

THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE

A Weekly Journal devoted to the Interests of the Active Force of the Dominion.

Second Year.
VOL. II, No. 4

OTTAWA, THURSDAY, 16th DECEMBER, 1886.

\$1.50 per annum in advance.
Single Copies Five Cents

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE MILITIA GAZETTE aims at being the recognized medium of instruction and information for Canadian militiamen and rifle shots. Communications on the subjects to which its pages are devoted are respectfully invited. Anonymous communications will not be regarded. No name will be published, except with the writer's consent. The editors will not be responsible for the views of correspondents.

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Should be made by Registered Letter, Post Office Order or Draft. For Great Britain, each dollar may be taken as equivalent to 4s., and cents as half-pence. All communications must be addressed to

THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE,

Box 316, OTTAWA, Canada.

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Comment and Criticism.

THE little black devils have once more sprung up unexpectedly, having secured the highest vote at the bazaar in Montreal, conducted in aid of the Victorias' armory, in a competition to decide upon the most popular regiment in Canada. The ninetieth were closely pressed by the Montreal garrison artillery, and it speaks well for the magnanimity of this corps that they allowed the poll to be reopened so that the votes which put the rifles at the head of the list could be recorded. Everybody is to be congratulated on the result; our Winnipeg friends on winning the contest; the Artillery for making so close a run, and for yielding so gracefully, and the Vics on the success of their bazaar, to say nothing of the grand success of their armory scheme.

WE reproduce from the *Volunteer Service Review* some editorial remarks on the War Game, which will serve not only to give an idea of what this game, or rather tactical training, is, but how operations are conducted. Last year we suggested the advisability of Canadian city corps procuring sets for their club rooms; now again we make the same suggestion. The whole apparatus requisite for this practice can be purchased for about thirteen dollars, a sum that the officers of a couple of battalions conjoined should be able to raise for such a purpose without any herculean effort. Once more—let the officers in each city in Canada combine, and go in for Kriegsspiel this winter.

THE recent appointment of Col. Grasett to a civic position in Toronto, has reminded us of a letter written to the *Montreal Witness* a little more than six years ago, when he was first gazetted to the command of the Royal Grenadiers, in which the correspondent pointed out how unlikely it was that a gentleman trained in the rigid discipline of the British army should successfully assume command of a disorganized volunteer corps, and how manifold were the obstacles that lay in the way of a prosperous issue. Time has proved that Col. Grasett is a brilliant exception to the rule laid down by the gloomy correspondent, for the success of the tenth from the time he took the reins has been phenomenal, and to-day his regiment divides the honors tolerably evenly with such a crack corps as the Queen's Own. It is to be hoped for the good of the force that Col. Grasett's new duties will not entail his resignation from the active force.

THIS correspondent, in criticizing the state at that time of the tenth, blames the collapse of the regiment on the incapacity of the captains, and proceeds to show with much force how universal are the duties of those officers, duties in no whit lessened to-day. The captain of a company in the Canadian militia, he says, is personally responsible to his commanding officer for every article of arms, clothing and equipment issued to his company. Any losses he must make good at his own expense. He has to inspect every man that enters the company; question him as to his name, age, residence, occupation, &c. If satisfied, see that he properly signs the muster or company roll, and that he is sworn in by the commanding officer; issue clothing to him, and apportion the arms and accoutrements he is to use, taking record of the same; pay for any alterations to clothing that may be necessary, and where extras are required, not exactly sanctioned by authority, pay for these also (in this latter case assisted by the other officers of the company, if there are any); he must eliminate any men enlisted that he finds negligent, careless, slovenly, insubordinate, addicted to drink, inattentive to duty (he has no means of punishment as in the regular army, therefore he must get rid of them), and men not fit for the company, and supply their places by a fresh enlistment; as well as replace those who from necessity leave the force (for such reasons as their employers threatening them with dismissal if they do not leave), and others who are obliged to leave the city to seek for work elsewhere, taking in the clothing and arms from them, and reissuing to those entering, and this constantly occurring; notifying the men to attend drill and parades, and when reviews and inspections take place; writing to or interviewing the employers of his men to procure leave for them to attend, and other work almost impossible to enumerate. It seems unfair that such an unequal distribution of work should exist, but nobody seems to be able to suggest a remedy.

THE query in this issue, as to the inception of our volunteer system, and Capt. Wicksteed's reminiscences of his few days on the border, alike suggest one direction in which much interesting work might be done by some of our militia officers, and that is in the way of getting at

the historical records of our force. There are, doubtless, many officers in Canada with more or less antiquarian or historical tastes, and they could all certainly dig up some interesting records of the past services of their corps. Occasionally we are able to secure a fragment of history, such as Mr. Harrington's sketch of Fort Beauséjour, or Col. Oswald's late lecture; but these are not either sufficiently general, or sufficiently in detail to make more than chapters of a most useful and interesting whole.

ONE thing that may have heretofore prevented anyone from attempting any historical essay, is the want of an appreciative audience for such research, but now that the officers of the force are taking so much interest in it, and now that the militia has in the GAZETTE an organ that reaches, at least, all its energetic members, and an organ anxious to serve its interests in every possible way, the time seems opportune for doing good work, and we, consequently, hope to see some progress made in the direction of historical research during the present winter.

LAST week's general orders, reproduced in this issue, contain amended regulations for transfers in the permanent corps, the official appointments of the new staff of the Royal Military College, and regulations for its vacations, a list of military school certificates granted, an appointment in the reserve force, and the organisation of another school drill company, besides the usual changes in the active force, which include nine new appointments, only one of the number being qualified, eight promotions, and seven losses; giving a net gain of two commissions. The only changes affecting field rank, are that Adjutant Hawley, of the 60th battalion, gets his brevet majority, and that S. W. Ray is appointed major provisionally on taking command of a provisional battalion of rifles in Algoma.

THIS organization of a rifle battalion on the north shore of the great lakes is a step that will meet with warm approval on all sides, as forearming the authorities and so ensuring safety to the scattered settlements of Algoma, and gratifying the local demand for militia protection in a district where disturbances by Indians or border roughs are not beyond the bounds of possibility. The disposition of the companies is judicious, and no happier choice of a commander could have been made than has been done in gazetting Major Ray to the command. This officer is young, influential, energetic, and enthusiastic, and has proved his ability not only in command of the Port Arthur rifle company, but in organizing the excellent rifle range of that town. We hope he will soon be able to take his military school course and so perfect himself in his acquaintance with his duties, and meanwhile we wish his battalion every success and congratulate him on his promotion.

Personal.

Major Ballachey will probably succeed to the command, and though regret will be felt at Col. Jones' retirement, his mantle could not fall upon worthier shoulders than upon those of Major Ballachey. So say those who know him. The Major, who does not now live in Brantford, will, it is said, move into town.

The following, referring to the popular commander of the Royal Grenadiers, appeared in the Toronto *Mail* last week:—"Colonel Grasett, the newly appointed Chief of Police, assumed the duties of his office yesterday. After he had been sworn in, Major Draper transferred the official baton to his successor. Chief Grasett reviewed the men at the drill shed yesterday afternoon; and a few parting words were spoken by Major Draper. A large number of congratulatory telegrams have been received by Colonel Grasett from various parts of the Dominion.

We learn with surprise that the popular commander of the Dufferin Rifles proposes to resign. Lt.-Col. Jones has in a great measure made the Dufferin Rifles what they are to-day—one of the best battalions in No. 2 District, and it will be hard to supply his place. Col. Jones' resignation will not go into effect until after the annual meeting in January. The *Expositor* pays him the following deserved tribute:—

"During the five years of his Colonelcy no man could have succeeded better than Col. Jones. Energetic, systematic, a hard worker, and possessing the attributes of a good soldier, he built up, and has educated a battalion which has assumed a flattering place alongside such corps as the Queen's Own Rifles. His fine, soldierly appearance, genial good nature, and disciplinary tact, have won for him the respect and love of every officer, non-com., and private in the regiment, and his retirement will be deeply regretted.

Ontario Artillery Association.

THE meeting of the council of this association, which was held in Toronto on the 1st, and an account of which should have appeared last week, is of sufficient importance to be worth reporting, even at this late date. There were present Major King, of Welland, in the chair, the Lieutenant-Governor, Col. Gzowski, Col. Gwynne, of Dundas; Col. McDonald, Guelph; Col. Peters, London; Col. Gray, Toronto; Major King, Welland; Major Stewart, Ottawa; Capt. McDonald, Guelph; Lieut. Macdougall, Welland; Lieut. McNaughton, Cobourg, and Lieut. Irving, Toronto, secretary.

The secretary's report pointed out that the practice this year at the several ranges showed a great improvement in the average firing of the batteries compared with the preceding year. The work of the association had shown its benefits in the improvement of the firing of the field and garrison batteries. The council had directed the executive committee to make inquiries with the view of getting a range for practice where all the batteries could fire under the same conditions. A report on this matter was submitted. The committee first formulated the conditions, most of which a permanent range should possess to be acceptable. 1. That any chance of interruption to the firing, either from the passing of individuals, cattle, vessels, waggons or railway trains, should be at a minimum. 2. That the ground should be open so that a good view of the adjoining country may be had by both the firing and range parties. 3. That the ground at the firing point should command that at the targets, from whence it should have a rising slope to the rear. 4. That the line of fire should be as near as possible in a north-easterly direction and its prolongation backed up with high hills or water. 5. That it should be easy of access to all batteries, economical as regards the transporting of men, guns, ammunition and camp equipage. 6. That the camping ground should be in a healthy position with a good supply of pure water.

Taking the foregoing as their standard for a range the committee reported as follows:—

Range, Port Hope—Situating about 1½ miles east of the town: very liable to interruption from passing trains; ground at targets objectionable, swampy, etc.; maximum range about 1,300 yards; a longer range could be obtained by retiring the guns to a field 500 yards nearer to Port Hope, when interruptions would be nil and ground for targets better; camping ground good; water, ditto; distance from camp to hotels objectionable; expenses of transporting all batteries great.

Range, Port Colborne—Situating about a mile east of the town: sandy soil; liable to no interruptions; maximum range about 3,000 yards, firing on to water—about 2,200 on to land; camping ground good, but a large number of snakes; water good; distance from camp to hotels objectionable; expense of transporting all batteries very great.

As the distance between camp and hotels is great in both cases, some arrangement might be devised for messing officers and men at camp.

Grimsby—No suitable range near Grimsby. Target would have to be at least 100 yards from steep bank in the lake; depth of water not known. Range would cross several farms.

Cobourg—Range good, but rather short; camping ground excellent.

Col. Cotton, assistant inspector of artillery, reports on these ranges: I consider that all ranges except Port Colborne are too short. The new site at Port Hope, suggested by Lieut. Irving, is worth having surveyed and enquiries made as to right of way. Port Colborne is, however, in my opinion the most suitable artillery range in the Dominion. It is certainly rather inaccessible, but owing to the requirements of an artillery range, this is almost sure to be the case.

Leslie Range—This is similar to the old Woodbine one. Water can be obtained at the corner of Queen and Leslie streets. The cartage from there to Leslie's is a quarter of that to the Woodbine, or water may be taken from the hydrant; officers and men may camp on Leslie's grounds, their messing obtained either at Jones' hotel or in camp, 200 yards away. Medical gentlemen consider the locality healthy, with no fear of malaria. Two guns can be in action at the same time; cost of holding target practice will be less than Woodbine; guns and target on the same level.

This is supposed to refer to proposed range at Toronto, about half mile west of Woodbine. The last fact is very important, as it would be

difficult to estimate the effect of firing when the guns and targets are on the same level. It is probable that a good range could be found east of Toronto between Scarboro' and Whitby—say at Duffin's Creek. The shore line is tolerably high, and the range would be unimpeded. It is suggested that an officer be selected to inspect these localities and report. A day or two would be all that is required, and the locality, if found suitable and near a railway station, would seem to offer advantages as to economy and centralization.

The treasurer's statement showed that there was a balance of over \$500 at the close of the financial year. The reports were adopted.

The prizes gained at the last competitions were then presented to the representatives of the various batteries by his Honor the Lieutenant-Governor. The list was as follows:

Field Batteries—Aggregate scores; 1st, Ottawa Field Battery, 575, \$75; 2nd, First Guelph Battery, 561, \$50; 3rd, Welland, 536.

Individual scores—Gunners Cowan, Ottawa, 39, \$15; Knowles, No. 1 Guelph, 38, \$10; McMahon, Durham, 35, \$5; Gray, Ottawa, 35; Ingram, Ottawa, 35; Mereweather, No. 2 Guelph, 35.

Drivers—London, Clumfrith and Claypole; 1st Guelph, Foster and Riley; 2nd Guelph, Hawes and Anderson; Welland, Philips and Meyer; Toronto, Page and Spriggs; Durham, Bray and Patten; Gananoque, Timent and King; Ottawa, Gray and Johnstone.

Gzowski shifting prize—Durham, 1.55, 1st; Montreal, 2.01 1-5, 2nd; Ottawa, 2.08, 3rd.

His Honor, after presenting the prizes, expressed the gratification he gave him to do anything in his power, both in his official and individual capacities, which would promote the cause of so valuable an association to the country as the Ontario Artillery Association.

The council then met and discussed a number of subjects in connection with artillery practice and ranges. The recommendation to adopt a permanent range, such as Port Colborne, will be considered at the annual meeting of the association.

Revolvers.

C. F. Lowe in "The Rifle."

THE practice of revolver shooting has only received attention in Europe within the last few years. According to the information at the disposal of the writer the first public competition which took place was at the Tir at Versailles, near Paris, in 1879. It was not until July, 1885, that the first revolver competition was set on foot at Wimbledon, thanks to the persistent advocacy of a volunteer officer, Major Ford. The competition was confined to officers, but no enquiry was made whether any officer competitor had ever handled one of these dangerous weapons before putting in his appearance at Wimbledon at the single target, provided for his accomodation, at 20 yards' distance. The arrangements at Wimbledon, in 1885, were very crude and very inconclusive, and those in 1886 were very little better.

The National Rifle Association simply invited gun-makers to send military revolvers to Wimbledon, and the Enfield authorities, hoping to pick up a few wrinkles, sent a few Enfield revolvers and a supply of ammunition and an official to look after the business. No competitor was allowed to bring his own revolver. So dissatisfied were they with the arrangements at Wimbledon, in 1885, that in 1886 Messrs. Colt refused to enter their pistols for the competition, so the field was left clear for English revolver-makers.

Following the lead of the English National Rifle Association, the Commission Directrice of the Belgian Tir National set on foot a revolver competition at their prize meeting in August, 1885, open to all comers with any revolver, at 25 metres, and three target frames, each mounted on a small trolley, which ran on a rail and controlled by a windlass, were provided.

The experiment was a success. Some 7,600 shots were fired with the revolver without any accident; and in the official report for 1885 it is said: "The institution of a revolver competition has been generally considered to have been an excellent measure, for whatever doubts may have been entertained in the first instance have been entirely dispelled, and the success of the experiment has been so marked as to fully justify its repetition." Accordingly, in the winter of 1885, a revolver club was started at Brussels, under the presidency of Mons. Achille Valche, the indefatigable secretary of the Brussels Tir National, and they meet once a month (tell it not in Gath nor publish it on the streets of Boston) on *Sundays* for practice.

In 1886 the sphere of operations at Brussels was enlarged, the number of targets was increased from three to six, and the mechanism improved; some 1,400 tickets were sold, and some 8,500 shots fired without any accident; and the official report of 1886 says: "We remarked last year on the favorable reception with which the institution of a revolver competition met, and expressed our intention to repeat the

experiment. The progress made in a single year, in this new species of competition, is very remarkable, and will astonish those who will take the trouble to compare the results of 1885 with those of 1886. In 1885 the percentage of hits was 58 per cent., while in 1886 it rose to 81 per cent., and the scores were much higher. But, on the other hand, no change was made in the arrangements at Wimbledon, except to provide another target.

Several of the rifle clubs in England turned their attention to revolver-shooting, but with a limited degree of success, arising from the principal competition, that at Wimbledon, being confined to officers, so that if the redoubtable Mr. Ira Paine had appeared at the firing point at Wimbledon, although, as a matter of international courtesy, he might have been allowed to shoot, he could not have taken a prize, and the Wimbledon authorities actually found themselves in this disagreeable fix: A deputation of French riflemen came over to inspect the arrangements at Wimbledon, and fired at the revolver targets; but although they shot well, they were not eligible to take prizes because they were not officers in the British service. Mons. Valche, the secretary of the Belgian Rifle Association, the president withal, of the Brussels Revolver Club, was likewise at Wimbledon; but he was good enough not to place himself in a false position.

If the English military authorities have made a mess of the big guns, blundered about rifles, bayonets and swords, the worst muddle has been made about revolvers. While American cow-boys and others use Colt's frontier pistol with forty grains of powder, the full service charge for the English regulation pistol is only 18 grains, and yet, owing to the faulty balance of the English models, the recoil is nearly as severe in its results as with the heavier charges of the Colt's pistol; while, on the one hand, the balance of the Colt's frontier pistol, American model, is superior to that of the English model, the interior mechanism of the frontier pistol is capable of several improvements, even as a single-action revolver. But the internal part of the Colt's double-action pistol are very inferior to the newest models of English revolvers. According to the writer's information the American War Department are not satisfied with the efficiency of any self-extracting apparatus, on account of the liability to blow open, and the inherent weakness of the system as compared with the solid-framed Colt, and will only purchase revolvers of that description; but it is admitted that if a satisfactory mode of fastening a self-extracting revolver should be invented the solid-framed revolver would soon become a thing of the past, just as the muzzle-loader has been superseded by the breech-loader.

It is claimed that the problem has been solved by a new pattern-fastening invented and patented by Messrs. Webley, of Birmingham, very strong and simple. If the catch is home it is quite impossible for the revolver to blow open; if the catch should not be home, one of three things happens: (a) the fall of the hammer drives it home before the point of the striker can touch the cap; (b) the fall of the hammer drives the catch against the end of the limb in such way as partly to open the revolver, and puts the base of the cartridge out of reach of the striker; (c) the catch itself receives the blow of the hammer, and stops it before the striker can reach the cap,—so the general result is, that it is impossible to fire a cartridge unless the revolver is safe.

One of the great faults of revolvers is that they are sighted in such a manner as to throw the bullet over the object aimed at, so that at 20 yards it may be necessary to aim nine inches or a foot low, and generally the tendency is to throw to the left. The trigger of the Colt revolver is too narrow; it should be much broader, and should be slightly roughed, to give a better grip to the forefinger, which often gets greasy from the lubrication of the pistol or the ammunition.

It is an open question whether the buckhorn backsight and a square tipped foresight, like that of the Springfield, are not superior to the angular notch and foresight of the Colt revolver.

English revolvers have a lump, which is called the prawl, which comes between the thumb and forefinger of the right hand; it is put there with the object of preventing the shooter from holding the revolver too high up. The result sometimes is that the muzzle rises in the air, and this prawl is driven against the hand, and the shooter is wounded; and two or three instances of this have occurred within the writer's knowledge. There are or were in Her Majesty's service three distinct types of ammunition, as follows:

Mark.	Powder.	Lead.	Calibre.		Remarks.
			Bullet.	Barrel.	
I.	13 grains.	225	.450	.450	
II.	18 grains.	265	.455	.450	.005 difference.
III.	18 grains.	265	.476	.450	.026 difference.

On the assumption that 225 grains of lead driven by the explosion of 13 grains of powder were not strong enough to stop so vigorous an animal as the ordinary type of the *genus homo*, the charge of powder was raised to 18 grains, and the weight of the bullet to 265 grains, and the diameter was increased by .005 (five thousandths of an inch), but it was found that if, say three shots had been fired from an Enfield revolver-pistol, and it was desired to reload the discharged chambers, when the extracting apparatus was brought into play the three unfired cartridges came out as well as the exploded shells. So, in order to obviate the mechanical defect in the screw-pistol the calibre of the bullet was raised to .476, the nose was made blunter, and the base more hollowed out. This charge, doubtless, prevented the live cartridges being extracted, as well as the exploded ones, but at what a price!

Every private-made revolver in the hands of every officer in the army required to have the cylinder rechambered, otherwise it would not take mark III ammunition at all, and no officer is allowed to draw a service-revolver from store, or purchase one at any price. He is obliged to go to a private gunmaker.

2. The jamming of a .476 bullet through a .450 barrel sets up such an enormous amount of friction that the bullet loses much of its initial velocity, and the amount of penetration is largely diminished.

3. Owing to the increased recoil it is impossible to make accurate shooting.

4. The amount of the mischief may best be judged by the fact that when mark III ammunition is used the bullet is sometimes broken into pieces, the front part is driven out, and the base sometimes follows and sometimes remains behind in the barrel, and endangers the life of the person using the weapon.

To obviate this state of affairs revolver-makers are raising the calibre of the barrel to about .470 in new revolvers, and thus imitating a break of gauge.

In short, the Enfield revolver-pistol and mark III ammunition are on a par with the guns that burst, the rifles that jamb, the bayonets that bend, and swords which won't cut, and are the result of the system in vogue in England of putting square pegs into round holes, and trusting skilled and able officers, educated to one line of business, to superintend another particular branch of which they know nothing, and then at the end of a five years' apprenticeship, when an intelligent man will have picked up some special knowledge, shifting him to some other berth.

The Reform of Infantry Drill.

WE have so often quoted Col. Macdonald, of the Queen's Edinburgh Rifle Volunteers, that we are glad to have the opportunity of calling attention to a lecture delivered by him on the above subject to the Glasgow Tactical Society. Col. Macdonald's views are well known to most of our readers, and to a very great extent we are in accord with them. The sum of them is, that the experience of modern campaigns has shown that soldiers can no longer advance under heavy fire, in anything like a close formation of the ranks; that the whole of our infantry drill should be based on a formation in which the soldiers are no longer required to keep touch; that as fighting is the business of soldiers, the formation which they are compelled to use in battle should be the one most practised in peace; and that, whilst he will concede to the martinet a parade drill for show, it should be quite subsidiary to action drill, instead of making, as our drill book does, action drill a mere excrescence on parade drill. Col. Macdonald quotes in favor of his propositions such soldiers as Lord Wolseley, Sir Archibald Alison, Sir F. Roberts, Gen. Fielding, and such an acute military critic as Mr. Archibald Forbes. Col. Macdonald says: "All notion of a dressed line accurately constructed after parade fashion is absurd. All that can be done is to thicken up the advance with as much regularity of strength as good officering and good discipline may make feasible, delaying and minimising the inevitable mixture of units up to as late a stage as possible, and doing everything that can be done so to organise that recovery from the confusion incident to the tremendous stress of the modern combat shall occupy the least possible time." To that we say, "Hear, hear." But for all that the fact remains that the "attack formation"—we may say in any form—is not appreciated or believed in by the bulk of the army. Question officers, high and low, on the subject, and you hear the same objections in different forms—"It does not answer—the confusion is frightful at Aldershot—what would it be in war?—the men get out of hand," etc. It is quite arguable that the confusion of war would be less than the confusion of peace. There would not then be the same frantic rushes on all sides to get to the front, it would take a much longer time to advance 100 yards, under fire than it does to dash at speed in mimic warfare across the Long Valley, and the eyes of the men would be a deal more anxiously turned to their leaders in action than they are in Bourley Bottom. Confusion there would be, doubtless, but would it be greater

than that which occurred in the struggling line as it emerged from the banks of the Alma under a heavy fire? The conservatism and dogmatism of the army is proverbial, and Col. Macdonald gives an amusing illustration of this when he relates how a military writer in the last year of the last century wrote a book to advocate a return to the use of the longbow and pike, and how the proposal was favorably entertained by a military periodical of the day. Col. Macdonald concluded his lecture with a general summary of the points which he thinks demands attention in adapting infantry drill to modern requirements:—(1) A simplification of the formations, giving the utmost freedom of movements, and developing an individual order. (2) All infantry work to be studied in relation to the character of the modern fight, the hard and fast line which separates the parade drill from the practical exercise being removed, and rapid and frequent change from the one to the other being a distinct feature of the training. (3) A general principle for advancing into action which would apply to all bodies of men, large and small, so as to maintain a control of cohesion from the highest officer down to the lowest point. (4) A direct movement after the troops were launched into the fight, so that they should not be required to manœuvre under the terrible fire of modern weapons, but should be free to push forward as required, according to the ground. (5) Adjustment of all details, so as to give speed of movement, while saving the troops from all unnecessary fatigue. (6) In addition, a thorough control of command, a development of comradeship in small groups, giving rallying power on the small scale, which is the very soul of recovery of order on the large scale from the disintegration of the battle crisis. (7) Training in the athletic sense to be a distinct aim in all drill.—*Broad Arrow.*

The War Game.

IT is satisfactory to observe that the practice of the War Game is becoming more and more one of the recognised and legitimate occupations of volunteer officers during the winter months. It is perhaps to be regretted that the word "game" has been applied to these tactical exercises, for it leads casual critics to the not un pardonable conclusion, that it is really a game and not a valuable lesson in the military art. Briefly speaking, the advantages of the War Game may be summed up under the following headings:—First, it teaches how to read a map properly; secondly, it impresses on the minds of those who take part in it, a very forcible appreciation of the relative values of the three arms of the service; thirdly, it gradually brings home to even the most enthusiastic and irrepressible light horseman, a knowledge of the fact that whatever larks he may be inclined to have with his cavalry and guns, after all, the success of the movement depends on the performances of the slower infantry—in other words, the result is practically determined by the manner in which the slowest moving unit of a column is handled. There is nothing which so conclusively brings this home to the mind of an officer who is studying tactics as playing what is called the War Game, and trying to move a convoy across the front of a watchful enemy.

Playing the War Game on the maps of the country is of great value in another direction. This teaches officers the physical characteristics of the ground over which, in the event of possible invasion, they might have to manœuvre. It is evident that an officer who is endeavoring to conduct a force from Maidstone to Sevenoaks, or from Guildford to Farnham, on the map, will know a good deal more about the country than one who is not a resident in that district, and who has not studied the map itself. If for no other reason, therefore, than for giving a knowledge of the country and a clear insight into the art of map reading, the practice of the War Game is strongly to be recommended. There are, however, more abstruse lessons to be learnt by those who take the trouble to go into the matter. It will be seen that it is not sufficient to have different arms of the service at one's disposal, but it becomes compulsory to study the question whether cavalry, guns, or infantry can or cannot be manœvered over any particular piece of ground. The player of the War Game soon finds out that it is no good sending a regiment of cavalry into an enclosed country, cut up into small fields, with sunken roads and impassable streams. Infantry officers would very soon find out the danger of moving in column through a defile without crowning the heights on either side first. Artillerymen also would learn that it is no good blazing away at five thousand yards, whilst they also learn with great rapidity how a trifling rise in the ground or a small wood will both conceal and protect an hostile force.

There is one great defect in the practice of the game as it is at present conducted, which can only be overcome by a keener appreciation on the part of the players of the exact nature of the problems involved. With a view to provide for orders and intelligence being transmitted from the front to the commander-in-chief, as they would be actually in the field, it is necessary that the players should have a knowledge of the exact conditions under which they would conduct

operations in the field itself. It is all very well for a commander of a force to look down at the map, and say that he will move a battery here and a battalion there. His reasons for making these movements must be based on information which must have reached him from the front, and this information can only come in the shape despatches, all of which must be sent in time. The umpires of these tactical exercises have, with very great discretion, not made the practice too difficult to start with; but it will be necessary, in the course of time, to create a more advanced class, who shall participate in the practice under conditions as nearly approximating as possible to the conditions of actual warfare.

Here we may venture to make some suggestions and give some information which we trust will be of value to those who have not yet felt disposed to take part in these tactical rehearsals. The game is not a game in any sense of the word, and any officer who is competent to deal with questions of tactics is fully competent to play the War Game. The process is a simple one. His name is set down to play on a certain day, and, assisted by his next in command, he has the opportunity a couple of days previously of closely examining the map, and of learning the nature of the force under his command, and the information as to the hostile force which has been obtained by his intelligence department. Upon the map and upon this information he writes out his orders, which he forwards to the umpire-in-chief. On the day appointed for the game, the players find assistant umpires placed at their disposal, who execute all the mechanical work of placing the pieces on the map, and of carrying out the written orders of the players themselves. The practices are thus rendered free from all unnecessary difficulties of a technical character; and as we have before said, any officer who is competent to pass an examination in tactics, ought to be competent, to a greater or less extent, to play the War Game with success. It is with regard to the writing out of orders that a great difficulty may be experienced by neophytes. To those who wish to attain anything like a moderate standard of perfection in this, a most vital part of military duty, we cannot do better than recommend the perusal of a book published by Messrs. Clowes and Sons, being lectures delivered at the staff college by Major Clarke. We have no hesitation in stating that no officer has even an approximate idea of what military work in the field really is, until he has read this book. On page 139 will be found a model set of orders which, of course, must be read subject to correction, but which would give intending players a fair idea of how to begin their work.

Correspondence.

The Editor desires it distinctly understood that he does not hold himself responsible for the opinions expressed by correspondents.

THE MONTREAL GARRISON ARTILLERY.

AN EPISODE OF THE FENIAN RAID OF 1870.

To the Editor of the Canadian Militia Gazette.

Through several of the past numbers of your most creditable GAZETTE runs a historical sketch of the Canadian militia from the pen of Lieut.-Col. Oswald, the present commander of the Montreal Garrison Artillery. I would have remained in obscurity, so far as the readers of the MILITIA GAZETTE were concerned, but for an eager desire to make this historical sketch more complete by doing justice to twenty-three good men of the brigade M. G. A., who under my command formed part of the garrison of Isle-Aux-Noix for six days, during the Fenian raid of 1870. Our little band deserve notice, and will, I am sure, thank you for your kindness in giving me an opportunity of remedying an oversight.

On Saturday, the 21st May, 1870, the following appeared in the Montreal Daily Witness: "Brigade Montreal Garrison Artillery.—The brigade will parade at the drill hall on Monday evening next, the 23rd inst., at half-past seven, in full marching order, preparatory to parade and inspection on the 24th (Her Majesty's birthday). Orders will be given on Monday as to the time, &c., on the 24th. Every member is expected to be present at these parades. By order, R. J. Wicksteed, lieutenant and acting adjutant."

The parade on Monday was well attended, 201 being present.

The volunteer force of Montreal mustered on Her Majesty's birthday on the Champ-de-Mars, and were informed by Col. Osborne Smith that an attempt was again about to be made to invade Canada by the Fenians, and the volunteers would once more be called to go to the front. This announcement was received with prolonged cheers. Owing to the wet weather the men were soon dismissed, but it was announced that one officer and twenty-four men would be required from the Garrison Artillery, to leave in the evening for Fort Lennox, Isle-Aux-Noix. Here was a chance for me to smell powder, and cannon powder too—no doing infantry duty in blue coats. To take charge of some dozen 24 and 18 pounders, with the almost certainty of using their solid shot and shrapnel contents against living targets formed of my country's foes, was too great a temptation to resist. There was no probability of the remainder of my brigade being ordered to the front, so I offered my services to Col. Mackay, and then to Col. Osborne Smith. They were pleased to accept them. In a few minutes I had made arrangements with my partner in law, Mr. George Macrae, had packed up, in a very small valise, a change of uniform, and was down at the drill hall again to select my volunteers.

Some forty offered their services, but as only half that number were required, a sorting out took place. The result was soon known; the men chosen representing, as nearly as possible, every battery in the brigade. My command was composed of the following men: Sergt. A. Fraser, laborer; Corps. R. Wilson, machinist, and A. Finlay, clerk; Gunnery W. Addison, engineer; John R. Barlow, belt-maker; M. Birnie,

printer; Walter Bowie, chandler; D. Buchanan, storeman; John Curry, carver; F. Clarke, clerk; John Clarke, clerk; S. Dunlop, printer; James Higgs, laborer; John Hoerner, gentleman; James Holmes, cooper; John Innes, gentleman; Peter Ledwidge, laborer; Thomas Stapleton, laborer; E. Matthews, clerk; W. Morrison, tinsmith; John Sutherland, plumber; A. Smith, brass-finisher, and H. Weeks, machinist.

There were 22 bachelors and two married men, we included 22 Protestants and two Roman Catholics.

At five p.m. we marched to the Bonaventure station, with detachments from the other corps, and left by train for St. Johns at 7 p.m. Col. Osborne Smith there bid me good bye, and I took special train to Stottsville, a station a short distance from the river in which lay Isle-Aux-Noix; destined, as we thought, to be our home for some time, or our grave forever. After procuring guides to the riverside, as the night was desperately dark, I ordered the men to break open a package of ammunition and place it in their ball bags, as we were then but ten miles from the boundary line where the enemy were known to be. After a few words of instruction to my non-coms., we started for the landing place at St. Valentin, and were ferried over the western channel. We landed on the Island—were challenged by the sentries—the drawbridge was lowered, and we stood, at 2.30 on Wednesday morning, in the square of Fort Lennox, reported the arrival of my command to Lieut. E. W. Davies, of the Royal Canadian Rifles, who looked as if he could have dispensed with this item of military duty, and in a few minutes the men and myself were asleep in barracks. Next morning, I was invited to join the private table of Mr. and Mrs. Davies, so long as I remained in the Fort: the same courtesy had been extended to Lieut. G. A. French, R.A., who had been placed in command of the garrison of Isle-Aux-Noix. We formed a very amiable quartette; Mrs. Davies, a whilom belle of St. Johns, pretty, engaging, merry and joyous, as was becoming to a bride of but a few months; Mr. Davies, a good type of the English army officer, even tempered, stalwart, plucky and energetic, a ready conversationalist, albeit now somewhat discontented at the breaking up of that fine old corps to which he belonged, the Royal Canadian Rifles. Mr. French was a clever, well-read, painstaking officer, kind hearted, his eyes and lips flashing or bubbling over with merriment suppressed or expressed, yet with a stern disciplinarian, as two of my men found out when they ignorantly transgressed the Mutiny Act and articles of war. There was also in the Fort a staff-surgeon, with a large family, and a governess, a handsome woman, who looked as if the task of teaching the youthful ideas how to shoot was a painful and wearisome one. If the shooting was inferior, the shouting was not, but spoke volumes for their father's medical skill and the healthy condition of their bronchial tubes.

The garrison proper consisted of about thirty men of the Royal Canadian Rifles, who had been kept on duty at the request of the Dominion government until this "scare" had passed off. They were fine looking old soldiers, much decorated with medals. Their salute was so precise and elaborate that I dreaded going near any of them for fear of putting them to so much trouble and pains. I used to slink round by the ditch rather than pass the guard room. The clatter raised in honor of my appearance was really more than a modest man could bear—if too often repeated.

Isle-Aux-Noix is a flat island but little above the level of the river Richelieu, containing altogether about eighty-five acres. It lies about ten and one-half miles from the boundary line, and is in an excellent situation to intercept the whole communication by water with Lake Champlain; it is, consequently, a most important military station, and has always been fortified with all the care its commanding position deserved. It is my intention if you, Mr. Editor, are willing, to give an historical sketch of this Island, showing the vicissitudes its fortifications and buildings have undergone. At present I can but give a few details as I saw them. Fort Lennox is a large, square bastioned fort, covering about ten acres. It is surrounded by a wet ditch and a low stockade. The interior is one vast parade ground with buildings on the north, east and west sides or faces, the south side, facing up the river towards Lake Champlain, being protected by the wall and parapet. In the centre of this face is a sally port leading to an advanced work, redan or fleche, the road crossing the ditch by a drawbridge, as on the north side.

The officers' quarters and the offices are situate on the north side. The west side is filled up by the men's barracks, and the east parapet protects the store rooms and the magazine. All these buildings are built of stone and finished in a most perfect manner. The central square or parade ground is covered with grass, and was kept neatly shaven and trimmed.

The shores of the river are somewhat low, but the foliage was rich at this time, and the passing river craft added much to the interest of the scene. I may here add that no vessels were allowed to pass the Fort during the night time on pain of being fired into without parley.

There were several fine shade trees growing on the ramparts. It certainly was most agreeable to lie under these trees in the cool early summer evenings, in the good company I have mentioned, looking out over the river, and at the ruins of the various buildings and works, shipyards, &c., which existed in former years, and are now monuments of the wastefulness of war, and the ravages of time.

The week wore on, being fully occupied by parades, alerts, heavy gun drill, filling gun cartridges, inspection of stores, &c. A boat picket was sent out every evening at dusk, to a short distance up the river, and remained out until dawn.

I went to St. Johns on Friday, reported myself to Capt. Glyn, of the P. C. O. rifle brigade, asked for orders, and brought back some necessities for my own detachment. On Saturday, Mr. Davies and his orderly-servant left for Rouse's Point, to reconnoitre. They found the Fenians swarming all over the railway station and the town, disheartened by their reception at Trout river, and striking for home after striking at Canada.

The Rev. Mr. Lockhart conducted divine service in the barracks on Sunday. I noticed that he looked rather dismal, and was told that he was paid according to the number of men who attended his ministrations. Now, by giving leave to almost all my detachment, I had unwittingly robbed him of some money consideration. On Monday, the 30th May, I received orders to return to Montreal. We were all sadly disappointed at the receipt of this command, just as we were beginning to enjoy even the routine of military life—when that routine was exacted by competent men and good soldiers. However, there was nothing for it but obedience. My servant, Jimmy Higgs, brushed my boots for the last time, and the barrack sergeant sent in his little bill.

The report of the marching out inspection of barrack stores, at the barracks at Isle-Aux-Noix, lost, damaged, or destroyed, chargeable to the detachment of Montreal Garrison Artillery, on the 31st May, 1870, is quite a curiosity.

My sergeant, an old regular, should have examined every article with the barrack master before taking them over on our arrival. Failing to do this, he laid himself open to the tender mercies of the barrack master, who, as a matter of course, takes an opportune advantage of the careless company. We were, consequently, charged for articles which the sergeant said were never there, and for dirty articles which were not clean when we entered the rooms. So I had nothing for it but to pay \$7.90 for wisdom

dearly bought. In future I shall be careful to see on my entering into barracks, that I have a long-handled scrubbing brush, &c., and that my four candlesticks are given to me in a cleanly condition.

On Tuesday, the 31st May, Mr. French, R.A., and my command left Fort Lennox, at 4.30 a.m., and arrived at Montreal about 10 o'clock. I reported to Col. Bacon, was inspected by him, and ordered to remain on duty until the next day. On Wednesday, the 1st of June, the several city corps arrived from the front, and were formed up on the Champ-de-Mars. In the words of the *Star* newspaper: "After eleven Col. Bacon rode upon the ground, and was received with a general salute. On the extreme right of the brigade, the squad of Montreal Garrison Artillery, under Lieut. Wicksteed, were drawn up. These are the volunteers who went to Isle-Aux-Noix, and though they arrived yesterday, remained on duty until to-day. Next the Garrison Artillery, stood the Prince of Wales; next the Vics; fourth, the Royals; and fifth, the Hochelagas. The gallant colonel delivered a short address. He thanked them for their extremely good behavior and soldierly conduct while absent. He said it would be gratifying to them to reflect that every man had done his duty, and that, too, in the noblest manner. He hoped the citizens of Montreal would take an early opportunity to give some substantial token to the men before him, of the true and high appreciation that they entertained of the conduct of their defenders. It now became his agreeable duty to dismiss them." In this way ended my experience of actual service in 1870.

To pay my detachment was next in order. As this was perhaps the last occasion on which Canadian Militia troops were quartered with Imperial soldiers, and rationed by H. M. control department, my balance sheet may prove interesting. It ran as follows:—

Isle-Aux-Noix detachment, Montreal Garrison Artillery, in account with the paymaster of the fifth military district.

Cr.	By allowance due 1 officer for 6 days, at 69c. per diem.....	\$ 4.14
	Allowance due 23 men for 6 days, at 40c. per diem.....	55.20
		<hr/> \$59.34
Dr.	To amount due H. M. control department for provisions, fuel, and light for 1 officer and 23 men, for 6 days, at Isle-Aux-Noix, May, 1870—£5.5.6 stg., or.....	\$20.82
	Balance.....	\$38.52

So the officer pocketed \$3.25, and the gunners \$1.54 each.

Permit me to conclude a long screed, possibly only interesting to the parties mentioned in it, or the corps to which they belonged, by reproducing two letters which I received. The first will shew that the commander of the detachment conducted himself "as an officer and gentleman," and the second proves that his men did not absolutely laze in the sun, but thoroughly earned their 40c. a day.

"DEAR MR. WICKSTEED,—

"Pray excuse my apparent neglect in not having written before, to thank you in my own and my wife's name, for the very beautiful present you and French have sent us. I assure you we value it highly. As for your visit to the Island having put us to any inconvenience or trouble, such is not the case. On the contrary, it was to us a source of real pleasure, and we are only glad to think that we were able in ever so small a degree to contribute to your comfort.

"Yours most sincerely,

"EDWARD W. DAVIES,

"Royal Canadian Rifle Regt.

"Isle-Aux-Noix, P.Q., June 6th, 1870."

"Isle-aux-Noix, 30th May, 1870.

"DEAR MR. WICKSTEED,—

"I am happy to be able to congratulate you on the progress made by your men at gun drill during their short stay here.

"Very truly yours,

G. A. FRENCH, Lieut. R.A.,

"Commanding Garrison Isle-Aux-Noix."

This letter, with many verbal commendations to the like or stronger effect, was valued very highly, coming from a man highly versed in his branch of the service, and now holding the high position of colonel commanding the local forces in Queensland.

An appropriate conclusion will be, I think, the collect used in the Anglican churches, of the diocese of Montreal, in a special thanksgiving service, in June, 1870:

"O Heavenly Father, who art the Giver of all our blessings, our Helper in the time of trouble, and our Deliverer from every danger, we desire to offer up our humble and hearty thanks unto Thee for Thy late mercies vouchsafed unto us. Thou hast graciously delivered us from the hands of our enemies; Thou hast brought to naught all their unholy devices, and driven them back from our borders with shame and confusion of face."

R. J. WICKSTEED, CAPT.,

Late M.G.A.

Queries and Replies.

Q. I observe the following in the 30th October No. of *The Graphic*, page 468, Capetown illustrated:—"Capetown has the honor of having the oldest volunteer regiment in the British Empire. It had its volunteer regiment before the English volunteer movement of 1859."

It does not say *when* the Capetown corps was organized, but with regard to the claim of being the "oldest," etc., I would like to hear the matter argued by some of our Canadian veterans. We don't usually take a back seat: RELEGATED.
London, Eng., 18th Nov., 1886.

A. We start with the difficulty that our forces are now militia; and although they are accepted at Wimbledon as volunteers, a stickler for subtle distinctions might object that there are no volunteers at all in Canada. Waiving that point, there is no question that many of our corps were in existence, as at present constituted, prior to 1859, although the law that has governed them has been several times changed, and they were all volunteers at the time of the passage of Sir George Cartier's militia bill in 1868. The oldest corps chronicled in our current militia list is the Quebec field battery of artillery, which is there recorded as having been organized in 1855; on the same authority Lieut.-Col. Darcy Boulton, commanding the 3rd cavalry, has retained his present rank since 1857; which would seem to indicate a necessarily more remote date

for the establishment of the corps to which he then belonged to admit of his having attained that rank. An officer of an antiquarian turn of mind to whom we applied for help in the solution of this problem, has written us as follows: I believe Nova Scotia has the oldest regiment in Canada, but before Confederation it was, I think, more properly a militia than a volunteer force. The 65th Princess Louise Fusiliers' colors were presented to their predecessors in the old Nova Scotia militia by the Queen's father, the late Duke of Kent; this must have been very early in the present century. The date when the Duke was commander-in-chief at Halifax I forget, but he died in 1820, a few days before his father, George III. The oldest corps I know of is the Prescott troop of cavalry. They, I believe, are the direct descendants of somebody's dragoons, raised during the war of 1812-13. I am sure that there are in Canada many corps that must date from the rebellion of 1837.

Regimental Notes.

We wish to publish information respecting all the doings of all corps. Will the officers interested, particularly at a distance, assist us by having news relating to their corps promptly forwarded?

Brantford.—A meeting of the Dufferin rifles was held at the orderly rooms on the 16th, when it was resolved to establish a sergeants' mess. Sergt.-Major Barber will have charge. It is intended that the rooms shall be nicely fitted up and opened with a spread at New Years.

Ottawa.—The officers and men of the Governor General's Foot Guards are not going to be idle between now and the commencement of the next annual drill. Lt.-Col. Macpherson having laid out congenial work for all ranks. The officers will meet in their orderly room one night a week during the winter months, and will turn about give essays on military duties. The non-commissioned officers' class under the able instruction of Adjutant Hodgins, is making great progress. All candidates for stripes will hereafter have to pass a pretty severe examination. To obtain corporals' certificates 60 per cent. of the total marks must be obtained, and for sergeants', 75 per cent. A meeting of all the members of the Guard's will be held Friday to devise means for keeping up active interest in the corps during the winter months. The formation of company athletic clubs is talked of, and a regimental snowshoe club is also a probability.

Montreal.—The Royal Scots' snowshoe club held their annual meeting last week. The report showed the club to be in a very satisfactory financial condition, and everything points to a most successful season. It was decided to hold their tramps every Tuesday evening to Donahue's, starting this week. It was arranged that a monthly handicap steeplechase should be held, a novelty which it is expected will meet with favor and prove successful. After a vote of thanks to the retiring officers the following gentlemen were elected to fill the positions for the present season:—Hon. president, Lt.-Col. Caverhill; president, Captain Gault; 1st vice do, Sergt. W. J. Kearns; 2nd vice do, Private Kerr; secy-treas., Private F. Rowe. Committee—Captain Lydon, Color-Sergeant McGillon, Sergeant Black and Private McKenzie, with power to add to their number.

The high estimation in which the late Father Prevost was held by the 65th battalion, to which regiment he was chaplain, and which he accompanied throughout the North-west campaign, was testified by the large attendance of members at his funeral service in St. Peter's church on the 1st. Besides about 150 men of the battalion in plain clothes, there were in uniform the following officers of the regiment: Lt.-Col. Quimet and Captains Robert, Giroux, Ethier, Roy, Bauset, Doherty, Villeneuve, Destroismaisons, with Lieutenants Robert, Laframboise, Hebert, Ostell, Desnoyers and Labelle. These occupied seats in proximity to the sanctuary. Captains Ethier, Robert, Giroux and Villeneuve accompanied the remains to their last resting place in the cemetery of the Oblat Order at Lachine.

Montreal.—The Victoria rifles have just held a highly successful bazaar in aid of the fund for their new armoury. It was opened from Wednesday to Saturday of last week and reopened on Tuesday evening last for the disposal of articles remaining over. The net receipts it is expected will foot up in the neighborhood of the handsome sum of \$4,500. Each company had a section of its own at the bazaar with some particular attraction, and each vied with the other in ensuring the success which attended their combined efforts. In the voting contest, the conditions of which were published last week, the poll at the close on Tuesday stood as follows: 90th battalion, Winnipeg 2,180, Montreal garrison artillery 2,054, 6th Fusiliers 212, Prince of Wales' rifles 110, 5th Royal Scots 90, Corner Stone Veterans 80, 65th battalion 46, Queen's Own rifles 34, Montreal field battery 20, Governor-General's Foot Guards 19, 13th batt. Hamilton 8, 63rd Halifax 2, 85th Longueuil 2, 54th regiment Richmond 2, 7th London 1, Richmond field battery 1.

Chatham, N.B.—No 2 company of the 73rd battalion had a church parade on Sunday 21st November, at which 36 men attended. Headed by the band of the regiment they marched to St. Luke's Methodist church, where Rev. Mr Harrison conducted the service and preached an appropriate sermon.

After the conclusion of the services the corps formed up in front of the church and under the command of Lieutenant Mackenzie marched back to the rink where the parade was dismissed. The men marched well and looked very soldierly in their red tunics and new white helmets. We are pleased to learn that this fine company which has some of the best young men of Chatham in its ranks, has been keeping up regular drills since the conclusion of the annual drill in camp at Sussex, where they, in common with the other companies of the 73rd, won very high commendations from Lieut.-Col. Maunsell, D.A.G., in command of the district.

Militia General Orders, No. 21, of 10th December, 1886.

No. 1.—REGULATIONS AND ORDERS FOR THE MILITIA, 1883.

Permanent Corps.

Transfers—No. 2 of General Orders (5) 8th February, 1884, is hereby amended to read as follows:

"Transfers of enlisted men, when specially authorized, may be made from one battery to another in the regiment of Canadian artillery, or from one company to another in the I.S.C., provided the expense incurred by any such transfer does not exceed (\$10) ten dollars.

(a) When a transfer is being made the register sheet (Form No. 196) of the man to be transferred—when duly certified by the captain of the battery or company, and approved by the commandant—is to be detached from its butt, or counterfoil, in book, and transmitted to the commandant of the battery or company to which the man is to be transferred.

(b) Except for the purpose above named, the "Register Sheet" is not to be detached from the book unless called for from headquarters.

(c) In filling in Form 196, unless the recruit has been "enlisted" at one place and "attested" at another, both entries relating thereto will bear the same date. Remarks opposite the word "died" on second page will be made only when the death occurs while in the corps.

No. 2.—ROYAL MILITARY COLLEGE OF CANADA.

Military—Colonel John Ryder Oliver, R.A., Professor of surveying, military topography, &c., has been promoted commandant of the College, from 16th July, 1886, vice Colonel Edward Osborne Hewett, C.M.G., R.E., resigned.

Captain Stuart Davidson, R.E., instructor of fortification, military engineering, &c., from 1st September, 1886, vice Major Edward Raban, R.E., resigned.

Captain Charles Blair Mayne, R.E., who has lately been appointed to the staff of the Royal Military College of Canada as professor of surveying, military topography, &c., vice Colonel Oliver promoted commandant, has arrived at Kingston and has been taken on the strength of the establishment from 16th September, 1886.

Lieut. Arthur Hope Van Straubenzee, who has lately been appointed to the staff of the Royal Military College of Canada, as instructor of military engineering, practical geometry and engineering drawing, vice Captain Stuart Davidson, promoted, has arrived in Kingston and has been taken on the strength of the establishment, from 7th October, 1886.

Superior Civil Staff—John Waddell, B.A., Ph.D., has been appointed to this college as professor of physics, chemistry and geometry; from 26th November, 1886, vice Herbert A. Bayne, deceased.

Local Army Rank—A step of local rank in the army has been granted to each of the following officers employed in the Royal Military College of Canada, from the dates specified:—

Capt. Charles Blair Mayne, R.E., to be major, from 16th September, 1886.

Lieut. Arthur Hope Van Straubenzee, R.E., to be captain from 7th Oct., 1886.

Vacations—The college will open for work on the first day of September each year and close on the last day of June following. If either of these days falls on a Sunday, the date of joining or leaving, as the case may be, will be the next day thereafter. There will be a vacation of ten days at Christmas time, and four days at Easter. The Christmas vacation will commence the day before Christmas and end on the 2nd day of January following. The Easter vacation will commence on the Thursday before Good Friday and end on the following Monday.

No. 3.—ACTIVE MILITIA.

3rd Cavalry.—No. 1 Troop.—To be Capt. prov., regimental Sergt.-Major William Walter Brown, (S.C., 1st B), vice Henry Samuel Casey, who retires retaining rank.

To be 2nd lieut. prov., troop Sergt.-Major Edgar Ernest Philp (S.C., 2nd B), vice Sydney Boskill, who resigns.

To be 2nd lieut., prov., Sergt. Wallace Cochrane (S.C., 2nd B), vice R. Wright, resigned.

15th Batt.—No. 4 of General Orders (2) 18th January, 1878, is amended, with reference to Qr.-Master and Honorary Captain St. George B. Le Poer Crozier, by permitting that officer to retire retaining rank.

16th Batt.—No. 7 Co.—Adverting to No. 3 of General Orders (20) 19th September, 1886, the headquarters of this company have been changed from "Amiasburg" to "Mountain view."

Prov. Batt. Rifles, Dist. of Algoma.—The formation of a Prov. Batt. Rifles in the district of Algoma is hereby authorized, with headquarters at Port Arthur.

This Prov. Batt. to consist of four companies, viz.:—The existing company of rifles at Port Arthur; and of companies of rifles hereby authorized to be formed: one at Fort William, one at Rat Portage and one at Gore Bay, of which half will be raised and maintained at Bruce Mines.

The half company at Gore Bay will have the captain of the company and one 2nd lieutenant; the half company at Bruce Mines one lieutenant and one 2nd lieut.; the additional 2nd lieut. being allowed this company as a special case to meet the circumstances of the localities.

To be major commanding, prov., as a special case: Capt. Samuel Wellington Ray, from the Co. at Port Arthur.

6th Cavalry.—No. 3 Troop.—To be capt. from 31st March, 1886: Lieut. John Graham Barr, S.C., vice J. Barr, promoted.

Montreal Engineers.—To be Lieut. prov., John Head, vice Moffatt, resigned.

6th Batt.—To be captains: Lieut. George Rutherford Lighthall, S.I., vice James Donald Anderson, who retires retaining rank.

Lieut. Frederic William Engelke, S.I., vice Samuel Dugald Stewart, who resigns.

To be lieut., 2nd Lieut. Herbert Stanway, S.I., vice Lighthall, promoted.
2nd Lieut. Edmund Caskin Lawson resigns.

BREVET.

To be major, from 10th November, 1886: Capt. and Adj. John A. Hawley, V.B., 60th Batt.

62nd Batt.—To be capt., Lieut. George A. Fraser, V.B., vice Hartt, appointed adjutant.

To be lieut., 2nd Lieut. Sterling Botsford Lordly, V.B., vice G. A. Fraser.

To be 2nd lieut., prov., Murdock Fraser Bruce, vice Lordly.

To be adjutant, Capt. Frederick Hammond Hartt, S.I., vice McLean, appointed Major.

66th Batt.—To be 2nd lieuts., William Henry Stevens, M.S., (formerly 2nd lieut. in this Batt.) vice Stayner, promoted.

Asa Burnham Wilnot, prov., vice King, promoted.

69th Batt.—No. 5 Co.—To be 2nd lieut. prov., Sergt. George A. Lecain, vice Jacob B. Whitworth, who resigns.

75th Batt.—Adverting to the appointment in No. 3 of General Orders (20) 19th November, 1886, of 2nd Lieut. and Adjut. Richard H. Griffiths, read "formerly quarter-master sergt.," instead of "formerly sergt."

CONFIRMATION OF RANK.

2nd Lieut. Charles H. Foyle, S.I., No. 1 Co., 94th Batt.; from 30th June, 1886.

Winnipeg F. B. Art.—To be 2nd lieut., prov., from 6th Sept., 1886. Sergt. Andrew Guy Ross, vice Thomas Nixon, left limits.

No. 4.—CERTIFICATES GRANTED.

SCHOOLS OF INFANTRY.

First Class Short Course Grade A.

Lieut. J. D. Perkins, 71st Batt.
2nd Lieut. C. H. Foyle, 94th Batt.

First Class Short Course Grade B.

Corpl. G. S. Wiggins, 67th Batt.
Sergt. G. P. Ryder, 71st Batt.
Sergt. M. Sears, 74th Batt.
Pte. D. J. Eaton, 78th Batt.

Second Class Short Course, Grade B.

Pte. C. H. Ackman, A Co., I.S.C.; Pte. A. Boone, do.; Pte. C. C. Carter, do.; Pte. S. E. Patterson, do.

Corpl. J. T. Kay, 71st Batt.
Sergt. T. Mulane, 93rd Batt.; Corpl. A. Fullerton, 93rd Batt.
Corpl. D. T. McKinnon, 94th Batt.

Memo.—The certificates issued to captains Sturdee and Hartt, 62nd battalion, notified in General Orders, 16th October, 1885 and 17th September, 1886 respectively, should read, first class short course grade A.

No. 5.—RESERVE MILITIA.

Regimental Division of Prince Edward, Ontario.

To be Lieut.-Col. Major Samuel Jones, vice Gideon Striker, deceased.

No. 6.—ASSOCIATIONS FOR DRILL IN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS.

Laval Normal School of Quebec Drill Company.

The formation of this drill company is hereby authorized under the provisions of paragraph 565, R. and O., 1883:—

To act as capt.: Charles Edouard Auger; to act as lieut.: Gédéon Bernier; to act as 2nd lieut.: Arthur Fiset.

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This column is established for the purpose of enabling our friends to exchange, purchase, sell, or otherwise advertise articles they desire either to acquire or dispose of. It is not available for commercial purposes.

The cost of announcements in this column for each insertion will be **one cent per word for the first ten words one-half cent for each additional word.** Each advertisement will have a register number in our books, and all communications regarding it must be forwarded through the GAZETTE, but it must be distinctly understood that this office incurs no other responsibility or liability in connection therewith. Address, with stamp for return postage, **Canadian Militia Gazette, Box 316, Ottawa.**

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T. P. FRENCH,
Post Office Inspector,
Ottawa, 23rd Oct., 1886.



Notice to Contractors.

TENDERS will be invited in a few days for the construction of the Section of the Cape Breton Railway extending from the Grand Narrows to Sydney, a distance of about 45 miles. This preliminary notice is given in order that Contractors desiring to tender for the work may have an opportunity to examine the location before the winter sets in.

By order,
A. P. BRADLEY,
Secretary

Dept. of Railways and Canals,
Ottawa, 26th Nov., 1886.

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For further information see OFFICIAL POSTAL
 GUIDE.

A. CAMPBELL,

Postmaster-General.

Post Office Department,
 Ottawa, 21st May, 1886.