

THE CANADIAN MILITARY

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No. 9

MONTREAL, MAY 1, 1895.

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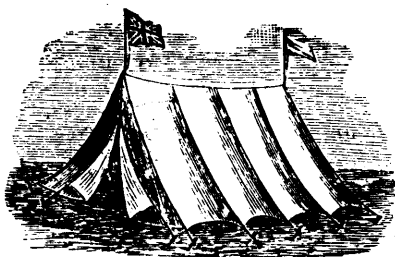
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THE CANADIAN

Military Gazette

Successor to the Canadian Militia Gazette.

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All communications and remittances should be addressed to the editor, P. O. Box 2179, Montreal.

MONTREAL, MAY 1, 1895.

Notes and Comments

In the letter of "Old 95," published elsewhere, will be found ample justification for the remarks made in these columns some months back with regard to the shortages of officers in the Active Militia. At the now historical Montreal banquet the ex-Minister of Militia undertook to dispute the statement that there was any glaring shortage of officers in the force, and took occasion to refer to the number of certificates taken at the schools of military instruction as justification of his contention that the force was in a satisfactory state. How absurd the boast of efficiency looks now with "Old 95's" deadly parallel showing the real facts of the case in cold type. And how absurd too

appears the present system of trying to keep the active militia supplied with qualified officers.

Out of a total complement of 2243, the force only has 1234 qualified combatant officers; not much more than fifty per cent. The fact that there are no less than 606 unqualified officers in the force, two of them masquerading as majors no less, and 28 as captains, reveals a deplorable state of affairs that should be put a stop to at once. The provisional appointment of one of the majors dates back to 1885; that of the other to 1887. The appointment of one of the provisionally appointed captains even goes back to 1878. If the force is divorced from politics why on earth were these appointments ever made, and why have they been allowed to continue? But of course the great point brought out by our valued correspondent's interesting letter is the fact that the present means for providing trained officers for the force are wholly inadequate.

Just what the difficulty is it is perhaps pretty hard to say off hand, though most of those interested in the prosperity of the force must have a pretty shrewd suspicion where the trouble lies. We are firmly of the belief that the subject is one well worthy of a thorough parliamentary enquiry. A large proportion of the money voted by parliament for militia purposes is devoted to the maintenance of schools to keep the force supplied with qualified officers. If the schools cannot perform the work required of them parliament has the right to know why and wherefore. As to the importance of the matter there

can be no question. How can a military force be considered as in any degree efficient when it has only half its quota of even nominally efficient officers?

The matter of appointments to the permanent corps of the active militia is another promising subject for a parliamentary enquiry. Successive heads of the militia department have promised that the graduates of the Royal Military College at Kingston should have the preference in the allotment of the commissions to the permanent corps, and the promises have been just as regularly broken, and broken, too, without the least particle of excuse.

We do not imagine that none but those who have passed through Kingston are competent to take commissions in the permanent corps. We believe that there are men of pronounced military talents and a very extended and valuable military knowledge in the active militia who have never seen Kingston, but would be of great service to the country as officers of the permanent corps. Such men, having experience, a natural military aptitude and devotion, should, we believe, be given the preference in the awarding of commissions to the permanent corps. But they are few and far between, and are almost always forgotten when appointments come to be made.

Strange to say so are the graduates of the Royal Military College. This institution cost the country about as much as the schools of military instruction which are supposed to keep the active militia sup-

plied with trained officers and don't. The country bears this great expense principally to provide the active militia with professionally trained officers. Professionally the school succeeds admirably. In the Imperial Army its graduates have made and are making enviable names for themselves. And yet Canada, after burdening herself with the expense of their training, refuses to avail herself of their services.

We have heard some things about the absurd application of Chinese statesmanship to military administration lately, but this little example of the application of Canadian statesmanship, (save the mark), to military administration quite out-Chinas the Chinese.

The permanent corps of the active militia are supposed to be models for the rest of the force, and their officers are supposed to be the professors at the military schools they were established to maintain. The officers should consequently be drawn from the very best available material, but they are not. The claims of the ablest men in the active militia have been regularly passed over and so have those of the graduates of the Royal Military College. Two or three times in the course of a decade able officers in the militia or the graduates of the R.M.C. have captured commissions in the permanent corps, but it has been because they had stronger political pulls than their rivals, not because of their qualifications. The commission goes to the man with the strongest political backing without respect to qualification. That is a rule as hard and fast as the laws of the Medes and Persians.

Mr. Sutton, appointed to the Royal Canadian Dragoons, Winnipeg, has joined his corps. Mr. Sutton, on his arrival in Canada a couple of years ago, joined a Maritime Province regiment and immediately went in for a long course at the cavalry school. Being unfortunate in his examination he was granted leave to take a special course, after which he passed the examination necessary to obtain the appointment which he has secured.

At least three splendidly equipped graduates of the Royal Military College were applicants for the

commission, but they lacked the necessary political and social backing and of course were out of the race.

The twenty-fourth of the last month was the tenth anniversary of the battle of Fish Creek during the Northwest campaign. The action showed that Canadian militiamen had not forgotten how to fight and die for their country, but it also showed that there were glaring defects in the organization and equipment of the force. The accoutrements were so defective that the men were unable to take sufficient ammunition into action with them, and after the fight unused cartridges were found scattered all over the prairie where they had fallen out of broken or overfilled "ball bags." Nothing has been done towards improving the equipment of the militia since 1885.

The force is anxiously awaiting the action of the new minister with regard to the question of re-armament. The rural corps were deprived of their drill pay last year to put the department into funds to buy the first installment of Martini-Metfords. The rifles have not materialized, and the force naturally wonders whether the department is going to allow the money to revert to the Dominion treasury. Much though as we would like to see the force supplied with a new rifle, we would like to see every precaution taken in the selection of a new arm. Nothing should be done until an expert committee has fully determined which is the very best rifle for the peculiar conditions existing in the Canadian militia.

The annual report of the D.R.A. is out and contains some interesting reading. The chairman of the council, in his statement, makes an announcement which will give satisfaction to those who have been urging a more economical management of the prize meeting. The announcement reads:—

"The question of a reduction in the expenses of management of the annual competitions and the camp arrangements at Ottawa, which would appear to be gradually increasing in amount from year to year, has engaged the attention of the Council, and with a view of ascertaining if the expenditure could be reduced in some direction to bring the same within the annual revenue, a Committee was appointed to make the necessary enquiry in this regard."

The financial statement contains some interesting figures. The entry fees to matches, including the charge for sighting shots, post entries and fines for challenge shots, amounted to \$4,118.20, as against \$3,701.90 received last year, showing an increase of \$416.30. After deducting the actual cost of the ammunition and the charges connected with the distribution at the several ranges, including pay of employees and cartage, a balance remains at credit of ammunition account of \$134.48. The expenditure on account of the Bisley team amounted to \$5,859.78, as against \$5,448.21 in 1893, an increase of \$411.57. This is accounted for by the increased cost of passages of the team to England, and also the return passages of members of the team to their homes in Ontario and British Columbia.

Major E. B. Ibbotson, of the Royal Scots, who commanded last year's Bisley team, sends in a very interesting report. The following remarks of the gallant major are worthy of publication:—

"It will rarely happen that six men from one battalion will secure places on the Canadian Team, but the success of the 12th would indicate that where three or four men of one corps wins places a local effort should be made, with the concurrence of the D. R. A., to find the men and the money requisite to complete the battalion team for the Ranelagh Cups. This matter is of sufficient importance to warrant careful consideration."

Major Ibbotson does not speak very hopefully of Canada's chances of winning the Kolapore cups. He says:—

"It affords me great satisfaction that the Canadian team took 2nd place in the Kolapore Match, winning £80 and defeating all other teams from different parts of the Empire. Canada can hope but rarely to beat the Mother Country, considering the material from which this team is selected, and the masterly way it is coached and handled. Even with an occasional victory, as in the past, the Canadians are likely to find it increasingly difficult to maintain second place."

Major Ibbotson is, however, a great believer in the advantage of sending a Canadian team to Bisley for he says:—

"The D. R. A. is sending a team year by year to the N. R. A. meeting, renders a service of the highest value to the Canadian force and to the Dominion at large. It provides an incentive to excellence in the use of the rifle of the most honourable and patriotic kind and is spoken of with

admiration by all branches of the service in the Mother Country. It has also an aspect of great importance and one which cannot be too widely understood in Canada, that of an advertisement of the Dominion as a centre whose influence reaches not only every portion of the Mother Country but every colony and dependency of the Empire. For this reason alone Canada could ill afford to dispense with such a practical and popular method of making herself known, and instead of any idea of minimizing this wholesome influence, efforts should be made, if possible to extend it. Should the D. R. A. find that the present limit under the Federal arrangement cannot be increased, there seems no good reason why the various provincial associations, in conjunction with their respective local government, should not contribute to the funds of the D. R. A. a specified sum per capita and nominate as many of their best shots as the subscription would cover. In some such way the team might be substantially increased and men of undoubted ability, who, for various reasons, may have missed getting into the twenty enabled to take their place in the Canadian contingent. With such a plan no Province need be left unrepresented in any year while Provincial interest would thereby be encouraged and sustained."

The Canadian Military Rifle League.

The League Programme.

The officials of the league announce that the dates of the matches this year, will be June 1st and 15th, July 6th and 20th.

The rifle and ranges will be the same as last year, but as yet it is not officially announced that free ammunition will be allowed by the Government. There is but little doubt, however, that the new Minister of Militia will stand by the course of his predecessors and allow it to the contesting teams.

As heretofore the MILITARY GAZETTE will publish the scores, in detail, of the matches.

Secretaries of Rifle Associations.

The shooting season being on hand once again, the MILITARY GAZETTE takes this opportunity of reminding the Secretaries of rifle associations that it aims at supplying riflemen all over Canada with a complete record of all rifle matches shot in Canada. Most of our regular correspondents are not riflemen, so we invite Secretaries of associations to supply us with copies of scores made in regimental or other matches, themselves, so as to ensure their being correctly reported. A clipping from the local paper will usually answer, any corrections or additions being made on the margin.

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.

Hamilton.

On Sunday April 27th, the 13th attended divine service at All Saints Church, when they listened to an eloquent address from their Chaplain, the Rev. Geo. Forneret.

It was a beautiful spring day and thousand lined the streets to see the boys in red go by to the inspiring music of their famous band. The fair sex being in great majority, all looking lovely in their new spring hats and dresses.

On the return march to the drill hall marching in column of companies and half companies was practiced.

There was a splendid turn out of the battery on Thursday evening, to practice standing gun drill and practice.

It is the intention of the battery to turn out fully horsed for the military demonstration on Queen's birthday.

Speaking about the Queen's birthday, a grand programme is being prepared for the grand military demonstration here on that day, when the two crack corps of No. 2 District will meet.

There will be brigade movements by the two regiments and a sham fight and the 13th will "troop the colors," besides other features, which as yet are kept secret.

The article appearing in the Toronto Star, to the effect that the Queen's Own were going to enter a claim, for the Gzowski cup on the grounds that the 13th won it unfairly, must surely have been without foundation, as the Queen's Own officers have never had reason to suspect the 13th of anything but honorable competition.

One of the objects of the competition is to promote a friendly feeling between the respective corps of this district and if what the Star says is so—the sooner the competition is done away with the better.

The 13th paraded 319 strong on Wednesday evening and was put through some interesting drill in half battalions, by their commanding officer.

The XIII is glad to welcome one of its old officers back again, in the person of James Harvey, who has returned after a 3 years absence in Winnipeg and the North West.

The examination of the non-commission officers class took place on Tuesday and Thursday evenings. The examiners being Major McLaren and Sgt.-Major Huggins.

The Hamilton Times printed a despatch from Ottawa a while ago stating that the Forty-third battalion of Ottawa and Carleton had protested the decision granting

the Gzowski cup to the Thirteenth battalion for general proficiency. As the cup competition is limited to the city battalions of the second military district, and the Forty-third is a semi-county battalion in the fourth, there must be some mistake in regard to the matter.

Halifax.

A number of officers from different militia corps throughout the province are in Halifax taking a course of instruction at the Glacis barracks. The class commenced on April 2, and will continue for three months. Major Mellor, Lieut. Knight and Sergt Grimshaw of the Kings regt., are the commandant, adjutant and instructor respectively. The following is a complete list of the officers attending the school :

Capt C Hole, 66th.
Capt G A LeCain, 69th.
Capt A F McRae, 94th.
Capt J P McNeil, 94th.
Lieut M S Elliott, 72nd.
Lieut G M Sutherland, 78th.
2nd Lieut J E Morse, 69th.
Lieut T F Ritchie, 66th.
Lieut G A Sutherland, 78th.
2nd Lieut A Oliver, 66th.
2nd Lieut J F Harris, 69th.
2nd Lieut A D McRae, 94th.
2nd Lieut A J McNeil, 94th.
Lieut M A J McDonald, 94th.
2nd Lieut H E Sawyer, 66th.
Lieut J A G Harrington, 66th.
2nd Lieut K McPherson, 78th.
2nd Lieut R MacDonald, 93rd.
2nd Lieut W R MacKenzie, 94th.
2nd Lieut R Y MacKenzie, 94th.
2nd Lieut J A Ross, 94th.
2nd Lieut W H Conrod, 63rd.
Lieut W L Phinney, 72nd.
2nd Lieut W S Dimock, 75th.
2nd Lieut J O Fletcher, 75th.
The 69th corps belongs to Annapolis county.
The 78th to Pictou, Colchester and Hants counties.
The 93rd to Cumberland county.
The 94th to Cape Breton county.
The 75th to Lunenburg county.
The 72nd to Annapolis county.
—Halifax Echo.

The suicide of company Sgt. Major Hogan, of the Royal Engineers, has been a topic of conversation among military men here.

Hogan went home from a dance with his wife in the best of spirits, got into bed and then deliberately swallowed about five ounces of potassium cyanide. He died almost immediately.

Sgt.-Major Hogan is supposed to have committed the act while laboring under an attack of insanity.

His funeral took place on April 17th, and was largely attended.

Sergeant Manley, of the King's regiment, has been granted a commission in the Royal Inneskillen.

St. John, N. B.

The ball given on Thursday evening by the officers of the 62nd Fusiliers is the "talk of the town." The assembly hall of the Mechanics' Institute had been transformed by the tasty arrangement of bunting, rifles trophies, etc., and a profusion of roses and my flowers which festooned the walls and arches, while Chinese lanterns lighted by incan-

descent lights gave a fantastic dreamland effect to the brilliant scene. The gallant officers of the 62nd have placed themselves once more on record in the heart of the fair ones of St. John by giving what has proved to be the most successful ball ever held in St. John.

The reception committee consisted of Lt. Col. Tucker, the chaplain, Rev. Fr. Davenport, Major McLean, Major Sturdee, Surgeon Walker and Assistant Surgeon Maclaren, assisted by Mrs. McLean, Mrs. Sturdee, Mrs. Walker and Mrs. Maclaren.

The attendance was large. With a perfect floor and excellent music what was there to prevent all enjoying themselves. The ladies dresses were exceptionally fine, and the uniforms of the officers made the scene one of surpassing beauty.

The guests included Lt. Col. Toller, of Ottawa, Lt. Col. Armstrong and the officers of the N. B. B. G. A. and Lt. Col. Domville and the officers of the cavalry, Mr. Macdonald of the R. R. C. I.

The music was by the band of the corps.

Kingston.

KINGSTON, April 23rd.—It might be interesting to the magnates of the Militia Department, who are so careful that not even a single dollar shall be expended uselessly in that department, to know that the Kingston drill-shed is in such a lamentably dilapidated condition that the regimental stores in the Quartermaster's rooms are being ruined by the leakage that attends and follows every shower of rain. The rifles are rusted—though they cannot be said to suffer any injury on that account, as they are Sniders—and the clothing requires Quarter Master White's constant attention, in order to prevent its becoming mildewed, and rotten. The company armories are in a condition not a whit better, while the officers' rooms are certainly a few degrees less comfortable than the parlors of the British American or the Frontenac.

Of course, it would cost money to put the shed in repair, and secure a better state of affairs, and the old Sniders are useless anyhow, while the clothing is being worn out year by year. And, it may be asked, where would be the sense of repairing a drill shed, that stands upon land owned by a corporation which asks that its property be given up to its use next year? For I am told that the land, which belongs to Queen's University, will be required next year for the purposes of that institution. Then, what will the 14th do? Hon. J. C. Patterson when on a visit of inspection, as Minister of Militia, to Tete du Pont barracks, informed your correspondent that there was no chance that a new drill shed would be built in this city, until after "A" Battery, R.C.A. had been provided with a more suitable home.

Little encouragement truly does the 14th receive from the Militia Department. And the wonder is that under the—certainly untoward—circumstances, the battalion can be kept up to its present degree of strength and efficiency.

The 10th Batt. Royal Grenadiers of

Toronto were invited by the officers of the 14th Batt. to spend the Queen's birthday in this city. The invitation was received too late, the Grenadiers having decided to go to Collingwood, on May 24th, when it reached them, and they were consequently compelled to decline.

Much regret is felt by the men of the 14th, that their red-coated brothers-in-arms were unable to accept the invitation, as they had looked forward with a great deal of pleasurable anticipation to the expected visit of the "Fighting Tenth."

A district court martial will shortly be held, to try Sergt. F. Kelly of "A" Battery, on a charge of "being absent without leave." Sergt. Kelly was one of the most popular non-com's of this popular corps, and when his many friends learned, some days ago, that he was missing and when day after day passed without bringing him back to barracks, they were naturally very much astounded, and set about seeking a reason for his unexpected, and, apparently unaccountable disappearance.

It was learned that a private soldier of the battery had accompanied Kelly, and that, when they reached a town not a great many miles from Brockville, on their way to the "land of the free," Kelly had sent a telegram to the Brockville police stating that "Sergt. Kelly and one man of 'A' Battery would reach the city at a certain stated time, in pursuit of a deserter." Whether or not the Brockville police entertained the sergeant and his "squad" in appropriate style is not known.

But a few days later Kelly walked into barracks, and gave himself up. His absence had not been sufficiently long to permit of a charge of desertion being laid against him, and he was therefore taken before Major Drury, and charged with having been "absent without leave." This commanding officer sent him for trial by a district court martial, which will probably be convened in the course of a few days. No trace of Kelly's companion has been found, and it is supposed that he succeeded in making his way to the United States.

Several men, who some months ago, deserted from "A" Battery, have returned and given themselves into custody, recently. They state that they were glad to get back, and that they will gladly accept whatever punishment may be meted out to them, in order to get a chance of going back to the Canadian service. Some of them evidently deserted with the intention of enlisting in the American army, but from the statements they have made since their return, that service offers few, if any inducements to enlist. There is nothing like experience as a teacher of common sense and the men in question have had an experience, which from the evidence at hand, may be said to have taught them a valuable lesson.

The 14th Batt. P.W.O.R. paraded for the first time this season for battalion drill, in the drill shed, on the evening of Thursday, 18th inst. Major Shannon was in command, in the absence of Lieut. Col. Smith.

The parade was a very creditable one indeed, each company making a very fair show. "A" company had by far the largest number of men on parade. "B" came next, and the other companies were about equal in this particular.

Company movements were practised for a time, under the direction of the dif-

ferent instructors, and the battalion was afterwards drilled in several battalion movements.

Lieut. Cunningham has been attached to "B" company from "A" company, until further notice.

The battalion will drill on Thursday, instead of Monday evenings for the present.

After the battalion had been dismissed Lieut. C. M. Strange of "B" company, who was home from Montreal on a visit, and who was in command of his old company, much to the delight of "the boys," called his men into their armory and presented them with a handsomely framed photograph of himself, and Lieut. W. H. Macnee. The men received the gift with three rousing cheers, after which, at Lieut. Strange's invitation, an adjournment was made to "the Hub," where Major Shannon was invited to join the company, and where the healths of Lt. Col. Smith, Major Shannon, Lieut. C. M. Strange and the battalion were honored in true soldierly style.

Major Shannon and Lieut. Strange each addressed a few words of good advice to the men, after which the gathering dispersed.

Capt. White, Quarter Master of the 14th Batt., has signified to the secretary of the Dominion Rifle Association, his intention to take his place on the Canadian Rifle team for Bisley, this year. May he do Kingston and his corps full credit.

VEDETTE.

Toronto.

Sunday, the 14th April, was about as inclement an Easter Sunday and as inappropriate for Easter bonnets and other finery as could be imagined. Despite unfavorable conditions, the church parade of the Grenadiers to St. James Cathedral was exceedingly creditable, and the appearance of the corps on that occasion gives color and strength to my prophecy that, ere long, the Gren's will make the best of them get what is commonly called "a move on."

The Gren's have for some time past opened the ball or season of Sunday parades, but this year at least a good start has been gained by the Gren's on both them and the 48th Highlanders.

The service was very appropriate and the musical part, both by the choir and the regimental band, under bandmaster Waldron, could not well be improved on.

By the way, regiments can march just as well to some of the well-known ancient and modern hymns which would certainly sound at their best when played as the band that bandmaster Waldron has brought to such a splendid state of efficiency, knows how to play them; and from my own personal observation, both onlookers as well as participators in the parade, would feel the better for hearing a beautiful sacred piece beautifully played. They would be an improvement for a church parade on Pork and Beans and Hard Tack or Solomon Levi.

The only unfavorable criticism heard about the parade was the appearance of the bearskin head-dress.

In a great many cases the wrong men got the wrong busby and generally they seemed to be in a very mussed up condition.

Possibly moving to the drill hall accounts for this, but a little time expended in smoothing some of the ruffled ones would be well spent.

The success of the Horse Show has been attributed by a great many to the splendid quarters so generously placed at their disposal by the militia authorities.

It seems about the most fitting place for a horse show to be held, and while some, from a selfish standpoint, may have begrudged the promoters the use of their recently acquired quarters, I feel sure that the majority have enough admiration for the soldier's dumb friend and unflinching and unfaltering support in many a hard fought fight, to suffer a little

inconvenience in such a cause.

If the term "new armouries" was dropped and "the armoury" or "drill hall" substituted, it appears to me that either of them would sound preferable to what during the Horse Show all the papers persisted in calling the long looked for home of a long suffering and much discouraged force.

The non-com. class of the O. & R. for those who desired to qualify for corporal's certificates has just finished, and after the close of the last night's work, one of the members, stepping to the front, presented their instructor, Sergt. J. S. Campbell, of No. 2 Co. R.R.C.I. with a handsome ebony swagger-stick and a nicely carved merschaum pipe, as a slight token of their appreciation for the kindly interest he exerted on their behalf during the continuance of the class. The high standing obtained by so many members of this class speaks well for the care and attention Sergt. Campbell bestowed upon them.

Major Hartt, of the 62nd, St. Johns, spent Easter in the city, and with so many acquaintances to look up, the Major found time to pay a visit to the O. & R. Sgt's mess and for the sake of old times at Ottawa, shoot a couple of scores with some of those members whose good fortune it was to meet him on the Rideau ranges.

Since the last drill season the Grenadiers have decided to dispense with a fife and drum band, and, in its stead, use the bugle band.

To any one who, from the middle or end of the column, tried to get the step while the fifes and drums were being played, the change is a welcome relief, and the splendid showing made by the bugle band and the improved two good bands instead of one good and one bad one makes in a regiment's marching, was amply demonstrated at their last church parade.

The bugle band set an example that all companies and bands could imitate.

Instead of leaving the church and forming up on parade in a straggling every-man-for-himself style, they, unlike the balance of the regiment, and indeed of all regiments in this city, were marched to their place by the N.C.O. in charge.

Now that the Gren's have taken the step, those semi-military citizens who are not Scotchmen, are asking themselves, will the Highlanders dispense with their pipe band?

It would seem a queer Highland corps without its pipers, but they could still retain them, but insist on them limiting their playing to the confines of the barracks.

The Highlanders have a rattling good bugle band and a very fair brass band, and while either of these are playing, the marching of the regiment is, or was on Friday night, the 19th April, extremely good. This only lasted while the bands referred to above were playing, but just as soon as the turn came for the pipes to start their shrieking and grunting, the effect on the marching of the regiment was patent to the most ignorant (in a military sense) spectator.

Perhaps the appearance of the regiment at the time I refer to was correct from a standpoint other than that from which I am capable of judging; but, if about a third of the regiment seem to be trying to get the beat of the drum on the left foot, a third making similar efforts to get it on the right foot, and the balance making desperate efforts to get any kind of a step at all, is caused by a poor pipe band, I think that it would be a pity to spoil the really good marching the Highlanders made and can make with the other bands for the reason that a Highland regiment should, of all other things, have a pipe band. The band could still be retained, but used as suggested above.

The Evening Star of the 16th April,

publishes an article to the effect that serious charges were about to be preferred against officers of the 13th Batt. re the Gzowski cup.

It says that a "young man who attended one of the weekly parades in Hamilton came here with the story that he had heard one volunteer answer to three names at muster roll." By doing so he swelled the attendance, and not only that, but secured for the regiment from the Government the pay of two men who were not present. This is about the richest thing in the Gzowski cup line that we have been regaled with, and the absurdity of it is only increased when he goes on to say that the officers of the Queen's Own will not likely submit to having it passed over lightly, etc.

While I have no authority to speak for the officers of the Queen's Own, I can safely say that they would as soon think of renouncing their allegiance as take any such ground as the Star correspondent claims they are likely to; indeed, none would be quicker to congratulate their victorious rivals on winning the cup. The result of the Gzowski cup competitors will not cause any friction between the Q.O.R. and 13th, as both regiments are looking forward to their fraternizing, next 24th May, and possibly will arrive at some agreement whereby the next award of their gigantic force will be its positively farewell appearance.

None of the other regiments want it, and its disappearance from the arena would be hailed with joy by all the corps in M.D. No. 2.

I know of no better evidence of the failure of this competition than first, the size of the parades of the city regiments since the high pressure has been maintained, and secondly the remarkable number of promotions among the non-com's of the three city regiments during the spring drill. The non-com's feel the pressure most of any, and the large number of resignations should open the eyes of the commanding officers in time to avert the feeling extending, as it certainly will, and in some cases has already done, to the men in the ranks. Another cause of complaint is the never-ceasing company drill rendered necessary by the ill-advised competition.

Quebec.

24th April, 1895.

The appointment of a gentleman to the permanent militia, who, comparatively speaking is unknown in this country, is such as to create a feeling of non-confidence in the administration of the Department of Militia and Defence, inasmuch as it concerns the welfare of the militia force in general and of the permanent militia in particular, when viewing the situation from the standpoint of efficiency and in connection with the selection of officers.

It is certainly due to the country at large that the reasons for the selection of the gentleman who was recently gazetted to the Royal Canadian Dragoons should be made public, as it is altogether an unknown quantity to the people as a whole, and who will doubtless place it to the credit of political influence irrespective of merit and qualification.

To completely ignore the graduates of the Royal Military College of Canada, who have spent four years of their lives in acquiring a scientific education to fit them for these appointments, is to say the least not only unfair but decidedly unjust. The government holds out as an inducement for gentlemen to attend that institution, the promise that they shall receive the preference for these appointments, as per general orders and college regulations, and after serving the above specified time they are simply ignored, and preference given to persons who have no claim of any kind for such preference

except political influence.

It was but a few months ago that a gentleman applied for the appointment in question and who was given to understand by the Adjutant General of Militia that as he was not a graduate of the Royal Military College of Canada he could not be considered eligible for a commission in the permanent militia, although having spent four years at the college. How then can the so-called father and friend of the college explain the sudden change of base, which permits of the injustice which has just been perpetrated? Will the Adjutant-General be good enough to make public the number of applications which have been received by the department from graduates, and further as to what steps were taken to bring to the notice of the Minister of Militia and Defence their claim and right to preference? As the office of Minister of Militia and Defence is one subject to frequent changes, any gentleman filling the position for the time is certainly not conversant with the Militia Act and Regulations and Orders, and therefore not posted in matters of detail; it is then reasonable to assume that he must be guided in matters of this kind by those in the department who are, or at least should be thoroughly up in their work. It would be interesting to know to what extent he was guided in his selection on this occasion and by whom.

Allowing for a moment that a certain proportion of the commissions to the permanent militia should be given to others than graduates, although in the Royal Regiment of Canadian Infantry there is but one such officer and none in the Royal Canadian Dragoons, then why the necessity to go outside of Canada for men? Have we not a number of men who have given time and money in the interests of the militia, and who would be only too glad to accept the appointments if given an opportunity?

It is to be hoped that this matter will receive immediate and careful investigation during the present session of the Federal Government, and the system of ignoring graduates of the college be made a subject of inquiry. Have we in the force members of the House of Commons who will take up this question? Time will tell.

Mr. W. H. Davidson, the well-known rifle shot of the 8th Royal Rifles, will be unable to proceed to Bisley this year, a matter of regret to his brother officers and friends.

The 9th Battalion were inspected by their Commanding Officer, Lieut.-Colonel Roy, on the evening of the 18th instant.

The 17th Battalion of Levis have sustained a loss in the death of Major Adjuter E. Demers, who died after an illness of several months.

The 8th Royal Rifles had a march out on Good Friday afternoon. The muster was very good, something over 250 of all ranks. Needless to state they presented a fine appearance, and were seen by a number of the citizens who lined the streets through which the regiment passed. It was rumored that the battalion would proceed to the Terrace for drill purposes, and as a consequence a large gathering of the citizens took place there, but who were disappointed, as it was not deemed advisable to take the regiment on the Terrace Lieut.-Col. Geo. R. White was in command. The regiment marched out with fixed swords, being as stated in accordance with the new drill.

On Sunday morning, the 21st ult., the 8th Royal Rifles paraded for divine service and attended St. Andrews Church. The muster was good and created a fav-

orable impression among the spectators, who turned out to see the regiment. The pioneers, who as a rule have been heretofore most regular in their attendance, were numerically much smaller than expected.

Next Sunday the 8th Royal Rifles will parade for divine service at St. Matthew's Church, the Royal Canadian Artillery, as usual, to the Cathedral.

The Queen's Own Canadian Hussars are steadily at work and will shortly commence their mounted training.

PATROL.

Montreal.

The merry whizz of the Martini bullet is once more making music on the Cote St. Luc Ranges. The opening shoot of the season took place on Saturday, when there was a large attendance, the range being taxed to its fullest capacity.

Capt. Chambers, resignation as adjutant of the 6th Fusiliers, which has been in several months, is at last about to go forward, an arrangement having been effected to get Major Atkinson to take the position again. Major Atkinson will have the rank of Captain and rank senior regimentally to all the company officers.

The 65th Mount Royal Rifles have decided to visit Quebec on Dominion Day. The battalion has chartered the steamer "Canada" for the trip and will spend three days at the Ancient Capital.

The Garrison Artillery are negotiating with the railway companies for transportation to Toronto on Dominion Day.

The annual ball of the Royal Scots non-commissioned officers took place Friday the 19th and proved a complete success. The committee in charge of the affair were president, Sergt.-Major J. Currie; secretary, Sergt. Inst. and Ass't Sergt.-Major D. R. Kennedy; Col.-Sergt. T. Gardner, Sergt. J. Whitton, Col.-Sergt. D. A. Bethune, Sergt. W. Brown, Sergt. G. McKeown, Sergt. H. J. Norton, Drum Corp. W. J. Brown; floor managers, Sergt.-Major J. Currie Col.-Sergt. D. A. Bethune.

All the local corps are right in the the midst of their annual drills. The Victorias are well in the lead so far as musters go.

Lieut. Henderson of the 66th Princess Louise Fusiliers, Halifax, is attached to the Victoria Rifles for the annual drill.

The Highland Cadets are sticking to it manfully and turning out in good style for drill.

The school cadet corps are seriously preparing for the competition for the Duke of Connaught's banner.

So far the Queen's birthday parade scheme appears to be hanging fire. No programme has been yet decided upon, and the invitation committee has not yet reported. Among the corps it is proposed to invite are the 8th Royals of Quebec and the Toronto Grenadiers.

The Royal Scots have determined to supply themselves with feather bonnets.

The 85th Battalion are going to make an effort to maintain a first class rifle team on the range this year.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The Crowded Schools of Instruction.

"There is a way in which steady young men who are liable to be out of employment during the winter months can avoid that undesirable experience if they go

the right way about it. All that is necessary is to join the Hamilton field battery or the Thirteenth battalion, and, early in January go to one of the military schools for a three months' course. At the artillery school in Kingston sergeants get \$1 a day and gunners 50 cents a day during their stay and "all found." They have a comparatively easy time, comfortable quarters, with canteen privileges, etc., and without having to enlist they can enter the employment of a soldier with the comfortable knowledge that when spring opens up they can return to their regular employment with the additional advantage of an A I certificate that will probably enable them next winter to return to the school for a non-com's course. Young men who go down from here usually have a snug little balance of \$40 or \$50 to their credit at the end of their course."

To the Editor *Canadian Military Gazette*.

SIR,—The clipping above throws a flood of light on the way the schools are crowded in winter, and explains the difficulty the men of the country corps have in obtaining admission during the only period of the year they can attend. The new Minister of Militia has now a fair opportunity of showing his hand, and his independence, by cancelling the rule that limits the attendance to thirty non-com. officers and men, and reverting to the old custom of admitting as many men to the school as can make it convenient to attend the course. If barrack yard drill and life in barracks must be part of the curriculum, let them take it month about, one in barracks, and two where they please, as long as they are present at drill or other specified duties, but only admit those to the classes who are *bona fide* members of their battalions, sworn to the regular three years' service, and who do not attend "for the snug little balance of \$40 or \$50, and return to their regular employment when the spring opens." A simple but effective way of blocking this little game would be to close the schools to all but members of the country corps for the winter term of January, February, and March. Yours, etc., etc.,

SUBSCRIBER.

April 23rd, 1895.

What Rifle Are Our Militia to Have?

The following letters from different contributors on the subject of a new rifle for the militia will be of interest to those who are following up the matter, especially as they are treated from different point of views, and are both from men whose experience entitles their opinion to respect. We leave to our readers the judgment to be pronounced, and invite further correspondence on the subject.

The following letter has been addressed by Mr. Raymond Binmore to "Cartridge Box":—"In the report of the annual meeting of the Montreal Rifle Association in your issue of April 15, you do not report my remarks regarding the re-arming of the militia of Canada correctly. In justice to myself I must ask you to allow me to correct you. What I did say was, that in my opinion the action of the Ottawa Rifle Club in requesting the Government to re-arm the militia with the latest pattern magazine rifle—presumably

the Lee-Metford—was ill-advised, and before joining the club in any such deputation or petition, that the matter should be very fully considered by a meeting of the whole association. Upon being asked my reasons for objecting to the Lee-Metford rifle, I stated briefly that as yet the rifle had barely passed its experimental stage and was now for the first time being put to a practical test in the Chitral campaign; the action, I consider, to be altogether too complicated for our volunteer force, while the rifle cannot be fired a greater number of times in two minutes than the Martini-Henry. I then went on to say that in my opinion the rifle that the force here stands in need of is a light, well-balanced weapon of small calibre and quick action; one that would combine the admirable ballistic properties of the Lee-Metford, with the action of the quickest single-loading rifle of the day, viz., the Martini-Henry. That weapon is, I contend, to be found in the so-called 'Martini-Metford' rifle, that is to say, the genuine .303 Metford barrel applied to Martini action. As the question of re-arming is now being discussed in all military centres of the Dominion, I trust that you will be good enough to publish this letter, so as to correct any false impression that may have arisen as to my opinion of the merits of the rifles in question."

To the Editor *Canadian Military Gazette*.

DEAR SIR,—It is a matter for much regret that the Martini-Metford rifle has failed to prove the "beau ideal" weapon we were led to expect; had the rifle, previous to its adoption, been subjected to an exhaustive trial by a committee of unbiassed experts, its defects would have been discovered and the country saved the costly experiment to which it has been committed.

Mechanical experts are fully agreed that the falling block breech action (such as the Martini) is inferior in mechanical power for loading and extracting cartridges to that of the direct action of the "bolt." The superiority of the bolt action for loading and extracting is also manifested in its simplicity, in being so easily taken to pieces for cleaning and putting together by the soldier. To take the Martini breech action to pieces and put it together again is a difficult operation which requires special implements.

Some of the advantages claimed for the bolt breech action of the magazine rifle used by the British troops are:—When the bolt is pushed home it is completely covered in, so that no dust or dirt can get into its working parts. Its mechanism is strong and simple, does not require delicate care, and is well adapted to stand the rough usage of war. It can be easily taken to pieces, cleaned and put together again.

It is a notorious fact that many complaints were heard from the Soudan and other recent campaigns of the want of extracting power of the "Martini" action for ejecting cartridges that had stuck.

I maintain that from every point of view connected with efficiency, it would be more practical, and in the long run more economical, to arm our militia with the rifle used by the British army; doubtless the British army would be willing to let us have the rifle at the minimum cost. In the event of our militia being brigaded with British regulars no confusion could possibly occur in regard to arms or ammunition. The marked superiority, materially as well as tactically, possessed by troops armed with a magazine rifle over those armed with the ordinary breech-loader is so incontestable that nearly every civilized nation has hastened to adopt it.

Yours faithfully,

J. R.

THE CHINA-JAPAN WAR.

LECTURE DELIVERED BY CAPT. A. H. LEE, R. A.,
ROYAL MILITARY COLLEGE, KINGSTON,

IN THE VICTORIA ARMORY HALL, MONTREAL,
UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE MONTREAL MILITARY INSTITUTE, ON SATURDAY,
MARCH 9TH, 1895.

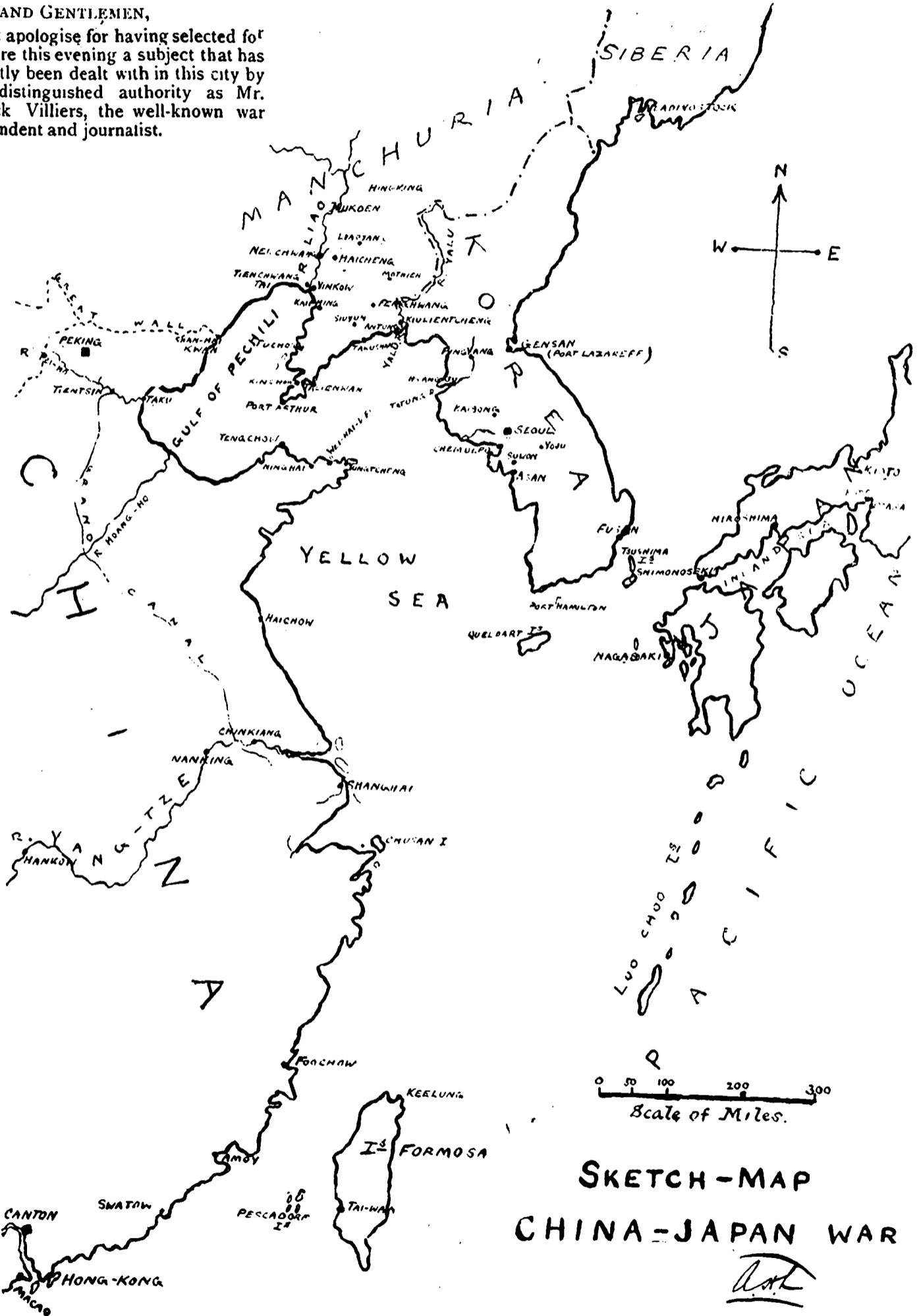
PART I.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I must apologise for having selected for my lecture this evening a subject that has so recently been dealt with in this city by such a distinguished authority as Mr. Frederick Villiers, the well-known war correspondent and journalist.

ture. I also had the privilege of hearing Mr. Villiers' lecture, and I am sure we were all intensely interested in the personal reminiscences of himself and of his wall-eyed Mongolian mule; but for my part I propose, with your permission, to adopt a somewhat different line, and to tell you something about the war.

Of course, I cannot claim to having had the advantage of a fortnight's sojourn in Japan during the last few months, or of witnessing one isolated incident of the actual war (the advance on Port Arthur.)



There are doubtless many people present this evening who had the opportunity of listening to his extremely graphic recital; and to these I must express my sense of disadvantage in appearing before them in the ordinary garb of civilisation, instead of in field-service kit, with revolver slung in front and water-bottle behind, travel-stained boots and dishevelled hair.

Before going further I should like to explain that I have no desire whatever to say anything against Mr. Villiers personally. I believe him to be a most courageous and accomplished journalist, and one who has established a high reputation for himself in numerous campaigns in the past. I only intend this evening to criticise certain points in his recent lec-

nor have I the moral support of the kodak and the stereopticon, but I have made a special study of the course of hostilities.

Further, I may state that for three and one-half years, recently, I was a resident of China, Japan and Korea, and have had considerable opportunities of studying the characteristics of the three peoples, and of making myself acquainted with the

theater of war. I have also been present with the troops of both China and Japan in barracks and on their field days, and shall endeavor to give a brief sketch of their respective qualities. What I complain of in Mr. Villiers' lecture is not so much the astonishing absence of information, as the unjust prominence which he gives to the so-called massacre of Port Arthur.

Of course, I do not forget that this incident is calculated to be especially attractive to a sensation-loving public, and also that it comprises nearly the whole of his personal experience of the war; but it is, in my opinion, grossly unfair to a gallant and humane nation like the Japanese, that non-expert audiences on this continent, who are anxious to hear the impartial truth about the war, should return home with but one deep impression on their minds: that the Japanese soldiery are little better than cowardly butchers and uniformed savages, and that Japanese civilisation is but a veneer.

It is on account of this unjust distortion of this incident that I feel compelled to so strongly join issue with Mr. Villiers, and to try to mitigate the somewhat sided impression that his recital of horrors must have left on your minds.

I shall refer again to this subject of the Port Arthur massacre in its proper place, but I must now continue with the main portion of my lecture. I think it will make the result of the subsequent fighting clearer if I commence by giving you a brief sketch of the nature of the opposing forces and their organisation; and in doing so I shall quote from an article which I lately published in *Harper's Weekly*:

"From the moment that war was declared it was well known to those who had any intimate knowledge of the two countries that the fighting could have but one issue—the invariable defeat of the Chinese. The press, however, was strangely and widely misinformed on this point, and the public almost universally swallowed the astonishing theory, gravely propounded, that because China had 400,000,000 of people and Japan only 40,000,000, the latter must therefore be wiped out. Arithmetic will not determine the fate of nations, and historical precedent alone will show that a warlike nation of considerably less than 40,000,000 souls can even conquer the world, under certain conditions.

"One very prevalent and yet natural misconception is to regard China as one great homogeneous nation. Nothing could be further from the truth. If difference of language, difference of physique, and widely divergent sympathies are any criterion, there are as many nations in China as there are in Europe. Indeed, almost the only points common to the whole empire are the suspicious hatred of foreigners and civilization and the wearing of the pigtail. A Chinaman from Canton is incapable of conversing with a compatriot from Swatow (only 150 miles distant), and in the coast ports of China I have frequently seen the ludicrous spectacle of two Chinese from different portions of the country being compelled to exchange their ideas in "pidgeon English." At Peking is the supreme government, but it is supreme only in name. Each of the great provinces of China is ruled by a Viceroy, who maintains his own army, and usually preserves an insolent indifference to the interests of the rest of the empire.

"In China patriotism is a sentiment as uncommon as it is uncomprehended.

"Opposed to this heterogeneous collection of discordances is an intensely patriotic and warlike race, amiable and ambitious, entirely and sentimentally loyal to its government, and with all the resources of civilization at its command.

"Turning to the purely military as-

pects of the two races, the contrast is even more sharply defined. The armed strength of China is a military myth, and it is meaningless to speak of the disorganization of her forces, when no organization ever existed. The corruptness of her generals is only surpassed by their colossal incompetence, and owing to the insufferable arrogance of the higher classes, the inferior officers are men who are not only ignorant, but who prefer to remain so. The rank and file have fine physique, and are passably brave if well led, but they have no military enthusiasm or patriotism, and their calling is a despised and discredited one in China.

"The Chinese coolie is naturally peaceful, and undesirous of 'a bubble reputation at the cannon's mouth,' and the so-called armies are largely composed of criminals condemned to military service. Add to this the fact that they are undrilled, practically unarmed, and invariably ill-treated and unpaid, and one is afforded a spectacle of warlike rottenness such as the world has seldom seen.

"Undoubtedly large sums of money are yearly apportioned for the military services, but the greater bulk of it disappears into the bottomless pockets of the mandarins. On making an inspection of the great Chinese arsenal at Kiangnan, I found that all the swords and bayonets there manufactured were constructed of hoop-iron, as, in the opinion of the contracting mandarins, 'steel was too expensive!'

"The curriculum of military training consists chiefly in the performance of ridiculous antics to frighten the foe, such as throwing somersaults, making grimaces and uttering weird cries. The higher branches of training include practice in shooting with bow and arrow and in hurling weights, but this supreme military education is within the reach of very few. Li Hung Chang's European-drilled troops must be exempted from the foregoing strictures, but they never constituted more than a small force, of which a large proportion was sent to pieces at the battle of Ping-Yang.

"Contrast with the above the highly trained and eminently efficient Japanese forces. The officers have been trained in the best foreign schools, and both officers and men are hardy and brave to an unusual degree. Their marching power is such as to upset all normal tactical calculation. In the Satsuma rebellion of 1877 there was a well-authenticated case of a brigade of 3000 imperial troops effecting a march of sixty-four miles in twenty-four hours, and then fighting a successful battle at the end of it.

"The men are equipped and armed in the latest and most approved style. Their magazine-rifle is an excellent one, invented by Colonel Murata, a distinguished Japanese officer. This weapon is manufactured in large quantities at the Yokosuka arsenal, and an equally efficient field-gun (8-pounder) is supplied to the artillery from the great gun factory at Osaka. This latter arsenal is especially worthy of note for the excellence of its manufactures, which include numerous heavy guns and howitzers for coast-defence. On visiting the workshops there it is difficult to realize that one is not in the gun factories at Woolwich or in Elswick, so perfect is the work and so identical the methods.

"The cavalry is somewhat indifferent, but when put to the supreme test of active service in the field, the Japanese forces have not been found wanting. Their leaders have achieved great and merited distinction; and perhaps the greatest test of all, the commissariat and supply organizations have worked admirably. Western nations will do well to adopt some of the Japanese improve-

ments in warfare, notably the organized 'Cremation Department,' which follows the armies and disposes of the dead immediately after a battle. By this practical yet simple system one of the chief sanitary difficulties of a campaign is at once disposed of.

"To give the best description of the Japanese troops in the fewest possible words, I do not hesitate to assert that they possess the high training of the Germans, with the fighting qualities of the Goorkhas, and a more desirable combination is scarcely conceivable.

"Such being the respective merits of the opposing forces, it requires no technical knowledge to realize that on every occasion in which they meet, the Chinese must inevitably fare as badly as George Stephenson's 'coo' in its problematic struggle with the locomotive."

Lest I should be suspected of exaggeration in my condemnation of the Chinese forces, I quote one paragraph from Mr. Henry Norman's new and remarkable book on "The Far East," in which he scathingly summarizes the Chinese army as follows:—

"A force made up half of coolies, torn from their homes, afraid of their weapons, clamoring for their pay, driven forward by the lash, punished by the headsman's knife; and half of uncontrollable savages, defiers of their own officers, insulters of foreigners, plunderers of peasantry, torturers of prisoners, murderers of missionaries, outragers of women and mutilators of the dead."

I have also prepared a rough and approximate table of the available forces on each side, to which I will only add the comment that it represents quantity on the one side and quality on the other.

JAPANESE FORCES.	
Peace footing.....	62,425
War ".....	270,119
CHINESE FORCES.	
On paper.....	1,300,000
of whom.....	to three
First (Imperial) army.....	80,000
Imperial guard.....	40,000
Ying-Ping, or National army (worthless).....	200,000
Mongolian cavalry.....	20,000
Tien-Tsing corps.....	35,000
	375,000

I have often heard the opinion expressed that the Chinese only require good leaders to make them first-class soldiers, and to support this view the success of Gordon's "Ever victorious army" is usually quoted. But a moment's consideration will show that there is no strength in this contention. Gordon's army certainly was ever victorious—but against what? An army composed of other Chinese rabble, with no capable leaders or proper organization.

Is it not natural, under such circumstances, that the latter should have been defeated? If Gordon had had to deal with a European or Japanese enemy, his army would have won the title of the "Ever-vanquished," instead of the "Ever-victorious."

There is an irresistible inclination in some people's minds to burlesque everything Japanese, presumably owing to the influence of Gilbert and Sullivan's comic opera, "The Mikado," and even Mr. Villiers succumbed to this temptation. I only take one instance. He gave us a highly humorous description of the Japanese buglers, who carried bugles because it was the European custom, but they were never known to use them.

It is of course highly probable that in the night advance on Port Arthur, at which Mr. Villiers assisted, the Japanese did not signal their approach by blowing bugles; but bugling is certainly as marked a feature of military life in Japan as elsewhere.

Personally I found that in their camps and military garrisons the bugling was almost incessant, and I notice that in Mr. Curzon's latest book on "The Far East" he refers to the "perpetual bugle note" in the streets of Tokio; and that distinguished authority, Mr. Henry Norman, in his admirable book on "The Real Japan," in speaking of Japanese garrisons, remarks:—"Tokio is almost as full of soldiers as Metz, and there is hardly five minutes in the day when you cannot hear a bugle blown somewhere."

I can only apologise if, in my description of the Japanese forces, I can find nothing humorous to set before you. The Japanese army is like any other first-class modern army, and indeed is so similar in appearance that "a Japanese column might march through any German city without attracting special attention as foreign troops."

Japan and China have long been enemies, for centuries I may say, and the bitterness of feeling between the two countries has become almost a religion in its intensity. Ever since Japan adopted western civilization in 1868, it has been the ambition of her war party to make China the first mark of their newly-found weapons. So intense was this feeling that one of the principal causes of the Japanese civil-war in 1877 was the refusal of the government of the day to declare war against the hereditary foe.

It must not be supposed from this that the government was desirous of cultivating friendly relations with China. It was only anxious not to deliver the blow prematurely, and to wait till the Japanese army should be thoroughly remodelled and equipped according to the latest western pattern.

As soon as this work was accomplished, I do not say that war was deliberately provoked, but an excuse for it most conveniently arrived. In the spring of 1894 one of the perennial rebellions against the government broke out in the south of Korea. Being totally unable to deal with any emergency himself, the King of Korea appealed to his suzerain, the Emperor of China, for assistance.

The latter replied by sending a force of two thousand Chinese troops, of the usual Chinese pattern, under a General Yeh (also of the usual pattern), by sea to Asan, which is about 40 miles to the south of Seoul, the capital of Korea. This was early in June.

According to the China Japan Treaty of 1885, each country had equal rights of interference in Korea in case of disturbances; and Japan promptly replied to the Chinese move by dispatching 5000 men (the 9th Brigade of the 4th Division), under General Oshima, to Chemulpo, to watch Japanese interests.

In this connection it is well to observe that China had but little interest in Korea, beyond the maintenance of her shadowy, but arrogant suzerainty; whereas the Japanese had enormous commercial interests at stake, and large and prosperous colonies at Gensan, Fusan, and Chemulpo.

This Japanese force was rapidly and steadily augmented to about 7,000 men, and occupied Seoul, the capital, without serious opposition.

By this move they were at once in possession, so to speak, of the Korean government, and had also strategically interposed between the Chinese force at Asan and the Chinese main army in Manchuria.

The Chinese now attempted to reinforce the Asan detachment by sea in face of Japanese opposition, with the well-known result that the transport "Kow-Shing" was sunk, with over 1000 Chinese troops on board, by the Japanese cruiser "Naniwa-Kan," on July 25. A

great attempt was made to construe this incident into an outrage on the British flag; but there is no doubt that the Japanese were perfectly justified in their action. The "Kow-Shing," although a British vessel, had been chartered as a war transport by the Chinese government, and as such was entitled to no immunity from capture or destruction.

The Chinese at Asan now being cut off sea-ward by the Japanese fleet, were completely isolated, and their only line of escape was to the north-east, towards Manchuria, round the Japanese at Seoul. In attempting this movement, which General Oshima received orders to prevent, there were several small skirmishes, till on July 29 the Japanese, with 3,000 men attacked and defeated the Chinese at Suwon or Seikwan, driving them to Yo-ju with a loss of 300. The Japanese then pushed on and occupied Asan. The remnant of the Chinese force succeeded in escaping with the help of the Koreans, and after a long detour rejoined the Chinese main army at Ping-Yang.

During all this period war had not been formally declared, but this is no unusual occurrence. History shows that in the majority of cases hostilities have preceded the declaration of war.

The existence of a state of war was officially notified to the foreign powers by Japan on August 1st. Meanwhile the Japanese fleet was searching for the Chinese ships, which had retreated to Wei-hai-wei and the Gulf of Pechili; and Japan had temporarily complete command of the sea, so that she could transport troops freely to Korea. This she lost no time in doing, and from Hiroshima, the Japanese headquarters on the Inland Sea, a steady stream of troops was poured into Korea.

On September 3rd Field-Marshal Yamagata embarked with the 3rd Division at Hiroshima, and landed at Chemulpo, in Korea. Transportation was furnished by 31 vessels of the "Nippon Yusen Kaisha" line.

This column was joined by the troops already at Seoul, and became the 1st Army. It consisted of the 3rd Division (General Katsura) and the 5th Division (General Nodzu), probably 40,000 men in all.

It immediately commenced an advance northwards in the direction of Ping-Yang.

Meanwhile the Northern Chinese army, consisting chiefly of the Manchurian troops and Li Hung Chang's Tientsin corps, had crossed the Korean frontier and had moved south to Ping-Yang, causing the Japanese outposts to fall back before it.

Owing to its hopeless state of disorganization, lack of transport and vile roads, its progress was slow and painful, and the Japanese made no attempt to drive it back, knowing that the further the Chinese advanced, the greater their straits would become. The Chinese did not attempt to advance beyond Ping-Yang, a walled city of importance and position of great strength, and here they waited, their numbers having been augmented to about 20,000.

The Japanese now executed a masterly and daring movement. Their main column advancing very slowly, and establishing supply depots *en route*, moved up towards Ping-Yang, as if to attack the Chinese position in front. Meanwhile another Japanese detachment, consisting of about 1000 men, under Col. Sato, had disembarked at Gensan and was advancing westward over the difficult mountain ranges towards the Chinese left flank at Ping-Yang. On arriving at Kai-Song, Marshal Yamagata divided his army into three columns:

Gen. Nodsu, with 1 Div., on the left.

Gen. Oshima, with 1 Bde., in the centre.

Gen. Katsura, with 1 Bde., on the right.

On Sept. 11th the left column crossed the Tatung river at Hwang-Ju, and threatened the Chinese right flank. The right column moved off to the northeast, and joined Col. Sato's force from Gensan. These three columns, were now in constant communication by field telegraph, otherwise the subsequent combination could never have come off.

The Chinese having no system of reconnoitring, were ignorant of these movements, and concentrated their whole attention on the central Japanese column in front of them.

On Sept. 14th this column assaulted and captured the outlying forts which defended the bridge over the south arm of the Tatung river.

The next day, Sept. 15, this column further assaulted the redoubts guarding the main bridge into Ping-Yang, but without capturing them.

Simultaneously, however, the two other Japanese columns had closed, and Gen. Nodsu had captured the western defences of the city, whilst the right column was assaulting the eastern defences.

About nightfall the Chinese hoisted the signal of surrender, and the attack ceased.

The Chinese position was surrounded on three sides, but was left open to the rear, and in the night most of the Chinese escaped.

On the 16th, when the Japanese entered Ping-Yang, it presented the appearance of a deserted city.

For precision of calculation and brilliancy of achievement, this stroke of Japanese strategy has seldom been surpassed.

This crushing and signal defeat was the knell of Chinese influence in Korea, and the three Japanese columns forming the 1st army, having recombined, pressed steadily northwards, driving the remnants of the Chinese forces before them like chaff before the wind.

The Japanese advance throughout the war has been necessarily slow, owing to the almost total absence of roads and the very mountainous character of the theatre of war. In all cases their columns have proceeded with great deliberation, making new roads and collecting supplies before moving forward. Behind the Yalu river, which forms the frontier between Korea and China, the Chinese attempted to make another stand, and, in the absence of the Japanese army, they were enabled to establish a strong position here at Kiu-tien-cheng.

The Chinese Government had meanwhile become seriously alarmed at the situation, and decided on the despatch of reinforcements, by sea, to the Yalu river to support the troops in the Korea. With this end a fleet of transports, with some 7000 troops on board, was despatched from Tientsin, under the escort of the Chinese fleet, which was thus lured out of the Gulf of Pechil.

The Japanese fleet observed this movement, but made no attempt to oppose it, having a larger game in view. Allowing the Chinese fleet to reach the Yalu unmolested, the Japanese squadron converged and closed upon them, and caught them in a *cul-de-sac*, so to speak, at the mouth of the river. This was on Sept. 15.

I do not wish to trespass upon the province of naval tactics, but suffice it to say that in the battle which followed, the Japanese, besides their enormously superior strategic position, showed far greater skill in the handling of their guns and ships, and after a five hours' action, sunk 4 vessels of the Chinese fleet, besides disabling many others. The repl-

nant escaped in the darkness to Port Arthur.

No serious attempt was made by the Japanese to prevent the disembarkation of the 7,000 Chinese troops at the Yalu. They had served their purpose as a decoy for the fleet, and would probably be soon incapacitated from offensive power by disorganisation and starvation.

We will now leave the 1st Japanese Army for the present, advancing from Ping-Yang towards the Yalu, and direct our attention to the second part of the Japanese strategical scheme. It is obvious that if an insular power like Japan is to invade a neighbor on the main land, it is first absolutely necessary to secure "command in the sea;" in other words, to destroy or disable the enemy's fleet. Until this object is effected the invading power cannot transport its armies in safety across the sea, or supply them with certainty from the mother country, nor is the line of retreat, in case of a reverse, secure.

In this respect England and Japan are in an almost precisely similar situation, and it is only her command of the sea which gives the voice of England its great weight in the councils of Europe.

This fundamental truth was most thoroughly grasped by the Japanese, who knew that before they could gratify their national ambition of invading China, they must complete the destruction or capture of the Chinese fleet. They had done a good deal in this direction at the battle of the Yalu, but the main portion of the Chinese navy still remained to block the otherwise open road to Tientsin and Peking. As before stated, the Chinese fleet, after the Yalu battle, retreated to Port Arthur for security.

This was the principal naval station of the Chinese Empire, and enormous sums had been spent in equipping and defending it. The defences were planned by French engineers, and their construction occupied the period 1887-1890.

It contained a magnificent dockyard and arsenal, and enormous stores of coal and munitions of war. Its naturally strong position was so enhanced by the most modern forts and guns, torpedo, flotilla and mines, that European experts pronounced it impregnable. And so it might have been, if garrisoned by anything approaching efficient troops; but a Chinese garrison is only a little worse than no garrison at all.

At Port Arthur the Chinese fleet was refitting in security, under the guns of the forts, and could not be enticed out. Therefore the next Japanese move was obviously to capture Port Arthur and, if possible, the Chinese fleet within it. Further, if successful, the possession of this secure harbor and dockyard would be of immense assistance to the Japanese in their advance on Peking, giving them a new base of operations at the very entrance of the Gulf of Pechili.

Let us see how this project was carried out. The 2nd Japanese army, consisting of the 1st Division, under General Yamaji, and 2nd Division, under General Sakuma, with a siege train, (25,000 men in all,) with Marshall Oyama in chief command, was mobilized at Hiroshima, and was conveyed in 38 transports, escorted by 25 warships, to the Liau-Tong peninsula. A landing was effected at Kwaenko to the north of Talienwan, at the end of October.

It is almost incredible that this landing was totally unopposed, in view of the fact that the Chinese fleet was within 60 miles, and the flower of the Chinese army was concentrated around Port Arthur and Talienwan; but such was the case.

You will observe that the Japanese chose their landing place so as to seize

the narrowest neck of the peninsula, and having completed their arrangements for the advance, they marched southwards along the peninsula, and on Nov. 6th they captured, without much difficulty, Kinchow and the forts at Talienwan, thus isolating the whole Chinese army round Port Arthur. There was a Chinese force, however, at Fu-chow, on the line of the proposed railway between New-chwang and Port Arthur, and this being a menace to the Japanese rear, a brigade, under General Nogi, was despatched from Kin-chow to attack them. Gen. Nogi landed at Fu-chow bay, and drove the Chinese before him, northward. He then continued to advance up the peninsula to cover the rear of the 2nd army, and, if possible, to open communications with the 1st army in Manchuria.

Meanwhile the 2nd army was closing slowly, but relentlessly, on Port Arthur by land, whilst the fleet watched it by sea. The Japanese arrived opposite the outer defences on Nov. 20th.

Mr. Villiers has given us a graphic description of this advance and the pictorial side of the subsequent fighting, so I will only give a brief resumé of the method of attack.

On Nov. 20th the outlying defences, feebly defended, fell into the hands of the Japanese. On the 21st the land forts, bombarded by the Japanese artillery and ships, were captured by the Infantry, which advanced in three columns, and with the perfect order and coolness of troops on parade. By 1 o'clock the land forts and the town were in possession of the Japanese, and some hours afterwards the sea-front forts were also evacuated by the Chinese, almost without resistance.

In these operations the Japanese fleet took a prominent part, especially the torpedo boats, which kept dashing into the harbour and drawing the fire of the coast forts.

The Japanese, not wishing to be encumbered with Chinese prisoners, purposely left the road open for them to escape by into the country.

The losses sustained were about 1,500 on the Chinese side and 200 on the Japanese.

Everything fell into the hands of the victors intact; dockyards, arsenals, stores, forts and ammunition. To the disappointment of the Japanese, however, they discovered that their chief objective, the Chinese fleet, had previously escaped from Port Arthur, and had taken refuge at Wei-Hai-Wei, the other great naval station at the opposite side of the Gulf.

To be continued.

League Badges.

The Editor CANADIAN MILITARY GAZETTE.

When the Military Rifle League was in its infancy, Secretary Pringle was instrumental in obtaining some recognition of its badges by the militia authorities, who issued an order on the subject. Will you kindly print the substance of the order, to settle a dispute as to whether or not the badges may be worn by a soldier on parade.

PIONEER.

Militia General Orders of 24th March, 1892, paragraph 5, says: "The badges given by the Canadian Military Rifle League, may be worn by militiamen in uniform, on the left arm, under similar regulations to those which apply to the wearing by militiamen of badges given by the National Rifle Association of England, and the Dominion Rifle Association of Canada."

THE CREMEA IN 1854 & 1894

[Continued.]

I had scarcely left it before it was swept by case-shot from three guns in succession, and many of the men who had just been running over their wounded comrades fell, killed or wounded, over them. As I approached our third parallel the last of the reserve, which had remained out to cover the retreat when the "retire" was sounded, were going in.

I was making for a place in the third parallel, where the parapet had been worn down by men running over it, in order to avoid the exertion of going up even four feet, when a young soldier passed me on my left side, and, doubtless, not noticing I was wounded, knocked my arm heavily, saying, "Move on, sir, please." As he passed over the parapet with his rifle at the trail, I caught it by the small of the butt to pull myself up. He turned round angrily, asking "What are you doing?" and while his face was bent on mine, a round shot, passing my ear, struck him full between the shoulders, and I stepped over his body, so exhausted as to be strangely indifferent to my own life, saved by the soldier having jostled me out of my turn at the gap.

On the far side of this parapet there sat a sailor, who had been severely wounded in his right hand, having lost two of his fingers. Feeling how very helpless I had become, I could not but admire the man's coolness and self-possession. He was unable to use his right hand, but with the left he had pulled out of his trousers the tail of his shirt, and holding it in his teeth, had already torn off two or three strips when I passed him. With these he was bandaging up his hand in a manner which would have done credit to any of our ambulance classes of the present day, and he answered me quite cheerily as to the nature of the wound, on which I addressed him.

I had come to the end of my strength, and was unable to mount the parapet of the 8-gun battery, falling down in the attempt. Two officers came out and carried me in, offering me brandy and water. A friendly doctor, whom I had known for some time, greeted me warmly with "Sit down, me dear boy, an' I'll have your arm off before ye know where ye are." I had some difficulty in evading his kind attentions, but eventually being put into a stretcher, I was carried away by four blue-jackets, a shipmate midshipman, Mr. Peard, who had recently joined the brigade, walking alongside. We met the commander of the Naval Brigade, Captain Lushington, when I was being carried away, and to my great relief he informed me that Captain Peel was alive.

Before we left the battery, the four men carrying me had a narrow escape, for a shell bursting just short of us, ploughed up the ground between the fore and hind carriers. This was the last of my escapes from the enemy, but as we passed through the camp of the 4th Division, the men, in changing arms, managed to drop me out of the stretcher. It was one of those made to roll up, and by an iron stay; this came unshipped as the men changed shoulders, and I fell heavily on the wounded arm!

While awaiting in the operating tent, with painful anxiety, my turn for the table, I was interested by the extraordinary fortitude of a blue-jacket, who discussed the morning's work without a break in his voice while the doctors were removing two of his fingers at the third joints. I had a prolonged argument ere

I was allowed to retain my arm, for a naval officer was then dangerously ill from a wound received a few days before, in which amputation had been delayed too long. The senior doctor present eventually decided on my being allowed the chance, when I disproved the statement of his colleagues that the joint was shattered, by doubling the arm. The moment I recovered consciousness after the anæsthetic Captain Peel came to see me, and saying that he had got but half-way, asked me to tell him exactly how far the remainder of the party had advanced.

I inquired anxiously for my friend Michael Hardy, of whom I could learn nothing then, but at the flag of truce next day his body was found under an embrasure of the Redan, the only man, so far as I know, who crossed the abatis and ditch that day.

There were fifty-three sailors killed and wounded, and, according to my journal, written at the time, forty-eight of these casualties occurred in the right column, as the left party did not go more than fifty yards beyond our advanced trench.

I slept till three o'clock in the afternoon, when I was awakened by Colonel Steele bringing in a letter from Lord Raglan, condoling with me on my wound, and placing his carriage at my disposition to take me down to Kasatch whenever I could be moved. This journey, which was made two days later, was very painful, for although my friend Mr. Hunter, of H.M.S. Queen, supported my wounded arm as long as he could, yet being himself very ill with fever, he was not able to hold it for the whole of the journey, and the jolting of the carriage caused excruciating pain in the wounded limb which rested on my ribs.

When the last of our effective men had withdrawn, the siege batteries opened fire, and within an hour the fire of the Redan was crushed. This shows the grievous error we made in attacking before we had silenced our opponent's guns. Lord Raglan, having ridden to the Lancaster battery, conferred with Pelissier, with whom he arranged to renew the assault, but later on, hearing from General d'Au-temarre, who was in the front, that the troops were not in a condition to undertake further efforts, the idea was abandoned, and the columns were withdrawn to camp soon after 7 a.m.

Our casualties were one hundred officers and 1,444 of other ranks. The French statistics and Russian are given together for the 17th and 18th. Including prisoners, the French lost 3,551, and the Russians fifty-four hundred.

In summing up the causes which led to our failure on the 18th June, the first and all important one was doubtless the sending forward of any storming parties until the guns in the Redan had been silenced. Lord Raglan has himself recorded that, owing to the smoke of musketry and heavy guns, he was unable to ascertain the progress of the French columns. Nevertheless, it was apparent to him that they were not succeeding, and he therefore determined to launch his troops at the Redan.

It is clear now that it would have assisted the French to a greater extent had we opened fire on the Redan, instead of sending forward infantry; but it is not at all certain that the French would have seen the matter in that light. Whatever view critics may adopt, I suppose no one who went forward on that disastrous morning will ever question the order on which he acted. Whether, however, the assault was to be delivered at daybreak, or after the fire had been subdued, most soldiers will agree with Todleben's opinion. While he praises the courage of the English troops, he states the numbers

employed for the assault were entirely inadequate for the task. It may be said generally that we did not know how to undertake so serious an operation as the advance across an open *glacis* of five hundred yards. Personally, I do not think that even the men who conquered at Alma and Inkerman could have accomplished the task, and those to whom it was allotted were not all of the same calibre.

When Sir John Campbell went forward with the left column he brought up the reserve. Colonel Yea attempted to carry the left face of the Redan with five hundred men. Of these about three hundred were killed and wounded.

It is obvious that the general in command of each column should not have gone forward with the storming party, which only numbered one-third of his command; but then he should not have been in the advanced trench, for, once there, he was as likely to be killed when standing up as he was when moving forward, and he could not command while lying down. He should have been back with the eight hundred men in reserve, and these he should have brought forward immediately the stormers started. Admitting, however, this primary error of the brigadier-generals being in the wrong place, their action appears to have been the best under very difficult circumstances.

Some of my readers who have followed my narrative may ask, "What is the present state of Sevastopol?" My host, who took us to the Crimea, August, 1894, and all his guests on board the ship, were treated with the greatest courtesy by the governor, Admiral Lavroff, and although I rode about for several days with a large ordnance survey map under my arm, no one offered to inquire even my purpose. A feeling of honor, therefore, made us all refrain from any attempt to examine the existing defences. These, and the strength of the fleet, are probably known to the war ministries of all European nations, but it was not for us, who were received with confidence, to look into such questions.

The beautiful, dazzling white city we attacked in 1854, was originally called Aktiar, from the white rocks on which it was built, first of all on the north side of the harbor. In 1855 we left all on the south side a mass of ruins, destroying the docks and such batteries as the Russians had left intact when they retreated across the harbor, and we used all the timber work of the houses for fuel.

Now, in 1894, the city is resuming its former striking appearance. The Wasp battery (so called by us) on the northern side, has been supplemented by an number of similarly built earthen defences, a line of which has been carried southwards also, to the Quarantine Bay. This is patent to every one who sails into the harbor. The Russians began in 1858 to reconstruct their naval yards, a private company undertaking the work, which is to be taken over by the government when it so desires. In 1868, when a friend of mine was there, these spasmodic attempts being made to rebuild the city; but the task was not taken up seriously until 1879, since which time the city has been gradually replaced, and with a finer class of houses than those destroyed forty years ago. The forts which now defend the sea-front were begun about the same time, that is, after the Russo-Turkish war, and the first dry dock was re-made 1883-6, the second being commenced in 1891.

There is, however, one remarkable omission in the reconstruction of Sevastopol which must strike every soldier as extraordinary, and that is, there is no statue in honor of Todleben, the life and

soul of the ever memorable defence of the city which, after the Alma, lay at our mercy. Yet it was the genius and courage of them, nobly supported by all the garrison, which successfully defied France and Great Britain for twelve months. There are memorials to Admirals Nakhimoff and Korniloff, but brave men as they were, their services will never be reckoned by posterity as comparing in any degree with those of Todleben.

I mentioned that the Russians have excavated a deep and wide ditch which embraces the hills on which we built the batteries of our right and left attacks. If, however, they wish to secure the dockyard and the ships in harbor from hostile force in these days of long-range guns, it will, from the nature of the ground, be necessary, I believe, to go farther up, and fortify Cathcart's Hill, the Picket House, Victoria and Inkerman Ridges.

There is so little soil on the hills which we chose for our batteries that no cultivation has been attempted thereon; thus in August this year, we had no difficulty in fixing the spot where I reached the abatis on the 18th June, 1854, and the exact spot where Captain G. Wolseley was dangerously wounded in August, 1854.

After the 18th June our operations in the trenches languished. That day we were in our advanced parallel, about four hundred and seventy yards from the Redan. A month later we were still two hundred and twenty yards from that work, and had mounted in our right attack, the only dominant approach, but two additional guns and six mortars. Towards the end of August, however, we showed greater signs of activity, but now our difficulties increased in proportion as the enemy saw we were in earnest. It was nearly impossible to push forward our trenches by daylight, as the leading men were shot down, and at night the moon shone so brilliantly as to turn night into day. The soldiers, moreover, were no longer men in the prime of life, but weedy boys, and on the 26th August, when a Russian shell bursting in the fifth parallel killed a line soldier, his comrades not only retired, but refused to return to retrieve the body. Corporal M'Murphy, Privates Moulker and Fitzgerald, Royal Engineers, however, our rank and file, advanced and brought back the corpse. We did not understand in those days private soldiers were actuated by the same feelings which impel officers to do great deeds, and the official record ends, "the corporal to receive £3, the (privates) sappers, £2 each."

On the 31st August, about 12:30 a.m., a small party of Russians made an attack on our extreme right advanced works. There was no covering party at hand, "and the working party fell back in confusion before one-third of their numbers, in spite of repeated attempts of Captain Wolseley to rally them." The Russians destroyed about fifty yards of the sap, and then fell back two hundred yards into the Dockyard Ravine, whence they kept up an incessant fire. The Gervais battery, from the other side of the ravine, played on the head of the sap, and in a short time we had twelve casualties out of sixty-five men. When the Russians retired Captain Wolseley got some sappers to work to repair the damages, but this was difficult, as he had to labor under a shower of bullets, round shot, and shells, and the work progressed only by Captain Wolseley and a sergeant, Royal Engineers, working at the head of the sap.

Wolseley was on his knees holding the front gabion, into which a sergeant, working also in a kneeling position, threw earth over his captain's shoulder. The gabion was half filled, when it was struck in the centre by a round shot from the

Gervais battery. Wolseley was terribly wounded, and indeed the sergeant pulled his body back without ceremony, intending to bury it in camp, when he found the life of his officer was not extinct. Besides grave injuries in the upper face, a large stone from the gabion was driven through the cheek and jaw to the neck, where it lodged; the right wrist was smashed, and a serious wound inflicted on the shin. Strange to say, he did duty, after a rapid temporary recovery, till the armies re-embarked, the shin wound becoming more serious later, when the bone began to exfoliate.

The Flagstaff and the Garden batteries, to obtain which the French made such great sacrifices, are laid out roughly as a public park; but either because they are too far distant from the city, or, as I was told, because several robberies took place in them, but little use has hitherto been made of these recreation grounds. Those who have friends lying buried on Cathcart's Hill will be glad to know that it is kept in very good order. The vice-consul, Captain Murray, Gordon Highlanders, is indefatigable in his care for it. Constant attention is, however, requisite in the summer months to keep it tidy, in consequence of the dry nature of the soil. The slopes on which our divisions encamped are but little changed, except that the farms are better cultivated, mainly due to our water arrangements. It is easy to recognize the site of every regimental camp, and only two years ago an officer found in a cave a stone he had used as a book rest. Where the Third Division stood there is a substantial country house now being built. Kadikoi and Balaklava, if less picturesque, are certainly cleaner and better built than before the war. The ground about them was then covered with orchards laden with plums and apples, and vineyards thick with luscious grapes, while melons and tomatoes grew in profusion. There are even more vineyards now, and the two villages show unmistakable signs of prosperity. Perhaps they are the only places which gained materially from this war.

The Lee-Metford.

The following communication has been sent by the Ottawa Rifle Club to secretaries of rifle associations throughout Canada.

OTTAWA, April 12th, 1895.

Dear Sir:—The enclosed resolution was unanimously adopted at the Regular Annual Meeting of the Ottawa Rifle Club held on April 5th, and I have been instructed to send it to you with a request that the members of your Association will be good enough to take it into consideration at the earliest possible moment, and assist in carrying out the object in view by such steps as may seem to them best. Respectfully yours,

C. S. SCOTT,

Hon. Sec.-Treas.

Moved by Lieut.-Col. Pennington Macpherson, seconded by Capt. Hamilton Gray.

"That this meeting desires to extend its congratulations to the Hon. Mr. Dickey upon his appointment to the position of Minister of the Department of Militia and Defence, and at the same time to express the hope that he will carry out the policy inaugurated by his predecessor, the Hon. Mr. J. C. Patterson, of arming the militia of the country with

the latest improved military rifle. That, "Whereas the drill of the rural battalions for the year 1894 was dispensed with, for the avowed purpose, as generally understood, of placing the Department of Militia and Defence in a position to purchase a number of new and improved rifles, without unduly increasing the militia expenditure, and

"Whereas the greater portion of the money voted for that purpose remains unexpended and will lapse at the close of the present fiscal year unless it has been devoted to the object for which it was granted by Parliament, this meeting desires to respectfully represent to the Honorable Minister that such grant should be made use of in the near future as, should the occasion unfortunately arise, the old and obsolete Snider-Enfield with which the Militia of Canada is armed is unable to cope with weapons of modern precision.

"That it would not be in the interests of the force that the drill of the rural battalions should again be sacrificed for a similar purpose, and therefore, if the present opportunity is allowed to pass, the militia will not be properly armed for years to come.

"That this meeting strongly recommends that the new rifle with which the Canadian Militia is to be armed, should be a magazine rifle—as the modern rifle adopted by all civilized nations is of that type—and, as the Lee-Metford is the weapon adopted by the Imperial authorities, the same should be adopted for the Force of this county."

THE RIFLE.

Montreal.

The Cote St. Luke Ranges were opened on Saturday for practice, the Montreal Rifle Association offering a range prize for competition among its members. The weather was fine, light, bright, and wind light at 3 o'clock. Rifle Martini-Henry.

THE RANGE WINNERS.

200 yards, R. Binmore, 32 points out of a possible 35.

300 yards, D. McCrae, 33.

600 yards, A. Thompson, 32.

M. R. A. SHOOT, QUEEN'S RANGES.

	200 yds.	300 yds.	600 yds.	T'l
R. Binmore.....	32	30	30	92
A. Thompson.....	29	30	32	92
J. Broadhurst.....	27	30	32	89
C. Morrice.....	30	28	31	89
J. W. Cole.....	28	31	28	87
H. J. Norton.....	27	30	29	86
J. Y. Clarke.....	31	24	29	84
J. Kamberry.....	28	28	28	84
J. J. Bell.....	29	27	27	83
D. McCrae.....	24	33	25	82
J. Riddle.....	30	23	28	81
J. Currie.....	28	26	26	80
W. M. Andrews....	30	26	24	80
K. Mathews.....	24	30	25	78
A. Ferguson.....	27	31	20	78
W. Mills.....	25	26	26	77
G. Lavers.....	31	22	24	77
W. A. Collins.....	30	26	20	76
Lieut.-Col. Hood....	23	28	24	75
E. Pratt.....	23	23	27	73
Capt. Cameron.....	24	24	25	73
J. Ward.....	21	30	22	73
A. D. Noble.....	25	27	18	70
J. F. Clarke.....	24	31	14	69
F. Fyfe.....	24	21	20	65
W. A. Smith.....	25	23	17	64
W. G. Goodhue.....	23	21	19	63
S. J. Mathewson....	26	15	17	58
L. A. Mathewson....	20	16	16	52
G. E. Robertson....	21	17	14	52
J. Sutherland.....	19	24	9	52
J. T. Wilson.....	20	9	22	51
W. Fellows.....	18	23	10	51

A Question of Comfort.

"I should think," remarked Captain Broadbides, "that a woman would be clear miserable carrying around those swelled sleeves."

"They are not half so uncomfortable as a swelled head," said Mrs. C. in so sweet a tone that he deemed it wise to close the discussion.

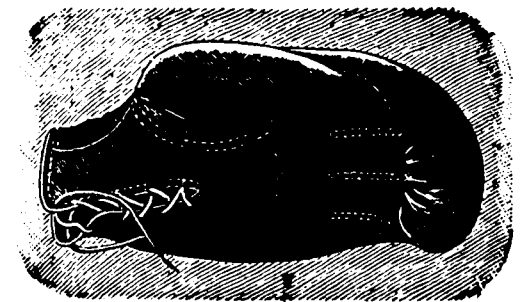
Military Books

Cavalry Drill.....	\$0 90
Garrison Artillery Drill, volumes I. and II., each.....	0 60
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