

# The Canadian Militia Gazette

THE POPULAR ORGAN OF THE ACTIVE FORCE OF THE DOMINION.

(Adopted as their official paper, by the Dominion Artillery Association, the Ontario Artillery Association, the Canadian Military Rifle League, and the Royal Military College Club.)

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## NOTE AND COMMENT.

At the meeting to be held on the 7th inst. the Council of the Dominion Rifle Association should not neglect the matter of securing for the Bisley team better steamship accommodation than commonly falls to them. It will be remembered that this was one of the subjects dealt with at the last competitors' meeting, when much indignation was expressed at the treatment of the team on ship board. The officers have always fared tolerably well, the poorer and very objectionable berths being allotted to the Privates and Non-Commissioned Officers, but the very fact that the non-commissioned ranks are altogether unrepresented in the membership of the Council should make that body more particular to see that the cause of complaint is removed. Whether or not better accommodation is secured for all, the practice of allotting quarters according to seniority in Militia rank should be discontinued. The members of the Bisley team are, in the eyes of the Dominion Rifle Association, on an equality as members of that body and as riflemen, and if all cannot fare alike precedence should be given only in the order in which places on the team were won.

OWING to the lateness of the Session of Parliament, it would not be surprising were the district camps usually assembled in June, not held until September this year. The necessary appropriations can hardly pass the Commons in time to permit of proper arrangements being made for the June camp, though, no doubt, means might be devised for forestalling the action of parliament, should it be deemed

imperative to assemble the camps at the usual season. In view, however, of the agitation for annual drill of the whole force, and of the disposition of the Militia Department to secure this as soon as possible, the militia might reap considerable benefit from awaiting parliamentary action before arrangements for the year are made.

The prospect that only Garrison artillery men should be chosen for Canadian teams sent to take part in the garrison competitions at Shoeburyness, is naturally enough met with opposition by some members of the Field artillery, who wish the privilege of these trips still held out as an inducement to attain proficiency. The contention that the Field artillerymen acquire much useful information at Shoeburyness is a forcible one, but the strong point on the other side is that it is the Garrison and not the Field meeting in Canada which is omitted whenever a team is sent to England, in order that the appropriation may be used for the team expenses. If the present rule of selection is to be maintained, the cost of the trip should be provided for otherwise than as at present.

The latest papers show another complication in the contest already reported for the vacancy on the N. R. A. Council. This arises out of a postal card sent by Col. Burt, Captain of the English Twenty Club, to the members, against the candidature of their Adjutant and Secretary, Capt. Gratwicke, as follows:—

“Though claiming no right to influence any one in the matter, I wish it understood that I strongly disapprove of the action of certain cliques interested in the formation of other ranges, in pushing forward Mr. Gratwicke at a most inappropriate time, and against the unanimous wish of the Council.

“If outvoted, they can only regard it as a ‘vote of want of confidence.’

“The Council has, by great energy and influence, nearly succeeded in placing the N. R. A. once more on a sound and safe basis, and only required perfect trust and confidence to enable them to complete the work.”

In reply Capt. Gratwicke disclaims the suggested interest in the formation of other ranges, and expresses regret that the Council has seen fit to issue a canvassing circular against the nominee of the members, and that this should have been followed by the postal card above mentioned. The result of the contest we expect to find in the papers arriving by next mail.

Lord Melgund, well known in Canada since his service on the staff of the late Governor General, Lord Lansdowne, has succeeded to the title of Earl of Minto. The *Broad Arrow* thus notices the event:—"Colonel Viscount Melgund, commanding the South of Scotland Volunteer Brigade, has succeeded to the earldom of Minto, by the death of his father. Although never in the regular army, the new earl has seen considerable service *en amateur*. He was attached to our mounted infantry in the Egyptian expedition of 1882, when he was wounded at Mahuta, receiving the honorary rank of major in the volunteer force for this service, in addition to the 4th class of the Medjidie and the medal and bronze star. Three years later he found himself in Canada at the time of the rising in the North-West, and gained a second medal for services as chief of the staff at the attack and capture of Batoche. It will be in the recollection of readers of the *Broad Arrow* that the appointment of Lord Mulgund, when only a captain of volunteers, to the command of a Volunteer Brigade District gave rise to a good deal of criticism.

#### THE MANITOBA RIFLE ASSOCIATION.

The annual meeting of the Manitoba Rifle Association has resulted in a complete change of officers, and the old directors having promised to co-operate with their successors in the effort to be made to put affairs on a more satisfactory footing, the outlook is brighter than it has been for some time. The meeting was one of the best ever held, over sixty members being present and the utmost good will being displayed. The new council consists of thoroughly practical riflemen, who enter upon their task with enthusiasm bound to bring success. As a sample of the prevailing spirit, it may be stated that Staff-Sergeant Coulson N. Mitchell, the well-known shot who won the Governor General's prize at Ottawa last year, on taking the office of Secretary for this season intimated that he would accept no salary for his work, making it purely a labour of love. He also announces his intention to decline the place he has won on the Bisley team for 1891, not being able to spare the time from his business, so that he will be at home all summer to boom the M. R. A. An effort will be made not only to have an exceptionally good provincial meeting, but to send a big team to Ottawa, the Association being now pledged to reserve \$400 at least towards the expenses of this team. The following are the officers elected for 1891: Patron—Sir D. A. Smith, K.C.M.G.; 1st Vice Patron—Lt.-Governor Schultz; 2nd Vice-Patron—Mr. Wm. White; President—Capt. Hugh J. Macdonald, M.P.; 1st Vice-President—Lt.-Col. McMillan, M.P.P.; 2nd Vice-President—Major Bell; Council—Staff-Sgt. K. Graburn, 91st; Capt. Doidge, W.F. B.; H. A. Costigan; Staff-Sgt. C. N. Mitchell, 90th; Lt. Brown, 95th; Staff-Sgt. Clarke, 95th; Lt. T. W. Taylor, 91st; Staff-Sgt. Inman, 90th; Sgt. Shillinglaw, 95th; Capt. Sheppard, 95th; Pte. G. W. Murray, 90th; Secretary—Staff-Sgt. C. N. Mitchell; Treasurer—Lt. T. W. Taylor; Auditors—Messrs. W. J. Ptolemy and T. A. Anderson.

CATARRH and ASTHMA were not so readily controlled and cured before T. A. SLOCUM'S OXYGENIZED EMULSION of PURE COD LIVER OIL came into the market. Every druggist is pleased to handle it, for they all know its value. For tightness of the chest and difficult breathing it has no equal.

#### ONTARIO ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION

The annual meeting of the Ontario Artillery Association was held on Friday the 27th of March in the Military Institute, Toronto. There was a fair attendance, among those present being the president, Major F. King, Lt.-Col. A. H. Macdonald, Lt.-Col. Otter, D. A. G., Majors J. Stewart, J. H. Mead, D. Maclean, W. Nicoll, Captains J. S. Hendrie, W. G. Mutton, Dr. J. E. Elliott, Lieutenants R. Myles, Hurdman, K. Miller, E. S. Cox, McCrae, L. E. W. Irving, A. Bolte, E. W. Jones, J. Crean. Before beginning the business of the meeting, the president referred to the loss sustained by the association in the death of Mr. A. H. Malloch, for several years a prominent member, and one of the founders of the association six years ago.

Upon reports being called for Mr. L. H. Irving, the secretary, read his annual statement, showing a year of steady work. All the corps in affiliation had gone through the practice of the season except the Toronto Battery. In the report was contained a summary of prizes awarded, the chief being as follows:—

Royal Military College—Gentleman Cadet, F. D. Reid, cup.

A Battery, R.C.A., 9 pounder—1, Staff-Sgt. Newnham, 38 points, \$7; 2, Driver Rosseau, 26 points, \$5; 3, Sgt.-Major Stroud, 25 points, \$5.

Cobourg Battery, 64-pounder, muzzle-loader and 40-pounder breech-loader—1, Sgt. Mulverin, 40 points, \$7; 2, Corp. Bray, 39 points, \$6; 3, Sgt. Russell, 38 points, \$5.

Field Batteries, aggregate scores—1, A Battery, First Brigade Field Artillery, 56.25 per cent., Gzowski Cup, \$30; 2, Welland Field Battery, 49.07 per cent., \$20; 3, London, 42.13 per cent., \$15.

General Efficiency, Field Batteries—1st prize, Hamilton, 267.43 points, the Oliver Mowat Cup and \$30; 2, A Battery, First Brigade Field Artillery, 265.25 points, \$25; 3, B Battery, First Brigade Field Artillery, 239.90, \$20.

The short course efficiency prize was won by Bombardier Locker of A Battery, 1st Brigade Field Artillery, with a percentage of 82. The corresponding prize for gunners fell to Gunner Wigmore, Welland Field Battery, with 84 points.

The Officers firing competition was won by the president, Major King, with twenty points, and the cup was awarded to him.

The report of the treasurer, Lt. Myles, showed receipts from all sources, including balance from former years, of \$921 and a balance now on hand of \$301.

The following clause in the report of the Executive, as presented by Major Mead, caused some debate:—

"From the official returns forwarded by the Secretary of the Dominion Association the first prize for general efficiency would on the surface appear to have been won by A Battery, First Brigade Field Artillery. Were this the fact the Oliver Mowat cup would then become the property of that corps, but upon a close investigation the committee find that there exists a serious error in summing up which places the official figures of the Hamilton Field Battery at 267.43 and that of A Battery, 1st B.F.A., at 265.25. The general efficiency prize has therefore been won by the Hamilton Field Battery."

Col. Macdonald considered that the proper course was not to award the cup until further communication with Capt. Donaldson of the Dominion Association, who had forwarded the figures. It would be well to make sure of their correctness. On motion of Major Stewart, after some discussion, it was decided to defer the awarding of the prize pending report of the Inspector of Artillery as to which corps really stood highest.

Some discussion also took place as to the prize awarded to the president in the officers' firing competition, Capt. Mereweather and Mr. McCrae having made a higher score. It

was shown that they were not members of the association at the time of the competition, although they had taken steps to join. They were therefore ineligible. The reports were adopted.

To the list of vice-patrons of the association were added the names of Major-Gen. Herbert, Lt.-Col. Otter, D.A.G., and Lt.-Col. Irwin, Inspector of Canadian Artillery.

The election of officers for the year resulted in the return of the following:—

President—Major King, W.C.F.B. (re elected).

Vice-Presidents—Lt.-Col. F. C. Denison, C.M.G., Lt.-Col. A. H. Macdonald, Major Van Wagner and Major J. Stewart.

Executive Committee—Major W. McLean, Major W. Nicoll, Major J. H. Mead, Capt. J. S. Hendrie and Capt. McNachtan.

Secretary—L. H. Irving.

Treasurer—R. Myles.

Auditor—Major J. M. Delamere.

Mr. L. H. Irving was elected a life member, he having donated \$25 to the association.

On motion of Col. Macdonald a resolution of condolence with the family of the late A. H. Malloch, one of the founders and for some time Treasurer of the association, was passed.

Business having been disposed of, a discussion took place on the condition of the artillery. Col. Macdonald said that the men of the artillery should get three or four days' instruction at battery headquarters before going to camp. Something of this sort was necessary to drill the corps as soldiers. In camp they were too busy attending to horses and doing work of that sort to get proper drilling.

Before the association adjourned it was decided that all fees must be paid before the 1st of June in each year, or the various corps defaulting would be ruled out of all competitions.

## REGIMENTAL.

### TORONTO.

An informal meeting was held at Mr. Aronsberg's, 71 King St. West, on Wednesday, the 25th March, to discuss the best means of procuring recognition by the Government for the proposed Marine Artillery Corps. It was unanimously decided to send a deputation to Ottawa during the first week of the Session, to press the matter, so that the proposed corps may be established as a "Marine Artillery Corps." Among those present were Capt. Gordon, R.N., Capt. Shepart, R.N., and Geo. Tyler, R.N., S.O.E. Col. Otter, D.A.G., called and expressed his warmest desire to see the corps established, and his hearty co-operation was always at their service. Comdr. Law was unable to attend but sent his best wishes for its success, stating that he would give the movement his best support. Also a letter from Dr. W. H. B. Aikens was received expressing his entire sympathy and co-operation. The committee was represented by F. X. McGee, A. Aronsberg, H. Manley, Chas. Hunter and C. H. Macdonald (Secretary). If indications are to be relied upon the corps will become an established fact in a short time.

### THE ROYAL GRENS' REGIMENTAL ORDERS.

Detail for week ending April 4: Orderly officer, Second Lieut. Stinson; orderly sergeant, Sergt. Carter. Promotions—To be captains: Lieut. William Standish Lowe, S.I., on augmentation; Francis James Gosling, S.I., on augmentation; to be second lieutenants, provisionally: Alexander James Boyd, gentleman, vice A. H. Macdonell, promoted. Two additional companies having been added to the strength of the regiment they will be known as I and K companies, respectively. The under-mentioned officers will take charge of these companies: B Co., Lieut. Cameron; D Co., Capt. Gibson; E Co., Capt. Gosling; I Co., Capt. Greville Har-

ston; K Co., Capt. Manley. The undermentioned officers are posted to companies as follows: Lieut. Irving, A Co.; 2nd Lieut. Boulton, C Co.; 2nd Lieut. Stinson, G Co.; 2nd Lieut. Boyd, I Co. 2nd Lieut. McMahan is transferred from C to K Co. Leave of absence has been granted to 2nd Lieut. Boulton from March 20 to May 25, to proceed to England on private affairs. The regiment will parade in drill order, with leggings, at the Armoury on Thursday, April 2nd, at 8 p.m., and every successive Thursday at the same hour and place (unless otherwise ordered) until further notice.

### OTTAWA.

The Morris tube shooting in the Drill Hall has afforded no end of entertainment this season. About the closest and most interesting contest was fired on Wednesday evening of last week, between teams of six men each from the Princess Louise Dragoon Guards and the Ottawa Field Battery. The contest resulted in a tie, with a total of 210 points for each, and it was decided to settle the match by having the team captains shoot off. Lieut. Robert Brown, for the Dragoons made 17 points in his five shots, and Major John Stewart, for the Battery, made 16, so that the Dragoons won by a point. It is probable that both these corps will be able to enter League teams this year, as an outcome of the Morris tube shooting.

### THE GUARDS.

The Governor General's Foot Guards had their first parade of the season on Wednesday evening, 1st inst., the special occasion being a presentation to Sergt.-Major C. Conroy, on the occasion of his retirement after fifteen years service with the regiment. After preliminary drill the regiment was formed into a hollow square, and Sergt.-Major Conroy being called to the front, Lt.-Col. Todd made a short address expressive of the regiment's regret at his retirement and acknowledging the valuable services he had rendered. On behalf of the officers he then presented to the Sergt.-Major a beautiful gold-headed cane, suitably inscribed. Bandmaster Carter then stepped forward and presented a handsome gold ring as a souvenir of many years pleasant connection between Sergt.-Major Conroy and the band. The veteran, who has seen upwards of fifty years service in the regulars and the Canadian Militia, made a feeling reply, and to terminate the proceedings the band played "Auld Lang Sync." A great many ex-members of the regiment showed their appreciation of Sergeant-Major Conroy by attending to witness the presentation, and amongst those taking part in it by invitation were Lt.-Col. Thos. Ross and Lt.-Col. J. P. Macpherson, two former commandant officers under whom he had served.

Staff-Sergeant Thos. Davis had his first parade on the occasion as Acting Sergeant-Major. He handled the work like a veteran.

An immense recruit class, parading about sixty good men, was an indication that the ranks will be well filled this season. Staff-Sergeant P. McCarthy is the instructor.

Lieut. Bowie, acting adjutant, filled the position admirably. He has a splendid word of command.

The band has seldom been stronger or in better condition. Bandmaster Carter proves a very popular card.

Capt. Plunkett Taylor has entered with enthusiasm upon the command of No. 2 Company, to which he has just been appointed, and the company expect to maintain their old time superiority.

The officers paraded for the first time in their new frock coats, which have a decidedly "nobby" appearance.

### QUEBEC.

The 8th Royal Rifles had a march out through the streets of the city on Good Friday afternoon, under Lieut.-Col. Prower, who has recently returned from England to resume his command.

There was a very good muster and the men looked ex-

ceptionally well. The Brass and Bugle Bands were in strong force, and the improvement in both bands was the subject of remark and congratulation by many of the friends of the regiment who lined the streets through which they marched.

The High School Cadets were unfortunately so busy preparing for their concert on Easter Monday that they were unable to turn out as had been intended.

Among recent changes in the 8th the promotion of Sergt.-Major Argue to be Quartermaster may be noted. Mr. Argue has served continuously in the regiment since 1868, having filled the important post of Regimental Sergt.-Major for the past twelve years. He has been succeeded as Sergt.-Major by Col.-Sergt. T. P. Ross from "F" Company, Mr. Argue's old company.

The officers, non-com. officers and men of the 8th intend holding athletic sports in the Drill Hall on the 14th April, when some keen contests may be expected, all the events having been thrown open to members of the Quebec Garrison. Tugs of war, flat and hurdle races, jumping, &c., compose the principal items of the programme.

The 53rd "Sherbrooke" Battalion propose coming to Quebec for the "Queen's." It is to be hoped they will carry out their present intentions, when they will receive a hearty welcome, not only from members of the 8th and other city corps, but from the citizens generally, who are as partial as ever to the "red coats," which they now so seldom see.

#### N. B. BRIGADE GARRISON ARTILLERY.

The annual meeting of the officers of the New Brunswick Brigade Garrison Artillery was held on Thursday, 26th March, a full attendance of officers being present. Lt.-Col. Armstrong presided.

The regimental and band committees handed in their respective reports for the year, which were received and confirmed, each account showing a balance on hand and all bills paid.

The regimental committee were elected as follows: Captain and Paymaster George F. Smith, Surgeon J. W. Daniel and Captain J. J. Gordon.

The following were elected band committee: Capt. S. D. Crawford, Lieut. Dr. White and Lieut. R. H. Gordon.

The necessity of obtaining drill shed accommodation in Fairville and Carleton without delay was forcibly presented to the meeting by the officers of the batteries there stationed, and it was decided to commence the erection of a drill shed at once.

The officers, as usual, unanimously voted their entire drill pay for the ensuing year for the purposes of the Brigade.

It was decided to furnish the band with white helmets for use when parading not with the corps. Some further additions to the instruments of the band were ordered to be made, and after much pleasure being expressed at the satisfactory state of the finances and creditable state of the band, the meeting adjourned.

A few years ago it was thought that the best iron-clad men-of-war were indestructible. Now the dynamite gun has put the strongest of them at the mercy of a fair marksman. On the whole isn't this a good time to put in practice the teachings of the Prince of Peace, whose nativity was celebrated last week, and abolish war altogether?—*Boston Globe*.

Dr. Justin's efforts are of the utmost interest to gunners, for if he has really succeeded in firing a dynamite shell from a powder gun he has solved an important problem. Modern projectiles are so strong that powder will not explode them, and dynamite has been deemed impracticable. Dr. Justin's success, therefore, means that shells fired from modern ordnance can be exploded.—*New York World*.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

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

### D. R. A. "EFFICIENCY."

EDITOR MILITIA GAZETTE,—As the season of preparation for the annual competition of the D. R. A. is drawing near, and the regulations to govern that competition will soon be considered, I would like to draw the attention of your readers to a point of interest to all competitors:—

*Efficiency.*—In the case of a commissioned officer, one of good standing in his corps, or who has retired retaining rank, in the case of a n.c.o. or private one who has performed the last annual drill of his corps, or in cases where no such drill has been ordered within twelve months previous to the meeting of the D. R. A. at which he may be present, been a duly enrolled member of his corps for that period shall be held to be an efficient member of the militia and entitled to compete at the D. R. A. matches.

Now it will be seen from the above regulation that there is much in favour of the officer. As I take it, all that is necessary in his case is to hold a commission; it matters not if he has been appointed a week, or has held his position for years without putting in the annual drills of his corps. But the poor non-com. or private! His length of service, or the regularity with which he has attended the annual drill in the past count for nothing should he, through sickness or some other unavoidable circumstance, be unable to attend camp or perform his annual drills for the present year. Is that right or just? I do not for a moment imagine that it is the intention of the Executive of the Association to discriminate in favour of the officers, but according to the regulations it can plainly be seen that such is the case. Now I think that for the benefit of the Association, as well as the militia force, all ranks should be put on equal footing in respect to their qualification to compete in the D. R. A. matches, and if necessary for the non-coms. and privates to have attended the last annual drill of their corps, it should also be a qualification for the officers. Sufficient trust should be put in the commanding officers of corps to allow them the right to say whether the members of their corps, of whatever rank, are efficient militiamen and eligible to compete or not. Hoping this matter may be satisfactorily arranged, I remain yours, A COMPETITOR.

### SONG OF THE BULLET.

By James Whitcomb Riley.

It whizzed and whistled along the blurred .  
And red-blent ranks; and it nicked the star  
Of an epaulette, as it snarled the word—  
War!

On it sped—and the lifted wrist  
Of the ensign-dearer stung, and straight  
Dropped at his side as the word was hissed—  
Hate!

On went the missile—smoothed the blue  
Of a jaunty cap and the curls thereof,  
Cooing, sweet as a dove might coo—  
Love!

Sang—sang on!—sang Hate—sang War—  
Sang Love, in sooth, till it needs must cease,  
Hushed in the heart it was questing for,  
Peace!

### IS IT POSSIBLE?

Dr. Gatling has invented a cannon which will throw a projectile ten miles, piercing twenty inches of steel armor at the end of its flight. Unless the doctor can invent a man to sit on the shot and steer it, his invention is not likely to be of much practical use.—*Chicago Mail*.

## THE MILITIA DEPARTMENT REPORT.

In last issue we quoted from the annual report of the Department of Militia and Defence, just issued, the most interesting passages in the reports of the Deputy Minister, the Adjutant-General Commanding, and the Deputy Adjutants General or district commandants. This week we continue the review in the order in which the reports appear.

### The Artillery.

The Inspector of Artillery, Lt.-Col. Irwin, after reporting separately upon each of the corps inspected by him, makes the following general remarks :

*Field Artillery.*—It is gratifying to be able to report that a majority of the Field Batteries continue to maintain the very high state of efficiency which has been reported for several years, and this actually means very constant and arduous work on the part of every officer and man, not only during the annual drill, but for many weeks beforehand.

With a view to enabling a Field Battery to turn out in good order on the first day of camp, I would strongly urge the approval of the recommendation made for the last two years by the Major-General Commanding, viz., that pay be allowed for the officers, sergeants, drivers and horses for the day before going into camp. This would enable horses to be selected and teamed, harness fitted, and all stores packed in readiness.

The range-finding practice was this year carried out in camp by thirteen batteries, and subsequently by the Montreal Battery. This practice has been advanced a further stage this year, and will be still further developed next year. It is found to be most interesting, useful and instructive.

The annual competitive gun practice was held at Kingston between the 16th and 20th September, and was participated in by detachments from twelve batteries and 27 officers. The Newcastle, Sydney and Winnipeg Batteries practised at local camps, and the Toronto and Richmond Batteries were unable to send detachments. The general results of the meeting were very satisfactory. The general accuracy of the shooting was somewhat interfered with by want of practice in the use of the new pattern sight, owing to the delay in manufacturing and issuing them. The sights have, however, proved very satisfactory on further use.

All the arrangements for camping, messing, targets, range duties and transport were very satisfactorily carried out by the officers and men of "A" Battery, under the direction of Lt.-Col. Cotton.

It would add very much to the beneficial effects of this meeting if arrangements could be made by which all officers and men of the detachments could remain in camp for a definite period—which at least should be one complete day—but could with advantage be extended to 36 hours.

With reference to the stores and equipment of Field Batteries, it is recommended by Lt.-Col. Cotton that a Board of Survey should be held annually upon the stores, etc., of each battery. It may be necessary, in some cases, that this should be done, but as these stores are inspected semi-annually by the District Staff, and the Major commanding the battery is held personally responsible for their maintenance in good order, it is to be hoped that sufficient care and attention will be paid by the latter to this very important part of his duties, and that in future the existing General Orders relative to the forwarding of the annual store returns and requisitions to complete deficiencies, will be more strictly attended to.

As previously reported for several years, I am of opinion

that it would greatly add to the general efficiency of the Field Batteries in the Province of Quebec, if arrangements could be made by which these corps could assemble in one camp for combined artillery drills, instruction and gun practice.

Difficulties as to the selection of time and place could doubtless be surmounted were the officers commanding desirous of effecting an agreement on the subject, and the expense of transport could be met by allowing batteries in Ontario, which have joined artillery camps for several years, to perform their drill next year at local headquarters.

*Garrison Artillery.*—It will be seen in reference to the efficiency returns, that the batteries drilled and inspected this year have maintained, and in several cases very considerably improved upon, the general creditable state of efficiency previously reported. The general meeting for competitive gun practice, etc., at the Island of Orleans, was attended by 29 officers and detachments of 7 men each from 24 batteries. The ranges for both 64 and 40-pounder guns were considerably increased, and the practice was uniformly good and in some cases excellent. During the last two days of the meeting the weather was so unfavourable as to prevent the continuance of the firing and shifting ordnance competitions, and three fine detachments of 19 men each from the Halifax Brigade were obliged to leave camp without being able to participate in the latter. They have subsequently, however, performed similar shifting ordnance operations at local headquarters.

All the arrangements for camping—range duties, etc., etc.—were very efficiently carried out by working parties of officers and men from "B" battery, R.S.A., Major C. Lindsay, Quebec Field Battery, continuing his valuable services as camp quartermaster and transport officer.

Involving, as the attendance at the Quebec meeting necessarily does, a very considerable sacrifice of time and money on the part of officers and men, and bearing in mind, too, that the amount offered in prizes is very inadequate to the result, very considerable credit should be given to those corps from the Maritime Provinces and elsewhere which, for several years past, have so well represented the Garrison Artillery. I should, therefore, be glad if arrangements could be made next year by which the Garrison Artillery practice could be held at or near local headquarters, and that the good feeling and close relationship already existing between our Dominion Artillery and the Volunteer Artillery of Great Britain could be maintained and strengthened by another visit, on our part, to the annual competition at Shoeburyness.

I cannot speak too highly of the good results which continue to be effected by the Dominion Artillery Association in everything that relates to the efficiency of the Field and Garrison Artillery, and in view of the paramount importance of maintaining a high and uniform standard of efficiency for both branches of the corps throughout the Dominion, would urge upon all officers the desirability of giving it their hearty support and co-operation.

*Forts and Armaments.*—With the exception of some necessary repairs to the walls, buildings, etc., of the Forts at Quebec and Kingston, no alterations in this respect are reported.

Four 9-pr. R.M.L. guns and equipment were ordered from the Imperial Government for issue to the Sydney Field Battery. Only three guns, one being reported as unfinished, have been as yet received.

One 9-in. R.M.L. gun of 12 tons and one 7-in. R.M.L. gun of 7 tons with carriages and platforms have been received on loan from the Imperial Government, and suitably mounted in the Drill Shed at Halifax. The acquisition of these comparatively modern guns has been a great boon to the Artillery Brigade, and being of the same type as the ordnance mounted at the several forts in the vicinity, their usefulness as a means of instruction is at once apparent.

I would recommend for consideration the advisability of obtaining from the Imperial Government two or more rifled guns of position. The 25-pr. R.M.L. gun, 18 cwt., would appear to be the most suitable for this purpose.

These guns would be available for issue to such batteries of Garrison Artillery as might possibly be called upon to assist in the defence of a position. They would take the place of the existing and now obsolete 18-pr. S.B. guns, and being on travelling carriages, can readily be moved from place to place as required.

### The Royal Military College.

The commandant, Major-General D. R. Cameron, makes a detailed report upon the work of the College for the year, and the Board of Visitors, who in December honoured the institution with the first visit paid for a great many years, state the result in an interesting report, the contents of which prove of a very satisfactory nature. The Board consists of Col. Walker Powell, Adjutant General, President; Col. C. S. Gzowski, A.D.C., Lt.-Col. T. J. Duchesnay, D.A.G., Lt.-Col. G. A. Kirkpatrick, M.P., Lt.-Col. W. D. Otter, D.A.G. The following is condensed from their report:—

Although the college has been in operation since the 1st day of June, 1876, many of the details connected with it are unknown to some of those who contribute towards the cost of its maintenance. It is therefore considered desirable to supply information not usually given in a report of this nature, but connected with its organization and development, especially as to the terms of admission, etc. The Board do not examine the cadets as to the extent of their literary or military attainments. This is done by the College Professors, who award the marks, show the standing of each cadet, and his order of merit. The Board inquires into all details connected with the institution, sees the cadets in their barrack, class and mess-rooms, and at drill, and makes inspection in every department connected with its usefulness, efficiency and maintenance.

The examinations for matriculation are competitive, and open to all Canadians who are of the prescribed age and possess the required qualification as to conduct and medical fitness. They are held in June each year, in the district in which candidates reside. Those who pass and are approved, join the college when it opens for work the 1st of September. The maximum number of cadets authorized to be admitted is at present restricted to 24 per annum.

The mess premises are ample for all the purposes of the cadets. The messman receives a per diem rate of 46 cents for each cadet present. The Board visited the mess premises and kitchen, and saw the cadets at dinner. The quantity of food prepared seemed ample, and the cooking and serving were carried out in a satisfactory manner. Extra articles of various kinds can be obtained from the messman. They are, however, limited in number, and to specified hours for issue; also, the prices are regulated, in the interests of the cadets, by the Commandant, from time to time. No cadet is allowed to expend more than \$2 per month, and no non-commissioned officer more than \$4 per month for these extras. They are in the nature of luxuries. The accounts for them, with the written orders for each article as vouchers, are audited by the Commandant, and must be paid by the cadet monthly from his pocket money.

The provision made by the Dominion for college premises and for aid towards maintenance indicates the practical objects, and the results it is expected will follow. The institution is intended to provide such an education and training as will fit the graduates for either a military or civil career. The country provides for only a small permanent force, and therefore cannot promise many commissions, but it insists that all the cadets shall receive a military education and training, and, in addition to the ordinary course, that each one shall take up such special subjects of

study as will better fit him for any civil technical employment he elects to follow until his military services are needed. Under these circumstances, there is no written obligation on the part of any cadet to join the military service after he graduates. He contributes towards the cost of maintenance, and the Dominion secures advantages of great value in the technical knowledge the graduate has acquired during his educational and instructional course.

The contribution payable by each new cadet in reduction of the cost of messing and quarters is \$200 per annum, instead of the \$100 previously noted. This reduces the outlay of the Department for maintenance, and requires those who participate in the advantages the education affords, to contribute to a larger degree than originally intended.

The deposit they are required to make the first year of their course, in addition to the \$200 contribution and extras procured from the messman, is \$200; each year thereafter \$150. They pay for their uniform, books, instruments, &c., out of these sums. The articles they purchase are issued from the college stores at cost, and aggregate about \$190 for the first year, and \$140 for each subsequent year, depending, however, upon the economy in disbursements and the growth of the cadet. Those who increase in stature and in physical development rapidly require more uniform than those whose growth is slower. The first year's expenditure is larger, because more articles are required, and some of those obtained that year, such as instruments, &c., suffice not only for the whole course, but for future years.

The educational staff consists of the commandant, the staff adjutant, 3 military professors, 2 military instructors, and 7 military non-commissioned officers, 6 civil professors, 10 servants, and in addition, 3 soldiers are attached, who belong to the artillery at the station; they are buglers, &c. The military professors and officer instructors are officers of the Imperial regular army who have been lent for duty at the college. They have been selected with a view to their fitness for the professorial and instructional work they have undertaken, and in consequence of their adaptability, usefulness, and the interest they take in the well-being of the cadets and college add a prestige to the institution which could not, under existing circumstances, be so well secured by any other method. Four of the assistants are graduates of the college, two of whom also hold commissions in the army. Their periods of service are for five years. The civil professors have been chosen in Canada, and in common with the military professors are earnestly engaged in carrying out their portions of the duties.

The cadets admitted each year form a class and receive instruction together in all the obligatory subjects throughout the course. If any fail to pass the promotion examination at the end of each year they necessarily lose their places in the class and college. They are not permitted to remain in the same class for more than one year, but even if they were they could entertain no prospect of graduating at the end of four years, to which their attendance is restricted. There are, however, few such failures, and, as a rule, those who pass a satisfactory matriculation examination are enabled to keep pace with the class without unnecessary exertion.

The college year begins the 1st September and ends the 30th June each year. The vacation lasts two months during which period the cadets leave the college and return to their homes.

The Board believes the addition of civil subjects to the syllabus is looked upon by some as a source of weakness from a military standpoint, and that a military college, as its name implies, and in the nature of its results, should be confined exclusively to the preparation of graduates for military work. This reasoning would no doubt apply to countries where large standing armies are maintained, but the result, after fourteen years' experience, shows that the

plan of providing a combined system of instruction is well suited to existing circumstances, and that any plan which looked only to the preparation of graduates for military pursuits would have proved inapplicable to the conditions which now prevail in Canada. For many reasons the amalgamation of subjects was and is a necessity; and as to the civil subjects, it is no impediment to the usefulness of an officer if he possesses the power of applying, in times of need, the fund of useful knowledge he may acquire in civil life after he graduates. The habits of military regularity and punctuality are ingrained in him at an age, during his four years course, which will insure their being retained in after years. His recollection of college life will be influenced by its military tone, and connected with its military administration and details, whatever the nature of his occupation may be.

No preference is given to any cadet; all who obey the regulations are treated alike. None are allowed to keep horses or dogs on the college grounds. All are armed with Martini-Henry rifles, and field guns are available for the purposes of drill. They carry out target practice and are trained as artillery and infantry. They make earthworks in the field in summer and under cover in winter. They keep their own arms and accoutrements clean. The senior class is instructed each year in equitation. The horses used are supplied by the permanent battery of artillery at the station, but, being heavy, are better fitted for Field Artillery work than for the purpose of instruction at the college. When it is possible to obtain horses more suitable for instructional purposes of the cadets it will tend to the advantage of all concerned in this useful and necessary portion of their instruction. The battery has done all it could, and continues to afford all possible aid and assistance to the college.

There is an excellent collection of electric, chemical and scientific apparatus for the purposes of illustration, but progressive development has been so rapid that other articles are needed. Those who study chemistry receive practical instruction in the laboratory. The nature of the education in all subjects taught is liberal and progressive. The tendency is to avoid narrow ideas, to expand the mind and enlarge the understanding, so as to enable the graduates to become men of the world and useful officers and citizens after they leave the college. Although many of the studies in civil subjects are similar to those followed in polytechnic schools, the results attained differ, for the reason that the military portion of the education is alike for all. The combination fits the cadets for either military or civil employment, and therefore increases their qualification for either. This qualification appears to be obtained without unnecessary mental strain, as the studies and the military and other compulsory exercises are so intertwined as to require each cadet to develop his muscle and reasoning powers, and thus enable him to prosecute his studies without detriment to his health. Results such as these cannot fail to secure much technical knowledge, insure practical training for future use by the Dominion whenever a necessity arises, and in the meantime aid the graduates in the pursuits they elect to follow. Some will incline to one pursuit and some to another, but experience has proved that each one will be likely to develop talent in the pursuit he is best fitted for. It therefore seems fortunate that the avenues for energetic action and employment are so numerous in the industrial development now going on within the Dominion.

The Board considers the provision made for the instruction each year of officers of active militia during a course lasting three months has been productive of most satisfactory results. These officers are attached for messing, discipline, &c., to the Battery of Artillery at Kingston, and attend daily at the college for instruction during the course, in Civil Engineering, Military Administration and Law, Strategy and Tactics, Military Topography and Reconnaissance.

Since the system was organized in 1882, 113 officers have attended for such instruction, the average number during the last few years being 10 per annum. Great advantage would also result to the active militia if more of the graduates of the college were appointed to commissions of the active force, and as many as possible of them detailed for duty with corps during the annual drills in camp. It seems unnecessary to continue the class of sappers heretofore allowed. The courses for those attached should be confined to officers.

The expenditure for maintenance during 1889-90 for all the purposes of the college was \$70,734. There was paid by cadets \$21,115, leaving a net total of \$49,669.

The number who have graduated from the college is 157; in addition many cadets have left after two or three years of study, and paying the fine of \$100. This fine is exacted from all who so leave the college for purposes of their own, but who are not incapacitated from completing the course by illness or physical inability.

The authorized establishment of cadets is 96; but in consequence of their being insufficient dormitory accommodation, that number cannot be taken on the strength. There are now 68 cadets on the roll, which is all that can be properly provided for.

The nature of the education acquired during their four years' residence in the college is such that it should not be surprising that the graduates have displayed great aptitude and qualification for the employments they elect to follow. Of those who have been under instruction, 54 graduates and 14 cadets hold commissions in the Imperial regular army. They are reported to be giving satisfaction to their superiors, are good soldiers, and possess Canadian characteristics which make them cosmopolitan in a marked degree. They, therefore, readily adapt themselves to the customs of the countries to which they are sent for duty. They also exercise command with an appreciation of responsibility, exhibit self-control, respect for authority, and a facility of resource under difficulties which insure appreciation at all times. The length of the course and the instruction they receive in the college, relating to all arms of the service, insures undoubted advantages to those who obtain commissions. For instance, an artillery or infantry officer possesses a knowledge of engineer work, and an engineer officer a knowledge of that of other arms, which adds very much to their qualifications for command, and enables them to become useful from the day they join their corps for duty. Some of the graduates would accept commissions in the permanent force of Canada if permitted to do so. In 1885 many who had embarked in civil pursuits volunteered for military duty in the North-West Territories of Canada, and went with the corps they joined for service during the rebellion.

Their distributions among the various civil employments depends, in a great measure, upon inclination and the qualifications they possess. Although the military portion of the education is the same for all, many become civil engineers, but more than a dozen other employments are represented in the list made up and kept of the occupations they follow. Railways, canals, architects, public departments, mounted police, surveyors of land, hydrographic surveys, electricians and mechanical engineers are enumerated, as are also commerce, banking, agriculture and other kindred pursuits. In all these different departments the graduates have become successful, and some of them, as they increase in age and experience, seem likely to develop into able administrators.

Electric and mining enterprises are growing into important industries, but it is not possible to include in the curriculum of the college more than a theoretical knowledge of them. The great mineral resources of the Dominion will no doubt afford profitable occupation for all the graduates who properly fit themselves for employment in the higher branches of such development as it progresses. This partic-

ipation in the expansion of industrial occupations will result in widening the experience and extending the usefulness of the graduates, and cause them to become useful administrators whenever their military services are required.

It will be seen that the college is, as its name implies, a military one, having also a civil object. It could never have fulfilled the purposes for which the existing education is required if it had been a civil college having also a military side. No doubt many of the valuable prizes obtained by the graduates have been drawn from the occupations of civil life; but it cannot be forgotten that the potent factor in bringing about these successes has been the foundation laid during the acquisition of the military portion of their education and training. It therefore seems proper that in its predominating influences and character it should remain military in its most thorough sense. Every member of its staff should be selected solely with reference to his fitness for the important duties he is required to carry out, and the graduates should continue to reflect in their deportment, tone and adaptability, the heart beat of the institution on this basis.

The Board believes the college to be a useful and necessary institution, and that it is providing such an education as is now needed, and that the graduates emitted from year to year will carry with them, and retain for future use, all the military knowledge it is possible to provide for under existing circumstances. They, however, suggest that the college and the facilities it possesses should be so increased from time to time as to enable it to keep pace with and provide for all the requirements of development as it progresses within the Dominion.

(To be concluded in our next issue.)

Dr. Justin has demonstrated at last that dynamite shells can be fired from a powder gun; but in view of the frequency and alarming character of his failures it is probable that the artillerists who are to have the handling of his guns will prefer to let the enemy capture and fire them themselves.—*Philadelphia Inquirer.*

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