled, and it was decided to prepare a draft programme for the forth-coming prize meeting, so as to facilitate the work of the new council, as it will be so late in the season before they are elected that it would rather rush the work to leave it all until after the annual meeting.

COLONEL WHITE'S report of his experiments on the resistance of snow to bullets will be read with interest, and as it appears to conflict somewhat with the results previously recorded, it would seem desirable that still further experiments should be made both with Snider and Martini, with a view to arriving at some unquestioned result. The Martini with its smallbore and great velocity should show much better penetrative powers than were obtained with the Snider. We shall be glad to publish reports of carefully conducted and accurately recorded experiments made by any of our readers.

NOTHING has yet been done by Canada in the way or organizing its marine militia, which consists of sailors and men whose usual occupation is upon any steam or sailing craft navigating the waters of the

Dominion, and it is doubtful if any useful system can be created at present for properly training the rank and file of this branch of the service. They, however, form an important factor in considerations relating to defence, even without definite information as to their number. No recent official enumeration has been taken, but it is known that 7,315 vessels, measuring 1,231,000 tons, were upon the Canadian register in 1885, and that of these, 1,177 vessels, measuring 48,728 tons, were employed in the fisheries, also that 59,493 men were engaged in the latter service that year. The number of men employed on vessels in the merchant service not engaged in fishing must, therefore, add considerably to the total of marine militiamen. These men are, in the pursuit of their callings, extending commerce, developing the fisheries, thereby increasing the public wealth, and are in this manner taking their share in preparations for defence, inasmuch as their knowledge of the coasts and inland waters is constantly increasing. Their nautical training is of a nature suitable for purposes of navigation and transport by water, and it paves the way for an easy acquirement of other useful technical knowledge.

THAT seems to be needed to start with is a training ship or school, or both, in which young men could be techenically and scientifically educated for the militia marine service in a manner similar, allowing for differences in occupation, to that followed by young men now being educated in the Royal Military College at Kingston for the active militia land force. This plan would require a school on land and a small armed vessel in which periodical cruises could be made for practical instruction in navigation, and the use of guns. Such a course of training would insure a supply of capable officers who could utilize and direct any future organization of the seafaring portion of the population for defensive purposes, either in aid of the Imperial navy or for purely Canadian purposes, as circumstances might require. The cost of such a training school, if a suitable sized vessel is secured, would not add materially to the present expenditure for the militia, which only costs about 26½ cents per capita of the population annually, but it would be a great step in advance from a defence standpoint, and it would gradually grow into a service which would not only reflect credit upon the country, but would be likely to save a more serious outlay, and loss in the future, should an enemy make an attack upon any portion of our extensive coast. Every cadet so trained and educated could be temporarily absorbed with profit into the merchant marine service, and would thereafter make a useful officer to draw upon whenever his services might be required for the public purposes of the Dominion.

Personal.

Sir Fred. Middleton is confined to his house by a cold.

Capt. Sam Hughes, 45th, proprietor and editor of the Victoria Warder, is mad just now. Some friend of the Warder saturated the whole printing establishment with petroleum last week and set fire to the place. Luckily the attempt was discovered sufficiently soon to save the building, but the ill will was plainly manifest. There is enough of the fighter in our friend to make him rather relish the situation, and the Warder comes out strong on the subject. Captain Hugh is has our sympathy and that of every one who likes plain speaking.

Recent Deaths.

Captain William Fairbairn, of Wakefield, P.Q., who commanded No. 3 company of the 43rd Ottawa and Carleton Rifles, died early this month, falling a victim to pulmonary consumption after nearly two years' illness, though until near the end he was able to go about. He was a good type of rural officer, esteemed alike by his fellow officers and by the men under his command, and the news of his death was received with genuine regret by all his Ottawa fellows-in-arms. He had been in the ranks of the company for many years, and, being color-sergeant when Captain Wright was transferred to No. 2 in March, 1884, was commissioned captain provisionally, qualifying the next year at Ottawa before a

board of officers. He has brought a good company into every annual camp held since he took command except last year, when he was too ill to turn out. He was a good rifle shot, usually representing the battalion on its various teams, and winning many prizes not only at his county and battalion matches, but also at the Provincial and Dominion meetings.

The Department of Militia and Defence and the Military Force of Canada.

(Continued from page 699.)

THE following statement shows the approximate number of officers, non-commissioned officers and men of the active militia of the Dominion who performed annual drill, either in camps of exercise or at the head-quarters of their respective corps, in the years noted:—

Years.	Number who Performed Drill.
1869	30,000
1870	30,000
1871	22,544
1872	30,144
1873	
1874	
1875	28,845
1876	23,000
1877	
1878	
1879	
1880	
1881	
1882	
1883	
1884	
1005	18,070

The following is a synopsis of the active militia, by corps, showing the strength of the different arms of the service. The company strength in all arms (except the field artillery, a battery of which has 75 non-commissioned officers and men, and the few permanent corps, which have a special organization) is 42 non-commissioned officers and men, with the usual complement of officers:—

Cavalry—		1
I Cavalry School Corps	1	Troop.
6 Regiments composed of	31	do
I Provisional Regiment composed of	3	do
2 Squadrons composed of	4	\mathbf{do}
4 Independent Troops composed of	4	do
Total	43	do
Field Artillery—		
1 Provisional Brigade	2	Batteries.
16 Independent Batteries	16	do
Total	18	do
Garrison Artillery—		40
Regiment, Royal Schools of Artillery	•	do
4 Brigades	3	. do
r Provisional Brigade	5	do
15 Independent Batteries	15	do
TP-4-1		
Total	45	do
Mountain Artillery—1 Half Battery	Ţ	Battery.
Engineers—3 Companies	3 (Companies
Infantry and Rifles—		
Infantry School Corps	4	do
Royal Military College Cadets	1	do
94 Battalions	635	do
r Provisional Battalion	4	do
7½ Independent Companies	7 3	½ do
Total	651	√2 do

The subject of fortifications and armaments, and of the Canadian equipment generally, is not within the objects of the present sketch. In this regard, the country has the great advantage of procuring at cost price, from Her Majesty's stores in England, arms and war material of the very latest patterns and highest efficiency, whenever required from time to time.

Total Troops, Batteries and Companies 761

The department issues annually, on the 1st of January, a militia list, giving very accurately all the details of the active force, staff, permanent corps and general organization; summaries of the strength of the force by military districts, by provinces and by arms of the service; the personnel of the officers and the class and description of their certificates of qualification.

The blue-book presented annually to Parliament comprises reports from the heads of branches, from the commandants of the military college and the school corps, and from the district staff, upon all matters within the scope of their respective duties. These departmental reports thus contain progressive records of the gradual development of the militia organization, in all its details, and of the state of the force, as well as suggestions for its greater future efficiency which the experience of

the respective officers has enabled them to offer.

The present sketch would not be complete without a brief reference to the different occasions on which the militia has been called out for actual service since confederation, to all of which summonses men have vied with men, and corps with corps, in readiness of response, as well as in steadiness, discipline and courage under arms. The record of the militia of Canada upon these occasions, and particularly in the suppression of the North-west rebellion of 1885, stands too high, however, to require any extended comments here. The mode in which a force of over 5,000 men, placed in motion practically at a moment's notice, was brought together from different and far distant provinces, and concentrated at a most inclement season, by arduous marches, at points in the most isolated and unsettled regions (adequate commissariat and medical staff arrangements being likewise promptly made), and the good discipline, steady conduct and courage which that force displayed in the campaign, have won the admiration of the highest military authorities abroad.

That campaign especially has very emphatically proved the adaptability of the present militia system to the military spirit of our people, as well as the efficiency of the departmental administration for developing this system as rapidly as the financial resources of the Dominion will warrant.

ACTIVE MILITIA called out in Defence of the Country or in Aid of the Civil Power since 1st July, 1867.

On what Occasion.	When.	Number called out.	Period they remained under Arms.
Anticipated Fenian Raid, extending all along the frontier	April —, 1870.	6,000 and 2	A. h
	May 1, 1870.	ed to 1,000	days. 1 year, and continued at reduced strength.
Fenian Raid—Eccles Hill, &c	May 24, 1870 } June —, 1870 }	13,489, with	About to de
St. John, N.B., anticipated riot	July 12, 1870	45	day.
and along the line	Dec. 31, 1876	1,300 3,000	or 3 days. do Until after 12th July.
Montreal riots on Ottawa and Occidental railway	Jan. 17, 1879 Aug. 15, 1879	800	4 days. 2 or 3 days. do
fight	Jan. 18, 1880 May 12, 1880	Strong de- tachment of 39th Batt. and Co. of	
Riot at Lingan Mines, Cape Breton, N.S., miners	Sept. 25, 1883	42	2½ months.
between farmers and laborers. To quell disturbance at Tamworth, Ont., railway laborers. Anticipated riot at Winnipeg, Man. North-west rebellion, on actual service.	Oct. 6, 1884 Nov. 11, 1884	45	do do
do force held in readiness			
Prescott and Quebec, relieved by others from time to time, to make good deficiencies caused by permanent corps going on service		942	Different periods.

*Portion of permanent artillery remaining till September, 1886.

THE END.

Wanted, a New Powder.

I T is probable that at no time in the history of the world has the keenness been displayed by different nations in watching the progress made by each other in securing improved instruments of warfare as at the present time. Every one who has noted this is familiar with the grand race for the magazine rifle reaching the nearest point of perfection; but there is a greater strife in progress, which is the production of a new powder, and which is certain to come, probably at no distant day, for the best chemists of the world are busy endeavoring to solve this problem. If rifle-shooting was confined to gaining the best results in point of accuracy, with time to manipulate the weapon with deliberation, it is gene-

rally believed that certain brands of powder produced to-day are all that could be desired; but with the general adoption of repeating rifles for the armies of the world, with the indications that military onslaughts in the future will be made at very long distance by trained sharpshooters, or at short distance with repeating rifles with the greatest rapidity of fire, both these changes bring into greater prominence the chief defect of the present black powder, viz.: the solid, hard residue, which, after firing, is left firmly a thering to the bore of the piece. The residue blown into the air in the form of smoke is also frequently very objectionable. The nitropowders, which have been known for some years, are, to be sure, comparatively free from the great defects of the black powder, as they leave comparatively little residue; but they have defects from which black powder is comparatively free. These defects are, hanging fire, uneven combustion, susceptibility to dampness unless glazed, difference in the composition of different lots, and change in strength by keeping. It is one of the impossibilities to fully chronicle the march of progress in this direction; but it is safe to say that in every country of the world where powder is produced, there are skilled chemists striving to produce a powder so much sought for. French and German inventors are particularly active in this matter, and, if what we glean from our foreign exchanges is correct, the work of Col. Brugère, of the French Ordnance Board, is most successful, as it is stated that military cartridges of .32 calibre are being manufactured, which are loaded with the powder invented by this gentleman. In this country there is no inactivity in this work, the desired results are not fully accomplished, but progress is being made rapidly.—The Rifle.

Improved Gunpowder.

THE charcoals hitherto used in the manufacture of gunpowder have been of comparatively low densities and inflammable natures, as well been of comparatively low densities and inflammable natures, as well as highly hygroscopic. Mr. A. H. Durnford, of the Dartford Conservative Club, has, therefore, patented an invention, the object of which is to prepare a soft charcoal, which shall have an extremely light density, ignite at a low temperature, and exhibit very slight hygroscopic properties, and by its use in the manufacture of gunpowder to produce a gunpowder possessing the qualities of great energy and propelling power, combined with moderate pressures when fired in a gun. The invention consists chiefly in the production and use in gunpowder of a charcoal prepared from cork. The cork is put into cylinders and subjected to a destructive distillation by heating the cylinders to such temperatures as will produce the charcoal required. The improved gunpowder is made from mixtures consisting of, first, saltpetre and cork charcoal, in the proportion of about 80 and 20 per cent. respectively; second, saltpetre, cork charcoal, and sulphur, the latter ingredient being in a proportion varying from about 1 to 10 per cent. It is claimed that the gunpowder produced by Mr. Durnford's process is comparatively smokeless and nonhygroscopic.—Scientific American.

A Bomb Test.

A WASHINGTON dispatch says: "The inventor of a new kind of bomb, for which a patent is pending, came to see the Commissioner, who happened to be out. He brought with him a specimen bomb, which was inclosed in a pasteboard case, and he showed it to the Commissioner's private secretary, Mr. Will Montgomery. The inventor said that it would go off as soon as it touched water, and this specimen would make a noise when exploded like a fire cracker. The private secretary had some curiosity to see the bomb tested, and sent out and procured a pail of water. When the bomb was thrown into the water the effect was startling. The water was forced up with violence to the ceiling, and fell in a shower pretty well all over the room, while the noise of the explosion was like the report of a cannon. As soon as the few spectators could wipe the water out of their eyes, they pronounced the test a great success."—Scientific American.

Army Furbishing versus Military Efficiency.

(Communicated to the "Broad Arrow.")

As a war involving us might be the outcome any day of the present strained relations on the continent, I think it will be well to scrutinise in a few cursory remarks the uniform and equipment of our army, and what it takes of a soldier's time to keep them in order. I beg of your military readers to tollow me patiently in what I am about to say on the subject. As pipe-clay, brass-ball, brick-dust, rubbers, and burnishers have been the standing order of the British army from time immemorial, I am afraid what I am about to say will not at first meet with ready approval from all your readers, but I am sure if they will only weigh the matter impartially they will in the end admit the justice of my statements, and that there is real actual need of reform. Time is of great value in the army nowadays. The nature of the uniform and equipment of our

army, the habits of our soldiers, and the encouragement given to them to brighten up and make showy everything they wear, are good reasons why much of their time is at present taken up in pressing their greatcoats and uniform, rubbing their brasses, steels, and irons, and altogether preparing themselves to turn out for the inspection of their officers and noncommissioned officers in such a manner as to escape censure, attract notice, and deservedly acquire for themselves the reputation of being clean and well turned out soldiers, and the oftener they parade, either for inspection or exercise, the more their labors are increased, until at last, if they are required under arms frequently, their life becomes almost one incessant daily routine of monotonous and irksome drudgery. The time now spent by the soldier in furbishing his clothing and appointments might with ease be reduced. Why not give him a good plain workmanlike uniform and unpolished appointments, things that might be cleaned without all that expenditure of time, labor and cleaning stuffs? I think and hope Lord Wolseley agrees with me. He advocates the same thing, from the opinion he has expressed about cavalry irons, etc., that they should be lacquered or nickelled. I am quite of the same opinion, and would go farther. I not only think it would be advisable to lacquer, nickel, or bronze everything metal in the uniform and equipment of cavalry, but also that the same thing is necessary for infantry and artillery as well, so that all the cleaning of uniform and appointments necessary in our army might be reduced to a minimum, and could be done with a cloth brush and a rag. Then our soldiers would be able to turn out ready for service at any moment, without all the toil and preparation now required. There is a great deal of labor wasted now in cleaning unneccessary brasses and steel work. The time saved in furbishing up a soldier's kit by the changes I have indicated could with advantage be devoted to further military training and exercises, by which means greater military efficiency would be secured. What we ought to do is to study and practise more for work than for show. But if higher training and military efficiency are to be attained, our officers must prepare themselves for the instruction of their men, and as company officers are now the instructors this is incumbent on all. An opinion is entertained by some that the idea of having every officer an instructor is not good, for it is not one man in a dozen that can impart information to others, though he may know the subject very well himself; therefore, when you can obtain a good instructor in any branch of a soldier's training, he should become the regimental instructor for that branch to the whole battalion rather than that many officers should be trying to do imperfectly that which could be much better done by one person. I have been amused at some criticisms on dress by an Austrian officer who has been on a visit to England. The first thing which attracted his notice was the forage cap of mounted corps, and he discribes it as a cloth disc smaller than the head it should cover, worn on one side, and kept on the head by means of a strap. His opinion on this cap is that it is the most grotesque and absurd thing in any army. With regard to the Glengarry, or Scotch cap as he calls it, worn by the infantry, he says it is less comical, but equally useless. The infantry and artillery, he says, are neat, and their pickelhaube smart and effective. He thinks the English horse and artillery turn out wonderfully, and, except the Russian Imperial Guard, nothing comes up to our household cavalry, and to the smartness of some of our light cavalry, which are, he says, better horsed than the Ziethen Hussars, and quite as showy. With reference to the general subject of dress of all armies, he gives the palm to Russia, and next to Russia he places the Prussian army. The dress of the French heavy cavalry, he says, would be good were it not for the baggy trousers, which are ungainly. Some Spanish corps, he thinks, are smart, but their chacos are hideous, and so also is the head-dress of the Italian soldier. The dress of the Austrian army, which used to be most showy, is now ugly, but it is useful. The Dutch army ranks next to the English army in ugliness.

The Nordenfelt Gun.

A NOTHER exhibition of the 3-barrelled Nordenfelt rifle calibre machine gun was given at the Rideau range on Friday afternoon last. On this occasion His Excellency the Governor-General, the General commanding at Halifax, Lord Alexander Russel, Colonels Panet, John Macpherson, Irwin, Houghton, Lamontagne, Bacon, White, Captain Boulton, R.N., and many other officers of rank in the militia force were present. The weather was fortunately not unpropitious, and as a marquee had been placed over the gun the vice-regal party were well sheltered from the somewhat cold wind which blew freshly across the range.

The mechanism of the gun, its extreme simplicity and freedom from chance of injury or accident, were clearly explained to His Excellency and Lord Alexander Russell, both of whom manifested great interest in the little "peacemaker," as one of our contemporaries has not inaptly designated it.

An ordinary target was placed at 500 yards, but in our opinion this test, although successful in itself, is neither a good nor a fair one when

the distinctive capabilities of machine guns have to be shown. However, His Excellency fired a few rounds with good effect and then about 50 cartridges were expended, the result of which was subsequently reported by the marker, when he returned from the butts, to be 40 hits, eight of which were bulls. Lord Alexander Russell then suggested that the gun should be pointed at a mark in the snow somewhat to the left of, but equidistant with, the target. This was done, and about 240 rounds were fired quickly. The effect was surprising, and to all appearances most deadly, and we consider it was the best proof that has been given of the capabilities of the Nordenfelt. Captain Douglas, who fired the gun, informed us that he purposely left it unclamped, in other words the traversing gear was free, and we observed the tendency of the gun in rapid firing to work to the left by the action of the lever, was compensated in bringing it back sharply to the cocking position, thus slightly moving the breech action to the left, or the muzzles of the barrels to the right, at the same time there was a slight oscillatory movement in the gun which threw a continuous stream of bullets in an area of about 30 feet across the front by about 15 or 20 in the line of fire.

It was remarked by one of the colonels present that a cat with its nine lives could not have lived a minute under such a murderous fire. Altogether the exhibition was a most successful one, and we trust that the courteous and energetic agent of the company will not leave the Dominion without having the satisfaction of knowing that his persistent and untiring efforts have been rewarded with success. If there are yet any military officers in Ottawa who do not appreciate the good points of the Nordenfelt it is through no fault of Captain Douglas. We regret extremely to learn that Major-General Sir Fred. Middleton was prevented by indisposition from being present.

A Night Sight for Ordnance.

CIR W. ARMSTRONG & CO. have recently brought out a night sight which is illustrated in Engineering for March 11, which says of it: "An alignment is obtained which is easily discernable by the eye under all degrees of dusk or darkness, is capable of even more accurate adjustment than the usual day sight, and is so arranged that even on the darkest night in which fire is possible, the observer's eye is in no way fatigued or blinded by the illuminated points. The sight is made in several forms according to the purpose for which it is applied. When used with the director for discharging guns from a central position or for the sighting positions in turrets or barbettes, light is transmitted by reflection from an electric lamp through two small spherical lenses where it concentrates in two minute and easily adjusted points of light. For the torpedo director used for discharging torpedoes and for direct use with larger guns, two lamps are employed, while for smaller guns such as Hotchkiss and other 3-pounders and 6-pounders, two separate sights, each with its lamp, take the place of the ordinary day sight. As most warships are now fitted with the electric light the application of these sights is arranged in connection with the light circut. A short length of wire with a terminal in a convenient position close to the gun or director enables the sights to be illuminated as desired. The purposes for which these sights are applicable are for directing instruments for discharging guns and torpedoes either on board ship or in forts and coast batteries; for ordnance generally afloat and ashore, and for position finders and observation mines.

Correspondence.

The Editor desires it distinctly understood that he does not hold himself responsible for the opinions expressed by correspondents.

To the Editor of the Canadian Militia Gazette.

I see the Imperial government intend giving a clasp to each volunteer actually under fire during the North-west rebellion. Is this quite fair to those who underwent the same hardships, and who performed all duties, and were in reality doing just as much in quelling the rebellion as those more fortunate ones a few niles farther to the front. Take B and D companies of the Midland, which were left at Clark's Crossing, heard every gun fired, and were ordered up to assist General Middleton, marched 45 miles in one day and a half, arrived just after the battle was over, helped to take the wounded down to the boat, buried the dead in the zareba and were with the general from that time, also spent 12 days and 13 nights on board the Northcote, not knowing what minute they might have been fired on. These two companies were without doubt supports to the general's column, and are these to be passed by with the clasps. Take the London or 7th battalion; these men worked like slaves day and night to get to the front; is there no decoration for them? Again take the 35th and the balance of this battalion, I forget its number, making after friend Pia-Pot, they too will be passed by. I am afraid if this unfair clasp is only given to those few who were more fortunate and who did not have any more duties to perform than those in the rear, our volunteer force will not be so anxious to come forward again.

[While granting all that K. K. claims for those who were not fortunate enough to get into action, we would once more explain that what he asks for is simply impos-The Queen's Regulations, framed long before this campaign, point out very unmistakeably the limits of an award of clasps. - ED.]

SMALLBORES.

To the Editor of the Canadian Militia Gazette.

DEAR SIR,—Your editorial of the 17th March on this subject revives some old ideas, but would you explain to us how a Snider teaches "accuracy" as well as a small-bore? accuracy in record, holding and observation. When did Snider shots keep records of their shooting, use verniers, observe wind and light and other changes; was it not after smallbore men hed taught their use? What teaches a man to hold steady and plumb like shooting at 1,000 yards?

Look at the history of the last twenty-five years and see if it is not the "small-bore" men who have made shooting what it is to-day in England and Canada. Practice may have fallen off to-day in Canada, but I suspect it is because of the persistent

"hammering down" on the part of a certain set.

On the contrary, I believe smallbore shooting should be encouraged, the original objection, which was its price, is now removed; the cost of smallbore rifles is nearly the same as that of the military weapon.

However, I confess myself to be

A SMALLBORE SHOT.

THE RESISTANCE OF SNOW TO BULLETS.

To the Editor of the Canadian Militia Gazette:

DEAR SIR,—As an old rifleman I very naturally felt a good deal of interest in Major Anderson's proposal to try by actual experiment the amount of resistance wellpacked snow would offer to the passage of a bullet. Taking advantage, therefore, of the trial of the Nordenfelt gun on the 25th inst. at the Rideau rifle range, when several hundred rounds of Martini ammunition were fired in the presence of His Excellency the Governor-General and General Lord Alexander Russell, commanding the forces in British North America, I proceeded, immediately the firing ceased, to carefully examine the surface of the snow in order to trace the course of the bullets and determine as far as possible the degree of penetration; this, however, I found more difficult than I anticipated, the surface of the snow being frozen, and forming where the shots struck a crust so strong that I was unable without a shovel to remove it. One thing was pretty clear, and that was that the degree of penetration was less than usually supposed as I picked up seven Martini bullets lying upon the surface of the snow which had cut just under the surface and, coming out after traversing a distance of not more than four feet from the point of impact, were completely spent.

Lord Alexander Russell, who had watched the firing of the Nordenfelt with great interest, subsequently suggested that trial should be made how far a bullet would penetrate a bank of packed snow and ice. In order to ascertain what could be done in this direction, Major W. P. Anderson and myself, provided with a Snider rifle and ammunition and a snow shovel, went to the Rideau range this afternoon, and after firing into snow banks in various places and of different consistency, found that in hard packed snow, mixed with ice, but not hard enough to prevent digging into it with a sheet-iron shovel, a bullet did not penetrate more than about 4 feet; in perfectly dry snow, packed by natural drift, but capable of being easily crushed in the hand, a bullet penetrated about four feet, and in loose drifted dry snow less than seven feet, though

fired from points only twenty or thirty yards distant.

Immediately behind the target (of eanvas), which had been used for the Nordenfelt gun practice, was a bank of snow mixed with ice, this was carefully removed, and embedded therein we found several of the Martini bullets fired on the 25th inst., these had penetrated a little over 4 feet, very little, if any, farther than Snider bullets fired at a distance of 200 yards during our experiments this afternoon. The bullets in every case were taken out perfectly uninjured, with the marks of the rifle grooving very conspicuous. The Martini bullets were encased in ice, thus showing that they must have been very hot when stopped by the snowbank.

Trusting that the experiments detailed above may be interesting to your readers. I am, &c.,
WM. WHITE.

Ottawa, 29th March, 1887.

Queries and Replies.

DISQUALIFIED TEAMS D.R.A.

- Q. I was recently told, that some teams were disqualified in the "Gzowski" or "British Challenge" matches of last year; on reference to the report, it is found that the subject is not mentioned at all. Were any teams disqualified in those matches, and if so, why? An Inquirer.
- A. The Sixth Fusiliers team was disqualified because one of the men was proved to have fired more than the number of shots allowed by the regulations. This disqualification, however, made no change in the prize winning teams.—ED.

THE ASSUMPTION OF BREVET TITLES.

- Q. An officer holds the rank of Brevet Major in the militia, with the substantive rank of Captain in his regiment. How should he sign his name to documents, which, while not regimental, are still military?
- A. Q.R. Sec. 21 par. 11 says: "The rank and corps of officers are in all cases to be added after their signatures." This would seem to imply that the signature should be (e.g.) A.B., Captain and Brevet Major, 105th Batt. But this probably only refers to official documents. There are certainly precedents in favor of his signing A.B., Major, and as he holds militia rank as major he would always be entitled to be styled Major B.—Ed.

Regimental Notes.

We wish to publish information respecting all the doings of all corps. Will the officers interested, particularly at a distance, assist us by having news relating to their corps promptly forwarded?)

Montreal.—Lieuts. Labelle, Ostell, Hebert, Laframboise, Desnoyers and Mac kay of the 65th Batt., have gone to St. John's Infantry School to pass their examinations during this present special course. These officers, we understand, have been studying very hard during the last three months under Staff-Sergt. Gauthier (exinstructor from St. John's), and we have no doubt they will return delighted with the result of their experience in St. John's.—RAM ROD.

Winnipeg.—The 90th club, which was organized sometime ago in the interests of the 90th battalion, has made a most creditable move towards encouraging rifle shooting this year. Sometime ago it was decided to offer for team competition, a handsome rifle trophy to be shot for annually by the several companies of the battalion. Lieut. Broughall, the secretary, wrote to Capt. Clark, of the 90th, who is representing Mani-

toba in connection with the Colonial and Indian Exhibition in London, England, asking him to procure for the club the handsomest and most appropriate trophy he could select, and to forward the same to the club. An answer has been received from Capt. Clark, stating that he has ordered a fac-simile of the celebrated shield which is in the Royal armory at Windsor castle. The original dates back to the time of Julius Cæsar, and is a magnificent piece of art. It has been ordered from Messrs. Elkington & Co., silversmiths to the National rifle association, Wimbledon, and is 22 inches in diameter, mounted in an ebonized polished frame, which will increase the diameter considerably. The shield will be surrounded with smaller shields of solid silver, richly chased with oak leaves, whereon will be inscribed from year to year the winners of the trophy. Manitoban.

The Target.

MONTREAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING.

Montreal.—Some thirty members of this association met at the office of Secretary Patterson on the 23rd inst., among those present being the president, Capt. Dunn; Capts. Hood and Newton, and Major Jackson. The reports of meetings held, and the financial statement, showed the affairs of the association to be in a flourishing

As the object of the association is to encourage rifle shooting with the best weapons, it was to be expected that considerable favor should be shown to Martini-Henry practice, and the feeling of all present was in that direction.

The M.R.A. being composed of the best shooting men in the city and district, it was decided that it should seek to enter into the competition for the "Jubilee Cup" now being subscribed for by the several rifle associations here, and in the event of the scheme going into effect a team will be entered for it.

The question of suitable ranges, affecting as it does all the corps in the district, was of course given a prominent place in the discussion. Year after year the ranges at Point St. Charles suffer damage from the spring floods, and by the time the earthwork is fit to stand repairs the regimental practices have been retarded from two to four weeks later than the time at which they could be begun were the targets in a less exposed locality. The association decided to use all possible influence to have the range removed to a quarter where this difficulty would not be met with.

The following gentlemen were unanimously elected patrons: Sir Donald Smith, M.P.; Messrs. J. J. Curran, Q.C., M.P.; C. J. Coursol, M.P.; A. Desjardins, M.P., and Capt. C. C. Newton, 5th Royal Scots.

Officers for the current year: president, Capt. Hood, 5th R.S.; 1st vice-president, Capt. Edwards, 3rd V.R.C.; 2nd vice-president, Lieut. Abbott, 1st P.W.R.; secretary-treasurer, Staff-Sergt. Brocklesby, 3rd V.R.C.; assistant secretary-treasurer, Color-Sergt. McCrae, 1st P.W.R. Committee: Capt. Newton and Staff-Sergt. Wynn, 5th R.S., Major Jackson, Capt. Dunn and Lieut. Letourneaux, 65th Batt.; Corpl. Shaw, 3rd V.R.C.; Capt. Thomas, 54th Batt.

Mounted Police News.

Calgary.—On the 20th one of the buildings at the police post here was burnt down, the fire having started in the troop kitchen. Although the loss is placed at \$3,000, it is not so severe as appears at first sight, for the building was one of the old ones which it was intended to replace this coming summer. Plans have been prepared for commodious, permanent quarters for the force at this station.

Gleanings.

A paper entitled "Mobilization and Concentration of the Canadian Militia for Defense of the Frontier," printed im the current issue of the Journal of the Military Service Institute, has caused no little comment in both military and civilian circles. From a Canadian point of view, it estimates the number of men at the smallest possible ratio for defense of the line extending from Quebec to Detroit. He bases his calculations on a force of 150,000 men, divided as follows: 50,000, Montreal; 10,000, Quebec; 10,000, Kingston; 50,000, Toronto and in the western peninsula; the remaining 30,000 to be a more able column along the north bank of the St. Lawrence. The article also contains a map showing military distances, works and the disposition of the available force to the greatest advantage. The paper will be continued in the next military journal.

We cull the following from a U.S. Service paper:—A story is going the rounds of the camp which does us all good in this dismal weather. Colonel Royall, commanding the third brigade, ordered one of his battation commanders to "put that battalion in camp on the other side of the river, facing east." A well-known habit of the subordinate officer is a tendency to split hairs, discuss orders, and, in fine, to make trouble whenever there was a ghost of a chance of doing so. Presently the colonel saw that his instructions were not being carried out, and not being in a pleasant mood, put spurs to his horse, dashed through the stream, and reined up alongside the victim, with, "Didn't I order you, sir, to put your battalion in camp alongside the river, facing east?" "Yes, sir. But this isn't a river; it's only a creek." "Creek, sir. But this isn't a river; it's only a creek." "What do you mean, sir? It's a river—a river from this time forth, by order, sir." There was no further delay.—

The application of the newest type of velocipede or bicycle, as a means of locomotion to soldiers, especially those employed as messengers or orderlies, has been for some months upon trial at the Joinville school, and the result has been satisfactory beyond expectation. An inspection of a couple of dozen selected pupils, who have been under bicycle and tricycle tuition, was held last week by the French War Minister, and great proficiency was exhibited by the riders of this novel cavalry. Some of the evolutions were of an intricate nature, and excited much admiration on the part of the general and his staff.—Broad Arrow.

Our Trading Column.

The cost of announcements in this column for each insertion will be one cent per word for the first ten words one-half cent for each additional word. Each advertisement will have a register number in our books, and all communications regarding it must be forwarded through the GAZETTE, but it must be distinctly understood that this office incurs no other responsibility or liability in connection therewith. Address, with stamp for return postage, Canadian Militia Gazette, Box 316, Ottawa.

This column is established for the purpose of enabling our friends to exchange, purchase, sell, or otherwise advertize articles they desire either to acquire or dispose of. It is not available for commercial

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NOTICE.

SEALED TENDERS, addressed to the understagned, and endorsed "Tender for Indian Sup. J. Campbell. Moose Moun plies," will be received at this office up to noon of A. McDonald. Crooked Lak SATURDAY, 30th April, 1887, for the delivery of Indian Supplies during the fiscal year ending 30th June, 1888, consisting of Flour, Bacon, Groceries, J. Williams File Hills. June, 1888, consisting of Flour, Bacon, Groceries, J. B. Lash. Muscowpetun Ammunition, Twine, Oxen, Cows, Bulls, Agricul. H. Keith. Touchwood It tural Implements, Tools, etc., duty paid, at various points in Manitoba and the North-West Territories, J. A. MacKay Battleford. Forms of tender containing full particulars relative to the Supplies required, dates of delivery, etc., J. A. Michell. Victoria. may be had by applying to the undersigned, or to the Indian Commissioner at Regina, or to the

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.

Best tender must be accompanied by an accented.

W. Pocklington... Blood Reserve.

M. Begg Blackfoot Crossing.

C. de Balinhard. Sarcee Reserve. and that no attention will be paid to of any article which may accompanied by an accented.

right to reject the whole or any part of a tender. Eath tender must be accompanied by an accepted cheque on a Canadian bank in favor of the Superintendent General of Indian Affairs 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. cheque will be returned.

Tenderers must make up in the money columns in the Schedule the total money value of the goods they offer to supply, or their tender will not be

Each tender must, in addition to the signature of the tenderer, be signed by two sureties acceptable to the Department, for the proper performance Department of Indian Affairs of the contract.

When implements of a particular make are mentioned it is because the articles so designated suit the Department for the purpose required better than others; in such cases the competition between

claimed.

2. No tender for supplies of a description different to that given in the index will be considered, and supplies which are found, on delivery, to be of a kind or quality different to those described, will be rejected by the agents of the Department; and the contractor and his sureties will be held responsible for any loss entailed on the Department through failure to deliver in accordance with terms of contract.

3. It must be distinctly understood that supplies are to be delivered at the various points for the

It must be distinctly understood that supplies are to be delivered at the various points for the prices named in the tender; that voadditional charge for packing or any other account will be entertained, and that an invoice must accompany each separate delivery of supplies. An invoice for each separate delivery must also be sent to the Department of Indian Affairs at Ottawa, and one to the Indian Commissioner at Ottawa, and one to the Indian Commissioner at Regina, if the supplies are for the North-West Territories. When the supplies are for points in the Manitoba Superintendency the triplicate invoice should be sent to E. McColl, Winnipeg. Prices must be given for articles to be delivered at each point of delivery named in the Schedule for each article for which a tender is submitted and not an average price for each

submitted, and not an average price for each article at all points of delivery; no tender based on a system of averages will be considered.

Tenderers should understand that they must

bear the cost, not only of sending their samples to the Department of Indian Affairs but also freight charges incurred in returning such samples to the tenderer.

When supplies are to be delivered "equal to sample," tenderers should understand that the sample is to be seen either at the Department of Indian Affairs, at the office of the Indian Commissioner at Regina at the office of the Inspector in charge at Winnipeg, or at any one of the undermentioned Indian Agencies.

MANITOBA.

Agent. H. Martineau.....The Narrows, Lake Manitoba A. MacKay Beren's River.

NORTH-WEST TERRITORIES.

Agent. Agency. . Crooked Lakes Assiniboine Reserve.
File Hills. Muscowpetung's Reserve. Touchwood Hills.
Prince Albert.

and that no attention will be paid to a sample of any article which may accompany a tender, if a standard sample of such article is on view at the Department of Indian Affairs or any one of its Offices or Agencies aforesaid.

These Schedules must not be mutilated—they must be returned to the Department entire even if the supply of one article only is tendered for —and tenderers should in the covering letter accompany their tender, name the pages of the Schedule on which are the articles for which they have tendered.

The lowest or any tender not necessarily accept-

L. VANKOUGHNET,

Deputy of the Superintendent-General of Indian Affairs.

Ottawa, Feb., 1887.

Governor-General's Foot Guards.

Headquarters, Ottawa, 30th March, 1887

REGIMENTAL ORDERS. By Lieut.-Col. Macpherson, Commanding.

The regiment will parade in Drill Order on MONDAY evening, the 4th Arr'l, at 8 o'clock p.m. when the questions of (1) the proposed trip of the Regiment, and (2) the funding of the Drill pay will be submitted and discussed.

A full muster is particularly desired.

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DOMINION LANDS REGULATIONS.

Under the Dominion Lands Regulations all surveyed even-numbered sections, excepting 8 and 26, in Manitoba and the North-West Territories, which have not been homesteaded, reserved to provide wood lots for settlers, or otherwise disposed of or reserved, are to be held exclusively for homesteads and pre-emptions.

Upon payment of an office fee of ten dollars, surveyed agricultural land, of the class open to homestead entry, may be homesteaded in any one of the three following methods:—

1. The homesteader shall begin actual residence on his homestead and cultivation of a reasonable portion thereof within six months from date of entry, unless entry shall have been made on or after the 1st day of September, in which case residence need not commence untill the first day of June following, and continue to live upon and cultivate the land for at least six months out of every twelve months for three years from date of homestead entry.

2. The homesteader shall begin actual residence, as above, within a radius of two miles of his homestead, and continue to make his home within such radius for at least six months out of every twelve months for the three years next succeeding the date of homestead entry; and shall within the first year from date of entry, break and prepare for crop ten acres of his homestead quarter section, and shall within the second year crop the said ten acres, and break and prepare for crop fifteen acres additional; making twenty-five acres; and within the third year after the date of his homestead entry he shall crop the said twenty-five acres, and break and prepare for crop fifteen acres additional, so that within three years of the date of his homestead entry he shall have not less than twenty-five acres cropped, and shall have erected on the land a habitable house in which he shall have lived during the three months next preceding his application for homestead patent ing his application for homestead patent.

3. The homesteader shall begin the cultivation of his homestead within six months after the date of entry, or if the entry was obtained after the first day of September in any year, then before the first day of June following; shall within the first year break and prepare for crop not less than five acres of his homestead; shall within the second year crop the said five acres, and break and prepare for crop not less than ten acres in addition, making not less than fifteen acres in all; shall have erected a habitable house on his homestead before the expiration of the second year, and on or before the commencement of the third year shall have begun to reside in the said house, and shall have continued to reside therein and cultivate his homestead for not less than three years next prior to the date of his application for patent.

In the event of a homesteader desiring to secure his patent within a shorter period than the three or five years, as the case may be, he will be permitted to purchase his homestead, or homestead and preemption, as the case may be, on furnishing proof that he has resided on the homestead for at least twelve months subsequent to date of entry, and in case entry was made after the 25th day of May, 1883, has cultivated thirty acres thereof.

PRE-EMPTIONS.

Any homesteader may at the same time as he makes his homestead entry, obtain entry for an adjoining unoccupied quarter-section as a pre-emption, on payment of a fee of ten dollars.

The pre-emption right entitles the homesteader to purchase the land so pre-empted on becoming entitled to his homestead patent, but a failure to fulfil the homestead conditions forfeits the pre-emption right.

INFORMATION.

Full information respecting the land, timber, coal and mineral laws, and copies of the Regulations, may be obtained upon application to the Secretary of the Department of the Interior, Ottawa, Ontario; the Commissioner of Dominion Lands, Winnipeg, Manitoba; or to any of the Dominion Land Agents in Manitoba or the North-West Territories.

A. M. BURGESS,

Deputy of the Minister of the Interior

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A. CAMPBELL,

Postmaster-General.

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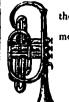
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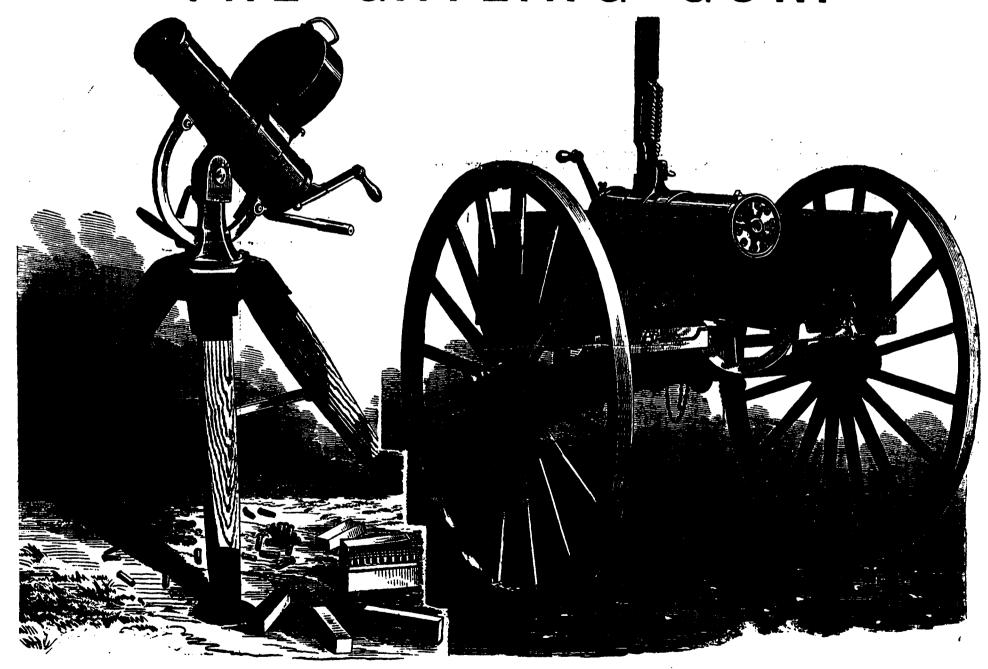
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