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NOTE AND COMMENT.

A natural outcome of the departmental discouragement of volunteering by Civil Servants were seen at the annual inspection of the Governor General's Foot Guards at Ottawa on Saturday last. The parade was only half the strength of the regiment, and it was stated that many of those who failed to turn out could not get leave of absence for the afternoon, their employers alleging that they could not put up with interruption to their business any more than the Government could. General Herbert expressed disappointment at the small parade, and asked that a special report on the causes should be made to him. He felt satisfied, he said, that the attitude of the Government towards volunteering had been misunderstood, and he felt sure that Sir Adolphe Caron would cooperate with him in endeavouring to do whatever could be done in the interest of the force.

Notwithstanding the General's intended effort, we fancy that volunteering at Ottawa has received a check which will long be felt. Abstinence from further departmental interference will not help matters much, for in any Department where the Minister has shown hostility to volunteering, no employee will lightly risk his prospects of favour or advancement by remaining in the force. In order, however, that public opinion, as voiced by Parliament, may be heard on the matter, we believe that a resolution is to be submitted next session, either in the form of an additional clause in the promised Militia Act amendment bill, or of an independent motion.

At this particular time when "friends at court" are apt to prove of great utility, the militia will hear with special pleasure that one of our best known officers, Lieut.-Col. Hon. Joseph Alderic Ouimet, has been called to be a member of Premier Abbott's administration. Pending the re-organization of the Cabinet, no portfolio has yet been assigned to him. Col. Ouimet retired from the Active List when he recently gave up the command of the 65th Battalion, Mount Royal Rifles, with whom he served in the Northwest in 1885, but he still takes an active interest in military affairs, and holds the important and honourable office of President of the Council of the Dominion Rifle Association. In politics his career has been singularly successful. In 1873, when only twenty-five years old, he won a place in Parliament as the representative of Laval by the defeat of Mr. L. O. David, then and still one of the most influential of the Quebec Rouges, and has since continuously held the confidence of that constituency. He was

Speaker of the Parliament recently dissolved, and one of Sir John Macdonald's last official acts was to procure the appointment of Col. Ouimet and his predecessor Col. Kirkpatrick, as members of the Privy Council, in accordance with Imperial usage towards ex-Speakers of the British Commons. The advancement to Cabinet rank shows that the successor of Sir John Macdonald shares his confidence in Col. Ouimet: and if, as is not improbable, he can testify in a similar way to the confidence which he unquestionably has in Col. Kirkpatrick also, the military electors the Dominion over will have reason to be greatly pleased with their increased Cabinet representation.

Much interest attaches to the proposed military features of the World's Fair to be held at Chicago in 1893, and many suggestions are offered as to the form the military demonstration should take. General Miles, commanding the Department of the Missouri, says in his annual report:

"It would seem advisable to take advantage of the occasion to mobilize or assemble what is known as the National Guard or State Militia. The Constitution has very judiciously and wisely reserved the control of these forces to the various State Governments, but, as a means to promote the efficiency of the various organizations, it would be well to assemble them, under Congressional enactment, with the approval and authority of the various State Governments, in one national encampment at least once in a generation. As there has been no gathering of that magnitude since the armies were dispersed in 1865 I would respectfully recommend that the militia be brought together at this peace jubilee.

"Most of the members of the National Guard who are engaged in the great industries of the country will desire to be present at the exposition at some time during its session, and many would prefer to come with their organizations, in order to combine with the encampment the benefits of the exposition. It would also be beneficial to the State organizations to be brought together in one national encampment, where they would have the advantage of meeting troops from other States.

"The reasonable reduction of rates in other countries for such movements of troops, and frequently given in this country, would reduce the aggregate cost, say, for 90,000 State troops and 10,000 Federal troops, to \$850,000 approximately. For that purpose I would respectfully recommend that Congress be asked to make the necessary appropriation and to provide the requisite authority for such a movement."

In the United States there has of late years been considerable well directed effort to secure better training of the soldier in the effective use of his rifle, and the most intelligent officers of the regular army and volunteers are giving the matter close study. As an outcome, there has been an interesting new departure in the State of Massachusetts, where a distinguished marksman's match has been inaugurated. The Distinguished Marksman Class is the highest position a volunteer marksman can attain in Massachusetts, and he who is ranked in this class must be a sharpshooter of record, have represented the State at Creedmoor, have been mentioned in orders as in the first twelve, or

won an individual trophy at the State match. The plan arranged by Col. W. L. Chase, Inspector-General of Rifle Practice of Massachusetts, for the first annual competition, consisted of firing seven shots at 200 yards in the off-hand position; the same number at 500 and 600 yards in any regulation position, and the estimating of distances in what may be called a preliminary skirmish practice at unknown distances. The result of the last named test showed that this form of practice is very much needed, so much so that commenting upon it *Shooting and Fishing* suggests that actual firing in skirmish practice should only be allowed to parties who have qualified themselves by showing their ability to judge distances correctly. The same paper says:

"We have long viewed with dismay the inclination of a majority of rifle shooters to base proficiency in rifle shooting wholly by the work at the target; this being particularly noticeable in military rifle practice. Men who have used the rifle in hunting or warfare recognize but little value in skill in manipulating the rifle without ability to judge with accuracy the distance shot over. The finest known marksman who was unable to estimate distance correctly would fail in hunting or skirmish shooting, would be outdone by the ordinary shot who possessed ability to properly judge distances. Skill in practical shooting consists of ability to hold well, sight well, correctly judge the range and make proper allowance for distance, wind and movement of the object shot at. We feel certain that judging distances will, in the near future, be recognized as an essential part of a military rifleman's training, and should consider the nation, or state, neglecting this feature, to be delinquent in training its soldiers for practical work."

THE NEW DRILL BOOK

(Broad Arrow)

The following is a digest of the changes at present contemplated in respect to Company Organisation, &c. :—

1. *Organisation of a company.*—The day when a recruit joins his company from squad drill he will be told off to the smallest fire unit (either a section or sub-section), be quartered with it, and when dismissed drill will perform with it all guards, fatigues, and other duties as far as can be arranged. The most effective number for a fire unit is from 8 to 10 men. In battalions on the lowest establishment, it is necessary to again divide this command by half, hereinafter called a sub-section.

2. *Equalising a company.*—No equalising or mixing of companies, except for ceremonial purposes (Part X.), is on any account to be permitted, but when there are less than 4 men of a fire unit present, they should be joined to a larger body. When, however, the fire units of a company do not consist of 20 men, the units should be joined to those of another company, but will retain their own organisation irrespective of that of the company with which they act.

3. *Object of organisation.*—The object of this organisation is to assist the onward and cohesive movement of the company during the critical period of the attack, that is, from 500 yards up to the assault of the position. Experience shows that when men's nerves are severely tried, much greater results are obtainable from men of ordinary courage, who have gained confidence in each other through being accustomed to work together, than from even the bravest who have not been so trained.

4. *Formation and telling-off of a company.*—The company will fall in in two ranks in section or sub-section column, and the men will be numbered from right to left of these fire units. Whenever the number in a section exceeds 14 men, the telling-off will be by sub-sections. The company will then be told off into half companies, and will finally be formed as an entire company in line. The left-hand man of the right half-company is the centre of the company. An interval of two paces will always be preserved between fire units in line, or when moving to a flank.

5. *Application of squad drill.*—(No change.)

6. *Officers, etc., of a company.*—The company will be commanded by the captain, and each half-company by a subaltern. Each section and sub-section will be commanded by the senior non-commissioned officer belonging to it. In the absence of the captain, his place will be taken by the next in rank; a similar rule will be followed within the half-company, section or sub-section. No change in the command of sections or sub-sections will take place except by the direct order of the captain. Corporals and lance-corporals not required to command their sections or sub-sections will be in the ranks. Section and sub-section commanders will be formed in a third or supernumerary rank 2 paces distant from the rear rank, the drummer in the rear of the second section, the pioneer in the rear of the third section. The four section commanders will act as guides and markers. As a rule, the commander of a flank section will act as a guide; the commander of an inner as marker. The guides will lead, when required to do so, in column, and the markers will give points, when ordered, each for his own flank of the company. In each section or sub-section a selected private soldier will be trained as leader, and will take command in the absence of non-commissioned officers.

7. *The Captain.*—The duties of the captain require that he be allowed great independence as regards his position. As a general rule, he will be 12 paces in front of the centre of his company in line, 3 paces in front of any column formation, and when the company is extended in a firing-line, in the best position for command. Captains in giving their words of command, should carefully observe the rules laid down in Part I., General Rule 4.

8. *The Subalterns, etc.*—When the company is in line, the subalterns will be 3 paces in rear of the centre of their half-company. If there be one subaltern only, then 3 paces in rear of the centre of the company. In an extended firing line, at such a distance in rear as will best enable them to superintend their men. The left guide of the directing company will lead in line. When the company is in column of fire units, the subalterns will be 2 paces from the centre of the outer flank of their half-companies; if there be only one subaltern, 2 paces from the centre of the outer flank of the company. Section (or subsection) commanders will lead on the flank named.

9. *Companies to be exercised on rough ground, and with the ranks changed.*—(No change)

10. *Derangement in telling-off to be quickly remedied.*—(No change)

11. *Marching on points, and judging distance.*—(No change)

12. *Markers giving points.*—Markers are never to go out unless specially ordered, and then they will always turn towards the flank of formation. A marker moving out to give a point for his company to dress upon, will carry his rifle at the slope, or when doubling at the trail; but not until the word eyes front from the guide will they drop the arm. A marker, when giving a point for his company to form on in column, will recover arms while being covered, coming to the slope when correctly covered; or when covered simultaneously with other markers, as when points are given for companies to form on parade, on the word steady.

13. *Flank by which men are to dress and march to be named.*—(No change.)

Officers' swords, when to be drawn and returned.—Officers will draw swords only when the men fix bayonets, when compliments have to be paid, and on occasions of ceremony.

14. *Cautions and commands.*—(No change.)

FORMATIONS AND MOVEMENTS.

Sec 1. *Formation of a company.*—Except for ceremonial purposes the company will fall in as directed in General Rules Nos. 4 to 8.

Sec. 2. *Inspecting and proving of a company.*—A company on parade will be inspected and proved as follows:—Fix—Bayonets. Open Order—March. Unfix—Bayonets. Shoulder—Arms. For Inspection. Port—Arms. The inspecting officer will examine the breech action, and will here and there take a rifle from the soldier's hands and examine the barrel by looking down it. Shoulder—Arms. Order—Arms. Close Order—March.

The company will then be formed into line and proved as follows:—(Having previously fallen in by sections or sub-sections.) Right or left half-company. Slope—Arms. Order—Arms. Right or left sections or sub-sections. Slope—Arms. Order—Arms.

---By sections or sub-sections, according to strength of company: Fours, front. Fours right, front. Fours left, front. Fours about, front. The company will then change ranks and be proved as above. After this the original front will be resumed.

Sec. 3. *Advancing or retiring.*—1. *Advancing.*—The instructor, having stated the supposed order of the battalion, will proceed as follows:—The line (or column) will advance. On the word advance, the left guid will select points to march on. March or double march. As described in Part I., Sec. 36. 2. *Retiring.*—The caution the line (or column) will retire having been given, the company will be turned about and proceed as above. In line the centre man of the company will direct; in column, the guide on the flank of direction. The order to march will no longer be proceeded by the words quick or slow.

Sec. 4. *The diagonal march.*

Sec. 5. The words of command for a company in column forming into line from the halt, will be into line—left—form.

Sec. 6. The command for a company in line forming into column from the halt, will be column to the right, about—turn. Right—form—march. On the words form and march the men will move as in Part I., Sec 27 and 40. Company—halt, front. The men will take up their dressing by the ordered flank, and look to the front. A company in line will be taught to form into column to the left, in like manner; and a company in line may also form forward into column; the commands being into column, right or left—form—march.

Sec. 7. On the order for a company changing front as the base company of a line formation. —The markers, if ordered will give base points, and will be covered in the required direction by the captain, who will give the word steady when they are dressed. The command will be change front right (left), or half right (left), steady. Right (left), or half right (left), form—march. If markers have been ordered to give points, they will resume their position on the word steady from the captain. The captain will place the flank file in the required position, and on the word right or left dress, the company will take up its dressing.

Sec. 8. *Forming from column into line, and from line into column, on the march.*—(No change.)

Sec. 9. *A company in column changing direction.*—(No change.)

Sec. 10. *The formation of fours.*—In the flank march by fours the guide of the leading flank will be on the directing flank of the leading four.

Sec. 11. *A company marching in fours, forming to the front or rear, right or left.*—(No change.)

Sec. 12. *The side step.*—(No change.)

Sec. 13. *In changing ranks.*—The instructions laid down in Part I., Sec. 38, are also applicable to the company. The numbers of the sections will be simply inverted. In changing ranks the directing flank will be re-named.

Sec. 14. *Formation of half-companies and sections.*—Columns must always move with as large a front as the ground allows, and the interior formations of a company should as a rule be made by sections or sub-sections. An increase of front from fours to sections or half companies

may be effected on the principles laid down in Part I., Sec 42, No. 2. When it is required to increase the front from sections to half-companies, the rear sections may move into line with the leading sections by the diagonal march in double time, on the word left (or right) sections to the front. A company may advance from a flank in column of half-companies or sections on the principle laid down in Part III., Sec. 10; the half companies or sections will be ordered to turn to the front by their commanders. A diminution of front may then be effected by turning to a flank in fours, and wheeling to the front. A company may also move to a flank by half-companies or sections, on the principle laid down in Sec. 6-3 or Sec. 8-2.

Sec. 15. *Clearing obstacles.*—(No change.)

Sec. 16. *A company in line resisting cavalry.*—On the word cavalry, the fire units will fall to the centre, the company will fix bayonets, and the flanks will dress back. The flanks can be further dressed back, to form a circle, if necessary. The captain will be in the rear of the centre, remainder in rear of their respective fire units.

Sec. 17. *A company dispersed, reassembling.*—The captain will place either the right or left guide with recovered arms looking in the direction in which the company is to stand. On the word assemble the men will run in and form on him in their original places under the direction of the captain.

REGIMENTAL.

GOVERNOR GENERAL'S FOOT GUARDS.

The Governor General's Foot Guards had their annual inspection at Ottawa on Saturday last, 7th instant, before Major General Herbert. Lt.-Col. A. H. Todd was in command, and the other field officers present were Majors Toller and Hodgins, and Lt. E. F. Taylor, Acting Adjutant. There was a full turnout of officers, but a very small parade of the rank and file, it being stated that leave of absence from business could not be secured by many of the men. General Herbert made a critical examination of the clothing, arms and accoutrements, and pointed out evidence of want of care of the arms which in justice to the members of the corps it was explained to him was the fault of the caretaker employed by the Government. The General thereupon sent for this delinquent, and impressed upon him the necessity of being more painstaking in future. During his examination the General made complimentary references to several men whose appearance was exceptionally neat, and amongst those so honoured were Corp. T. P. Carroll and Corp. J. Wiltshire, of No. 2 Company. The former was spotted as "an old soldier"—and so he is, but his eighteen years' service has all been in the Canadian militia. Corp. Carroll has long been one of the best known riflemen of the Guards.

The officers were severely tested in their knowledge of drill, especially in the new formations, several movements not yet forming part of the authorized Canadian drill being called for. In reference to these the General said in his subsequent address he did not expect to see them correctly executed on the spur of the moment, but took this means of directing attention to what would be looked for next year. With reference to the small parade, he requested a special report as to its cause, and promised to use his influence to secure the greatest possible freedom for those of the Civil Servants belonging to the militia. He said he felt sure of the hearty co-operation of the Minister of Militia in this endeavour.

B CO., QUEEN'S OWN RIFLES.

The presentation of prizes won in the Company Match of B Co., Q.O.R., was the occasion of an exceedingly happy gathering in the spacious dining room of the Albion Hotel on Wednesday evening of last week after the parade of the regiment.

Shortly after 11 p.m. the Company and its guests to the number of about 80 sat down to the well appointed tables, and the hard parade of the evening only added zest to the enjoyment of the good things provided by mine host Hosderness.

After ample justice had been done by all, glasses were charged and the only toast of the evening, that of the "Queen," was given in a loyal manner. Immediately after Capt. Pellatt, the popular commanding officer of the Company, rose to his feet and in a few happy remarks bade the assembled guests a hearty welcome to the hospitalities of the Company. He paid a high tribute to the Regimental Rifle Committee, consisting of Capt. Macdonald, Lieut. Rennie and Lieut. Crean, to whose efforts was due the grand success of the Battalion Match, and trusted that the interest taken in shooting would be still further increased. Speaking of rifle shooting he remarked that as the art of war is the art of killing, a soldier without a practical knowledge of the rifle with which he is armed has no place in a thoroughly efficient company and no company is entitled to be so named whose members are not practical shots. In modern tactics the moral force of this kind of training takes the place of the shoulder to shoulder encouragement in the hand to hand engagements of other days. He concluded by asking Lieut.-Col. Hamilton to present the prizes to the successful competitors.

Sergt. Langton proved to have met with exceptional good luck, carrying off no less than six prizes, which led to Col. Hamilton asking, after he had made four different speeches to him, to send a deputy. The proceedings were brought to a close by Lieut.-Col. Hamilton, in a happy speech, congratulating the company on their creditable parade and the excellence of their prize list, after which cheers were given for Lieut.-Col. Hamilton, Capt. Pellatt and the Rifle Committee of the company.

Amongst those present from other companies there were Capts. Macdonald, Murray, Mason, Knifton, Mercer, Smyth, and Heakes; Lieuts. Rennie, Ince, Crean, Llwyd, Ross and Peuchen; Dr. Nattress; Bugle-Major Swift, Staff-Sergt. Harp, Color-Sergts. Sanson and Wright, Sergts. Pearson, Derby, Cunningham and Thompson.

THE ARMAMENT OF CAVALRY.

(Broad Arrow.)

Discussions as to the value and correct employment of cavalry are frequent, but little has recently been said as to the most efficient manner of equipping the horse soldier. Some of our dragoons at Aldershot are undergoing the experiment of having their front ranks armed with the lance, while the rear rank carry only the sabre and carbine as before. Such a method of dividing weapons is founded on correct principles, and theoretically it is the most perfect system of developing the best qualities from each. At the beginning of the century Marshal Marmont—who lost an arm at Salamanca, and had been one of our stoutest opponents in the Peninsula—wrote a pamphlet in which he advocated this method of equipping cavalry. Jomini, the authority whom our grandfathers venerated, held the same opinions. In thus distributing the two weapons, it is argued that the front rank gain the full advantage of the lance, so formidable in the first onset of a charge, while the rear rank can supplement their action with the light and more easily wielded sabre, during the confused *mêlée* which almost necessarily follows even a successful rush of horsemen.

The moral effect of a steady line of lances is immense, and, whatever may be its value in single combat, there is little doubt that in the shock of meeting squadrons it is a most efficient weapon. The front rank therefore rush on with a level hedge of spear points to their front, while those in the rear rank, whose position prevents their using

similar weapons so effectively, rely on an armament that does not require so much room for its use. So says theory, and, as is usual, most unanswerably logical and sound. Yet practical men may venture to doubt whether matters work out quite in the way they should do in the field. Ere a squadron, which starts on its enterprise in two ranks, reaches its foe, it is more than probable that, what with gaps caused by fire, the surges and hustle of the gallop, the eagerness of some in the rear, and the general disorder which is scarcely ever entirely absent on such occasions, the rear rank will have mingled with that in front, and that practically one line of men will be formed ere the enemy is reached.

At the late Military Exhibition pictures were to be seen representing charges of cavalry, notably one of a squadron of hussars at Waterloo, where the two ranks were depicted within a few yards of their opponents in the same exactly dressed lines which are the delight of the adjutant on the parade ground, with all the men riding in the same regulation style in which they would pass the riding-master in the school. Shot or shell apparently had no terrors for these well-drilled heroes; their pulses beat no quicker than when at Hounslow or Canterbury, and the well-dressed lines swept on with the same confidence with which they galloped by an inspecting officer. And their *sang froid* was justified! No wounded men or horses interfered with those in rear; no shell or bullet found a victim amongst those immortals; no horse pulled nor did any obstacle disturb the even tenor of their way. But, alas! what would the great Duke have said to such a representation of the events of the battlefield? What would Murat or Kellermann have thought of such fanciful notions of the excitement and bustle in which their genius found scope and opportunity. If in real war the formal order of peace time were thus preserved, no doubt the armament which is clearly enough the best theoretically, would in practice also be the most perfect; but as distinctions of ranks tend to become obliterated in the crisis of a charge, it is better to legislate for a certain amount of confusion, and equip all the troopers of a regiment alike.

The lance is certainly a most formidable weapon in practised hands, but to handle it with success a man must be fully accustomed and trained to its use, and must be of more than the average physique. A lancer, therefore, must first of all be a powerful man, and he must have more education than the hussar or dragoon. Otherwise his weapon may be an incumbrance to him, and he will do better with his sabre. To this it will no doubt be replied that, as is very true, the Germans have lately turned the whole of their cavalry into lancers, and that the French have also lately re-introduced the lance into their armies. The Germans no doubt are practical students of all that affects war and tactics, and we must treat their deliberately formed opinions with the utmost deference and respect. We ourselves have frequently recommended certain of their ideas for adoption by our authorities, but we are by no means advocates of mere slavish imitation.

Conscription sweeps so many fish into the net, and that too from all classes, that the average size of the items of the haul is larger than where the bait is taken voluntarily. Not only this, but the period devoted to the soldier's education on the Continent, although short, is more closely occupied with training than with us. We cannot work our men as hard as we may wish, because the effect on the supply of raw material may be a bad one. A German colonel or adjutant has no such qualms, and officers and men are kept at the grindstone all day long. The raw material is often better to start with, and more is made of it in a given time. We shall touch later on on another side of the question where horseflesh is concerned.

In France it is true that the lance has again made its appearance, but it is also the case that the innovation is regarded with very mixed feelings by a large number of

experienced officers, and the recent utterances in the French military Press reveal something very far from complete unanimity. Russia, so far from adding to the "shock" power of her cavalry, has devoted her attention to developing their fire effect and has turned her dragoons into what are mere mounted infantry. Austria, whose cavalry have a deservedly high reputation, and who prides herself on this portion of her army in particular, has at present not one single regiment of lancers, and her cavalry generals openly avow their bias towards the sabre.

We have said enough to show that the claim of the lance—the "queen of weapons," as its admirers are fond of calling it—to be the most efficient weapon for modern cavalry is by no means as indefeasible as many would have us suppose. Theoretically, perhaps it may be so, and for a force where training may extend over many years. But for the short service, *fin de siècle* soldier to use the cant phrase of the day—a weapon which demands so much attention from one who would efficiently wield it is perhaps scarcely suitable. We may at any rate draw attention to the fact that not only must the men be practised in and accustomed to the arm, but that the chargers they bestride must be no less thoroughly broken. In mounted combats at the military tournaments, the lancer who shows himself so active and wields his cumbersome-looking weapon so handily in single combat, is a picked man, and rides a picked and thoroughly educated horse.

To get the most out of the lance, or indeed to prevent its defects from showing themselves rather prominently, every charger should be as well broken as these selected ones. In Germany horses are very highly trained, and are perfectly in hand. The proportion of dismounted men in the ranks in peace-time is small compared to what it is with us, and mobilisation therefore does not cause the trooper to take the field on an animal more or less raw, and of which he has no previous experience. In Germany, moreover, every charger that would take the field on the outbreak of hostilities would be accustomed to lances; with us, many would in all probability never have seen them. Our regiments are so woefully short of horses that it is impossible to train every man to handle the lance as he should be taught to handle it, that is to say daily; and if all do not understand its use when casualties have occurred amongst the front rank men, we may have substitutes in their places who are inefficient.

Thus we see that what is suitable to the German army need not necessarily be to our own, and that it is unsafe to imitate in one direction where the primary conditions differ so greatly. Would it not be well to commence our imitation at the other end, and legislate for more chargers ere we change the equipment of our dragoons?

GLEANNIRGS.

The changes which the Emperor of Germany has decided to make in the army uniform are chiefly to replace the tight tunics by loose blouses with turned down collars, to discard all bright colors, to abolish all white leather accoutrements, and to substitute light headgear, without bright metal badges, for the helmets now in use. These reforms are the outcome of experience gained during the army manoeuvres, but it is likely that a long time will be required to put them in execution.

The Siberian Railway passes right through Siberia, from Ural to the border of the Pacific. Southern Siberia is a veritable "land of the future," with its primeval forest, its fertile virgin soil, its manifold produce, prominent among which are valuable minerals and coals. Siberia's population already amounts to 6,000,000; several of the towns are in a most flourishing condition, and the invasion from Russia is constantly increasing. Apart from its industrial and commercial value, the Siberian Railway is of great military

importance, and Russia needs a connection with Vladivostok, its only port at the Still Ocean which is ice free through the whole of the year.—*Engineering.*

The success of the Russian loan in Paris is likely to have a more far reaching effect than was expected. It has set heads, in high quarters, thinking, and has brought home to them not only the folly and ruin of exhaustive armaments, but the advisability of removing the one insurmountable barrier between two generous nations. Rumours filter through from Berlin that before long an offer will be made by Germany to hand back Alsace and Lorraine to France against a money payment, and under arrangements which will permit of considerable mutual disarmament. Germany can afford to be magnanimous, and, as the Empire—which cost France those two fair provinces—has passed away, she can afford, without any sacrifice of self respect, to grasp Germany's extended hand of friendship, and cement an honourable and lasting peace. It is an open secret to those

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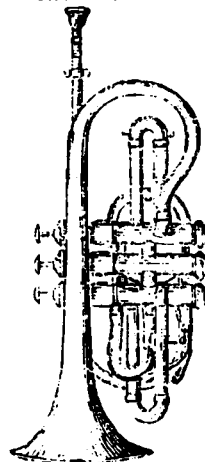
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behind the scenes that the late Emperor Frederick contemplated this restitution, and that the present chivalrous young Emperor has only waited until he felt himself sufficiently strong to move in the matter. This he will shortly do with the full approval of the larger German states—of Bavaria and Saxony—and all sensible men in the German Empire. The new year may therefore bring the most solid possible guarantee of European peace.—*E.v.*

Sir Frederick Roberts, Bart., C.C.B., G.C.I.E., V.C., is retiring from the Command-in-Chief of our Army in India. He is without doubt the most able and distinguished general in the service. The question in military circles is—who will succeed him? The appointment is a good one—worth some £8,000 a year—so innumerable “political” and “carpet” soldiers are fishing for it. There is quite a buzz at the Horse Guards. The position Sir Frederick vacates especially requires a wise and experienced soldier—the issue attaching to it is immense—the safety of our Indian Empire! Whom have we capable to succeed the brave and modest hero of Lucknow, and of Candahar? Lord Wolseley? Save the mark! That would indeed be setting “impudence” in the chair of “dignity.” The Viceroy and Sir Frederick recommend Major-General White. They know who is fit. It is too much to hope, however, that the “backstair” influence at home will permit the selection.—*E.v.*

The new ballooning plant for the use of the French army arrived recently at Arras from the works of Chalais-Meudon and differs principally from the old apparatus by the exclusive employment of hydrogen gas, compressed to 200 atmospheres in steel cylinders, for inflating the balloon. As such cylinders only weigh six kilos to earth cubic metre of gas the aerostatic plant is considerably lightened, since the preparation of the gas on the spot would have necessitated the transport of nine kilos of chemical materials for each cubic metre of gas produced, without taking carriages and receivers into consideration. Another advantage which the new system possesses consists in the extraordinary short time—fifteen minutes required for inflating the balloon. Moreover, water can in this case be dispensed with, while with the old system it was necessary to have a supply continually on the spot. The whole operation of inflating the balloon is rendered extremely simple, and no preliminary operations are required. The balloon can therefore be, so to say, most rapidly mobilised, and thus tactical opportunity can be utilised, since the balloon can be got ready at any moment and in any place. Eight carriages have been constructed at Chalais-Meudon, each of which is capable of conveying eight cylinders which are provided with a brass closing valve, constructed by Major Renard. Two carriages fully laden with cylinders are required for the inflation of the balloon. To compress the gas a pump is employed, which can compress 150 cubic metres of hydrogen under a pressure of 200 atmospheres in one hour. It has been stated that the gas used for inflating the balloon can be recovered and again compressed in the cylinders, but this is incorrect, for the compression of the gas requires considerable time, as well as very powerful and ponderous stationary machinery, which could not accompany the army during a campaign. An aerostatic park is to be attached to each army corps and placed under the direct authority of the head of the general staff, and one to each fortified place designated by the Minister of War. The ascents hitherto made have sufficiently proved the excellent material and construction of the balloons, which may perhaps be destined to neutralise to some extent the advantages claimed for smokeless powder, since they can be so rapidly utilised and enable the occupants of the car to discover the position of the enemy at a great distance.

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Helmet, Army Cap, and Accoutrement

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DISCOUNT TEN PER CENT. FOR CASH.

McVITTIE'S Martini and Snider Rifles, Smith & Wesson 32-44 or 38-44 Target Revolvers and Volunteer Shooting Requisites for 1891.

McVITTIE'S NEW CANADIAN WIND GAUGE FOR SNIDER AND MARTINI-HENRY RIFLES.

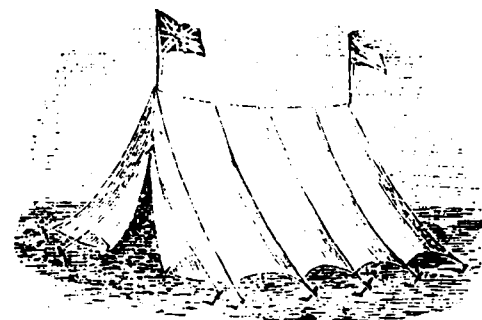
PRICE \$1.25.

As I have gone to the old country on the Bisley Team, Corpl. McVittie will attend to all orders during my absence. All my Rifles are fitted and tested and ready to be shipped on shortest notice.

The following score was made by Staff-Sergt. John Ogg in a match at Guelph on the 13th June, with one of my Special Webley Martini Henry Rifles at Queen's Ranges and position:

200 yards.....	5 5 5 5 4 5-34	} 103
500 yards.....	5 5 5 5 5 4-34	
600 yards.....	5 5 5 5 5 5-35	

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Do not forget to have a good supply of

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WORTH - \$52,740.00.

CAPITAL PRIZE,

WORTH - \$15,000.00.

Ticket, - - - \$1.00.

11 Tickets for - \$10.00.

ASK FOR CIRCULARS.

LIST OF PRIZES.

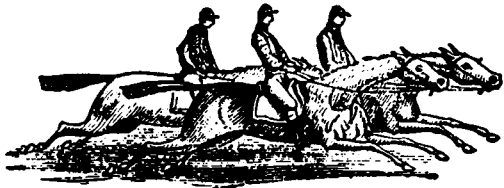
1 Prize, worth \$15,000.....	\$15,000
1 " " " 5,000.....	5,000
1 " " " 2,500.....	2,500
1 " " " 1,250.....	1,250
2 Prizes, " " 500.....	1,000
5 " " " 250.....	1,250
25 " " " 50.....	1,250
100 " " " 25.....	2,500
200 " " " 15.....	3,000
500 " " " 10.....	5,000

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100 Prizes, worth \$25.....	\$2,500
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100 " " " 10.....	1,000
999 " " " 5.....	4,995
999 " " " 5.....	4,995

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Cambridgeshire Sweep,
8,000 TICKETS, \$5 EACH.

1st Horse, 4 prizes, \$7,000 each
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\$8,000 divided amongst other starters, 4 prizes each
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Tickets numbered from 1 to 8,000, 125 horses entered,
4 prizes each. Total prizes, \$50,000. Guaranteed to fill.
Drawing October 25th, Race 25th

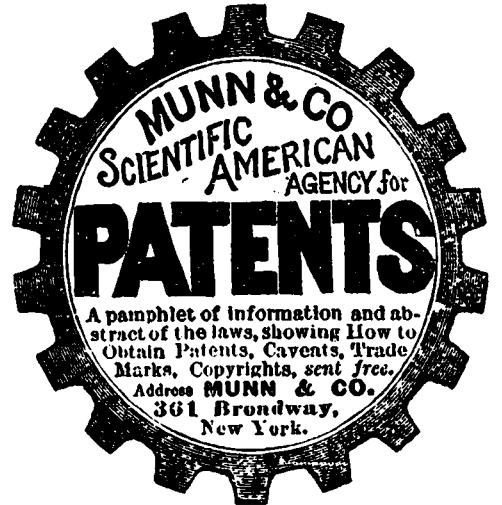
Address GEO. CARSLAKE, Prop.
Mansion House, 522 St. James street, Montreal,
N.B. Two stamped envelopes must be enclosed
with order for tickets, one for reply and one for result
of drawing.

Manchester Handicap, Nov. 28th, \$10,000.



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44 Calibre Army Revolvers, 7 1/2 inch barrels, also 38-44 and 32-44 Smith & Wesson Target Revolvers.

The highest scores and all the principal prizes at the D. R. A., O. R. A. and P. Q. R. A. matches last year, and the P. Q. R. A. matches this year were carried off by competitors who used revolvers purchased from us.

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SEALED TENDERS, marked on the left hand corner of the envelope, "Tenders for Militia Store Supplies and Necessaries," addressed to the Honourable the Minister of Militia and Defence, will be received up to noon of Monday, the 30th of November, 1891.

Printed forms of tender, containing full particulars, may be obtained from the Department at Ottawa, and at the following Militia Stores, where also sealed patterns of all articles may be seen, viz: The Offices of the Superintendents of Stores at London, Toronto, Kingston, Montreal, Quebec, Halifax, N.S. and St. John, N.B.

Every article to be supplied (as well as the material therein), must be of Canadian manufacture.

No tender will be received unless made on a printed form furnished by the Department, nor will a tender be considered if the printed form is altered in any manner whatever.

Each tender must be accompanied by an accepted Canadian bank cheque for an amount equal to ten per cent, of the total value of the articles tendered for, which will be forfeited if the party making the tender declines to sign a contract when called upon to do so. If the tender be not accepted the cheque will be returned.

The Department does not bind itself to accept the lowest or any tender.

A. BENOFF, Capt.,
Secretary.

Department of Militia and Defence.

OTTAWA, 15th October, 1891.

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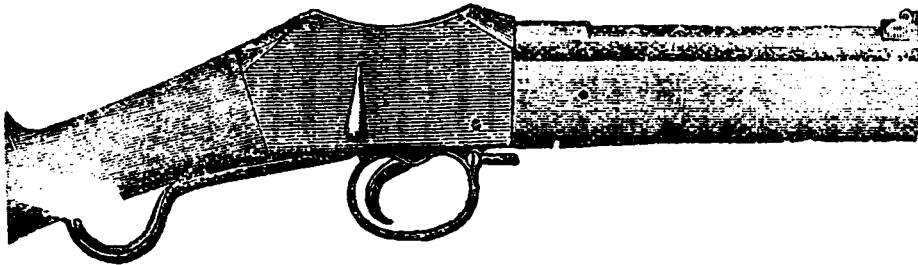
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