

The Canadian Militia Gazette

THE POPULAR ORGAN OF THE ACTIVE FORCE OF THE DOMINION.

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

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NOTE AND COMMENT.

PARLIAMENT having been dissolved, and the electoral writs being returnable on the 25th April, it will be May before the new House will meet. The annual meetings of the Dominion Rifle and Artillery Associations are held on the third Wednesday and Thursday, respectively, after the opening of the House, so that this year they will come about at the end of May. As, however, this will be too late for the transaction of much of the business customarily left for the annual meeting and newly chosen Council and Executive, it would appear to be a necessity that the present officers should take the responsibility of whatever needs to be done, in order that there may be no hitch in the season's programme. The Canadian Military Rifle League Executive will similarly be forced to take action without waiting for the annual meeting.

THE formidable array of argument which our correspondent "C. F. C." makes against the enrolment of unqualified persons, even provisionally, as officers in the Militia is in harmony with the contention so often made in these columns in favour of opening the schools to candidates for commissions otherwise than by compelling them to attend as privates or non-commissioned officers. From experience we all know that gentlemen ambitious to be officers will not attend the schools in any capacity necessitating their assumption, even temporarily, of the different though highly honourable social standing of other than the commissioned ranks, and the fact being such, circumstances should be adapted accordingly. We have time and again argued in favour of the cadet system, and this once introduced we believe the number of persons seeking officers' appointments without qualification would be greatly reduced.

THE disarrangement of plans consequent upon the unexpected general election, will no doubt cause a postponement of such improvements in the plan of training of our militia as were in contemplation. For instance, it did not appear hopelessly improbable that at the next session a sufficient sum would have been set apart for drill to enable the whole force to be called out this year, but now the session will be so late that no departure of this kind is likely to be sug-

gested; and even were the suggestion made and adopted time would scarcely permit of the proper arrangements being made for holding the big camps this year. Perhaps Parliament will not have prorogued by Dominion Day, and in a generous mood will vote liberally in aid of the inaugural military tournament of the annual series suggested to be held at the Capital!

THE fiction writers whose vivid imaginations help so materially to make entertaining the columns of the daily press in the absence of exciting occurrences in real life, have lately put in circulation the story that Lord Wolseley has intimated his desire "to go to Canada." The *Army and Navy Gazette* states that while the story "has caused surprise and stimulated curiosity," there appears to be no truth in it.

"OUTING" for February contains another chapter of the series on the Canadian Militia, from the pen of Capt. Thos. S. Blackwell. It deals mainly with the Montreal corps, and is handsomely illustrated with portraits of the several commanding officers, and a full page picture of the crack shooting team of the Victoria Rifles and the Carslake Trophy which they so handsomely won at the P. Q. R. A. matches last summer. The number, to which we will refer at greater length in another issue, is one of special interest to militiamen, and all such having perused the opening chapters will await with interest the rest of this series.

THE CANADIAN MILITARY INSTITUTE.

The annual general meeting of the Canadian Military Institute, Toronto, was held on the 26th ult., under the presidency of Lieut.-Col. W. D. Otter. There was a good attendance of members, not of local officers only, but representatives of the forces all over the Dominion. Amongst those present were Lieut.-Col. Dawson, Lieut.-Col. Scoble (Winnipeg), Lieut.-Col. Macdonald (Guelph), Lieut.-Col. Hamilton, Mr. Sheriff Mowat, Majors Mason, Mead, McSpadden and Sankey, Capts. Harkom (Richmond, Que.), Shields, Mutton, Manley, Murray, Brown, Trotter, Symons, Stinson, Mount, Mr. Crean, Capt. McGee, Messrs. K. Miller, Fleming, &c., &c., Myles (Treasurer) and Irving (Secretary).

The Secretary presented the annual report, which reads as follows:—

In presenting the first annual report of the Canadian Military Institute the committee begs, as briefly as possible, to give a short history of its formation.

On the 14th January, 1890, a meeting of a number of

officers was held for the purpose of forming a military club; a committee appointed to elaborate the idea reported to a general meeting on the 3rd March that it recommended the following scheme:—That a joint stock company, to be known as the Military Institute Company of Toronto (limited), with a capital stock of \$3,000, should be organized for the promotion of military art, science, etc., etc.; and in connection with this incorporated company there should be a membership club, to be called the Canadian Military Institute, the fees to be fixed at as low a rate as possible. This scheme, together with the constitution and by-laws submitted, was adopted, the promoters having been most successful in obtaining the necessary subscription for stock to warrant a beginning being made.

Membership.—The efforts put forward by the organisers have met with a great deal of encouragement from officers, especially from non-residents. In the original scheme, it was confidently hoped that 100 resident and 50 non-resident members would be the maximum number that could be calculated on. On the 31st December 162 residents and 122 non-residents had been elected as members; the committee regrets that it was found necessary to enforce the constitution in respect of some nine members, who, having failed to pay their fees, were removed from the list.

Finances.—The receipts for the nine months from members' fees, steward's departments, etc., amount to \$2,130.13. The expenses, including preliminary disbursements connected with organization, were \$1,956.84, including a dividend of 6 per cent. paid the Military Institute Company (Ltd.), leaving a cash balance of \$173.29.

From the statement of assets and liabilities prepared by the auditors there is an excess of assets over liabilities of \$455.15.

Library, etc.—To further the objects of the institute the committee subscribed for the leading English, American and Canadian military papers, the journal of the Royal United Service Institution, the leading Toronto, American and Canadian publications, including illustrated papers and magazines. The library of the late Militia Institute, numbering about 200 volumes of a military nature, has been transferred to the institute; this library has also been largely augmented by presentations from members.

Lectures.—The institute has furnished information on military art and Canadian military history by a series of lectures. Major-Gen. Sir F. Middleton, Major Mayne, Lieut.-Col. Irwin, Maj.-Gen. Cameron, Major Sankey and Lieut.-Col. W. E. O'Brien have during the past year kindly assisted the institute in delivering lectures. At the end of the series it is intended that the lectures be printed and distributed amongst the members. Lieut.-Col. R. Z. Rogers and Capt. Cruickshank will contribute two most valuable papers during the present year. In conclusion the committee feels that it may, without doubt, congratulate the members of the institute on the general success and the pecuniary results of its first year.

The report was unanimously adopted.

On the motion of Col. Scoble, seconded by Capt. Manley, it was resolved that the thanks of the meeting be accorded to Lieut.-Col. Otter and the committee for their services during the past year.

When general business came to be considered Major Sankey advocated the enlargement of the premises and the addition of a billiard room to the institute.

Col. Scoble, speaking on behalf of the non-resident members, thought it was most desirable that the institute should be made permanent, and the only way to secure permanency was to create an active interest in its work, and to distribute from time to time copies of the lectures delivered here. He strongly advocated the adoption of this course before incurring expenditure in other directions.

It was resolved, on the motion of Col. Hamilton, that both the suggestions with reference to the enlargement of

the premises and the printing of the lectures be referred to the incoming committee, the latter to have preference.

Capt. McGee wished to have the constitution altered so that the fees would be \$5 and \$2.50 per annum for resident and non-resident members.

On the motion of Mr. Irving, seconded by Mr. A. B. Lee, a vote of thanks was accorded to the CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE and the press of Toronto for their kindness in assisting the institute by publishing the lectures and reports of meetings.

Upon the question of the election of president being introduced Col. Otter stated that he would be unable owing to pressure of other duties to continue the presidency for another year. He had, however, no intention of withdrawing his interest and influence from the institute, and his support could always be depended on to promote its welfare. Col. Grasett, the vice-president, was also a busy man, and he would not consent to re-election.

Major Mead, Capt. Manley, Major McSpadden and Major Mason requested Col. Otter to reconsider his decision, but while he promised the institute his warmest sympathy and support he adhered to the determination to retire from the presidency.

On the motion of Major Mead, seconded by Col. Scoble, Lt.-Col. the Hon. J. M. Gibson, XIII., was unanimously elected president, Lieut.-Cols. Dawson and F. C. Denison, C.M.G., were appointed vice-presidents. The Secretary (Mr. L. H. Irving), and Treasurer (Mr. Robert Myles), were re-elected. The following are the names of the new committee:—Major J. Mason, R.G.; Major J. H. Mead, T. F. B.; Capt. W. G. Mutton, Q. O. R.; Capt. F. F. Manley, R.G.; Capt. G. P. Eliot, R. G.; Mr. F. Fleming; G. G. B. O. Major Mason withdrew in favour of Capt. J. T. Symons, XII. The auditors appointed were:—W. S. Andrews, late R. G.; Capt. C. C. Bennett, Q. O. R.

THE MEMBERSHIP LIST.

The following statement, kindly supplied by the secretary, shows how the membership of the Institute is made up, and what a firm hold the organization has already taken upon the officers of the force in all parts of the country:—

H. Q. and District Staff.....	7	Cape Mounted Rifles.....	1
R. M. C. Staff.....	3	R. M. C. Graduates.....	3
Imperial Service.....	8	York Militia.....	7
Imperial Volunteers.....	2	Toronto Naval Brigade.....	1
CAVALRY.			
Gov. Gen. Body Guard.....	13	3rd Regiment.....	1
1st Regiment.....	1	6th Regiment.....	1
2nd Regiment.....	1	Queen's Own Can. Hussars...	2
ARTILLERY.			
1st Brigade Field Artillery....	3	Toronto Field Battery.....	7
Hamilton Field Battery.....	3	British Columbia Br. Gar. Art	1
Welland Canal Field Battery .	1	Toronto Garrison Battery....	2
INFANTRY.			
Infantry School Corps.....	6	35th Battalion.....	4
Gov. Gen. Foot Guards.....	8	36th Battalion.....	4
1st Prince of Wales Regt.....	1	37th Battalion.....	1
2nd Queen's Own Rifles.....	46	38th Dufferin Rifles.....	6
3rd Victoria Rifles.....	3	39th Battalion.....	2
5th Royal Scots.....	1	40th Battalion.....	1
6th Fusiliers.....	1	43rd Battalion.....	1
7th Fusiliers.....	15	44th Battalion.....	5
10th Royal Grenadiers.....	31	45th Battalion.....	2
12th York Rangers.....	22	49th Battalion.....	1
13th Battalion.....	9	54th Battalion.....	1
14th Battalion.....	1	57th Battalion.....	5
15th Battalion.....	1	59th Battalion.....	1
19th Battalion.....	2	77th Battalion.....	5
20th Battalion.....	4	90th Battalion.....	1
22nd Battalion.....	6	96th Battalion.....	1
25th Battalion.....	3		
26th Battalion.....	1		
27th Battalion.....	1		
28th Battalion.....	2		
30th Battalion.....	5		
31st Battalion.....	8		
32nd Battalion.....	1		
33rd Battalion.....	2		
34th Battalion.....	4		
		Total.....	293
		Resident.....	162
		Non-resident.....	122
			284
		Struck off.....	9
		Grand Total.....	293

THE ARTILLERY REVIVAL.

(The Broad Arrow.)

The report on the practice of batteries of horse and field artillery in 1890, just published, contains details of much general interest to officers of all arms of the service. Field guns have in days gone by been regarded with varying feelings of apprehension, suspicion, and even contempt, by general officers outside the cloth of the artillery. Noise and "moral" effect were the only attributes conceded to this arm. The artillery was taught to "conform" to the movements of infantry—in other words, to keep well out of the way. Intelligent staff officers have been known to ask a battery commander, well hemmed in on flanks and to the rear by troops of the other arms, to "close his battery a little to the left," and to exhibit no little chagrin at the inability of guns to execute the "side step" of the foot soldier. The results of artillery fire in the campaign of 1870-71 changed all this. The undeniable power of well-served guns on the battle field has conduced to the due appreciation of this wonderful auxiliary, and general officers, instead of laying it aside as a vexatious encumbrance, hardly worth the value of its necessary escort, are learning to avail themselves of its far-reaching fire effect which will enable them to bring their infantry and cavalry within striking distance of a well posted enemy. During the last ten years a strong artillery revival has been in progress in England. *Material* and *personnel* have both undergone many changes, most of them for the best, in full recognition of the admonition of La Harpe, "*Polissez-le sans cesse et le répolissez.*" A considerable improvement has been effected, although artillery officers themselves are perhaps least of all satisfied with the progress attained.

The School of Field Gunnery, as we may perhaps fairly term it, at Okehampton, has done much towards the improvement of artillery fire effect. Without any predisposition to accept its dicta as final or to claim the results of the peace practice-ground as equivalents of that which might be expected on service, we hope to derive from a glance at the report, now published, details which may be of service to all officers anxious to acquire some knowledge of the average intensity and general characteristics of artillery fire effect. Without entering too closely into detail, it is necessary to explain the system under which batteries carry on "service practice" at Okehampton. The batteries are drawn up under cover in rear of the intended position. The battery commander advances with his range-takers, the latter halt 100 yards in rear of the position selected. A staff officer then hands over a written order, indicating the nature of target and the practice required. In the early practice this ran, "Come into action and obtain range and three effective shrapnel." In later stages a certain time was allowed for the maximum fire effect which could be produced therein. Under these conditions, it appears that up to the present time, a period of about ten minutes is necessary for the development of an effective shrapnel fire. Infantry, assailed at 2200 yards when kneeling in a shelter trench, suffered to the extent of 17 per cent., at about 2300 yards, 32.6 per cent., and at 2000 yards, 35.2 per cent. At 1750 yards, infantry, in the firing line, sustained a loss of 58 per cent. Supports suffered an average loss at 1900 yards of 65 per cent., one battery producing a best record of 100 per cent. men hit. It must of course be understood that each "dummy" representing a man is frequently pierced by several bullets, and that in calculating the average of men disabled, only one bullet is taken into consideration. We have abstained from quoting the number of hits, although that figure would perhaps give a fairer idea of the intensity of the fire effect. Average results of time shrapnel at 3000 yards show 62 per cent. of the men of a column of four companies killed, one battery producing 91 per cent. hits on a similar column at a like range.

At a range of 1900 yards, artillery suffered a loss of 40 per cent. of men. The effect of field guns on *material* is as a rule, trivial.

The recorded results of field artillery against cavalry are on the whole disappointing; at 2,400 yards 27 per cent. hits. At a similar range 5 per cent., these being averages, one battery producing a best record of 38 per cent. With case shot, taking the results of battery practice of two batteries only, we find 18 out of 21 dummies in line struck at 200 yards, 11 out of 19 at 300 yards, and, in the average of three batteries, 6 out of 20 at 400 yards. From this it may be inferred that from 1,500 yards to 3,000 and upwards field artillery fire may be expected within a quarter of an hour of the time at which it is directed on any given spot to produce a destructive effect on infantry, varying from 15 to fully 50 per cent. (discarding the best records of individual batteries) according to the formations assailed. At 2,200 yards Artillery against Artillery might be expected to disable, 50 per cent. The Cavalro results cannot perhaps be so readily accepted, as the number of dummies available greatly circumscribes the scope for experiment. It should be noted that although no account is taken of the destructive effects of the opposing fire the results were all based upon practice rather under the conditions of the attack than those which obtain when a battery in a well-chosen site, with every advantage of cover and favourable terrain, awaits an attack, all ranges in the field as approach taken, and possibly fuses set for the most likely points. It should also be noted that the targets at Okehampton are at times almost invisible, and that the ground is most unfavourable for the effect of case shot.

THE QUEEN'S OWN RIFLES.

Just as soon as the New Year is well under way and everyone has fallen into writing ninety-one instead of ninety, without observing any strangeness about it, our military men begin to throw off that lassitude which has been accumulating for the past three months, and steps are taken to find out as to the whereabouts of the company which has been left to its own sweet will. Once the clue has been found steps are taken to hold their annual meeting at which the progress for the past year has been noted and steps taken to ensure a like success in the future. Of the Queen's Own, "A Co.," the crack shooting company of the regiment were the last to hold their annual meeting, held on Tuesday night last in the Mess Rooms of the Bugle Band kindly placed at their disposal by Bug-Major Swift. Capt. Boyce Thompson took the chair and when roll was called forty-seven answered to their names. The reports of the various committees were read and adopted, the balance in the Treasurer's hands being on the proper side of the account. The standing of this company is remarkably high, as their average for shooting is high above all others, and the percentage of drills performed is within a point of the highest company in the Battalion. Besides claiming as a member the best shot in the battalion for 1890 in the person of Corpl. T. Westman, winner of the Peilatt challenge trophy, they have the high honour of furnishing no less than nine men towards the two teams representing the Queen's Own in the Military Rifle League.

After touching reference was made to the death of the late Sergt.-Major McKell the meeting adjourned until Tuesday evening, 10th February, when the Annual Smoking Concert will take place in the Buglers' Mess Rooms.

The annual dinner of D Company is fixed for the 11th inst. at Webb's.

The eighth annual dinner of the Sergeants' Mess will be on or about the 27th of February, and prospects of a successful event are exceedingly bright.

A grand Military Fair in aid of the Regimental Band Fund, to be held for three days and nights during the

month of May, is in contemplation and the promoters are sanguine of the most successful event ever undertaken by the regiment.

The many friends of Major Delamere will be sorry to learn of his illness, caused by malarial fever, and all join in the hope that but a short time will elapse ere he will be with us once more.

LECTURE BY CAPT. MUTTON.

Capt. Mutton delivered an interesting lecture in the Mess Room of "G" Company, Q. O. R., on Saturday evening, 31st ult. Subject: "Advance Guards and Outposts." The lecturer commenced by showing the importance of advance guards when an army is on the march, and by a number of sketches illustrated the manner in which the men composing the guard should proceed. The rear guard was next taken up, and its great necessity shown especially when an army is retreating before an enemy. The rear guard's duty in such a case is to destroy bridges and harass the enemy in every way possible, and even sacrifice itself for the safety of the main body. Those present showed their appreciation of the lecture by the earnest attention paid to the Captain's remarks. After the lecture Lieut.-Col. Scoble (of Winnipeg) and Capt. Bennett (Q. O. R.) made short addresses, and some interesting anecdotes were related showing the mistakes a soldier will sometimes make when on guard. Among the audience were noted Lieut. Lee, Col.-Sergt. World, Sergt. N. B. Sasnon, Corp Capp, and many other members of the Q. O. R.

F COMPANY'S SUCCESSFUL CONCERT.

F Company's second concert this season was held at the Buglers' Rooms on Wednesday evening, 14th January.

The chair was occupied by Capt. McGee, and among those who contributed to the success of the evening were Bugle-Major Swift, Sergeants Burns, Woods and Fletcher, Privates Atcheson, Clement, Davies, Cuthbert and Messrs. Milne and Lye. Prof Bohner acted as accompanist. Capt. Bell, of the Victoria Rifles, was among the guests.

F Company expect to be the largest on parade this spring, the names of twenty-five recruits being handed in.

MURRAY'S DANDIES AT IT AGAIN.

'Tis very seldom that anything happens that I Company do not have a finger in the pie, but this time, and for the second time in five years, they not only secured the plum but just about took the crust as well. The members of this Company tendered a complimentary supper to their popular commanding officer, Capt. Murray, at Webb's, on Thursday, 15th ult. Lieut. Crean made an exceedingly happy chairman, and among the guests were Col. Hamilton, Capts. Macdonald, Mutton and Brock, Paymaster Ross, Lieut. Wyatt, Q. O. R., Major Mead, T. F. B. 'Midst such a crowd of good fellows time sped rapidly on, but it remained for Col. Hamilton to arouse the enthusiasm of all to the highest pitch when he announced that Col.-Sergt. Warring G. Kennedy, of I Co., had been promoted to the rank of Sergt.-Major, vice S. C. McKell, lately deceased. While it was understood among many that he was the best choice for that honour, still most of those present had no idea that the coveted distinction would fall to their company for the second time, as I said before, in five years. "Mohawk," as he is commonly called, responded to the congratulations poured in from all sides, and in a happy speech thanked the Colonel for the rank lately bestowed upon him, and promised that his best endeavours would be towards following in the footsteps and carrying out the plans so successfully carried out by his two predecessors.

BREECH BLOCK.

PURE Cod Liver Oil and Emulsion properly made from it are undoubtedly the best remedies for pulmonary complaints. Many emulsions have been placed on the market, but none seem to have met with the success accorded to SLOCUM'S OXYGENIZED EMULSION of PURE COD LIVER OIL. Their Laboratory at 186 West Adelaide Street, Toronto, Ont., is kept constantly going, and every druggist in the country is supplied with the famous remedy.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

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

THE MILITIA ORGANIZATION.

EDITOR MILITIA GAZETTE,—It appears to me that "District Camp Staff," in his letter published in your edition of 15th inst., is inclined to overlook the fact that time is money; and that although his suggestions may all be carried out without expense to the Government, each of them means, if adopted, heavy additional expense to the members of the force, who already spend far more time and money than they will ever receive consideration for either from Government or country.

1st. With reference to the officers. While I am quite prepared to admit that there are many whose names ought to have been removed from the Militia List years ago for not having qualified—men who never will, never could qualify, and who are worse than useless in consequence—yet I think there are many, and I know of some, who although they have not qualified within the stipulated twelve months, and may not do so for another twelve or more, are not only not useless, but far better up in all details of drill and discipline, and better instructors, than many who have passed "special" courses. It is not every man who can spare the time necessary to obtain a certificate at one of the schools; and often the busiest men are the most desirable officers for volunteers, for the same energy and devotion to work which has filled their hands with business will most likely be accompanied by the other qualities which best suit a man who is to command others.

I would suggest that rather than remove the names of all officers who cannot find time to leave home to take courses at one of the schools, that the school commandants might be given authority to open schools in the different towns in their various districts, at stated seasons in each year, detailing one of their sergeant-instructors to take charge, under the supervision of the adjutant, or such other officer of the school as he chose to appoint.

This would enable a large majority of officers throughout the Dominion to qualify without leaving home, which is without doubt the greatest difficulty experienced by many in obtaining certificates.

I hold M.S. and R.S.I. certificates, and I am quite sure that my M.S. certificate cost me as much work, and that my instruction was quite as thorough, and complete, except in the practical details of daily barrack life, as the course I put in at the R.S.I., although I spent rather more time there than the majority of "special course" officers.

The opening of such schools ought to cost the country little or nothing, and would save officers wishing to qualify a great deal. Moreover, the attendance thereat need not be limited to officers who have not certificates. Long intervals between drills leave the best of us very rusty, and there are few in the force who would not be benefited by a yearly brush with one of the instructors from the schools.

I agree heartily with "District Camp Staff's" remarks about the utter uselessness of drilling country battalions in Brigade Camps as at present; and from personal experience am inclined to agree with him about the number of "transients" who are brought into camp; the said "transients," by the way, are, as a rule, about as undesirable a class of men in every respect as can be saddled upon any poor captain. But I cannot think that D.C.S. will seriously propose that any number of officers and men should be expected to attend the "Schools of Instruction for two or three weeks each year in addition to the time they spend in camp." Few men can afford to sacrifice so much time for volunteering. If, however, the schools could be brought to their doors, and arranged to suit the exigencies of business, few would

grudge the time to attend, and they would without doubt do great benefit to the force.

Therefore in the interests of both officers and men, I would suggest that the number of sergeant-instructors at each school be increased, and that as many as possible be detailed for duty at different cities, towns, or headquarters of regiments, where at stated periods in each year they could hold classes of instruction for those wishing to obtain certificates, to which also might be admitted others desirous of brushing up.

Yours,

BEAVER.

AN EVIL AND A REMEDY.

EDITOR MILITIA GAZETTE,—Ever and again there appears in the various papers, militia and otherwise, published throughout the country, short paragraphs which afford me great pleasure to observe and peruse. Though the paragraphs, for their briefness naught else they merit to be called, are short and very infrequently appear at that, until lately, which is evidence that there exists somewhere a piece of leaven which it is hoped will not cease working until the whole lump is leavened, yea like a sleeping volcano break forth some day and awaken the country from apparently a dull, stupid sleep of ignorance there is in respect to a serious evil existing in the Militia Force of our beloved country.

Not only have observations of this evil been on several occasions made by your much esteemed paper (THE MILITIA GAZETTE), to which much credit is due for its many excellent suggestions made, from time to time, and ever readiness for the advancement and improvement of our Militia Force; but others, ordinary newspapers, which take little, if any, interest in Militia matters, and as a matter of course by anti-Militia papers.

The argument that there exists not anything in this world of wickedness pure and without blemish, and consequently the Militia ought not to be looked for to be an exception, might be put forth in this cause by some—whom one may style those who uphold or tolerate the existing of evil and facilitate the protection thereof, therefore whose ways are ditto? according to the maxim "evil begets evil." But no such argument can be applied in this case.

The evil to which I am alluding is the enormous number of some eight hundred (800) commissions held in the militia by unqualified persons therefor. Enormous do I say? Yes, sir, and such none can deny to be true.

Now, to the question, which may suggest itself to some of the readers hereof, what does eight hundred (800) of the aforesaid commissions mean? I will reply by another, that is, is there an answer other than that it means that there are licensed by the Government to don the uniform of an officer and attempt to instruct in that which is foreign to them, a squad, company or battalion, etc., as the case may be, to which they have been appointed, of volunteers, eight hundred (800) men who are without certificates of qualification, cannot produce the same, non-qualified therefor, and am I to forego saying unfit for the position they hold?

The evil results which may ensue are of such prodigious and serious a nature that they cannot be passed by unobserved and in silence, viz., results and consequences of eight hundred (800) men, unqualified as officers, having the authority to don the uniform of an officer and lead men to battle in the event of our country being embroiled in war, be that civil, offensive or defensive, and her loyal sons called upon in her behalf to face the foe, in many a long and hard contested field where our soldiers would have to confront the foe on an open plain amid the roar and booming, the grape and canister from the enemy's hundred or more well conducted guns, and be expected to meet charge after charge from cavalry and infantry from the hour of ten o'clock a.m. until seven or eight p.m.

For instance the battle of Waterloo is amply sufficient to

illustrate my purpose. At the last mentioned hour after such an engagement in respect to time, on such a plan, midst such cannonading, and charging of cavalry by well drilled officers and men (veterans) such as the army of France consisted of at that memorable battle, on one side as our foe, and men constituting the militia of our country on the other; what, sir, would be the result, the story can it be imagined? Would it be the same on our side, as on the side of the British, the evening of that memorable event; even that of the French, or that of the first battle of Bull's Run in the American civil war? Nay, far be it, worse—the army such as it was, absolutely annihilated, loss of cause, ruin and devastation on every hand, the country in the hands, and at the mercy, of the enemy, thousands and thousands of her brave defenders lying dead upon the lost field, the country in mourning, and mothers, sisters, and wives weeping, and crying where is my home, my son, brother, husband, and all, our country tonight! All caused by what? By giving authority to these unqualified persons, as I have herein repeatedly said, to wear the uniform of an officer and lead a company, battalion or brigade, as the case may be, of soldiers, to this fatal field where they would be made naught but desirable targets for the enemy and all shot down as so many pigeons before the fowler's gun.

What better result can be looked for so long as matters remain as they are? What do these men in uniform with authority granted them, and who so forcibly recall to my memory the story of the jackdaw in the peacock's plumage that I am compelled to give them that appellation, understand about warfare, leading troops and conducting the same upon such a field as I have above mentioned, when they, verdant as new cheese, knowing absolutely no more than the recent recruit, are incapable of instructing what is known as the awkward squad? Absolutely nothing is the answer. I must here refer the reader, and you, sir, to the sad blunder made at the battle, or more properly speaking, the skirmish of Ridgeway in 1866, June 1st.

We very frequently hear it said, and it is a settled fact, that people require practice to become perfect; but, sir, when they are wanting in both practice and theory, the story of an engagement conducted by such would indeed be a story of sadness on our side, and, to use a vulgar expression, a walk over on the other, or as Cæsar said, "Veni, Vidi, Vici."

Now having given a fair number of the evil results, consequences, etc., arising from the practice of admitting and maintaining, in the Militia, both active and reserved, men as officers unqualified and, as I have before said and maintain, unfit, I will leave to the reader the task of imagining the thousand and one of the evil results I have left unpeened, and proceed to enquire of the cause of this state of affairs, which, sir, can, I am quite confident, from observation and being nowise unacquainted with the same, be, so to speak, put in a nut shell.

1st. A flaw, or rather loop-hole, in the rules, law or orders for promotions and appointments of officers in the Militia, through which this noxious venom, to which I have herein alluded, clothed in political and social influence, jumps.

2nd. Ignorance and the non-enforcement of the rules which are provided in respect to qualification of officers.

3rd. The exceptions to which all rules are subject; but which are very rarely met with here, and most positively do not include the rare cases, met with, of promotions or appointments by reason of qualification or merit.

When the wise provision abolishing the purchase of commissions in the army by those who possessed more money than military qualification, was enacted with a view to exclude these unqualified persons, unfortunately it appears that no provision was made therein against the giving away of the same by those in authority, to recommend

their friends for, appoint, or have the same appointed to a vacancy occurring by reason of promotion or otherwise. This is the loop-hole to which I refer in the first cause given above. And, moreover, when a non-commissioned officer, should he be so fortunate as to pass through every grade of the non-commissioned officers, by means of qualification and promotion, from a private to the senior non-commissioned officer, his promotion ceases here, regardless of vacancies, be they few or many in his company or regiment, and also of his qualification, be there none as good, to fill the vacancy occurring therein.

Here again we encounter the same loop-hole above mentioned.

At this juncture, Mr. Editor and reader, let us give our attention for a few minutes to what is actually done here, at this loop-hole. It is here, sir, where the greatest evil is committed; it is here, through this loop-hole, where these unqualified persons are admitted into the service.

To the writer's special knowledge cases can be cited of appointments in the militia of our country that are amazing. For instance, the appointment to a captaincy of a company of a man who, after being gazetted, admitted to the writer that he was never before in his life a day with the soldiers or volunteers in any country, thus passing over the office of lieutenant, which was at the time about to become vacant, as well as over the heads of all the non-commissioned officers and men, while the colour-sergeant of the company had been therein six years, passing through in the meantime every grade of the non-commissioned officers from a private up, and also possessed the qualification in addition thereto of a certificate obtained at one of the military schools in Ontario. Did he (the sergeant) get even the lieutenantcy on its becoming vacant? No, his promotion stopped short in the manner I above related. This so appointed captain, in filling this vacancy, being ignorant in respect to military affairs (the second cause I have given for the presence of so many - eight hundred—unqualified officers in our militia), desiring, seemingly, not to have immediately under him an officer to whom he might be dictated, followed the example set him by jumping over this above mentioned sergeant and all the other non-com. officers, a man possessing no more military qualifications than he himself possessed.

Soon thereafter the 2nd-lieutenancy was filled by a person similarly qualified, who not only left the limits, but the country, shortly after receiving his commission.

There are other cases, which can be mentioned by the score, where appointments have been made without qualification, even that of a private, just about a month or so prior to their departure out of the limits, and not a few instances out of the country. Such appointments are anything, sir, but a credit to our militia. I mention these cases only as a fair illustration of the sort of men picked up for officers. They are by no means few, nor local, although such cases are undoubtedly more prevalent in some localities than others, but such is the fact the Dominion over. So much for the first and great cause to which I attribute the evil of having in the militia these unqualified officers.

The second cause of the existing of the enormous evil in our militia I have already partly explained, viz:—Ignorance. For instance, where an unqualified person is appointed captain of a company, it is a trait of human nature for him to not desire, immediately under him, as a lieutenant, a person properly qualified for the position, by whom he would be liable to be made a laughing stock. Therefore to evade this he chooses for his lieutenants, unqualified and inexperienced persons, taking his own unburdened knowledge of military tactics for the standard of qualification; thus the number of unqualified officers in the service is swelled.

Now the military law requires a person receiving an appointment provisionally to qualify within a limited period.

Does he do so? No, but remains in the service year after year as bad, if not worse, than when admitted, according to the aged adage "a little learning is worse than none at all."

The third cause being exceptions, thereby each case differing from the other, neither calls for nor admits of an explanation here.

Therefore, Mr. Editor and reader, let us pass on to see what remedy may be offered for the purpose of diminishing and eventually excluding this venom of maintaining so many, eight hundred (800), unqualified officers in our Militia.

I would suggest as a remedy for the first and great cause I have given for the evil afore-mentioned that the "Rules and Regulations" respecting the promotion and appointment of officers be amended by enacting therein "That all appointments and promotions in the Militia, both active and reserve, shall be compulsorily in the order of office held, seniority in the same, qualification and merit," (all these several points taken into consideration severally and collectively) from the lowest rank—the private—to the commanding officer; thereby filling a long felt want, closing up all loop-holes—especially the one now existing between the non-commissioned and commissioned officers, and choke off the captains and others in authority from recommending for and having appointed to vacancies, any social or political favourite they may fancy. For illustration, say where a captaincy becomes vacant from promotion, resignation, death, or otherwise, let the 1st lieutenant fill the vacancy, provided always that he is qualified therefor, or will so qualify within the time given for so doing in the "Rules and Regulations," but in case he (the lieutenant) cannot or will not comply with the said requirements, then pass him by and let the same be given to the 2nd lieutenant, then to the senior non-commissioned officer under precisely the same provisions, continuing in like manner to pass down through all the grades of the non-com. officers from one to another, till lastly the private is reached, when select one by merit and appoint him to the vacancy under the aforementioned provisions, rather than give the office to one, so to speak, who is picked up from the street, having no other qualification to recommend him for the office than his social and political standing, and ignorance of the military discipline and drill, as is practiced now-a-days under the present system.

For cause second—Ignorance, I would suggest as a cure, education.

Now this is an article on military matters and I desire to be rightly understood. When I use the word ignorance, I mean ignorance of military tactics; and in like manner by education I mean a military education.

Now for the non-enforcement of the "Rules and Regulations" such as we have at the present time, respecting qualifying, within the time laid down in the said "Rules and Regulations" for so doing, of officers who receive a provisional appointment. I would suggest the same remedy give for cause first—that the "Rules and Regulations" in like manner be amended as follows: "When an unqualified person receives an appointment provisionally, by reason that a person possessing a certificate of qualification could not be obtained, or for some other unavoidable cause, does not obtain the necessary qualification within the time limited by the "Rules and Regulations" therefor, he forfeits his appointment, and the same shall become null and void *ab initio* upon information of the same, and an application for the office in his turn or order of office held, by one of the inferior officers belonging to the company, battalion or regiment, etc., to the proper authority. The officer so forfeiting his commission or appointment to be reduced to his former position, and his successor's commission or appointment to bear the same date as if the now forfeited commission or appointment had not been in the first

instance granted"; or, otherwise, let the time for which the first appointee held the office be as *pro tem.* and the second to date accordingly.

With the amendments hereinbefore suggested, Mr. Editor, we consequently could soon have a militia officered by qualified and competent men, instead of by the eight hundred (800) unqualified as at present, and having in our country the material for making, with very little drill and discipline, an army inferior to none—nay, not even to the Spartans of old.

In conclusion I have to thank you for the space occupied by my article, and also the reader who has conceived my view by carefully following me through to this point—*finis.*

The country's obedient servant,

C. F. C.

E——town, Jan. 28th, 1891.

THE RIFLE QUESTION.

EDITOR MILITIA GAZETTE.—Now they are going to manufacture Martini-Henri cartridges in Quebec, I think the Snider rifle should be discarded as a target rifle and only use the Martini for target shooting. You are aware, Mr. Editor, that a great many got but very little practice with the Martini last year on account of the League matches being fired with the Snider rifle. Then, again, the matches determining the Bisley team are fired with Martini, and all the matches at Bisley are fired with the Martini. As every competitor at both the Provincial and Ontario matches has private Martini rifles as well as Snider, and it seems nonsense to be carrying two rifles to the different matches when one would do, I am satisfied if we were to use only the Martini rifle that there would be much higher scores made than are now, and we would send a better team to Bisley next year.

Hoping you will insert this in your next issue of THE MILITIA GAZETTE, so we may be able to get the views of some other rifle shots on the subject, which may be the means of bringing about the change.

Yours respectfully,

DOUGALD SINCLAIR,

Victoria County Rifle Association, 45th Batt.
Lindsay, January 28th, 1891.

Militia General Orders (No. 2) of 30th Jan., 1891.

NO. 1.—REGULATIONS FOR THE PERMANENT CORPS, 1889.

DESERTER'S ACCOUNTS.—The following has been substituted for paragraph 54 (3) as amended by No. 3 of General Orders (4), 18th April, 1890.

3. When a deserter rejoins, and is placed under stoppages to make good articles lost or otherwise made away with by desertion, he will receive an issue of part worn clothing from store, and such articles of regimental necessaries as are indispensable for use during the period of his detention. If not sentenced to be discharged, he will on rejoining for duty from prison, receive the necessary new clothing free, and the balance of the issue of regimental necessaries. These articles will be charged against him by the Quartermaster on receipt of a written order for their issue, signed by the officer commanding the corps, and the latter will hand over to the Quartermaster, at the end of each month, a statement showing the amount of stoppages which have been made from the man's pay, receiving a receipt therefor.

NO. 2.—ROYAL MILITARY COLLEGE OF CANADA.

COMMISSIONS IN THE ARMY.—Adverting to No. 2 of General Orders (9), 11th July, 1890, the undernamed Gracie also, has elected to accept a commission in Her Majesty's Regular Army, viz: Lieutenant Edmund Merritt Morris.

NO. 2.—ACTIVE MILITIA.

REGIMENT OF CANADIAN ARTILLERY—*Brevet.*—Lieut. Frederic Mondelet Gaudet to have the rank of Captain in the Militia; from 27th December, 1890.

GOVERNOR GENERAL'S BODY GUARD FOR ONTARIO, Toronto.—To be Lieutenant: 2nd Lieutenant George Taylor Denison, junior, R. S. C. *vice* R. Elliott, retired.

To be 2nd Lieutenant, prov.: Hampden Zane Churchill Cockburn, *vice* G. T. Denison promoted.

2ND REGIMENT OF CAVALRY, "D" TROOP, Oakridges.—To be Lieutenant: 2nd Lieutenant Alexander Daniel Kerr Servos, R. S. C., *vice* A. Servos, promoted.

6TH REGIMENT OF CAVALRY, "DUKE OF CONNAUGHT'S CANADIAN HUSSARS," Montreal.—Paymaster Charles C. Clapham to have the Honorary rank of Major, from the 13th January, 1891.

MONTREAL BRIGADE OF GARRISON ARTILLERY.—To be Lieutenants: 2nd Lieutenant Robert Hudson Reid, R. S. A., *vice* R. Costigan.

2nd Lieutenant Alender Milloy McEwan, R. S. A.

GOVERNOR GENERAL'S FOOT GUARDS, Ottawa.—Major William Egerton Hodgins has been permitted to accept the appointment of Honorary Aide-de-Camp to His Honour the Lieutenant Governor of the Province of Ontario, to date from 3rd December, 1887.

10TH BATTALION, "ROYAL GRENADIERS," Toronto.—To be 2nd Lieutenant, prov.: George Alexander Stimson, *vice* S. A. Heward promoted.

Memo.—It is notified that authority has been obtained for the addition of two companies to this Battalion.

12TH BATTALION OF INFANTRY, "YORK RANGERS."—No. 8 Company, Yorkville.—To be 2nd Lieutenant: Sergeant Charles J. A. Cunningham-Dunlop, R. S. I., (1st B.), *vice* S. B. Elliot, resigned.

13TH BATTALION OF INFANTRY, Hamilton.—To be Captain: Lieutenant Percy Domville, R. S. I., *vice* Joseph William Bowman, who is hereby permitted to retire with rank of Lieutenant.

15TH BATTALION "ARGYLE LIGHT INFANTRY," Belleville.—To be 2nd Lieutenant: Frederick Mitchell Scadding, M. Q., *vice* L. M. Parker, resigned.

16TH "PRINCE EDWARD" BATTALION OF INFANTRY.—No. 1 Company, Picton.—To be Lieutenant, prov.: Sergeant Walter Scott Fraser, *vice* E. B. Merrill, promoted.

2nd Lieutenant Thomas Joseph Horrigan, having left limits, his name is removed from the List of Officers of the Active Militia.

17TH "LEVIS" BATTALION OF INFANTRY.—No. 4 Company, New Liverpool.—To be Lieutenant prov.: Sergeant Emile Gelly, *vice* Joseph Bourget, failed to qualify.

19TH "LINCOLN" BATTALION OF INFANTRY.—No. 1 Company, Niagara.—To be Captain: Captain Colin Campbell Milloy, R. S. I., from No. 5 Company, *vice* John Vanderbilt Doritty, who resigns.

No. 5 Company, St. Catharines.—To be Captain prov.: Sergeant Frederick William Milloy, *vice* C. C. Milloy, transferred to No. 1 Company. To be Lieutenant prov.: Frederick Henry Fitzgerald, *vice* A. H. Burgoyne, resigned.

No. 6 Company, Virgil.—To be Captain: Lieutenant Thomas Edward Hiscott, R. S. I., *vice* J. Hiscott, promoted.

To be Lieutenant: 2nd Lieutenant Henry Gordon Ball, R. S. I., *vice* T. E. Hiscott, promoted.

21ST BATTALION "ESSEX FUSILIERS"—No. 3 Company, Essex Centre. Lieut. Windsor H. Russell resigns.

25TH "ELGIN" BATTALION OF INFANTRY—A Badge and Motto, of which the following is a description, have been authorized to be used by this Battalion, on the understanding that any expense incurred in procuring badges, etc., is not to be a charge against the Government:—

Badge and Motto:—The regimental badge will be the seal of the County of Elgin, on which are inscribed the numerals XXV within a garter bearing the words "Elgin Infantry," surrounded by a maple wreath, having at top a beaver. Below the wreath a scroll with the motto, "*Officium Primum.*" In rear of all and extending beyond the wreath, an eight pointed star, surmounted by the Imperial Crown.

For front plate of helmet the above described badge will be of gilt metal, except that the seal of county, the beaver, and the scroll bearing the motto, will be of silver.

33RD "HURON" BATTALION OF INFANTRY—Lieutenant-Colonel Timothy Theobald Coleman is permitted to retire retaining rank.

36TH "PEEL" BATTALION OF INFANTRY.—No. 4 Company, Albion.—To be 2nd Lieutenant, prov.: Emile William Risch, *vice* W. C. V. Chadwick, promoted.

39TH "NORFOLK" BATTALION OF RIFLES.—No. 8 Company, Fredericksburg.—To be Lieutenant, prov.: William Howard Wood, *vice* J. G. Bottomly, resigned.

60TH "MISSISQUOI" BATTALION OF INFANTRY.—No. 2 Company, Clarenceville.—To be 2nd Lieutenant, prov.: William Tuttle Macfie, *vice* D. J. A. Macfie, promoted.

No. 6 Company, Frelighsburg.—To be 2nd Lieutenant, prov.: James Sime, *vice* W. J. Sager, left limits.

65TH BATTALION, "MOUNT ROYAL RIFLES," Montreal.—To be Lieutenants: 2nd Lieutenant Leonard Godfroy de Tonnancour, R. S. I., *vice* A. Lemieux, resigned.

2nd Lieutenant Jean Marie Arthur Gravel, R. S. I., *vice* J. E. Peltier, promoted.

86TH "THREE RIVERS" BATTALION OF INFANTRY.—No. 4 Company, St. Gabriel de Brandon.—Lieut. Joseph Bellemare having

left the limits, his name is removed from the List of Officers of the Active Militia.

93RD "CUMBERLAND" BATTALION OF INFANTRY.—No. 3 Company, Maccan.—To be 2nd Lieutenant: Sergeant Joseph R. McKeen, R.S.I., (1st B.), vice Owen Louis Harrison, deceased.

96TH "DISTRICT OF ALGOMA" BATTALION OF RIFLES.—No. 6 Company, Sault Ste. Marie.—To be Captain: Lieutenant William John Thompson, S.I., vice William R. Cunningham, who resigns.

95TH BN.—Capt. J. C. Waugh, R.S.M.I., No. 5 Company, is confirmed in his rank from 20th February, 1890.

8TH BN.—Lieut. O. B. C. Richardson, R.S.I., is confirmed in his rank from 5th December, 1890.

Lieut. P. P. Myles, R.S.I., is confirmed in his rank from 5th December, 1890.

QUEBEC FIELD BATTERY.—2nd Lieut. P. P. Boulanger, R.S.A., is confirmed in his rank from 31st December, 1890.

No. 4.—SPECIAL LIST.

Major Oscar Prévost, from Retired List, is placed on the "Special List" of Officers retaining Active Militia rank.

(No. 5. Certificates granted, will appear next week.)

ROCKY (MOUNTAIN) POETRY.

A FRAGMENT—THE SAD RESULT OF READING SOME RECENT RHYMES OF THE RIDEAU.

On the Rideau Range the sun was low,
One day during last September,
And at 600 yards the boys laid down,
(That is, if I rightly remember);
Young Thomas he looked like the shade of his sire,
With never a smile on his face,
So tall and slim, as with drooping mien,
He in silence strode up to his place.
But another Thomas was there that day
Of a different make and size;
His height was just over 4 feet 9;
He had piercing eagle eyes,
And his steps were quick, his mien was high,
His tongue would wag without fear,
For he when full dressed for a big parade,

Was a gallant Grenadier.
Bold Inman was there with that wart on his eye,
And Burns of his linen bereft,
While Donnelly swore by all that was bad,
That he would never get left.
The Guards with their Gray did some shooting that day,
But their tallest at scoring was Short;
While the Queen's Own did Harp on their beastly ill-luck,
And the Oggish did Crowe en rapport.
A Goodwin was there whose eyes were intent
On wind, light and shade in one glance;
But the King of them all on a possible Bent,
Hall at once put a check on his pants.
There were Horsey young sergeants who never took water,
They'd Binmore on the Beach than the main;
What Ellis I could tell is a Winter night tale,
And I haven't the Hartt to give Pain.
So the shooting went on, and the Wind-at this range
Brought clouds with the setting sun,
And the West-man was heard to utter this truth—
He's a fool who Marris his gun.
And some were in and some were out
Of that mixture we oft-times talk about,
Milligan tawny Sergt. Lavers it out
With an Armstrong, whose prowess Ouintet with a shout,
Kambery the dying Mc-Adamized Prout,
Good-bye to you all, my poetry's run out.

WINNIPEG'S BEST POET.

ONTARIO ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION.

The annual general meeting, for receiving reports, electing officers, and transaction of business will be held at the Canadian Military Institute, 94 1/2 King Street West, Toronto, on Tuesday, the 24th February, at 2 o'clock p.m.

Members are reminded that it is intended, notice thereof having been given, to move a motion to the effect that Clause 5 be so amended as to permit Field and Garrison Batteries to affiliate on payment of \$5 and \$3 per annum, respectively.

L. HOMFRAY IRVING, Secretary.

Toronto, 26th January, 1891.

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