

# 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.

So the North-west field force are to receive medals, and that not by any Canadian decision, but by the authority of the Imperial Government. To those who argued that the small scale of the operations, and the fact that the insurgents were our fellow citizens, put the issue of medals out of the question, and we must confess to some sympathy with them, the Imperial action has been a surprise. It means that the Government consider that Canada has, with the self-contained resources, so admirably managed a serious outbreak that her success is worthy of a lasting memorial. By the troops concerned we are certain the medals will be highly valued, and this issue will incite the whole force to emulate their comrades if ever again called upon for action.

We are sure that the French-Canadian contingent will take a broader view of the question than some parties anxious to make mischief would have them do. The question is not whether they should be decorated for fighting against their compatriots, but whether they should be rewarded for maintaining law and order. The rights of the insurgents do not enter into the question in the least degree. Even if they were entitled to everything they claimed the moment they took up arms against the Government it became the duty of every good

citizen to do his share towards supporting the Government's authority. The French-Canadians saw this and did their duty in the field, and now they can use the same argument to accept the medals with quiet conscience.

If THE MILITIA GAZETTE were doing no other good it is of use in keeping Canada and Canadian military topics before the notice of the readers of English military periodicals. Seldom a week passes that we are not quoted by two or three of them, and the *Broad Arrow*, which compliments us upon being "admirably conducted," has established a weekly "Canadian Notes" column, principally based upon comments. The last *Volunteer Record* heartily endorses our praises of the Wimbledon team by adding to our comment, "Yes; the Canadians were worthy foemen at the Wimbledon meeting, and their shooting was highly creditable, and by way of comparison with what our own men accomplished it was highly satisfactory."

The article on Military Camps, in this issue, sets well before us much that can be said in favor of our volunteer system, and we should like to see a similar editorial in every rural newspaper in the Dominion. It will be the fault of the officers if the force does not permanently obtain a better standing in the community as a result of the insurrection. In England it is claimed that the volunteer movement is an important factor in improving the moral tone of the young men, while the habits of order and discipline inculcated by the drill are of great benefit to them in their business pursuits. Here we have not the length of crediting the militia system with any such direct benefits, but the lesson should not be lost upon us.

By to-night seven brigade camps will be fully organized in the Dominion, and some fifteen thousand of our young men will be gathered together for their annual training. Let every officer, considering this, try what he can personally do to make this training a lasting benefit to his command; not only physically, but morally. If the officers have no ambition beyond having a "lively time," it is not to be expected that their men will benefit greatly; but if they are determined to teach and learn and show an example of industry and steadiness, the men are bound to benefit by the training.

In last week's general orders will be noticed many changes in the higher ranks of the militia, including two battalions which have received new commanders. In the 19th Lieut.-Col. Thompson succeeds to the command. He is an energetic officer, was for a long time in command of No. 1 company, Niagara, and succeeded to a majority in 1881. In the 46th Lieut.-Col. Benson succeeded to the command made vacant by the death of the late lamented Col. Williams. He is a well-known officer and has been for a long time connected with his present corps. Several majors have retired, and in the other ranks may be found several instances of officers who have fallen victims to the limit of age rule.

We print elsewhere the papers lately set in the British tactical examinations for volunteer officers, for the sake of showing our Canadian brethren what they should know; for certainly if either force needs to be posted in tactics the want is greatest in Canada, where we have no trained regular officers to help us through in case of emergency. It is pretty safe to say that five per cent. of our officers could not pass these examinations, and the conclusion is forced upon us that we would all do well to go in for a little grinding up in the literature of the military art.

At last we have room to print the beginning of the official account of the fighting at Batoche, and it will not prove the less interesting for having been kept for a time.

The text of "The 90th on active service" has been received, and the burlesque will be noticed in a future issue.

### RIFLES AND RIFLE SHOOTING.—XVIII.

#### IV.—BY CAPTAIN HENRY F. PERLEY, HEADQUARTERS STAFF.

The following is a tabular statement of the "causes in deviation in firing," and some *one*, or a combination of *two* or more of them, must be the reason why a miss has been made:—

1.	From the construction of the arm.	<table border="0"> <tr> <td rowspan="2">Causes which can be corrected.</td> <td>Wrong position of sights.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Calibre not exact.</td> </tr> <tr> <td rowspan="2">Which cannot be corrected.</td> <td>Barrel imperfect.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Too hard on the trigger.</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Windage.</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Recoil.</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Vibration of the barrel.</td> </tr> </table>	Causes which can be corrected.	Wrong position of sights.	Calibre not exact.	Which cannot be corrected.	Barrel imperfect.	Too hard on the trigger.			Windage.			Recoil.			Vibration of the barrel.
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		Vibration of the barrel.															
2.	From the charge of powder.	<table border="0"> <tr> <td rowspan="4">Not exact measure.</td> <td>Form of grain, and variable in quality.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Deterioration from dampness.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Foulness and dirtiness.</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Not exact measure.	Form of grain, and variable in quality.	Deterioration from dampness.	Foulness and dirtiness.											
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3.	From the ball.	<table border="0"> <tr> <td rowspan="3">Not being of exact weight and calibre.</td> <td>More or less deformed before, or on leaving the barrel.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Not having centre of gravity in centre of mass.</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Not being of exact weight and calibre.	More or less deformed before, or on leaving the barrel.	Not having centre of gravity in centre of mass.												
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The Snider rifles, when first served out to the active force of Canada, were as perfect rifles as could be made. Taken fresh from the case a new rifle is a fine piece of workmanship, made of the best materials, and calculated to stand a great deal of bad usage; for all are acquainted with what rifles undergo during weekly drills, and the perils they have to pass through in piling arms, when some unfortunate pile not having been locked in the orthodox manner, tumbles over and upsets the neighbouring piles in rapid succession.

Private rifles, *i.e.*, those made by private makers and bearing the Government viewer's mark, and owned by individuals, are permitted to be used in all competitions; and as rifles, like everything else, wear out, it is this depreciation which originated the idea of using private rifles. Some years ago steel barrels came into use, but did not last long, as it was soon determined that better results were obtained from the soft iron barrel.

In selecting a rifle many prefer to have one possessing deep grooves, on the grounds that the bullet expanding by the explosion of the gunpowder becomes well seated, and is forced to follow the spirality, and thus to preserve its rotatory motion during flight better and more accurately than can be done by shallow grooves. Here experience has intervened and proved that deep grooves are not the best, that the bullet is liable to "strip," that is, not to take up the spirality, but to pass straight through the bore, leaving particles of lead along the edges of the lands; and also, that they clog up faster with fouling than shallow ones. General Jacob, an officer in the late East India Company's service, who spent much money and many years in experimenting with the rifle, gave as his opinion, "that the grooving should only be of a sufficient depth to ensure the rotation of the ball, and, other things remaining equal, shallow grooves give better practice than deep ones."

Of course there must be a degree of shallowness which is to be refused, but a rifle otherwise perfect should not be rejected because the grooves appear shallow. There is one thing most particular, and that is to see that the grooves at the muzzle are clear and well defined, for the direction of the ball in its flight is entirely dependent upon that

which it receives at the moment of quitting the barrel, and the rule therefore obtains never to clean your rifle with an iron rod, but to use a wooden one, or what is better than anything, the ready-made cleaner, consisting of a bullet and a piece of strong cord, wiping out from the breech up to the muzzle. Col. Wingate, in "Rifle Practice," says:—"A breech-loader should habitually be wiped out from the breech. If the breech mechanism renders this impracticable, the men should be cautioned to use special care not to mar the rifling at the muzzle in wiping, as this is the portion which, if injured, will have the greatest effect upon the accuracy of the rifle."

A diversity of opinion exists as to whether a rifle should be wiped out during a match, or whether it should be left alone until the completion of the shooting, or not wiped out at all. There are numbers who maintain that it is not necessary to wipe out at all, and that they shoot as well, if not better, with a dirty rifle, than with a clean one. It is the opinion of such that, before commencing to shoot, it is necessary to discharge a "fouling shot," whereby the barrel is, for the first shot on the score, in the same state as for the last. If this holds good for a dirty barrel, it will hold good for a clean one. General practice and experience are in favor of a clean barrel, for if a dirty one is better than a clean one, dirty barrels would probably be the order of the day, but such is not the case; and there is not the slightest doubt that, when shooting on a very bright hot day, when the fouling has a tendency to cake, the proper thing is to wipe out whenever an opportunity is afforded.

As previously stated the fouling is occasioned by the decomposition of the solid residuum left by the combustion of the gunpowder, of which the most obnoxious is the sulphide of potassium, a salt which readily absorbs moisture from the atmosphere. On a hot day the fouling does not attain the semi-fluid state usually observed in damp weather. With a foul barrel there is always a loss of power from the increased friction, and there is also inaccuracy both in direction and elevation if the fouling be so considerable as to fill the grooves, and prevent the projectile from receiving its proper rotatory motion.

There is not a doubt but the dirty state of many rifle barrels has led to the adoption of the "fad" of "blowing" either into the muzzle or into the breech after each shot, and the introduction of various styles of apparatus to convey the human breath into the interior of the barrel, the use of all of which appears to be very questionable.

During a warm day the hands become damp with perspiration, and the grasp of the rifle is in consequence not as firm as it should be, and becomes less as the barrel heats up. The use of an old leather glove on the left hand will counteract this, and by some it is held that a glove should always be used. Chequered stocks were brought into use to assist in maintaining the grasp, but the benefits arising from their use, are more fancied than real.

The sights in a rifle need not be described here. The foresight is fixed and immovable, and the elevation at the different ranges is attained by raising or lowering the bar on the leaf of the backsight. In practice very few rifles are to be found in which the graduations on the leaf give definite results, that is—the elevation of the bar for, say 500 yards, differs for all rifles, it may be to a very small amount, but still such a difference exists. These sights are all made to one pattern, and are brazed to the barrel, the only care being taken to see that they are accurately aligned with the foresight along the straight line described by the axis of the bore, and they cannot be expected to suit the exact elevations of the bar required by the individual user.

Many now use the bar reversed, properly inverted, and its use in this manner has been sanctioned by the British Government in the later issues of the Martini-Henry, and its advocates claim that when inverted it presents advantages over the V in making allowances for "wind." Thus, in shooting at 500 yards and using the V in a wind for which an allowance of 4 feet "off" has to be made, it becomes necessary to aim completely off at some convenient or imaginary object judged to be *one* foot distant from the edge of the target to ensure the chance of hitting the "bull," and it sometimes becomes a difficult matter to estimate this foot. Again, whilst aiming off, a portion of the bar beyond the V obscures the sight of the bull's eye, and the shooter in such case is left to chance in making a hit. With the "bar" this does not happen, and as the flat top can be made to act as a wind gauge by shifting the eye along the edge, sufficient allowance can be made for wind, and the aim still kept on or near the bull. The width between the sides of the flap of a Snider rifle is nearly two-tenths of an inch, or one-tenth on each side of the centre line. Now if the eye be carried along the bar nearly to the side of the flap and aim be from that point over the foresight at a point on the target under or near the bull, then there will have been an allowance made for 4 feet of wind. Again, supposing seven feet of wind has to be allowed for, then by using the sight as above described, and aiming at the edge of the target, the pro-

per allowance will have been attained. Very often too little allowance is made for wind, for the reason that a feeling exists against aiming away from the bull; and it is sometimes impossible to convince some persons that to hit it they must aim at another point. A writer in alluding to this habit, if it may be called such, says:—"There is unquestionably a strong natural tendency to project a missile on all occasions straight at the mark. Inexperienced shots, and indeed many who are accustomed to the use of fire arms, are very apt at the moment of firing to cheat themselves with the idea that a direct shot must strike correctly, although common sense shows the occasional fallacy of the supposition; to such the act is involuntary. A knowledge then of the amount of allowance to be made and faith in the results are qualifications on which success materially depends and experience alone can master."

Many men still adhere to the V and "cant" for wind. None but experienced shots can engage in using it thus, nor can its practice be commended, as the use of the "bar" is judged to be the safest in all weathers.

With the bar it is now customary to mark on it a white line, the position of which has been judged by the shooter, will give the proper allowance to be made for the wind blowing, say just before engaging in a match. This side line proves to be rather an embarrassing guide when the wind happens to be "fish tail," or unsteady, and new allowances have to be made for every shot fired, as the eye is apt to wander back to the line as a fixed and tangible point. It is suggested that only a white *centre* line should be drawn on the bar as a guide, and that the shooter should accustom himself to judge at the time of firing the proper allowance to be made on the bar, and be thus able to change at every shot if required to do so. Some practice is necessary to obtain proficiency in this, but once obtained the shooter is freed for all time from the worry and bother of arranging a wind line on his bar.

*To be Continued.*

### MILITARY CAMPS.

From the *Victoria Warder*.

During this month brigade camps will be held at various places in Canada, that for our district, the 3rd, being located near Kingston. The question has time and again presented itself to politicians and statesmen, what is the use of this annual drill; of these camps; and of volunteers at all? To those familiar with them the answer is obvious. For several years our brave volunteers have had to contend with obstacles, both social and political. At home they were looked on as duds and bummers, and, being treated as such tended to drive some of them to be the same. \* \* \* Last spring, however, the facility with which our gallant fellows fell into line and did the work assigned them as well as and even better than the best regulars could have performed it, showed clearly that for the defence of a country the yeomanry are the men to call on. Regular troops are all right for police purposes in time of peace, and for training schools; but beyond that they are an injury to a nation.

The late American civil war showed to the world that boys from farms and offices can become as good soldiers as the best; fight their country's battles and again return to their ordinary avocations. Volunteer discipline prevailed among the 90th and the "A" and "C" companies, Midlanders, in the late campaign, and no better work was done than these corps performed.

In Victoria and Durham counties, and the same will hold true of others, many of the most prominent citizens have been connected with the force at one time or other. There are many men in this district now who have witnessed the stormy times of 1837-8, the Trent affair, the Fenian raid of '66, the Fenian raid of '70, the Riel rebellion of 1869-70 and Riel rebellion of '85. A few still survive who fought at Queenston Heights and Lundy's Lane. In each of the above instances the Canadian volunteers did the work. In the Fenian raid of 1866, the Red River expedition, the Fenian raid of 1870, and the last campaign, in all of these the benefit of a volunteer force was felt. Nay more, last April, when troops were being despatched to the North-west there were grave fears of another Fenian invasion. One was undoubtedly planned; but the spies in Ontario saw that the volunteers sent to the North-west were only a mere cipher compared with what could be turned out on 24 hours' notice; and they reported that an invasion of Canada was impossible.

We hope occasions for the service of our brave volunteers may never arise again; but all know that "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure." Therefore we recommend every young farmer over 18 years of age, not already a volunteer, to try to become one. There

is no danger of a gentlemanly fellow being led astray in camp. Those who go wrong there were rotten at the core before becoming volunteers. Officers, too, should put a premium on enlisting, viz., they should make it a compliment to a person to enter a volunteer company. The standard of admission to every company should be manly honesty, decency, pluck, intelligence, self-control and respect.

The 46th East Durham battalion is ordered to camp at Kingston on Tuesday next, 15th inst. Let the young men of Manvers and Cavan turn out and fill every uniform. They have instances in their own county where men, once privates, have volunteered for a lifetime, and have remained honored and respected. The late colonel was one, Captain Preston, of Lifford, is another. He fought when a young man at Windmill Point, Prescott, and has been a volunteer ever since. Col. Cubitt, of the 45th, was also out in '37 and '38, as well as in '62, '66 and '70.

Further, a volunteer system is by all odds the cheapest and best a country can have. Let the prominent young men of the country take that view of it and each do his best by offering himself a volunteer. Another opportunity of testing the force may not be far distant.

### THE TACTICAL EXAMINATION.

The following are the papers on Tactics set at the Examination held lately in England for the volunteer force of that country: For the first paper, headed "Lieutenants," officers of all ranks of the Auxiliary Forces were allowed to enter, and those who pass will have the letters t or T affixed to their names in the *Army List*, according as they have gained 50 or 75 per cent. of full marks. The second paper, headed "Captains," was only to be entered for by Captains and Field Officers of the Auxiliary Forces. Those who satisfy the Examiners will be distinguished by the letter T in a circle, thus (T). The papers we should mention, are those in tactics, set in the course of the examinations for promotion for Lieutenants and Captains respectively of the Regular Army.

#### LIEUTENANTS.

1. What is the object of outposts? How is this object attained in the case of a force on the march?
2. What considerations regulate—
  - (a) The strength of a picquet?
  - (b) The distance between any two picquets?
3. You are in sight of a column of the enemy, consisting of all arms. What points would you note?
4. You are in command of—
  - (a) A half-troop of Cavalry,
  - (b) A half-company of Infantry,
 with orders to patrol to the front. Show the formation in which you would march either of these forces.
5. What should be the character of the action of the advanced guard of a pursuing force—and why?
6. How is it that a rear guard, which is far weaker than the main force, has power to delay the advance of a victorious enemy? Upon what does this power depend?

N.B.—*The following six questions are alternative, and of them only three are to be answered:*

7. You are in command of a battery which is ordered to open fire on a village, the latter being surrounded by shelter-trenches on a radius of about 200 yards. State the shortest range at which you would come into action, what projectiles you would use, and at what targets?
  8. An Infantry battalion consists of eight companies of 100 men each. What number of men must be *hors-de-combat* when it is found that the original front of attack of the battalion exactly contains the remainder in single rank?
  9. What points are essential, and what desirable, to ensure success in a charge of Cavalry against Infantry?
  10. A Cavalry brigade (war strength) marches from A to B, a distance of 19 miles, at the rate of 4.5 miles per hour. The road is 20 feet in width. It starts at 6 a.m. At what hour will it arrive at B?
  11. Enumerate the principal characteristics which tend to make a position strong for defence.
  12. If you belong to the Infantry or Artillery, describe the several stages of action of your arm in the attack of a position.
- If you belong to the Cavalry, state what, in your opinion, will be the probable action of Cavalry in future battles.
- In each case modern European war is to be taken as the type.

## CAPTAINS.

1. What are the different kinds of projectiles used by Field Artillery?

At what ranges, and how, can each description be employed most effectively?

2. A force encamped at two villages (A and B), is ordered to move so as to arrive at a village C (seven miles from A, and five from B), by noon.

At A are one regiment of Cavalry (480 strong, in four squadrons), one battery of Field Artillery, and two battalions of Infantry (each 1,000 strong, in eight companies). This detachment is to be formed in column of route, just beyond C, in the above order.

At B are one battery of Field Artillery, and one brigade of Infantry (each battalion 1,000 strong, in eight companies), which are to be formed at C in column of route, immediately in rear of the force from A.

The whole are to march at the rate of three miles an hour. At what hours should the two fractions of the force start respectively from A and B?

3. State (a) generally the principles of Infantry attacks in modern warfare, and (b) the principal points of importance to be observed in attacking a position with a force of the three arms.

4. When a force is standing on the defensive, would you consider it advantageous or not to have villages or woods on any parts of the position occupied? Give your reasons fully.

5. In the event of the attack on a part of the front of an enemy's position being successful or unsuccessful, what, in either case, would be the probable course of action on both sides?

6. An army is ordered to march into a country occupied by an enemy. What considerations would determine—

- (1) the number of columns,
- (2) the composition of each column, and
- (3) the order of march?

N.B.—The following six questions are alternative, of which only one half (3) are to be answered:—

7. (a.) When an advanced guard approaches and passes through a town, village, wood, or defile, how should its commander act?

(b.) In what manner are the flanks of an advanced guard protected.

8. How does a rear guard effect its retreat from a position which has become untenable?

9. What action should be taken by the several fractions of an outpost line when attacked by day or night?

10. A small reconnoitring party is detached to examine and report on a country. What are the chief features (*in detail*) that should be included in the report?

11. (a.) In the disposition of Infantry in battle, either on the offensive or defensive, with what objects is the *second line* formed?

(b.) When there is no reserve what additional duties devolve upon the *second line*?

12. In what positions would Cavalry be required to act dismounted, and what general rules should be followed in carrying out this service?

## THE D. R. A. MATCHES.

In our report of the proceedings at the business meeting of the competitors held on the 1st inst., the end of the discussion was inadvertently omitted, and we now publish it as matters of some importance were included. In continuing the debate on the conditions of the military matches,

Major Blaiklock asked how the volley firing in the Middleton match was to be conducted, which was explained satisfactorily by Major Macpherson.

Capt. Macdonald, Q. O. R., seconded by Capt. Ibbotson, 5th R. S., then formulated his views on the military matches as a motion, to the effect that in the opinion of the meeting the military matches should be fired in drill order dress, which was carried unanimously.

Mr. Sims, Vics, wished to know whether in the military matches the competitors would be allowed to adjust their sights while moving.

Capt. Adams, 13th, suggested that it would be impossible to know the distances until the competitors were halted. After a desultory discussion the President announced, with the authority of the Range Committee, that adjustment of sights would be allowed, but that moving with loaded rifles or loading on the march would be strictly prohibited. Also that the appearance of the targets would be the signal for halting and firing without further word of command.

Capt. Hood drew attention to the fact that there was no rule for deciding ties in the skirmishing, and advocated giving the preference to the greatest number of hits. Major Blaiklock agreed with Capt. Hood, stating that the point had arisen at the P. Q. R. A. meeting, when the ties were decided as in ordinary team matches, a method that was manifestly inapplicable and unfair.

Mr. Gray, G. G. F. G., stated that his motion, passed last year, was to include the standing match in the aggregate, which had not been done.

Lieut.-Col. O'Malley said 12,000 Martinis were in the country, and thought they might be distributed to rural corps and associations. Lieut.-Col. White suggested that the council might act in the matter, as their application would carry more weight than those of individual commanding officers. Lieut.-Col. Gibson thought Martini shooting should be brought into the grand aggregate.

Major Anderson, 43rd, moved, seconded by Lieut.-Col. White, that the rule preventing men from going to Wimbledon more than twice in five years should be abolished. The mover stated that the rule had never worked well, and had been condemned by one team commander after another; that the Dominion could not afford to be represented by inferior shots, while there would always be sufficient new men on the team to offer encouragement to the young shots.

It was moved in amendment by Mr. Sims, Vics, seconded by Pte. Rose, on the suggestion of General Laurie, that the first ten men in the aggregate should be taken unconditionally, and that the present rule should apply to the next ten.

Capt. Hartt, St. John Rifles, contended that no compromise should be conceded; that either those shooting best should represent the Dominion abroad, or else that the team should be recognized as a nursery for shots who could not win in an even competition.

The amendment was then put and lost, and the main motion carried on a division of 31 to 8.

Capt. J. T. Hartt wished the council to take some action to secure uniformity in the Kolapore badges, as he noticed that last year's team had inaugurated a brand-new device. Col. White said he was quite innocent in the matter, he had ordered them in England, and had got those complained of. Col. Gibson said the badge was the same as that received by him as captain of the winning team. It was decided to replace the badges by the ordinary ones.

The meeting adjourned at 7 p. m.

A special meeting of the competitors was held on Wednesday evening. Lieut.-Col. Gibson, 13th, on being called to the chair, explained that the object of the meeting was to consider the advisability of congratulating the Minister of Militia on the honour recently conferred upon him. "Sir Adolphe Caron," said the speaker, "has always had the interests of the association at heart, and has never allowed its efficiency to be interfered with, and as militiamen we cannot but feel that we share to some extent in the honour conferred upon him." (Applause.)

On motion of Col. Wyndham, seconded by Col. Gardner, a committee consisting of General Laurie, Colonels Gibson, Kirkpatrick, Scott, Wyndham, Macdonald and Gardner, and Captains J. T. Hartt and MacDougall, P.E.I., was appointed to draft a suitable address and to arrange for its presentation.

The address prepared in accordance with the foregoing was presented to Sir Adolphe on Friday, at the distribution of prizes, by Lieut.-Col. Kirkpatrick, and was as follows:—

The members of the Dominion Rifle Association have learned with much gratification that Her Majesty has conferred upon you the dignity of a Knight Commander of the Most Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George, and avail themselves of the opportunity of this meeting, at which competitors are gathered from all parts of the Dominion, to address you.

The constant interest you have manifested in our Association—an interest which we fully recognize and appreciate—renders it peculiarly fitting that its members should be amongst the first to offer you their congratulations. It has been a matter of pride to us that when the troops turned out so promptly to quell the insurrection and restore law and order in the North-west, there was to be found in the ranks so large a representation of our principal prize-winners, whose experience and skill in the use of the rifle must have enabled them to render valuable service in the field. We fully believe that this association is doing a great and useful work, and that the exertions of its promoters have already been rewarded in the increased efficiency of our volunteers and the stimulating influence constantly imparted to them to acquire greater skill in the use of their arms.

We know that as a Minister of the Crown you have practically acknowledged this to be our object, and in consequence have accorded to us a hearty support; and while expressing our satisfaction that your confidence has been justified by results, we desire to testify to you our pleasure that the good service of the Militia and the activity displayed by your Department should have been recognized by the important mark of distinction you have received as the official and responsible head.

We trust that you and Lady Caron will be spared for many years to enjoy the high honour which has been conferred upon you by our beloved Sovereign.

The Minister of Militia replied in an eloquent speech, in the course of which he said that from the day he was appointed to the Department, he had felt it indispensable to the interests of Canada to promote rifle practice, a view which experience had amply testified, as the late campaign had proved what great services a practised rifleman could render, and many of the association's members were among the first to shoulder the rifle in defence of law, order, the constitution and the Queen. He especially cherished this unexpected congratulation because it was a spontaneous act of representatives from every part of the Dominion.

The following tables, prepared by Lieut.-Col. Bacon, shows the distribution of the competitors at the late D.R.A. meeting, arranged by military districts and corps, also the entries compared with those of last year:—

Table with columns for Dist. No., 1884, and 1885. Lists various military districts and their respective participants for both years.

Table comparing entries for 1885 and 1884 across various categories like Nursery, Manufacturers, Rideau, etc. Total entries for 1885 are 4,491 and for 1884 are 3,818.

NOVA SCOTIA PROVINCIAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION PRIZE MEETING.

The annual prize meeting of this association was held on the Bedford ranges on the 18th August and following days. We regret that we did not receive returns of the matches in time to insert them punctually, and that the details of the Dominion matches monopolized our space last week. We now, however, give the chief prize winners in each match, so that the shooting can be compared with that in other provinces. Canadian ammunition was used on the first two days, and did not prove satisfactory. It was replaced by that of English make on Thursday.

Table for Tuesday, 18th August. Lists Nursery Prizes (5 rounds at 200 yards) with winners like Lieut. Robson, H.G.A. and Sgt. Elliott, 63rd.

2. PROVINCIAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION GOLD MEDAL.—Open to Nova Scotia militia, retired officers and discharged men. 7 rounds at 200 and 500 yards.

Table listing medal winners for the Provincial Rifle Association Gold Medal, including Pte. King, 75th and Capt. Barnhill, 78th.

3. GENERAL WILLIAMS' COMPETITION—7 SHOTS AT 400 AND 600 YARDS. Watch, Capt. Crane, 63rd. Sgt. Gibson, 66th.

Wednesday, 19th August. Threatening weather; poor light. Rain stopped the shooting at five o'clock in the fifth competition.

Table for THE MERCHANTS' CUP—QUEEN'S FIRST STAGE RANGES. Cup and Sgt. Inst. Power, 63rd.

Thursday, 20th August. Fine and clear; good shooting weather, Lieut. Maxwell making the possible at 200 in the battalion match.

Table for THE BANKERS' CUP—QUEEN'S FIRST STAGE RANGES. Cup and Capt. Corbin, 63rd.

6. BATTALION MATCH.—Open to teams of ten from regulars and militia. 7 rounds at 200 and 500. Sniders or Martinis; the latter handicapped 15 per cent. at 500 yards.

Table for MAJOR-GENERAL LAURIE'S CHALLENGE CUP AND \$30—78th Battalion. Lieut. Dimock, 61; Lieut. Fitch, 59; Sgt. Blackburn, 58; Pte. Dover, 56; Pte. Blair, 55; Capt. Barnhill, 54; Pte. Grant, 54; Corp. Lawrence, 53; Pte. Holdsworth, 52; Sgt. Smith, 46; 548. \$20, 63rd Batt. Rifles, 540; \$10, 66th Batt. P.L.F., 540.

INDIVIDUAL PRIZES, MADE UP OF THE ENTRANCE FEES. \$8 Capt. Crane, 63rd. \$4 Lieut. Fitch, 78th.

Friday, 21st August. Fine and good shooting weather. 7. LADIES' PRIZE—7 shots at 500 yards by nominees of lady subscribers to the fund; no competitor to represent more than two ladies.

Table for Ladies' Prize winners including Lt. Blair, 78th, nom. by Miss Blair and Pt. Dover, 78th, nom. by Miss Dover.

8. GENERAL LAURIE'S CHALLENGE SILVER BUGLE.—5 rounds at 200, 400 and 600 yards; military position, no sighting shots.

Table for Bugle and \$15, No. 3 Battery, H.G.A. \$12 No. 1 Company 63rd. Corp. Case, 57.

INDIVIDUAL PRIZES MADE UP OF THE ENTRANCE FEES. \$5 Sgt. Stenhouse, 63rd. \$2 Gunner Campbell, H.G.A.

10. MARTINI MATCH—7 ROUNDS AT 500 AND 600 YARDS. \$15 Capt. Harris, H.G.A. \$8 Sgt. Keddy, 68th.

11. CONSOLATION PRIZES—5 ROUNDS AT 400 YARDS. \$10 Gunner Hamilton, P.B.G.A. \$7 Corp. Myea, 66th.

AGGREGATE PRIZES—21 SHOTS EACH AT 200, 500 AND 600 AND 7 AT 400 YARDS, H.P.S. 350. First prize, aggregate badge and N.R.A. Second prize, D.R.A. silver medal.

SPECIAL AGGREGATE FOR 21 SHOTS EACH 500 AND 600 YARDS, H.P.S. 210. Governor-General's silver medal. Governor-General's bronze medal.

Saturday, 22nd August. The long range match begun the previous day, when Lieut. Maxwell made 34 out of 35 at 800 yards, was concluded this morning in a pouring rain.

Table for ANY RIFLE—7 SHOTS AT 800, 900 AND 1,000 YARDS. \$15 Capt. Corbin, 63rd. \$6 Major Graham, Rtd.

CORRESPONDENCE.

COL. GRASSETT AN OFFICER IN THE HUNDRETH. To the Editor of the Canadian Militia Gazette: Sir,—In your editorial note on a letter signed "The Last Gap" in your issue of 8th inst., you seem to have overlooked an officer who served for many years in the 100th regiment; I allude to Lieut.-Colonel Grasset, Royal Grenadiers, Toronto. This officer was Adjutant of the 100th Royal Canadian Regiment for more than five years.

BATOCHÉ.

## PERSONAL.

The death is announced in England of Col. Wm. Yolland, C.B., &c., at the age of 75 years. This officer, when a lieutenant in the R.E., was in Canada between 1830 and 1835, engaged in engineering work in connection with the first Canadian railway, between Montreal and St. John's. At his death he held the office of Chief Inspector of Railways under the Board of Trade.

The *Canadian Missionary* contains a thrilling account by the Bishop of Algoma of the Rev. Charles Gilmour's feat of crossing the channel between the Great Manitoulin and the north shore last winter, in a blinding snow storm, in the pursuit of his calling. This devoted missionary acted as chaplain to the York-Simcoe battalion in the Northwest, and his untiring labors will be long remembered by the men.

The following items are from the *Victoria Warder*: Major Hunter, of Cameron, goes next week to camp, Kingston, with his battalion the 47th Frontenac. That is a crack corps, being under command of Col. Kirkpatrick, assisted by Major Hunter and Major Smith, late in command of the Midlanders.—It gives us much pleasure to state that Mr. Alex. Skinner is now a full fledged barrister and solicitor. He was granted his examinations by the law society in virtue of his having been on service with "C" Co., Midlanders.—Many hearts in Lindsay are made glad by the return to town of the genial young Midlander, Mr. W. A. Wilson. During Mr. Dean's absence from the Dominion Bank, Mr. Wilson will be manager. We hope yet to see him a general manager.

Major J. Hughes, the leader of "C" company, Midlanders, in the charge on Batoche, comes of a fighting stock. His paternal grandfather was a surgeon in the regular service, finally retiring on full pay, after having been on duty in India. His maternal grandfather, too, was Lieut. Laughlin, R.A. He and the late Col. Goodwin, of Toronto, were officers in the same battery and fought together all through the Peninsular war as lieutenants. At Quatre Bras Lieut. Laughlin was slightly wounded, and in the succeeding engagement at Waterloo was badly hit. While convalescing at Valenciennes he became intimate with a young French officer whose father, Col. St. Pierre, led a cuirassier corps on the French side. That officer and three sons fell at Waterloo, three being killed and one, the youngest, wounded. Lieut. Laughlin married the sister of his French comrade—the young lady having come from Orleans to attend her brother in his illness. Mr. John Hughes, of Cartwright, the father of Major Hughes, is known as one of the most prominent and best educated men of his township.—*Victoria Warder*.

## GLEANINGS.

Lieut.-Col. O'Malley, commanding the 25th "Elgin" battalion has applied to be allowed to designate his command "The King's Own Borderers."

Speculators in volunteer scrip are plentiful, all of them acting from motives of the purest philanthropy, but only offering half the real value of the scrip notwithstanding their unworldliness.

The experiments which have been recently made in the United States with the so-called dynamite shells have effectually demonstrated the power of these new destructive agents; but it is doubtful whether they will become chosen weapons of warfare. The shells are filled with nitro-gelatine, which contains about 95 per cent. of pure nitro-glycerine, and they are dangerous missiles to store especially on board ship. The shells are projected in the usual way from howitzers or mortars, with special precautions against their premature explosion in the gun itself; but even those who have acquired the contempt bred of familiarity acknowledge that these "dynamite shells" are likely to be as dangerous to friends as to the enemy. The new missiles may, however, be used as regulation munitions at fortresses, and be fired against an attacking fleet.

A passage in Colonel Howard Vincent's recent article on the Volunteers, which appears to have escaped quotation by his reviewers, to our thinking ought to be reproduced in every journal throughout the length and breadth of the land. To say the facts are new would be absurd; on the contrary, as Colonel Vincent says, they are now "freely admitted." But the force and weight of the admissions require to be more fully recognized by those who rule the Services and by the public at large. Were such the case, we should perhaps, have less of that sort of half-heartedness which sees in every fresh development of the Auxiliary Forces a risk or a need of curtailed efficiency in the regular Services. "It will be freely admitted," says Colonel Vincent, "that the Volunteer movement is far from being the least powerful of the factors in that moral development of the country in recent times, which is evidenced by the extraordinary decrease in crime within the quarter of a century during which it has existed. Its influence on individual industry is shown, better than by words, in the fact that such firms as Broadwood's, Shoolbred's, Trollope's, Lambert's, and many others, not only go to great expense in promoting volunteering among their employes, but almost require all in their service to pass through the prescribed course of three years. They are, no doubt, largely actuated by patriotic motives, but as practical men of business they do not lose sight of the advantages a youth derives from training—in habits of order and discipline, from change of work and scene, and from

having before his eyes a worthy ambition exalting his whole nature. The feeling is shared by every father in the country who likes to know that his son is engaged in healthy exercise with fitting companions, instead of in an often vain struggle with the temptations of a great city, blighting the present and ruining the future." These are admitted facts, and facts, let us add, that supply arguments, at least as cogent, in favour of naval Volunteer training for those whose pursuits admit of it, as for Volunteering on shore.—*Broad Arrow*.

## THE TARGET.

I was driving into Essex Centre one day last week, when my attention was arrested by the familiar "ping" of the Snider at an unexpectedly great distance from all rifle shooting centres. I naturally proceeded to investigate, and was delighted to find an enthusiastic club practising on a magnificent range situated about half a mile south-east of the town. The ground is clear and perfectly level; the canvas targets face north, and are backed by a dense hardwood bush. The club consists of a number of gentlemen in business in the town, who have most of them imported Turner rifles and gone to work with a determination to become shots. They were probably instigated to this by Mr. W. R. Elliot, who is captain of the club, and who had some previous experience with the 7th Fusiliers. Other prominent members are Messrs. E. Dunstan, secretary; A. J. Green, treasurer; John Thorn, E. C. Lewis, George Taylor and A. Stone.

During my visit some good shooting was made, and I hope we shall see a strong representation from this flourishing club at the next D. R. A. meeting, including members of the recently organized Essex battalion, which has the headquarters of one of the companies at this point. Meanwhile Mr. Elliot is arranging a series of friendly team competitions with neighboring clubs, including those of Ridgetown and Chatham, details of which we hope to publish in due course.—*EDITOR*.

OTTAWA.—The Rifle Club held their sixth Snider spoon competition on Saturday afternoon last. With a dull light and a steady 4 o'clock wind there seemed little difficulty in making good shooting, and high scores were the rule.

Mr. J. A. Armstrong, dessert-spoon.....	29 31 29 89	Lieut. J. C. Chamberlin.....	30 22 23 75
Mr. A. F. Cotton, teaspoon....	31 29 27 87	Mr. R. Reardon.....	29 24 22 75
Major Anderson.....	29 28 29 86	Mr. T. McJanot.....	27 23 23 73
Dr. Hutchison.....	28 29 27 84	Mr. J. C. Hutchison.....	28 23 21 73
Lieut. H. H. Gray.....	25 31 26 82	Capt. Waldo.....	27 24 21 72
Mr. E. D. Sutherland.....	31 25 26 82	Mr. W. H. Whiteley.....	29 30 12 71
Mr. N. Morrison.....	28 29 25 82	Mr. W. A. Jamieson.....	29 25 13 67
Mr. W. Short.....	27 29 25 81	Capt. Wright.....	25 21 21 66
Capt. Porley.....	31 28 21 80	Mr. W. Tabor.....	23 12 7 42
Mr. O'Loary.....	25 23 27 75	Lieut. C. M. Wright.....	retired.

LINDSAY, ONT.—At the second annual meeting of the Victoria County R. A. held last week, Col. Deacon was re-elected president, Lieut. J. A. Bucknell secretary, and Adj. S. Hughes treasurer. It was decided to hold the annual prize meeting on the 29th September, and several committees to arrange their various details were struck. The association has begun using canvas targets.

The regular weekly practice of the Victoria R. A. was held last Friday afternoon; five shots at 200 and 500 yards. The members were divided into two teams of six men each, Capt. Grace's team, with a total of 140, beating Capt. Wallace's, with 123. The best scores made were:

Sergt. Williamson.....	20 16 36	Capt. Wallace.....	18 9 27
S. A. McMurty.....	14 15 29	J. McSweyn.....	15 12 27

The Rifle Association has been presented by Capt. Wallace with a beautiful range bugle for use in signalling at the butts. Material, the best tin.

The association are to hold their annual matches on the 29th inst.

PRINCE ALBERT, SASK.—The east end of the town has a flourishing rifle club, of which Chas. Woodman is secretary, and which charges an entrance fee of \$3, payable before the men can shoot. Regular practices are held. The town has also a rifle association, of which S. Brewster is secretary-treasurer, and which proposed holding its first annual prize meeting on the 1st inst. We look forward with interest to receiving particulars of the matches.

## EXTRACT FROM MILITIA GENERAL ORDERS OF 5th JULY, 1885.

## GENERAL MIDDLETON'S OFFICIAL DESPATCH CONCERNING THE BATOCHIE ENGAGEMENT.

NORTH-WEST FIELD FORCE, BATOCHIE, May 31, 1885.

SIR,—I have the honor to give you the particulars of the fighting on the 9th, 10th, 11th and the action on the 12th at Batoche, for the information of His Excellency, Lord Lansdowne, Governor-General of the Dominion of Canada, and yourself. As you are aware I left my camp at Fish Creek, on the morning of the 7th, having brought my left column across the river, to join my right column, and having been joined by Lieut.-Col. Williams, commanding the Midland regiment, with two companies of that corps, and a Gatling gun with Captain Howard, late U. S. Army. My force was then composed of:—

"A" Battery, 2 guns, 86 officers and men.	
Winnipeg $\frac{1}{2}$ Battery, 2 guns, 40 officers and men.	
One Gatling gun.	
10th Royal Grenadiers,	210
90th Regiment,	254
Detachment Midland Regiment,	81
Boulton's Mounted Infantry	65
French's Scouts,	28

Total..... 724

The infantry I formed into a brigade and placed it under Lieut.-Col. Stranbenze, who had joined me at the same time as Lieut.-Col. Williams and the two companies of the Midland Battalion. I had also caused my A. Q. M. G. Captain Haig, R.E., to put the the steamer "Northcote" (which had come down

with stores to my camp) in a state of defence, by means of lumber, bags of oats, etc., and having placed  $\frac{1}{2}$  "C" company Infantry School on board her under command of Major Smith, I directed her to drop down the river and anchor for the night at Gabriel's Ferry, communicate with me there and to drop down next day, so as to be abreast of Batoche about 9 o'clock A.M., by which time I calculated I should be ready to commence my attack, and they were then to create what diversion they could in our favor, if possible to break the wire of the Batoche Ferry, and if they found they could not steam back, they were to continue on to the Hudson's Bay Crossing, south of Prince Albert. What was actually done by the steamer, you will find described in the report of Major Smith, "C" company Infantry School, forwarded herewith. I may add that besides the  $\frac{1}{2}$  of "C" company, Captain Wise, my A.D.C. whose wound would not allow of his accompanying the force, Lieut. H. J. MacDouald of the 90th who was ill, and Lieuts. Gibson and Elliott of the 10th Royal Grenadiers suffering from rheumatism, with Dr. Moore and Mr. Pringie of the Medical Staff, Mr. Bedson, my chief transport officer, his clerk Vinen, and four scowmen were also on board, some of whom, as will be seen by Major Smith's report performed valuable service.

On the morning of the 8th, having heard that the trail along the river to Batoche, was not good, and had some dangerous places on it, I marched out to the eastward and then to the northwest, and struck the regular trail from Humboldt to Batoche about 9 miles from Batoche, and camped there for the night. As soon as I had selected the spot for the camp, I pushed on with some of Boulton's Mounted Infantry to within 4 miles of Batoche, without meeting any resistance, merely seeing two of the enemy's scouts, which fled on our approach, and I then selected a good spot to camp in the next day, in case I found it necessary to fall back from Batoche. On the morning of the 9th I left my camp standing, and advanced on Batoche. We arrived without hindrance to a spot within about  $\frac{1}{2}$  a mile of the new Catholic Church, just where the trail strikes the river bank, before turning down to Batoche. There were 3 houses between us and the church where a number of men were seen, who fled on two or three shells, and some rounds from the Gatling being fired at them, and we advanced slowly towards the church. From a house just the other side of the church a white flag was being displayed, and I rode up to it, and found three or four Catholic priests in it with some sisters, and a number of women and children apparently half-breeds. Having reassured them I advanced cautiously, extending my infantry and pushing back the enemy until we reached the crest of hill, which enabled me to bring the guns down, and shell the houses of Batoche, which were visible from a spot just below the crest. As the houses were of a light construction, and not very large, not much damage was done, and just then as some shots came from across the river from a bluff along the bank and as the spot the guns were in was completely exposed to this fire, I directed the guns to retire, and as they were doing so suddenly a very heavy fire was opened from what we afterwards found were some rifle pits in a bluff just below where the guns had been but which was stopped by a rattling fire from the Gatling which was splendidly handled by Capt. Howard, ably supported by Lieut. Rivers "A" Battery. After some time, finding that the fire of the opposite side was again commencing and also from the rifle pits and that a horse had been killed and a man hit belonging to the Gatling, I directed Capt. Howard to bring his Gatling back which he did without farther loss, and the wounded man was brought in at great risks by my A.D.C. Capt. Freer "B" company Infantry School and Gunner Coyne of "A" Battery. I then went off to the right of my extended line behind the church, and found the men holding their ground but exposed to a fire from a bluff with a newly made grave in front of it railed in with wood. I then ordered the Gatling round to try and silence their fire, which it did at first, owing probably to the novelty of this weapon, as regards the enemy, but shortly afterwards the enemy's fire was renewed, and we afterwards found that they were firing from carefully constructed rifle pits, which completely covered them from any fire. During this time Capt. Peters, "A" Battery, had endeavored to drive the enemy out of the pits from whence had come the fire which caused me to retire the guns, with a portion of the Garrison Artillery of "A" Battery School, but the fire was too hot and they had to retire, leaving a wounded man behind. On my returning to that part of the attack and hearing of this I advanced a part of the Midland Battalion down a coulee or bluff on the left between the cemetery and the church, with orders to keep up a hot fire, so as to distract the attention of the enemy, from the spot where the wounded man was lying and also directed a part of the 90th and 10th who were lying down in advance across the trail, to do the same, and sent down a part of the Garrison Artillery with a stretcher to bring the man back, which they did without hesitation, and to my great satisfaction they succeeded in bringing him back, without losing another man which was what I feared, but unfortunately the man himself was dead. Our dead and wounded were temporarily placed in the church where they were attended to by the Medical men, assisted by the Roman Catholic Sisters who kindly did all they could to help the doctors. As it was now becoming late and I saw that though holding our own, we were not likely to make any advance that day, it became necessary for me to decide as to where I should camp for the night, and taking into consideration the enormous importance at that time of not even appearing to retreat even so short a distance as to where I had selected a spot for my camp I resolved to send for my tents and baggage and camp where I was, though there was no good place for it. I accordingly sent back for that purpose my second senior transport officer, Mr. Secretan, who succeeded in bringing all my old camp equipage and teams, in a remarkably short time, and having formed a Zareba with them, I then ordered the advanced parties to be gradually withdrawn which was done very creditably, as some of the enemy followed them up, probably thinking at first that they were retreating. They were however speedily undeceived by receiving a heavy fire from the Zareba, and though a few of them kept up a desultory fire for a short time, as darkness fell they retired, but not before, I am sorry to say, killing two of our horses and wounding one man in the Zareba. The pickets were then posted, a slight trench made round the Zareba and the rest of the men lay down with their arms lining the four sides of the Zareba, each side being under the charge of a Field Officer with so many sentries on each face who kept watch whilst the others slept, and so the night passed in quiet. The casualties this day were as follows: two men killed, one officer and nine men wounded.

(To be continued.)

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All Canadians of all parties and classes are invited to come forward and vie with each other in endeavoring on this great occasion to put Canada in her true place as the premier colony of the British Empire, and to establish her proper position before the world.

Every farmer, every producer, and every manufacturer, has in great assistance, it having been already demonstrated that extension of trade always follows such effort.

By order,

JOHN LOWE,  
Sec. of the Dept. of Agriculture,  
Ottawa, 1st. Sept., 1885.

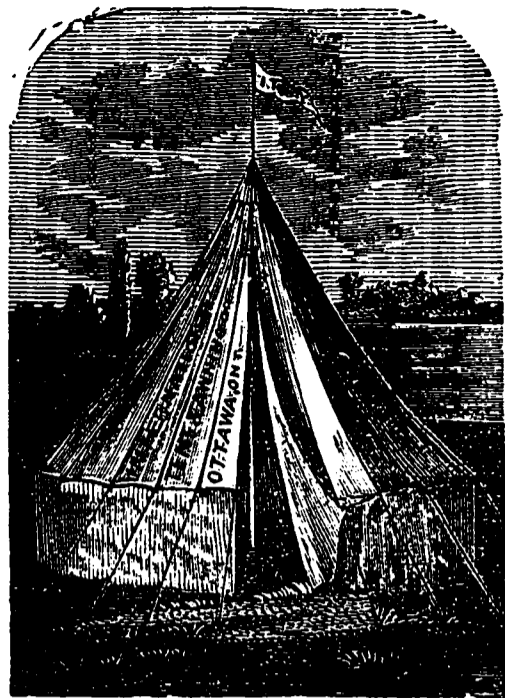
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PRIZE MEDAL 1851.



PRIZE MEDAL 1862.

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D. POTTINGER,

Chief Superintendent

Railway Office, Moncton, N.B., 26th May, 1885.

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## Statutes of Canada.

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B. CHAMBERLIN, Q.P.

Ottawa, May, 1885.



## NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS.

SEALED TENDERS, addressed to the undersigned, and endorsed "Tender for Armouries, Drill Hall, Montreal," will be received at this office, until TUESDAY, the 15th day of September, inst., inclusive, for the construction of

## ARMORIES AT THE DRILL HALL, MONTREAL.

Plans and specifications can be seen at the Department of Public Works, Ottawa, and at the office of A. Roza, Esq., Architect, Montreal, on and after Thursday, the 3rd instant. Tenders must be made on the printed forms supplied.

Each tender must be accompanied by an accepted bank cheque, made payable to the order of the Honorable the Minister of Public Works, equal to five per cent. of the amount of the tender, which will be forfeited if the party declines to enter into a contract when called upon to do so, or if he fail to complete the work contracted for. If the tender be not accepted, the cheque will be returned. The Department will not be bound to accept the lowest or any tender.

By order, A. GOBEIL, Secretary,

Department of Public Works, Ottawa, 2nd Sept., 1885.