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Successor to the Canadian Militia Gazette.

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MONTREAL, MAY 15, 1894.

Note and Comment.

The whole of the force must be deeply interested in the negotiations now pending for the amalgamation of the two Montreal regiments, the First Prince of Wales Rifles and the Sixth Fusiliers. Apart altogether from the historical record of the two corps and the position of at least one of them as one of the most efficient corps for its size in the whole Dominion, the event is of the greatest importance as an indication of the fact that militia reorganization, so long desired and so long delayed, is at last to be practically taken up by the authorities and pushed to a definite conclusion. It must not be supposed that General Herbert and the Militia Department will be satisfied now that they have begun by

the combining of the two Montreal corps named. They have begun with two of the senior regiments on the list and they will go right on with it, and it is not likely that anything will be allowed to stand in the way, at least it is to be hoped not.

To the observant, the amalgamation of the First and the Sixth and the proposed reduction of companies of the Victoria Rifles and the Royal Scots is considered as the inauguration of a policy destined either to put the altogether too numerous small battalions out of existence or to reduce the establishment of officers to something like a reasonable basis. Militiamen at a distance from Montreal, who have been regarding the amalgamation now under consideration as a matter of no concern for themselves had better disabuse their minds of that idea at once. The step is not merely the result of special local influences. The Prince of Wales Regiment and the Sixth Fusiliers have not ceased to be efficient. Far from it. At last year's inspection the Prince of Wales Rifles was among the half-dozen most efficient battalions in Canada, according to the annual report of the Militia Department, while the Sixth Fusiliers was second on the list and only a few points behind the leading battalion. Nothing can be plainer, then, than that the fine work of the reorganizer has been applied to them first, not because they stand in the most immediate need of reorganization, but because, by reason of seniority, they stand nearest to the top of the militia list; that is if there is such a thing as a militia list in existence just now.

Beyond all question this amalgamation is the work of General Herbert. Of course he obtained the consent of the minister, but the General's has

been the guiding hand all through. He invited the commanding officers of the two corps to a conference on the subject, and while nominally leaving the choice of amalgamation to themselves, practically gave them to understand that such a step was required. The advice of the commanding officers has been solicited on certain details of the amalgamation, in order that the change may be effected with as little injury to the esprit de corps and individual interests of the members of the old corps as possible, for of course both of the regiments concerned will have to sacrifice some of the traditions of which they have been proud. The question of the designation of the new regiment has been referred to His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, who personally named the old Prince of Wales Rifles. It has been argued by the General that the uniform shall be that of the Sixth Fusiliers, with the lily white facings, and the tunics have been already ordered. The expectation is that His Royal Highness will approve of the title the First Prince of Wales Regiment of Fusiliers. Old Sixth men will not be able to recognize their old corps under that designation; but on the other hand Prince of Wales Riflemen will scarcely recognize their old battalion when they meet the new scarlet coated battalion on the streets of Montreal.

Good soldiers, even amateur ones like members of our own force, get very much attached to their corps, and they naturally hate to see the regiment for which and in which they have worked and striven, lose the least particle of its identity or its individual glory. Still, omelettes cannot be made without breaking eggs. The only way to place the militia force on a sound footing is to greatly reduce the number

of companies and battalions, and the amalgamation of the existing units is certainly the most satisfactory way of accomplishing that. There are difficulties, and plenty of them in the way, but they can surely be overcome in every case, if they can be in amalgamating two old corps with such splendid records and such distinct individuality as the two Montreal regiments which are now passing through the ordeal. We feel now that devotion to the force, a practical loyalty which should make us willing to pocket some of our *esprit de corps* even, will lead officers to assist General Herbert and the Department in the great reform which they are inaugurating, a reform which has long been desired, and which cannot be carried out any too soon.

The benefits to be derived by the force from reducing the number of units and increasing the strength of those remaining are so evident as to scarcely call for comment. We have always maintained that the allowances to efficient corps were too scanty, but have also held that a great deal of money was wasted in connection with many wholly inefficient corps. This prospective reorganization will put a full stop to the waste on skeleton battalions, the remaining corps will be strong enough to draw allowance sufficient to keep the wheels moving, and in fact there should be such a saving as to allow of allowances all round being increased. It will come hard on inefficient corps, but the efficient ones will reap the benefit, as they deserve it. It is better to have fifty thoroughly efficient and well-maintained corps in the Dominion than a hundred struggling little battalions, many of which exist only on paper and are utterly valueless as military units. We are for amalgamation all along the line.

When on earth may we expect the Militia Dept. to promulgate the "establishment list" for 1894-95? The General Order said it would be laid before parliament and promulgated in Militia General Orders each year. Parliament has been in session over two months and still there is no sign of the long looked for list. Some corps have about completed their drill for 1894-95 and are to be inspected this month; others again, such as the Toronto corps, have completed more than half of it without knowing what their strength is to be. We would like to know the strength which the Montreal corps, who have completed their drill, are to be paid for. In this

connection it is understood that in the new "Establishment List," the No. of companies per battalion is to be largely reduced. For instance the Q. O. R. and Royal Grenadiers, Toronto, 10 company battalions of 42 men per company, are to be reduced to 8 companies per battalion of 64 men per company, and the Victoria Rifles, Montreal, a 6 company battalion to 4 companies of 64 men each. In this way the proportion of officers to men will be largely decreased. As it is now there is one officer to 8 men. But the 64 men per company will make the proportion about one officer to 17 men. This is as it should be a good strong company of 32 files, is far better every way than 2 weak companies of half the strength. If this reduction takes place, the number of officers in excess of the authorized strength will have done so without pay.

There is no sign yet of the militia list corrected to Jan. 1st 1894. In the old days when there was but an Adjutant-General at Ottawa, the list was issued some time in April. But now with an Adjutant-General, Quarter-Master General, Assistant Adjutant General and Inspector of Artillery Headquarters, it is not out in May—5 months, and no sign of it yet. If the staff at Ottawa is increased any more, we need not expect the list probably during the same year. It was reported that the list was to be issued, corrected to 30th June each year to make it conform to the militia report. If so, we will now have a list just one year old, and little, if any, practical value. No explanation is forthcoming as to the unaccountable delay, Will the Militia Dept. not enlighten us? We think the Dept. might add a few pages to the back of the book giving corrections to date, say 1st June as is done in "Hart's Annual Army List." In this way the militia list would be up to date. But this suggestion is not made with a view of holding it back for 2 or 3 months more.

We notice by the Government press that Mr. Campbell, the poet, has been transferred from the Militia Department to the State Department. When this gentleman was appointed we were told by the Government press of his fitness for the Militia Department on account of being a literary man, and how he would get up the early military history of Canada, now that he has been transferred to the State Department, the early military history idea is forgotten. The appointment of

any person to a military position who is without any military knowledge is a fraud on the country. No person should be appointed except military men, why do we go to the enormous expense yearly of maintaining a military college, if we do not get some of its graduates for military appointments? No person outside of our Militia Department would think of selecting a person with no military knowledge for military appointments, yet this is what is done at Ottawa. This reminds us that we are somewhat curious to know how the Minister of Militia can reconcile his statement that the militia was divorced from politics, by his recent appointment of a man as assistant to the militia architect who is utterly without any professional knowledge of military engineering. Surely of our military college is any good at all, it could have provided a graduate capable of filling this position. This is the more unaccountable as graduates of the college go direct into the Royal engineers. It seems a strange anomaly that the country should go to the expense of educating military engineers, and then for the Militia Department to select a gentleman without any military engineering education for the militia engineer service.

R. & O. 1887, par. 9, states that appointments to the District Staff of Militia shall not be tenable for a longer period than 5 years. Some of the D. A. G's have been from 8 to 15 years in one district. It is not about time the regulations in this respect were altered to conform to the policy of the department not to transfer the D. A. G's.

The militia report has very full accounts of the state of efficiency, clothing, musketry, &c., of the militia corps that drilled. But no such report is made concerning the permanent corps. Why is this? By the Queen's regulations general officers commanding are required to make full and exhaustive reports upon the personal efficiency, conduct, character, acquirements and services of every officer in the unit and of all military staff officers. This is in addition to his report on the general efficiency of the units; their clothing, interior economy, administration, messing, musketry, &c. Why is this not done in Canada? If such a report is made, it is quietly suppressed. We know nothing from the general's report, as to how our regulars are clothed, fed, housed, or their figure of merit for musketry fire. Is this latter so bad that it is not published, or is it omitted altogether? Please tell us, as we would like to know how our regulars can shoot—if at all.

## News of the Service.

NOTE.—Our readers are respectfully requested to contribute to this department all items of Military News affecting their own corps, districts or friends, coming under their notice. Without we are assisted in this way we cannot make this department as complete as we would desire. Remember that all the doings of every corps are of general interest throughout the entire militia force. You can mail a large package of manuscript, so long as not enclosed in an envelope, for one cent. At any rate, forward copies of your local papers with all references to your corps and your comrades. Address,

EDITOR, CANADIAN MILITARY GAZETTE  
P.O. Box, 387, Montreal, Que.

### Montreal.

Saturday May 5th was a red-letter day of the rosiest variety for the Victoria Rifles, and no mistake. The battalion was overwhelmed with praise and congratulations for the prowess it had displayed in winning the Sir Donald Smith cup last year, and it won universal praise for the way it turned out for the event in question, a way which augers well for its success in retaining the cup this year. Naturally, the Victorias turned out in full strength. It was their show, and they were bound to keep their end up. It was not to be expected that the other other regiments would be as enthusiastic as the Vics about turning out, and they only had a couple of days to prepare for the parade, while the Vics had had the ceremony in view for several weeks. The Major General who was present made the event the occasion for a short address on discipline. He said: Before asking the generous donor of these handsome prizes to make the presentation, I wish to offer you my congratulations on your success. It gives me particular pleasure to see the Victoria Rifles at the head of the list this year, and for this reason? Three years ago I inspected this battalion, and though I was not quite so severe in my public remarks as some unofficial critics, I discussed, as I am always glad to do, privately with commanding officers the causes which, I thought, led to much of the adverse criticism heard on that occasion. The following year you, Col. Starke, entered upon your duties as commanding officer, and I have pleasant recollection of some conversations which we had with reference to the system of training to be adopted. That year I gave you a much more searching inspection, which you went through very creditably, though you did not take the prize. That you did not so was, no doubt, a disappointment to many, but it has resulted in a higher credit to the Victoria Rifles, since it has given them an opportunity of making a proof of discipline. On that occasion you set an example which I should wish to see imitated. There was disappointment, but it did not find vent in complaints, either against the inspecting officers or against the terms or the competitions, in fact, you took your defeat in a manly spirit, with a quiet soldier-like determination to make victory certain next time, and therefore I say that you have my especial sympathy on this occasion. In the competition in which you take the

prize this year, we aim at the attainment of military efficiency, as tested by various military exercises and administrative details, but it must be borne in mind that a body of men, however highly skilled in military exercises, is worthless and unworthy to be called a military organization if it is not imbued with a spirit of discipline. It is hardly possible to establish a comparative test of discipline, but every man when he puts on Her Majesty's uniform should be given a clear conception of what is meant by discipline, and should endeavor to attain the ideal of discipline in the highest degree.

By discipline is meant that power of self-control by which a man places his will and the exercise of his mental as well as his physical faculties, under the direction of the person appointed to command him. Those examples of heroism which are familiar to you all and are household words wherever the English language is spoken—Balclava, the Birkenhead, and more recently still, the noble example given on board Her Majesty's ship Victoria—are merely instances of this power of self-control. (Applause.) The incidents that furnish such examples are fortunately of rare occurrence, but every man that is standing here tonight has the opportunity given him of exercising the same quality which has invested those incidents with an undying fame. Every man can, if he will, put a check upon the impulse, natural, perhaps, to assert his own opinion against that of his superiors, to criticise and to discuss when he should simply obey. He can compel himself to keep silent when his inclination is to talk. He can resist the temptation to acquire the transient notoriety afforded by having his name in print. He can abjure as unworthy of a man the use of anonymous correspondence. He can do this even in those cases "where each soldier knows some one has blundered," and he will be doing his duty as nobly in the sphere allotted to him as those who rode into the valley of death at Balclava.

A good deal has been said and a good deal has been written about this competition, more, perhaps, than is consistent with the practice of that self control to which I have alluded as the soul of discipline. I am more fully conscious than any one here this evening how far this competition falls short of the ideal which I would have it attain. Having fuller means of judging, I can appreciate more fully than anyone else the causes to which this partial failure is to be attributed. Difficulties there will be everywhere, but difficulties are meant to be overcome, and there is one here this evening, Sir Donald Smith, who is well fitted to show us how difficulties can be overcome in every undertaking. He has given us the encouragement which he is always ready to accord to every noble and praiseworthy enterprise, and I know that you mean to show yourselves worthy of his encouragement. I can assure him that as long as I am the trustee of his valuable gifts I will leave nothing undone to

preserve them from being unworthily awarded.

Turning to the detachment of the 65th Battalion, the General speaking in French said: "Colonel Provost, officers, non-commissioned officers and men of the sixty-fifth battalion—Before proceeding with the presentation of trophies now before you, and intended to reward the merits of your successful competitors, I cannot resist a desire to speak a few words to you, in your own beautiful language.

"I am happy to meet you, because you recall to my mind the finest pages of Canadian history. I fancy I find in you the descendants of those heroes who fought under the command of General de Montcalm, of Chevalier de Levis and of the Marquis de Vaudreuil. Never forget that you belong to the same race as those of your valiant compatriots who formed part of the Papal Zouaves regiment, those crusaders of the nineteenth century. That noble regiment rendered itself famous by defending the church at Castelidardo, at Montone, at Monte Libretti, at Monte Roland, etc., and under the very walls of Rome, the Eternal City. You see, then, that good examples come to you from all sides.

"Your fathers rendered themselves glorious under those famous chieftains. 'Good blood cannot lie.' You are on this continent the guardians of old French valor. A legend holds that, in days gone by French generals had only to show their troops a redoubt and tell them: 'Here is a fort to be taken.' 'It is to be taken,' the soldiers would reply: 'Well, then, we shall take it,' and they effectually took it, as they said they would.

"You see now those handsome silver cups, due to the munificence of our distinguished fellow-citizen, Sir Donald A. Smith; you have missed them this year, but they still remain to be taken. Well, then; take them next year!"

### St. John, N. B.

The New Brunswick Battalion of Garrison Artillery has lately sustained a great loss in the death of its Paymaster, Captain Geo. F. Smith. Capt. Smith was but 54 years of age. In his younger days he had been a gunner and later a non-commissioned officer in the corps and had held a position on the staff for the past nine years. He was one of the foremost citizens of Saint John, N. B., being a large and prosperous ship owner, having recently added to his fleet, steel sailing vessel of the most modern type. He was a man of splendid physique and genial disposition, and a keen sportsman. He was one of the lessees of the Bonaventure Salmon River. His funeral was attended by his brother officers, the fine band of the regiment and many of the rank and file of his corps, all of whom sincerely mourn his loss, and by a large concourse of citizens. Under the new regulations the duties of Paymaster are taken over by the Major.

The annual meeting of the officers

of the corps was held on the evening of the 30th ult., Lieut.-Colonel Armstrong, commanding, being in the chair. All officers were present. The regimental committee reported a good state of the finances, the receipts for the year having been \$1,287.50, and the expenditures \$896.23, leaving a balance of \$390.27. The band committee also reported that they were in funds, and the band in good condition. During the year the battalion held a public concert, a smoking concert for the men, and a ball, all of which passed off successfully. Besides the above, under special authority from headquarters, they fired a salute of one hundred guns on 4th May last, the centennial of the establishing of the first battery of the present corps. Surgeon Daniel, Capt. Jones and Lieut. White were elected as a regimental committee, and Capt. Crawford, Lieut. Foster and Lieut. McLeod on the band committee. Lieuts. Gordon and Scovil were appointed an audit committee. Letters of thanks for copies of the centennial photograph of the corps were read from the artillery corps throughout the Dominion, and also from the Inspector of Artillery and others.

An officer's class is being held to brush up before the beginning of the annual drill.

### London.

The Rifle Committee of the 7th Fusiliers have decided upon entering two teams in the Military Rifle League of 1894, one team to use the Martini, and the other the Snider.

The London Field Battery are hard at work preparing for the annual camp. It is expected the battery will be stronger and better this year than ever before.

Sergt. Major Munroe, R. R. C. I., has returned from Windsor, where he had been holding a series of classes for the benefit of the officers and non-commissioned of the 21st Fusiliers. Before leaving he was presented with a handsome smoking set, and a purse of money, as a token of appreciation on the part of the donors.

As yet there has been no move made upon the part of the militia authorities to appoint a Colonel to the command of the 7th Fusiliers. The result is that this corp is locked up, and the arms in the possession of the authorities.

It is said that the command has been offered Major Beattie, and that he will neither accept, nor decline, and that there is no power to force him to do either. Why this should be, is not known.

The question among riflemen now is "Where will we shoot next year?" The range used by the Western District Rifle Association will only give 600 yards, and as it is hoped that the Martini-Metford will be the rifle next year, this range will be useless, besides unsafe. It is the opinion that the Government should do something in the way of providing a suitable range, that would be convenient to the city shots, and to the corps in camp.

As it is, the Government is paying \$125 per year for a range which is used about 25 days in the year, and where the 600 yard range is built in a small clearing, and not at all satisfactory. Now, if the W. D. R. A. and the Government could pick upon one of really some use and leave political favors out of the deal it would benefit all parties concerned, as it is well known the Government is paying \$75 too much for the range they now occupy.

The first consignment of the new converted Martini-Metford rifles for this District have arrived. No. 1 Co. R. R. C. I. will in future be armed with this rifle, and the Martini-Henry's formerly used are to be at once returned into stores for to be converted immediately.

Up to time of writing nothing has been heard concerning promotions to fill the vacancies in the Toronto staff. Will the department take as long in this matter as in appointing a commanding officer for the 7th?

The publication of the militia report of 1892, created quite a ripple of excitement in military circles here, as it scored the 7th, (it is thought) a great deal more than it deserved. But it is allowed that the 1892 report will be a good one, as against the 1894, if things do not soon alter. About the best thing the authorities can do to better the present state of affairs with this corp, is to disband it entirely, and give the command on reorganization to some one who will promote its interest. As it is now, Major Beattie, who is next for command, will neither "eat the hay nor let the horse eat it." Whether that state of affairs is owing to political wire-pulling or not, is not definitely known, but some think it is, and that the sooner politics are totally eliminated from this corp, the better for its welfare.

### Ottawa.

The third meeting of the Ottawa Rifle Club was held on Saturday 5 May, when some fifty members turned out to shoot for the silver spoons. The wind was somewhat troublesome being from the front and changing at times from right to left, but in spite of that some good shooting was done. The rifle was the Martini, ranges 200, 500, 600 yards.

The features of the day were the specially fine scores of Mr. Ellis and the "possible" of secretary Scott at 500 yards, who with the sighting shot had eight consecutive "bulls" thus winning a dessert spoon. The following are the scores of those making 80 or over.

|                        | 200 | 500 | 600 | Total |
|------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| J. H. Ellis.....       | 32  | 34  | 33  | 99    |
| C. S. Scott.....       | 31  | 25  | 31  | 87    |
| L. G. Perkins.....     | 29  | 33  | 29  | 91    |
| Lt. Col. Wright.....   | 30  | 29  | 29  | 88    |
| T. P. Carroll.....     | 29  | 30  | 28  | 87    |
| B. H. Bell.....        | 30  | 24  | 27  | 81    |
| H. H. Gray.....        | 28  | 27  | 30  | 85    |
| Lt. Col. Anderson..... | 29  | 28  | 28  | 85    |
| D. McMartin.....       | 22  | 30  | 32  | 84    |
| J. P. Nutting.....     | 28  | 33  | 23  | 84    |
| C. Rorh.....           | 26  | 31  | 27  | 83    |
| G. A. Mailleu.....     | 28  | 30  | 25  | 83    |
| R. J. Taylor.....      | 30  | 28  | 25  | 83    |
| F. G. Gray.....        | 25  | 32  | 25  | 82    |
| J. P. Robinson.....    | 28  | 31  | 23  | 82    |
| G. L. Blatch.....      | 28  | 24  | 29  | 81    |

The following won spoons:

|               |               |                  |
|---------------|---------------|------------------|
| J. H. Ellis   | dessert spoon | 1st class        |
| C. S. Scott   | "             | possible 500 yds |
| C. S. Scott   | tea           | 1st class        |
| D. McMartin   | dessert       | 2nd class        |
| J. P. Nutting | tea           | "                |
| L. G. Gray    | tea           | 3rd "            |

### OUR SERVICE CONTEMPORARIES.

The encampment of the Staffordshire Infantry Volunteer Brigade at Teddesley Park, on the confines of Cannock Chase, in the August Bank Holiday period of this year is likely, says the *Birmingham Daily Gazette*, to assume much greater proportion than usual. General Julian Hall, commanding the North-Western District, is anxious before the termination of his term of duty to assemble the bulk of the forces under his command at some central point, with the object of exercising the different branches of the service in combined manoeuvres. Of the auxiliary forces the Staffordshire Infantry Brigade is the most centralized, and around and about this body the General is attempting to secure the encampment in August next of as large a body of troops, both regular and auxiliary, as is possible. With this object in view, negotiations have been conducted between the manorial proprietors and the military authorities, which it is expected will result in the formation in the fourth and fifth weeks of July, and the first week of August, of a great assembly of the troops quartered in the district. Authority has already been obtained for the drafting of troops, and it is more than probable that about 15,000 men will be assembled on the Chase and in the vicinity in the first week of August. These will combine all the arms of the service, and it is certain that outside our great military stations no such concentration of forces as that contemplated will have taken place in this country since the great manoeuvres in Cannock Chase in 1873.

General Lord Roberts has accepted the honorary Colonelcy of the Newcastle-on-Tyne Volunteer Artillery, vice honorary Colonel J. R. Young. General Roberts now divides his favours as honorary Colonel between the 3rd (Militia) Battalion Derbyshire Regiment, the Tynemouth Artillery, and the 2nd London Rifles.

Prince Louis of Battenberg's invention is during the summer to be subjected to an exhaustive series of trials, a gunboat being set aside for the purpose. The invention is a signalling apparatus, consisting of a collapsible drum, which opens and shuts so as to represent the long and short dashes of the Morse code. The instrument has already been experimented upon in the Channel Squadron, and the points now to be ascertained are its simplicity of working and the distance at which the signals can be read.

The meeting of the present year has been fixed by the National Rifle Association to commence on Monday, July 9. The new Imperial competition, in which 150 prizes are offered to the troops of the Regular Army, the Navy, Marines, and Militia, the first prize being the Challenge Cup and £100, is to be shot for in the first week—the first stage on the Wednesday at 200, 500, and 600 yards, and the second

stage (for the first 100 competitors of the first stage) on the Thursday at 800 yards. Competitors will be allowed to use either the Lee-Metford or Martini-Henry rifle, and will not be restricted to the weapon of the corps to which they belong.

It was stated by Mr. Campbell-Bannerman in the Imperial House of Commons the other night that Volunteers who had served in the India and the Colonies will be entitled to the new decoration on substantially the same terms as those who have served at home.

The selection of the names for the new battleships by no means meet with universal approval, though one good result has been a general rubbing up of naval history. More particularly is it thought that names bearing a more renowned record than the *Illustrious* and *Victorious* might have been chosen; for though the ships bearing these names had a fair record of services, it is not at all understood why they should have had the preference when there were such illustrious names available as *Vanguard*, *Captain*, *Montague*, *Namur*, *Russell*, *Defence*, *London*, *Kent*, *Burford*, *Berwick*, *Essex*, *Portland*, and *Nottingham*, besides many others. The painful impression made on the public mind by the loss of the *Captain* may not yet have sufficiently passed away.

Referring to a statement in the obituary notice of General Sir M. McMurdo that Sir Charles Napier had given the sword he wore at Meanee to his gallant son-in-law, a respected correspondent writes that the sword Sir Charles Napier wore at the battle was given to him by his father, and that it was left to his nephew, Major, now General, William Napier, to whom Sir Charles bequeathed his pistols also. To his son-in-law, Major McMurdo, Sir Charles bequeathed the sword given to him by Lord Ellenborough. In his will he says, "I leave the Ameer's golden-hilted sword to my brother Henry's son Charles. This sword was given to me by McMurdo, and I would leave it to his son Charles, but he has the sword his father so gloriously took in single combat in the bed of the Fullailee."

An interesting trial of the speed with which despatches can be carried by military cyclists took place the other day in Holland, having been organized by the Dutch Cyclists' Union in conjunction with the Ministry of War. The idea of the experiment was to ascertain the time in which despatches could be conveyed to the War Ministry in the event of an attack on the Netherland frontier. The course was from Maestricht to The Hague, a distance of about 164½ miles. It was arranged that some of the cyclists should ride the entire distance, while for others the journey was divided into seven sections, a relay being ready at the end of each stage, so as to secure the greatest possible speed. The rid-

ers carried their full military equipment and rode the cycles used in the manoeuvres. Between Maestricht and The Hague rivers had to be crossed no fewer than six times, and this was a cause of some delay. The first despatches received were brought by one of the stage riders at 6.34 p.m., the distance from Maestricht having been covered in 15 hours 14 minutes. Two of the direct riders, who left Maestricht at 3.30 a.m., arrived at The Hague at 9.6 p.m., having thus accomplished the journey in 17 hours 35 minutes.

The Board of American naval officers to whom was submitted the question of the utilization of the whaleback type of vessels as ships of war has submitted a report to the Navy Department at Washington. The report of the Board is adverse to the proposition.

General the Duke of Connaught has returned from leave, and again assumed command of the Aldershot Division, which has been held during his absence by Major-General Sir Baker Russell.

It is officially announced that the Queen has appointed the German Emperor Honorary Colonel of the 1st (Royal) Dragoons.

Saint George's day is looking up. It is an extraordinary thing that whereas in the Army we most religiously observe the name-days of three out of our four national saints, the patron of by far the largest section is as a rule allowed to pass by unobserved and unhonoured. The Scotch keep the feast of Saint Andrew, the Irish that of Saint Patrick, and the Welsh that of Saint David, but, with the solitary exception of the Northumberland Fusiliers, no English regiment goes out of the beaten track to honour our national Saint George, which is all the more extraordinary when we remember that for centuries "Saint George for Merrie England" was the rallying cry of our forefathers, and that the saint himself was a very distinguished warrior. As there have been several Georges canonized we are quite prepared to have this last statement questioned, but it does not affect the main question. This year we have had a very successful banquet at the Mansion House, which is in a way the centre of such festive gatherings. At this banquet were present not only leaders of our own life, but distinguished natives of "England over the seas." The Lord Mayor expressed the wish (which all Englishmen will re-echo) that this might be only the first of many similar gatherings in celebration of Saint George's day, while the American Minister's presence served to remind that in the United States every large city has its Saint George's Society, and that whatever we might be doing on this side of the water, there many great gatherings would be assembled in honour of the day.

Before leaving Coburg the German Emperor informed the colonel and officers of the Queen's Dragoons that he had been

appointed Honorary Colonel of the 1st (Royal) Dragoons in the British Army, adding that he hoped the 1st Prussian Dragoons of the Guard and the Royales would henceforth be bound together by the closest ties of comradeship. Lieut.-Col. von dem Knesebeck telegraphed in this sense to Lieut.-Colonel Tomkinson, and received the suljoined message in reply in German: "Vom innigsten Herzen gruzen wir unsere neuen Camaraden. Seine Majestat unser Oberst er lete hoch.—Colonel Tomkinson, Royal Dragoons." (We most cordially greet our new comrades. Long life to His Majesty our Colonel.) The non-commissioned officers also telegraphed to their comrades at Coburg as follows: "We, the non-commissioned officers of the Royal Dragoons, send our hearty greetings to our comrades of the Queen of Great Britain and Ireland's Dragoons." In reply the non-commissioned officers at Coburg telegraphed: "We thank our comrades of the Royal Dragoons for their kind greetings, which we cordially reciprocate."

The Commander-in-Chief has issued an order directing that officers commanding units of Cavalry, Garrison Artillery, and Infantry in possession of machine guns are to be held responsible that a thoroughly-trained gun detachment shall always be maintained, with extra men under tuition, to replace casualties. General officers will test the efficiency of these detachments at their inspections, and report upon them.

The *New York Herald* states that there is a strong probability the United States European naval station will soon be abolished. It is alleged on good authority that orders will be sent to Acting Rear-Admiral Erben to return home in the "Chicago" at an early day, thus entirely depleting the European squadron. It is not the intention to revive this squadron for some time, as all the vessels of the Navy are more urgently needed in other waters.

Before the Channel Squadron leaves England again, the four battleships, "Royal Sovereign," "Empress of India," "Resolution," and "Repulse," are to be supplied with cordite charges for use with the 6-inch quick-firing guns. These charges, being supplied with experimental purposes, are to be used exclusively for practice. The new charges are to be stowed in the hottest magazines of each ship in order that the test of the cordite may be as severe as possible. The "Blenheim" is also to be supplied with cordite charges for her 6 inch quick-firing guns. At the end of six months after being supplied with the new ammunition, the captain of each ship is to make a special report on the cordite used, and that remaining on board.

The Union Steamship Company's "Moor," which, it will be remembered, was chartered in 1885 to act as an armed

cruiser, and supplied with six guns and a crew of 110 officers and men, has just made a satisfactory trial after considerable alterations at the yard of Messrs. Thmeon, at Clydebank. She has been lengthened 55ft., increasing the cargo space and allowing room for additional boilers and extra coal. Improvements in machinery, propeller, &c., have also been made whereby the power of the ship has been increased and a higher speed can be obtained. Advantage has also been taken of the lengthening of the vessel to effect alterations and improvements in her passenger accommodation, which, it is believed, will make her one of the most popular vessels in the South African trade. The "Moor," when taken up in 1885, proceeded on a cruise on the East Coast of Africa, and was the only merchant steamer which was armed and commissioned abroad under the command of a naval officer, and actually hoisted the pennant.

At Portsmouth recently an experiment with the "Speedy" and the "Havock" came to a satisfactory conclusion. On the previous day these vessels had been out for an eight hours' run, acting as the scouts of an imaginary fleet, and when they came into harbour for the night they were ordered to bank fires. On Wednesday they received orders to start immediately on a forced draft full-speed run of two hours, the only condition being that they kept company. They soon got within a fraction of twenty knots an hour, and maintained this speed without the smallest friction, but eventually the "Havock" went well ahead, and left the "Speedy" far in rear. It was the rehearsal of an incident which would be common in war time, and was most successfully carried out.

The Mediterranean Squadron, which is expected in June in the Adriatic, will visit the Austrian ports in two divisions, the first to call at Polazara, Klek, and Cattaro; the second at Trieste, Fiume, Spalato, and Ragusa.

The endeavor to remove the stigma hitherto placed upon Irishmen in Ireland by the withholding from them the privilege of forming volunteer corps continues to be the principal aim of the patriotic body calling itself the Irish Volunteer Association. At a meeting of the president (Lieutenant-Colonel Morrison) and the secretaries (Messrs. Leachman and McLaine) of the new institution, held at the Dublin Mansion House the other day, over two hundred applications to join the Infantry battalion proposed to be raised in Dublin were received. The candidates for enrolment represent various sections of the community, not a few of them having served in volunteer corps in England and Scotland. When a sufficient number of names have been received—one thousand are required—application will be made to the Lord Lieutenant for his sanction for their formation into a volunteer corps.

Lord Wolseley is desirous that the troops in Ireland should have every possible opportunity for tactical training during the coming season. A scheme is now being drawn up by which the force under Lord Ralph Kerr's command, at the Curragh, will gain a good deal of useful experience by means of flying columns.

### Toronto.

Last night the sergeants of the Royal Grenadiers celebrated the anniversary of the battle of Batoche by a dinner at Webb's.

Nine years ago the Canadian militia swept up the slope of Batoche under a withering fire from the rebel rifle pits, and amongst them the redcoats were the most dashing in the charge.

#### A Military Gathering.

The gathering last night at Webb's was a notable one. Covers were laid for 120 guests. The tables were very prettily decorated, and the scarlet tunics of the Grenadiers lent a rich glow of color to the scene. This was admirably relieved by the uniforms of the guests from the other corps of the city.

#### At the Tables

The chair was occupied by Sergt.-Major J. T. Cox, who was supported by Lieut.-Col. Mason, commanding the Grenadiers; Lieut.-Col. Grasett, Lieut.-Col. Hamilton, Q.O.R.; Lieut.-Col. Dawson, late colonel commandant of the Grenadiers; Mr. E. F. Clarke, M.P.P., Dr. Ryerson, M.P.P., Mr. Joseph Tait, M.P.P., Mr. Barlow Cumberland, Mr. William Marrow, Mr. Alexander Muir, president of the Army and Navy Veterans; Rev. W. Johnston, Western Congregational Church; Col.-Sergt. Geo. Cooper, Q.O.R.; Staff-Sergt. Marris, 13th Battalion, Hamilton, and Staff-Sergt. Sayer, Dufferin Rifles, Brantford. The vice-chairs were filled by Staff-Sergts. Ewart and Johnston.

#### Toast List.

The chairman proposed the health of "The Queen," which was received with musical honors.

The chairman in very happy terms then proposed the toast of "The Canadian Militia." He paid a warm tribute to the devoted services of Lieut. Col. Grasett and Dawson, the former commanding officers of the Grenadiers. These references evoked enthusiastic cheers from the company, evidencing the popularity of these officers.

#### Would Increase the Militia.

Lieut.-Col. Grasett, in response, returned thanks for the honor done him. The Canadian militia had every reason to feel proud of its history. They had always been ready to respond to the call of duty. The part played by the Grenadiers in the past was most creditable to them. The militia of Canada could look to Toronto for an example in soldier-like qualities, and the standard was becoming higher every year. Ten years ago the regiments in Toronto were not nearly so strong as they were to-day, nor was the military spirit so high. He was sorry the government did not show a disposition to support the militia as readily as the old militiamen would desire. The vote for the militia passed readily enough, but he would like to see it much increased. Although not on the active list now, he retained his affection for the old corps. (Applause.) He complimented the sergeants of the Grenadiers on their efficiency. The sergeants were the backbone of a regiment. (Applause.)

#### Congratulated the Sergeants.

Lieut. Col. Dawson was accorded a most gratifying reception. He congratulated the sergeants on the success of their annual

gathering. Formerly the corps labored under difficulty in not having a proper drill shed and armories. Now they had a new drill shed, and every modern convenience. There was no reason therefore why they should not go on increasing in efficiency. The regiment was lucky in having a good sergeant major. (Applause.)

The company then sang "They Are Daisies."

Staff-Sergt. Johnston proposed the toast of "Our Officers," which was received with musical honors.

#### Lieut.-Col. Mason's Reply.

Lieut.-Col. Mason, the commanding officer, replied, and was accorded a most gratifying reception. He observed that he felt like congratulating himself at being the commanding officer of such a fine battalion as the Grenadiers. He endorsed the sentiment that the sergeants were the backbone of the regiment. He had found and appreciated the value of non-commissioned officers. They were the connecting link between the commissioned officers and the men. He complimented the regiment for their services in the North-west under such an officer as Lieut.-Col. Grasett, and also spoke highly of the services of Lieut.-Col. Dawson, the late commandant. In regard to the new quarters provided by the government, the effect would be most beneficial to the Grenadiers and other regiments. For the new drill hall they were much indebted to Mr. Clarke and other citizens. (Cheers.)

Major Bruce also replied.

Dr. Ryerson, M.P., who was enthusiastically cheered, made a very happy speech. He said the mettle of the young men of Canada had been severely tested in 1885, and it was shown that they were ready to lay down their lives for a united country. One of the most trying experiences was the march across the north shore of Lake Superior. On that occasion, however, as at other times, the hardness of the Grenadiers was strikingly manifested.

Capt. Irving also made a humorous response.

#### Other Toasts.

Staff-Sergt. Ewart proposed the toast of "8ster Corps."

Appropriate responses were made by Lieut.-Col. Hamilton, Q.O.R., Rev. William Johnston, honorary chaplain to the 12th Battalion, and Lieut. Curran, 12th Battalion.

Color-Sergt. George Scully submitted the toast of "Our Guests."

Mr. Barlow Cumberland made an eloquent response and referred interestingly to his former connection with the regiment.

Mr. E. F. Clarke, M.P.P., and Mr. Joseph Tait, M.P.P., also replied.—*Empire*, 12th May.

The Grenadiers turned out over 540 strong on the 10th for the usual weekly parade, under Lieut. Col. Mason. After an hour's drill at the college grounds the regiment returned to the drill shed. On Queen's Birthday, the regiment will go to Galt. The following appointments were made: To be corporal, provisionally, Pte. L. A. Kirkland, A company, vice Goodall, discharged; to be lance corporal, Pte. W. White, A company.

The regular monthly meeting of the Army and Navy Veterans was held in Occident hall, Queen street west, May 8th. The president, Alex. Muir, occupied the chair. The chief feature of the business disposed of was the arrangement of a church parade, in recognition of the Queen's birthday, to be held on Sunday, May 20th. The men will assemble on Clarence square at 3 p.m., and will march to the Congregational Church on Spadina

avenue. They will be headed by the society's band, which will play the church call on the square. At the church an appropriate sermon will be delivered by Rev. Mr. Johnson, who was a military chaplain for many years. The society decided to join the Veterans of '66 in the demonstration on June 2nd.

The Veterans of '66 held their quarterly meeting May 11th, in the Richardson hotel. Among those present were: Chairman Major Dickenson, Major W. H. Cooper, Ald. McMurrich, Ald. Hewitt, Capt. Musson, Lieut. A. M. Macdonald, Capt. J. Douglas, Major Peel, A. Muir, M.A., Major Farewell (of Whitby), Major Parsons, T. R. Whiteside, C. T. Smith, Major Fahey and Sergt. Lawrence. Mr. Alex. Muir, M.A., reported that the Queen's Own Rifles band had volunteered their services free for the celebration of June 2. The secretary said that they expected to have the tablet at the Parliament buildings unveiled on July 1. Among the institutions invited to take part are Upper Canada College, the Boys' Home, the Industrial School boys, and the public school children. The speakers to be invited are the Lieutenant-Governor, his worship the Mayor, Mr. W. R. Meredith, Sir Oliver Mowat and C. J. Denison.

The Queen's Own Rifles appear in increased strength at every succeeding drill parade. May the 9th the parade strength was 701, and this number included only 15 recruits. Under command of Lieut.-Col. Hamilton, and headed by its fine band, the regiment marched from headquarters to Bay street, up Bay street to King, and along King street to the old Upper Canada College grounds. In passing up Bay street the regiment marched in half companies, keeping straight and steady lines in this formation, and presenting a very fine appearance. At the National Club-house the men were reviewed by Hon. Mr. Reid, of Australia, the ladies of whose party witnessed the march past from the windows of the building. On the Upper Canada College grounds the regiment was put through several manoeuvres, and a couple of companies were exercised in physical drill under the direction of Sergt. Butcher, R.C.R. This was in the presence of Hon. Mr. Reid and party. The regiment was then drawn up before the Australian Minister of Defence, and was addressed by him in the most complimentary terms. He said also that if Canada could ever send any of her soldiers to Australia to meet in honorable competition the picked troops of that colony, they could be assured of a most pleasant reception. He was heartily cheered by the riflemen. One enthusiastic man among the spectators insisted upon shaking hands with him. Hon. Mr. Reid left the city at 10.15 last night, on his return trip to Vancouver. The regiment was exercised in battalion movements before leaving the grounds. After dismissal at the drill-shed, a number of the men were presented with badges won for regular attendance at drill.

### Infantry Screen in Attack.

So long as hostile forces are still separated by a considerable distance, the duties of reconnoitering in advance of their march towards the scene of action are performed chiefly by mounted troops; but when the battle ground is approached, it becomes necessary to make different arrangements. Cavalry and mounted infantry are no longer equal to the task, and require to be supported and finally relieved by a

"screen" of infantry skirmishers, covered by whom the assailant advances to the attack. The tactical importance of the work now to be done can scarcely be over-estimated, since it is not too much to say that the success or failure of the subsequent attack will greatly depend upon whether the screen proves capable of attaining the objects for which it has been sent forward. Yet, curiously enough, but little attention seems to be devoted to this essential matter, and in the very meagre reference to it which is contained in our "Infantry Drill" there is one assertion founded upon a totally incorrect apprehension of perhaps the most vital principle involved. The screen is required in the first place to pioneer the advancing columns, and to clear a way for the guns, so that the latter may come into action unmolested by infantry fire. Driving the enemy's advanced troops before it, the screen must advance upon the position with sufficient determination to enable suitable ground to be occupied from which accurate observation may be made of the general features of the position, and the resistance likely to be offered to the attack. It is universally admitted that troops once committed to an advance under fire are incapable of manoeuvre. Even a very slight change of front becomes impracticable. Points of attack which have been selected in accordance with reports received from scouts, or from other data, may have been chosen with consummate skill; but it will rarely happen that modifications in the direction and method will not be enforced by various circumstances which only a near view of the position can actually disclose. Such conditions it is the manifest duty of the screen to discover, and the previous errors of judgment will only become apparent when their effects have made them clear. Or, in other words, during the advance of the screen it will be discovered that in place of continuing the original direction towards the chosen point, either the right or the left shoulder might advantageously be brought up. If, instead of the screen, the real fighting line were involved, a change of front would not be feasible; but the contrary being the case, and the moment for action having arrived, the real attack can be extended in rear of the screen upon the true front, and advanced through the latter in the proper direction. "Infantry Drill" states that "at any moment the extended line [i.e. the screen] may be developed into a formation for attack." This is the passage with which we directly join issue. In our opinion no circumstances could possibly arise under which a commander would be justified in using a screen as the nucleus of a real first line. Under the circumstances to which we have referred above, when the front of the screen was not found to coincide with the proper direction for attack, the point of our argument needs no further emphasis, since it would be obviously absurd to reinforce a line facing otherwise than in the right direction. But even assuming the situation to present no such difficulty,

the objection still applies. A screen is simply a line of skirmishers extended at comparatively wide intervals. We own that all the battalions detailed for the first line should be enabled to fall into their places. They would every one of them require to be represented in the screen, with the result that sub-sections, or weak sections, would be covering the front of at least two companies, i.e. their own and that in reserve to each—sometimes even a still wider front. In order to develop the skirmishing line into a real attack, these small units would at all events require to close upon their inner flanks with considerable accuracy, so as to make room for the remainder of each half company. This, under fire, would be quite as impracticable as a change of front. The only alternative would be a premature mingling of units, an event which, although inevitable sooner or later, should certainly be avoided as long as possible. Therefore granting that neither changes of front nor any considerable closing to a flank can be effected under fire, and that to anticipate the mixture of units is to be deprecated, it follows that the screen should be an independent organization, furnished by troops not intended to carry out the real attack. No case could arise, demanding a thicker line than the screen, which could not be as rapidly met by bringing up the real firing line in rear of it, as by any system of reinforcing it. The development of an attack, based upon reinforcing a screen, could only take place outside the zone of aimed fire, or, in other words, before things had been discovered, which a nearer approach would bring to light. In short, therefore, if the screen is to realize the full advantages which it is capable of achieving, all idea of its development into an attack formation must be laid aside. Unhampered by any ideas except intelligently advancing as far as it can, the screen should press onwards, and the nearer it can approach the better. The wide intervals of a skirmishing line will not render it a tempting target for the defendant's artillery, whilst even infantry or machine guns could scarcely hope to inflict very great loss upon it at long range. The advance should be continued as far as practicable, since the further it is pursued the shorter will be the distance to be traversed by the real firing line before it can profitably open fire, and the better the chances of avoiding initial errors of direction. The screen should aim at reaching a distance of 700 or 800 yards from the position, or closer if possible, and not being intended for the real attack it should be permitted to expend as much ammunition as it pleases, commencing from about 1000 yards, provided that suitable targets present themselves. Finally, when no longer able to advance, the line should be reinforced by every man of its supports or reserves not already included, and fire rapid volleys, or even resort to magazine fire, whilst the real firing line is coming up to relieve it. Afterwards, when the firing line has proceeded sufficiently far to the front to draw the enemy's aimed fire, the screen should retire, close, replenish ammunition, and join the third line or the general reserves, according to the strength of the force concerned. Would it not be an excellent reform to revive "divisional battalions," in order to use them more especially for this class of work?—*The Broad Arrow.*

## The Legal History of the Militia.

*Continued.*

The next Act which comes under our notice is 43 Geo. III, cap. 1 (1803). This again was in most respects similar to those that preceded it—the amendments being:

1. The providing for two reviews annually.

2. That the whole militia might be called out when needed for not more than six months at a time, and not to be taken out of the province except to Upper Canada.

3. Provisions were made for balloting for those required for service.

4. A penalty of £5 for neglecting to turn out when ordered, and to be considered a deserter, with imprisonment for six months, if the penalty could not be levied by execution.

5. Pensions were provided for those wounded and for the families of such as might be killed in service.

6. A penalty of £5 for selling or default to return arms or accoutrements.

7. The rules or articles for the Militia (mentioned as promulgated in 34, Geo. III, but which I have not been able to obtain) were declared to be binding.

8. 1200 men could be ordered out for not more than 28 days annually for drill, for which volunteers were to be accepted up to that number, and if less volunteered the remainder to be obtained by ballot.

9. £2500 yearly allowed for supply of arms, accoutrements, clothing, etc. This act was to expire 1 July, 1807, but was continued by 48 Geo. III, cap. 3, and 51 Geo. III, cap. 9, up to 1812, when another act replaced the former.

By 52 Geo. III, cap. 1 (1812) the following changes were ordered:

1. Every person residing or coming to reside in the province, on attaining the age of 16, was ordered to present himself during the month of April in each year to be enrolled by the captain of the company of the parish, seignior or township.

2. All from the ages of 16 to 50 were ordered to muster on four Sundays or holidays in June, and the other half on four Sundays or holidays in July, for three hours each day, except for Protestants, who could muster on other days.

3. The provision restricting service to six months was repealed and the person administering the government authorized to keep the whole or any part of the Militia under arms when needed during time of war, invasion, insurrection or imminent danger.

4. Instead of 1200 men, 2000 (bachelors 18 to 45) to be called out for training between 1st May and 15th August, but not more than 90 days.

5. If the Province were invaded or in danger, the Governor could call out 2000 men for two years, one half of whom should be replaced by lot at the end of the first year by a like number.

6. No commissioned officer to take as servant one of the 2000.

7. Besides the 2000 the Governor was authorized to accept volunteers and form them into battalions, light companies, companies of artillery and squadrons of cavalry—the volunteers, however, were liable to be taken by ballot into the 2000 of militia.

8. Volunteers were to have same pay as the Militia, and the same advantages to be provided for their issue and children.

9. No one keeping a house of entertainment or selling liquor by retail could be a sergeant, corporal or drummer.

10. The provision allowing substitutes was repealed.

11. £12,000 a year was voted for Militia purposes.

In the same session, 52 Geo. III, cap. 2, passed 19th May, 1812, ordered every Militia man to be enrolled within 10 days.

53 Geo. III, cap. 2 (1813) allows £15,000 for clothing and equipping the militia; £1,000 for hospital purposes; £25,000 in aid of the defense of the Province.

57 Geo. III (1817), cap. 32, revived the act, 43 Geo. III, cap. 1 (the act 52 Geo. III, cap. 1, having expired in the meantime, and continued it in force to 1st May, 1819; and provided that no review should take place excepting by order of the Governor; the £2,500 a year allowed for the Militia was also struck out.

57 Geo. III, cap. 33, provided for payment of the following expenses in connection with the Militia (presumably to replace the £2,500 struck out by the previous Act of the same session) viz.:

|                                   |             |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|
| Adjutant General's stipend.....   | £500        |
| Deputy do.....                    | 300         |
| Assistant do.....                 | 150         |
| A Provincial Aide de Camp.....    | 400         |
| Contingent expenses and deeds.... | 500         |
|                                   | ————— £1800 |

By 59 Geo. III, cap. 2 (1819) the Act 43 Geo. III, cap. 1, as amended by the Acts passed in 1817, was continued to 1st May, 1821, with the following changes:

1. Captains were ordered to parade their companies on any day between 20th June and 20th July.

2. The clause allowing of volunteers was repealed.

3. Officers must reside in the parish of the company and must either own or be sons of owners of real estate.

1 Geo. IV, cap. 4, 3 Geo. IV, cap. 28, and 5 Geo. IV, cap. 21, continued the foregoing up to 1st May, 1827, when it appears to have expired.

In 1830, 10 11 Geo. IV, cap. 3, a new Militia Act was passed, embodying much the same provisions, however, the changes being chiefly:

1. Officers to bear the same proportion in number to privates as in regular army.

2. Captains to own real estate producing over £25 per annum, and to be free of debt; subalterns to have or be sure of those having same qualifications; officers over the rank of captain to own land of annual revenue of £50 and to be free of debt.

3. Captains to enrol all liable to serve within the first three weeks of June each year, and to give notice of time and place of the annual muster, which was to be on 29th June, or on some day during the week following if that were Sunday, and make full returns of all in his parish.

4. In case of war, invasion, etc., not more than one fifth of the unmarried men between 18 and 30 years of age were to be drawn by ballot to serve not more than six months, but substitutes were allowed.

5. Provision was made for calling out the Militia in aid of civil authority.

6. All penalties (except in actual service) to be by fine awarded by trial before a Justice of the Peace, and to be paid over to the officer commanding the battalion of the delinquent for its use.

This Act was to expire 1st May, 1832, but was continued by 2 William IV, cap. 55; 4 William IV, cap. 9; and 6 William IV, cap. 43, to 1st May, 1838.

Meantime, by the Act 2 William IV, cap. 42, a Court of Enquiry was provided for to establish the qualification of Militia officers.

During the first year of Queen Victoria's reign the sessions of the Legislature were suspended, and it was replaced by a Special Council appointed under the provisions of the Imperial Act 1 Vict., cap. 9.

This Special Council, by its ordinance 1 Vict., cap. 22, passed 5th May, 1838, enacted a Militia Act similar to 10-11

William IV, cap. 3, above recited, and extended its operation to 1st May, 1840; and it was further continued by 3 Vict., cap. 11, to 1st May, 1842, with the provision of 8 Vict., cap. 26, that the Governor might order the cancelling, any year, of the muster of 29th June.

4-5 Vict., cap. 22, exempted from service any "Quaker, Minnonite or Tankers," on payment of 10s. yearly in time of peace, or £5 if the Militia in his district were called for active service, to be collected with the taxes and paid to the colonel of district or used for roadwork.

8 Vict., cap. 51, revived the former act and extended its operation to 1st May, 1846, when by 9 Vict., cap. 28 (1846) a new act was passed containing the following additions and amendments:

1. The Governor-in-Council was to fix battalion divisions; the colonel of each battalion to divide his district into company divisions.

2. Militia were to be enrolled between 1st and 20th of June, and divided into two classes—1st, those between the ages of 18 to 40 to form the first class, and those between 40 and 60 the second class, the first class were only to be mustered in time of peace, and to assemble for drill 29th June each year; on muster day the captain was to take the names of all of the first class on mustering for service if required; and if more than required to form a company volunteered, he was to select the required number from the volunteers; if less the required number were made up by ballot. In any emergency these were to serve.

3. The quota of militia to be thus raised for the two Provinces of Upper and Lower Canada was fixed at 30,000.

4. A battalion was to consist of not less than four nor more than ten companies; a company not less than 60 nor more than 100 men, exclusive of non-commissioned officers and drummers.

5. For actual service the Governor could call out the whole or any part of the militia.

6. The senior Lieut.-Col. in any district was authorized to call out the militia of his district in an emergency.

7. Provision was made for holding Militia Courts Martial.

8. An adjutant-general and two deputy adjutant-general were to constitute the staff.

9. Provision was made for billeting troops in time of actual service by justices of the peace.

This act was to continue until the end of the first session after that of 1849.

12 Vict. (1849) cap. 88, again exempted Quakers, etc., and cap. 89 changed the day of muster from 29th to 28th June.

13 14 Vict. (1850) cap. 11, extended the operation of the former act to 10th Aug., 1853, "unless there be then war with the United States, and in that case till the end of the session after peace."

In 1855 the Militia entered upon a new era, making them by the formation of volunteer corps a permanent effective body. It is necessary, therefore, to give the act then passed a more extended notice. The provisions of this act (18 Vict., cap. 17, 1855) were in brief:

1. The Militia was divided into two classes or forces—

1. The Sedentary Military, composed of (a) Service men aged 18 to 40.

(b) Reserve, 40 to 60.

2. The Active Militia or Volunteer Forces, which is now practically the only militia force of the country, the provisions for the Sedentary Militia having fallen into disuse.

The Sedentary Militia were exempted from service or drill in time of peace, but were to be enrolled and to muster yearly in Upper Canada on the Queen's Birthday, in Lower Canada on 29th June, those belonging to the Quaker or any other relig-

ion averse to bearing arms to be exempt, but required to give notice in order to obtain the exemption.

With regard to actual service.—The second men (18-40) are divided into

1st class, composed of unmarried men and widowers without children.

2nd class, composed of married men and widows with children.

And in time of war the Militia were to be called out as follows:

1. Volunteers.
2. 1st class service men.
3. 2nd class service men.
4. Reserves.

The Commander in Chief was authorized to divide the Provinces into 18 districts, 9 in Lower Canada and 9 in Upper Canada; the districts into regimental and regimental into battalion districts; to appoint a colonel for each military district and lieutenant-colonel for each battalion, and the latter to divide his battalion division into companies, each of which to be composed of captain, lieutenant, ensign, three sergeants, three corporals, and not less than 75 privates. The captains of each of these companies (Sedentary Militia) were to enroll their men annually with the assistance of their subalterns and non-commissioned officers, and within 20 days after each annual muster to send their rolls to the officer commanding the battalion.

The following Active or Volunteer Militia were authorized to muster in all 5000 men:

- Sixteen troops of cavalry.
- Seven field batteries of artillery.
- Five foot companies of artillery.
- Fifty companies of riflemen.

Each company to be composed of 43 privates, except riflemen, who might muster 75. Field batteries each 4 officers and 75 non-commissioned officers and men.

Marine companies were also authorized on the lakes and a corps of engineers for each military district.

Arms, accoutrements and horses of officers to be furnished by themselves, and with those of all ranks (non-commissioned officers and men being armed at the public expense) to be exempt from service.

Annual drill to be performed as might be ordered, but not more than 20 days each year for field batteries and 10 days for others.

The adjutant-general was authorized to draw up a drill-book for use.

The annual drill pay allowed by the act was: Captains, 10s. 6d.; lieutenants, 7s. 6d.; ensigns, 6s. 5d.; non-commissioned officers and men, 5s. per day.

Ammunition for practice to be furnished at public expense.

It was further provided that the volunteers might be called out in aid of the civil authority, the captains of any company to call out his men when required in writing by the mayor, warden, or other head of the municipality, or any two magistrates, and to obey such instructions as might lawfully be given him by the magistrate as to quelling of a riot.

For such service volunteers to receive from the municipality pay at the above rate and in addition 46c. per day and lodging, and during such service such volunteers were declared to be special constables and authorized to act as such.

By this act all volunteers were exempted from service as jurors or constables, and after seven years' service the exemption to continue.

No volunteer could claim his discharge without one month's notice.

Inspecting officers were for each provision room, to be appointed at a salary of £400 per annum.

Officers were declared to hold their commissions during pleasure from the commanding chief, and non-commissioned officers to be appointed by their command-

ing officers and to hold their rank during his pleasure.

The adjutant-general was to rank as colonel at a stipend of £750, two deputy adjutants-general as lieutenant-colonels at (each) £500, an assistant adjutant-general for each district as major at £300, and each district was also to have an assistant quarter-master general, who was to have knowledge of all roads, etc., in his district.

No Courts Martial were allowed, but all penalties were to be awarded on trial before a justice of the peace, except in time of actual service.

The commander-in-chief was authorized to call out the militia or any part of it, and in case of emergency the colonel of any district or lieutenant-colonel of a battalion division might call out the whole or any part of his command.

When the Militia should be called out the volunteer companies were included in the order—the first portion drafted to serve one year and then to be replaced by others, and to be marched to any place in Canada contiguous thereto.

No officer of Her Majesty's regular forces was to be allowed to sit at a Militia Court Martial.

Billeting of the troops was also provided for arms.

19 20 Vict. (1856) cap. 44, made some few amendments to the act of 1855 as to enrolling of unpaid volunteer corps, and provided for the appointment of surgeons; while the battalions formed in Montreal and Quebec in 1837, 1838, 1846 and 1847 were recognized and declared to be still lawfully embodied, and the commissions of their officers to be valid.

As will have been seen, all the foregoing acts were declared on enactment to be in force only for a limited period, and had to be continued from time to time by Act of Parliament, the act 22 Vict. (1859) cap. 18, declared the permanency of the acts of 1855 (18 Vict., cap. 17) and 19-20 Vict. (1856) cap. 44, and made the following amendments to them:

1. Sedentary service to confine all men between the ages of 18 and 45 (instead of 40, as previously ordained) and reserve from 40 to 60.
2. Annual drill shortened to 12 days for field batteries, 6 days for other corps.
3. Two months' notice required to obtain discharge.
4. A new and important feature, the formation of battalions of volunteer corps, permitting that any number of volunteer companies not less than six nor more than ten should be formed into a battalion. Under this act the first battalion was gazetted in November, 1859, acting as the Guard of Honor to His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales.

## Military Books and Magazines

*Gunner Jingo's Jubilee*—By Major-Gen. T. B. Strange (late R. A.)

What possessed the author to wilfully damn his own work by such a title it is hard to discover—for one reader attracted by it, fully 49 must have been repelled; but the 49 are the losers, for the title covers the life-history of a man who has much to tell us, and, on the whole, does so in clear, readable style. His experiences in the Mutiny will attract most attention, and will form valuable evidence, in competent hands, for future histories of that era. We specially commend it to the study of young officers who have not yet undergone the ordeal by fire. In it they will find the corrective to be applied to the purely theoretical study. All strategical and tactical

principles ultimately depend for their soundness on the conduct of human beings under circumstances of imminent danger—a point too often neglected; and since nowadays a few months with the armies in the Netherlands perforce no longer form a part of the educational curriculum of a gentleman, nothing but the study of the works of those who have had the experience of which the young officer necessarily lacks is left him, and, to our mind, will bring far more substantial profit than hours spent in the perusal of theoretical works which treat the soldier as an inanimate pawn, and of war as a glorified game of chess.

*Standards and Colours of the Army*.—By S. M. Milne (late Major 3rd W. Y. B. V.)

Mr. Milne has devoted many years to the careful study of the successive changes in the uniforms, standards and colors, and badges of the British Army, and he is widely recognized as the best authority on the subject of this book. Much valuable information has been imparted by his contributions to the records of regiments, and in other forms, and he has largely increased our obligations to him by this his latest work. In the arrangements of the various parts of his subject several modes were open to him. Of these he has adopted that which seems most reasonable and convenient; for, as the headings of the chapters show, the contents are generally presented in chronological sequence, but where a rigid adherence to this order would be evidently inconvenient he classifies his descriptions differently.

The first chapter tells us what is known about the standards and colors used during the Civil War, and the next continues the account till the death of Charles II. This strict chronological order is maintained till we come to the eighth chapter, which treats of infantry colors only; and in several succeeding chapters cavalry and infantry are, for convenience, treated separately. The small space available precludes any notice of many interesting topics and incidents, and only a few can be mentioned. And here it may be observed that the author, following most authorities, tells us that the Admiral's regiment was incorporated in the Coldstream Guards in 1689. But Major Edye has shown, from authentic documents, in the first volume of his "History of the Royal Marine Forces," that the Admiral's regiment was disbanded, officially, on the 28th February, 1689, and actually, soon after that date. We are informed, on p. 102, that the name of "Emsdorf," borne by Elliott's Light Horse (now 15th Hussars), was the first name of an action ever granted to a British regiment. In writing of the removal of many heraldic devices and the substitution of plain numbers in 1751, Mr. Milne says, "In their place boldly and resolutely stands the regimental number, simply in form, easily recognized, easily remembered, forming a rallying point in the minds of soldiers, which, as decade after decade

passed away, became indissolubly connected with some glorious deed, in its turn becoming a matter of history, adding lustre to the regimental number; and so, gradually but surely, building up that wonderful regimental *esprit de corps* which has stood the nation in good stead on so many occasions."

The book bears evidence of care on every page, yet it is not quite free from those clerical and typographical errors which seem unavoidable in a first edition. The appendices are very useful for reference—more useful than an index in the usual form. The numerous and admirable illustrations, of which 126 are colored, are remarkable for clearness and accuracy.

*The Story of a Cavalry Regiment—the Fourth Iowa Volunteers from Kansas to Georgia, 1861-65. By William Forse Scott, late Adjutant.*

"The story of this regiment," says the author, "were it not proven, would appear incredible," and we quite agree with him. It makes a very severe strain on our credulity indeed to find that a regiment of any arm could go through four long years of battle and bloodshed, engaged almost daily against heavy odds and a determined enemy, suffering sickness, hardship, and starvation, and when the total butcher's bill is balanced up it turns out that "the romances of chivalry were surpassed" at a cost of 7.5 men per mille per annum killed in action or died of their wounds, and 22.5 died of disease or accident per mille per annum. Many a British regiment serving in India in those years with never the smell of powder, except in the cemetery, to cheer them, would have been thankful to change death-rates with their American comrades, and all of us will be glad to learn that the reputation of heroism can be won at a total risk of life considerably less than half the risks we have already surmounted in the cradle. The author lacks all sense of proportion. The American War was great enough, in the courage displayed on both sides, the total slaughter entailed, and the sufferings borne by all classes, to call for no exaggeration on the part of its historians. Still less do its incidents justify the use of opprobrious epithets, such as "rebels," to the combatants, or sneers at their courage.

Making due allowance for the writer's imperfections, the book is worthy of careful study by officers of all ranks of the service. Some day, perhaps not so very far in the future, we too may be called on to organize in haste our national fighting power, and the experience gained by our kinsmen across the Atlantic should prove of the utmost service to us. The tact necessary to command undisciplined forces, the faults on both sides to be avoided, the impossibility of improvising efficient mounted services, all these lessons may be derived from its pages. Though frequently compelled to dismount and fight on foot by conditions of the ground, it is

very obvious that the intention from the first was to employ the regiment as "cavalry" proper, their armament points to that conclusion, and their record establishes it, and if their charges were not ridden home with the precision displayed by the horsemen of Seydlitz, Le Marchant, and Anglesey, it was not from want of will, or from the greater fire-power against them, but simply because want of training precluded the individual control of the horses necessary to drive them into the enemy's ranks.

The following extract will best show the difficulties which had to be overcome at the start, and if we can hardly suppress a smile at the picture it presents, it will enable us the better to appreciate the zeal and industry of all ranks which ultimately evolved a truly efficient fighting force from such unpromising materials:

"Fully equipped now for the field, the green cavalryman was a fearful and wonderful object. Mounted upon his charger, in the midst of all the paraphernalia and adornments of war, a moving arsenal and military depot, he must have struck surprise, if not terror, into the minds of his enemies. Strapped and strung over his clothes, he carried a big saber and scabbard four feet long, an Austrian rifle or a heavy revolver, a box of cartridges, a box of percussion caps, a tin canteen for water, a haversack containing rations, a tin coffee cup, and such other devices as were recommended to his fancy either as useful or beautiful. . . . His horse carried, on the saddle, a pair of thick leather holsters, a pair of saddle-bags filled with the rider's extra clothing, toilet articles, and small belongings, a nose-bag, perhaps filled with corn, a heavy leather halter, an iron picket pin with long lariat, two horseshoes with nails, a curry comb and horse brush, a set of gun tools and materials for the care of arms, a rubber blanket or poncho, a pair of woollen blankets, a blouse, a cap or hat, and such other utensils and such other articles of clothing or decorations as the owner was pleased to keep. This mass of furniture would weigh, with the saddle, say 70 lbs.; so, including kit on the rider and rider himself, the weight on the horse came to from 200 to 230 lbs. Yet some of the men were not content with the regulation load. They added a set of plate armor to it. Among the scores of articles for various uses which were peddled in the camps within the first year of the war was an 'armored vest.' It was a vest of blue cloth, cut in military style, with two plates of steel formed to fit the body and fastened between the cloth and the lining. . . . and some of the horses had, therefore, 8 to 10 lbs. extra to carry."

By degrees the greater part of this gear was shed; the armored vests went first, and towards the end of the war the wonder ceased to be "how the cavalryman succeeded in getting on his horse or inducing him to move," and became, "how a man could live and exist with so meagre an equipment."

It is worth noting that with an aver-

age of 1,000 men on the rolls the regiment expended 5,000 horses on marches aggregating 6,500 miles. Compare these figures with the expenditure of horses in individual regiments in the Franco-German War, and the contrast between trained and improvised cavalry becomes very striking. The average from all causes throughout the war was 20 per cent., or, allowing for the different duration of the campaigns, about one-quarter the above.

*Méthode de Dressage du Cheval de Troupe. Par P. Plinzner.*

The above is an abbreviated translation of Pinzner's work in German. A few notes from an eye-witness of his methods may be interesting: "Plinzner, as already stated, is responsible for the training of His Imperial Majesty's horses. His chief difficulty consists in securing men with sufficiently light hands not to injure his horses' mouths, a difficulty with which most horse owners are sufficiently acquainted. The men sent to him are selected from the second year batch of the different cavalry regiments: they possess some natural aptitude for horsemanship, but very little more. The first point is to teach them that the reins are not meant to hold on by, a point often overlooked; the second, to convey to them the feel of a properly trained horse under them, and this is always and everywhere the chief difficulty. Place a young horseman on a lively brilliant animal, and he falls off; place him on a staid wooden-jointed old creak and though he may remain in the saddle he acquires no correct idea of what a horse should feel like under him.

"A horse only goes well in proper balance, i.e., with his weight distributed over all four limbs and the haunches sufficiently under him. This poise depends on the maintenance of the correct position of the head, and can be obtained either by bending the neck according to the 'Baucherian' method, in which all the vertebræ of the neck take their share, or by the bend from the pole of the neck as laid down in our own regulations. Plinzner favors the former, and for his purposes no doubt he is right; this bend also favors the use of the essential feature of his system, viz., the auxiliary reins. These are very simple—two short lengths of indiarubber buckled to either rein and made fast to the saddle. The rider's hands are thus set at liberty and the poise of the horse maintained by the even elastic bearing communicated to the bit. The men are then drilled in the ordinary manner, controlling their mounts only by balance and by leg, and certainly the results are very striking. I have seen the ride negotiate all the usual riding school obstacles, and though the horse's head is, to my mind, carried too low, I have never heard of one of them bringing his rider to grief, and it must be remembered these horses are ridden to the boar-hounds through woods and over broken ground pretty fearlessly. I am aware of the objections to the

method, and am myself strongly opposed in principle to the 'Bancherian' bend, but if it fell to my lot to reorganize a squadron taken over in bad condition, I should unhesitatingly make use of it. Train *half a dozen horses into good form and then let all the squadron ride them till they had secured some idea of what a good horse should feel like under them.*"

### Hit the Nail on the Head.

Editor of CANADIAN MILITARY GAZETTE:

DEAR SIR,—In your issue of the 15th of the 15th of April last I notice a letter from "Subscriber." I have read it very carefully and have come to the conclusion that he has hit the nail on the head. I had a letter written on the same subject, but on reading "Subscriber's" I consigned mine to the waste paper basket, as he covered all my points so much better than I had done myself. I might further add I brought "Subscriber's" letter to the notice of several officers of long service, and one and all declared that it was perfectly true in every particular. Those parts especially in which he says the force object to "be treated as school boys" which is done under the present absurd Canadian drill regulations, and that portion dealing with "Colonels having nothing to say about the work," etc., etc., and the responsibility "they have to assume if called on to act in case of a raid or a riot." I cannot emphasize too strongly "Subscriber's" words: "The system is absurd."

Yours truly,

CAMBRIDGE.

### Military Service at York Minster.

A special service for the military stationed at York and the local volunteers was held on Sunday last (April 29th) in York Minster, the offertories of the day being in aid of the Soldiers' Daughters' Home. The arrangements were carried out under the superintendence of the Dean and Mr. T. B. Whythead, the Chapter Clerk. The nave west of the organ was reserved for the military, and the Lord Mayor and Corporation of York occupied seats on the east of the organ, while the military bands which took part in the service were located on the east side of the choir seats, the public being admitted to the north and south transepts. The streets were crowded with spectators to witness the soldiers march from Fulford Barracks to the Minster, headed by their respective bands. The troops at present quartered at York, and who attended the service, were the 6th Dragoon Guards (Carabiniers), the King's Own Scottish Borderers, who marched to the music of the bagpipes, the 14th Regimental Depot, 3rd West Riding Regiment, the York Companies of the 1st V. B. West Yorkshire P.W.O. Regiment, and the York Batteries of Artillery Volunteers. The total number present was 91 officers and 1,048 men, in addition to Major-Gen. Wilkineon, C.B., and the staff of the North-Eastern District. The service opened with

the processional hymn, "Onward, Christian Soldiers," which was accompanied by the combined bands of the Carabiniers and the Borderers, the bands having played as a voluntary the grand processional march "Daniel" (H. Moore). The Rev. A. S. Commelie read the prayers. The first lesson was read by the Rev. Chancellor Raine; and the second by the Archbishop of York. The anthem, accompanied by the bands, was that composed by Dr. Naylor for the military service in aid of the Egyptian War Fund, "And Asa cried unto Lord." Dr. Naylor conducted, and the bass solo was sung by Mr. A. McCall, and the tenor solo by Mr. J. Shakespeare Robinson. These solos, as well as the choruses for the alto and trebles and the double quartet, were unaccompanied, but the chorus, "Thanks be to God," was accompanied by the bands, and had a very impressive effect. The hymn before the sermon was "Jesus Christ is Risen Today." The Very Rev. the Dean preached, taking for his text the words, "Fight the good fight of faith." At the close of the sermon a collection was made for the Soldiers' Daughters' Home, and while the offertory was being taken the combined bands played Schubert's "Ave Marie." The pipers afterwards played the march of "The Land of the Leal," and the combined bands "March of the Israelites," from *Eli* (Sir M. Costa). The National Anthem was then sung, and the Archbishop pronounced the blessing, the bands playing as a recessional Viviani's "Silver Trumpets."

### German Army Equipment.

The details of the operations in the marching kit of the German Infantry, to which we have already had occasion to refer, have now been made public. They affect nearly every article of the existing uniform. Though in some respects the changes may seem unimportant, they all contribute to reduce the weight which the German soldier has now to carry or to give him greater ease. The stand-up collar, for instance, is to be replaced by a turned down one, the length of the coat is to be curtailed, the calico shirt is to be exchanged for one made of some knitted texture, the upper parts of the boots are to be made of lighter leather, and the nails employed in them are to be manufactured of lighter metal. The knapsack and its contents will be considerably lightened. The weight of the polishing materials and of the tinned food will be reduced by 200 and 400 grammes respectively. The hinder cartridge pouch will disappear, and to compensate for its loss the two front ones will each contain forty-five instead of thirty cartridges as hitherto, whilst an extra reserve supply of thirty per man will follow in the rear. Further, the present bayonet will be superseded by a new model weighing between 400 and 500 grammes less, the belts, etc., will be made of narrower leather, the number of the intrenching tools will be reduced to fifty spades, ten pickaxes, and five hatchets per company, which will be carried by the strong-

est men, the mountings of the helmets will be made of aluminium and reduced in size, and the overcoats will not be so thickly padded as heretofore.

These innovations represent a diminution in the weight of the marching kit of 13 lb. or 14 lb. Under existing conditions the German Infantry soldier carries a load of more than 33 kilogrammes, which will in future be reduced to 26.138 kilogrammes. With the exception of the Italian Infantry soldier, whose kit weighs exactly 26 kilogrammes, that of the German Army will be lighter than any other carried by the infantry of the chief Continental Powers. In France the kit weighs 28½, in Austria 28.9, and in Russia 29½ kilogrammes. As regards the number of cartridges, also, the German soldier with 90 will carry fewer than the soldiers of any other military Power on the Continent, excepting those of Russia, who have only 84. The French Infantry soldier carries 120 cartridges, the Austrian 100, and Italian 96.

The trials of the new kits will be made in ten battalions of different army corps, including that of the Guards, and will be concluded after the great autumn manoeuvres.

### King Theebaw's Regalia.

An English officer, whose reliability is beyond dispute, but who is unwilling, for private reasons, that his name shall be mentioned in the matter has made an interesting statement to the Press Association, with regard to the mysterious disappearance of King Theebaw's regalia. He says:—"I was in Burmah when Mandalay was taken, and a few days after, a friend of mine shewed me the handle of a fan, thickly studded with rubies and other precious stones. It was a remarkable article of great artistic worth and value, and has been identified by a Russian, who was on Theebaw's personal staff, as the handle of the State fan and a portion of the missing regalia. My friend said he had been lucky enough to obtain the handle for a nominal sum from a soldier who had offered him the article for sale. I ascertained that the soldier in question along with another soldier, either of the Liverpool or Queen's Regiment, had broken into the Royal Palace on the night it was taken, and that they had secured the greater part, if not the whole, of the regalia. This they placed in a bag, and in order to accomplish their purpose they were compelled to break the fan. The whole lot was then buried within the compound of the Palace, as the soldiers were unable to get past the guards at the gates, encumbered as they would have been with the stolen treasure. A few nights afterwards

they returned and dug up the sack, which, according to their story, was then empty, with the exception of the fan-handle, which, being placed at the bottom of the bag, had stuck in a corner. It is presumed that some person must have seen the soldiers burying their spoil, and had forestalled their return visit. But whatever took place, it is certain that the soldiers who broke into the Palace and carried off the spoil did not reap the benefit of their undertaking. Whether the men who came forward and admitted they had been the robbers are the two men I know by sight in Burmah, I cannot say, as I have not seen either of them since my arrival in England."

### Cycles for Military Purposes.

Shall mounted infantry form an integral part of the fighting forces of our empire? Shall cyclists be recognised as a distinct type of mounted infantry? Would that I were in a position to give an authoritative answer to these questions (writes Col. A. R. Saville, in *Cycling*). Assuredly my reply would be delivered in no uncertain tone. Have we not already acquired by bitter experiences the knowledge that infantry acting alone are helpless, and is there anything more certain than that in the varied operations of a campaign cavalry frequently find themselves not only delayed, but absolutely foiled, in their enterprises for lack of rifle fire? If the provision of mounted infantry had not been quite a modern inspiration, we might not have mourned for such catastrophes as the surprise on the Intombi River, the disaster at Bruncker's Spruit, the defeat at Lang's Nek, and the terrible losses at the Ingogo River. Advocates of mounted infantry bear always in mind the dashing raids of Gen. Morgan's mounted riflemen in the American Civil war, and they dwell with delight upon the prowess of the twelve men, who on the 23rd of December, 1870, brought to a standstill, before the village of Vibray, the 11th Cavalry Brigade, consisting of a cuirassier, dragoon, and uhlan regiment, and obliged Gen. von Barby to bivouac for the night instead of continuing his march.

We who urge the inclusion of cyclists among our armed forces are fortunately able to quote no less an authority than Lord Wolseley himself in support of our argument that it is impossible to dissociate cyclists from mounted infantry, though we fully admit that the means of locomotion with which a mounted riflemen may be

furnished need not necessarily be in all cases a cycle. Nevertheless, we do not abate one jot our claim that the cycle possesses numerous qualifications as a suitable mount, which are not fulfilled in the body of any living animal. Imagine a combined cavalry and cyclist force thrown far to the front of our main marching columns in order to gain contact with the enemy, discover his numbers and dispositions, divine his intentions, and remain hanging on to him. The reconnaissance part of the work can be perfectly carried out by cavalry, and in brushing aside the enemy advanced cavalry patrols our cavalry can still operate without assistance, for charging tactics will pay better than fire action. But a time must sooner or later arrive when the cavalry finds itself confronted by large bodies, and eventually by dismounted troops, then whether the subsequent action is defence in order to retain the ground already won, or attack in order to push still further on, the cyclists will certainly be called upon to help, and will find a congenial sphere of tactical employment.

The enemy will not allow our cavalry to remain calmly in observation without making a determined attempt to drive them off, and this can best be met by offensive measures on our part, then carry on the imagination to the possibility that our gallant hussars may be worsted in the fight, and it becomes apparent that a phase of the encounter must ensue during which assistance of incalculable value should be—and, I believe, can and will be—rendered by the cyclist infantry.

Before our cavalry issues forth into the open to deliver attack, the line of retreat will have been chosen, a rallying point upon it will have been fixed at a place capable of strong defence, and which is only accessible on a narrow front; at this spot the cyclist, with their machine guns, will have been posted. However excellent the quality of our cavalry may be, it is a characteristic of the arm that it cannot reform after failure until relieved of the pressure of pursuit, so the broken ranks of horsemen will stream past the flanks of our cyclists' who will open rapid fire the moment their front is clear. Let them now remember that their sole *raison d'être* is the salvation of the cavalry force to which they are attached. Cavalry are not placed in the field for the protection of cyclists; the state of affairs is the exact converse. Doubtless they will suffer heavy losses, and if needs be, they must sacrifice them-

selves for the cavalry, just as cavalry frequently ride gaily off to certain death in order to save infantry or artillery. If the duty is gallantly performed, the approbation with which the English nation always receives the news of heroic deeds will be the sure and sufficient reward of the brave cyclists.

The last militia general orders were of unusual length on account of so many changes in the commissioned ranks corps. No letters were placed after the names of the permanent corps officers promoted, showing what certificates, if any, held by them. Every other militia officer had the usual affixes, and the absence in the one case could not but excite the remark, Why?

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