

# THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE

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## IMPORTANT NOTICES.

The editor will be glad to receive accounts of all matters of interest to the Militia Force, and invites contributions and correspondence on any subject pertaining thereto.

Communications intended for publication must be written on one side of the paper only, are to be addressed to The Editor CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE, and should reach the office not later than Monday.

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## NOTE AND COMMENT.

We have much pleasure in recording the election of Major Sam. Hughes, 45th Batt., to represent North Victoria in the Dominion Parliament. The fact is none the less pleasing because in a measure unexpected, the well known popularity of his opponent, the late representative, Mr. John A. Barron, making it appear to many that the seat was a safe one for the Liberal party.

\* \* \*

The Militia have secured another friend in the House in the person of Major Hughes, and one who as an officer of a rural corps is thoroughly conversant with the disadvantages under which those organizations are labouring while striving to render themselves efficient.

The well known energy, perseverance and ability with which Major Hughes pursues an object which he may have in view makes it very probable that if he can be induced to endeavour to obtain similar treatment for the rural corps to that now granted to the urban battalions, in a very short time the Battalion with which he is connected will rank as high in efficiency as its riflemen now do in target practice—second to none.

\* \* \*

Lieut. A. H. MacMahon, of the Grenadier Guards, and lately on the staff of His Excellency the Governor-General as A.D.C., has recently succeeded to a Baronetcy by the death of his father Gen. Sir Thomas MacMahon.

Gen. Sir Thomas MacMahon was Colonel of the 5th Dragoon Guards. After serving in the 16th Lancers, 1829-30; 6th Dragoons, 1830-42; and 9th Lancers, 1842-47, Sir Thomas MacMahon joined the regiment as Major (from the Half Pay List), Nov. 24, 1854, and at once succeeded the ever-lamented Sir James Yorke Scarlett in command. He brought the regiment home from the Crimea, May 28, 1856, and served with it successively at Edinburgh, York, Manchester, Aldershot and Brighton until Feb. 15, 1861, when he was succeeded in command by the Hon. Somerset J. Calthorpe, Feb. 15, 1861. On Jan. 6, 1874, he was appointed Colonel of the 18th Hussars, and on the death of Gen. R. Parker, who had succeeded Sir James Yorke Scarlett as Colonel Dec. 7, 1871, Sir Thomas rejoined his old corps as titular chief on March 16, 1885.

\* \* \*

The Militia Department has received samples of 6-lb. shell, 9-lb. shrapnel and common shell, made at the cartridge factory at Quebec. Col. Panet, Deputy Minister of Militia, says they are as good as any made in England and have been proved so on the test.

\* \* \*

A series of experiments conducted by the London *Field* to test the accuracy of the Martini-Henry ammunition served out to the volunteers in England, the results of which have recently been published, have been the theme of no little correspondence in the English service papers, and apparently demonstrate beyond a doubt that very serious defects from a marksman's point of view undoubtedly exist in the ammunition.

\* \* \*

Samples were tested from the manufacture of six consecutive years—1886 to 1891—and in each year's manufacture variations were found of 7 grains or less in the charges of powder, of 6 grains or less in the weight of the bullets. It was found that two varieties of powder (one

bright and the other dull black) were used, and some cartridges loaded with one, some with the other, were found in the same package.

Of 150 charges of powder which were weighed 54 were of the standard weight (85 grs.); and the rest varied from 87 grs. down to 80 grs. Of 150 bullets, 28 only were of the standard weight (480 grs.) and the others varied from 483½ grs. down to 476 grs.

\* \* \*

Strong objections were also urged against the coiled brass cartridges, and it was said that those made of light coloured metal shot differently from the darker ones.

On this point the report says:

If one thing more than another has come out prominently in the course of this investigation, it is the utter unsuitability of the coiled cases for these competitions. From their general flimsiness they easily get altered in form; and their internal capacity varies considerably, so that some bullets go much further into the cases than others do; they do not properly fit the chamber, and when the powder is fired different degrees of expansion have to be effected, with a waste of force; and, as this tells most on the smallest charge, it greatly exaggerates the loss resulting from a deficient quantity of powder. On the other hand, the solid drawn case does fit the chamber, and when the powder is fired there is no loss of time or force in the expansion of the cartridge.

We believe that for active warfare the solid drawn cases are employed. If such be the fact, why should the "mimic warfare" at Bisley be carried on with the cheaper substitutes, which may be good enough for the drilling of an "awkward squad," but certainly are not fitted for competitions of skill? The variations in the charges are serious evils, and steps ought to be taken to remedy them, but these evils are intensified by the inefficiency of the coiled cartridge. The nation provides, for the use of its defenders, arms of precision. Inventors are put upon their mettle to show (with accurately weighed charges and bullets) which of them can place the greatest number of shots in a 1 ft. mark; and then, the weapons being passed over into the hands of the riflemen, they are furnished with ammunition which gives them no certainty of hitting a target 6 ft. square.

\* \* \*

These experiences ought not to be without their value to the Canadian Cartridge Factory, where the manufacture of Martini-Henry ammunition has just been begun, and it is to be hoped that care will be taken to avoid errors such as the above, so that when the ammunition is

issued it may be received with the same favour as the Snider ammunition manufactured in recent years.

\* \* \*

It has lately been decided by the Council of the National Rifle Association that rapid firing competitions, introducing the element of luck into the competition, shall not be included in the Bisley aggregates this year. An alteration will also be made in the regulation governing the qualifications for the recruits' bronze medals competition.

\* \* \*

The *Broad Arrow* is rough on the Honourable Artillery Company. Referring in a vague sort of way to alleged dissensions in the corps, and suggesting that it seems to suffer from a chronic malady as mysterious in its origin as the influenza, our contemporary says:—Everyone thought that after the last cutburst which culminated in the retirement of its Colonel-in-Chief, the C. O., the Adjutant and one or two more, the H. A. C. bacillus had pretty well worn itself out.

\* \* \*

This is the Volunteer corps (adds the *B. A.*) which, on account of its something or-other (certainly neither its utility or efficiency), combined with its pseudo-antiquity, is placed not only before the finest Volunteer corps of the United Kingdom, but is actually dovetailed between the Line and Militia battalions of the territorial regiments as a frightful example, it can only be assumed, of that which a city Court of Assistants can produce in the way of amateur militiamen.

\* \* \*

The Australian Governments have decided to appoint a Joint Military Adviser in London, and instructions have been received by the Agents General to make the appointment. The Colonial Governments wish the officer selected to be on the Active List and a member of the Ordnance Committee. The salary is fixed at £800 a year, with an office, and an allowance of £200 a year for a clerk. Major-General E. Harding Steward, R. E., C. M. G., has for the past ten years served the whole of the Australasian group in this connection, and it is understood that he will retire early in the spring. Major-General Steward has, however, consented to continue to act as military adviser to the New Zealand Government, as well as to other Colonies in other parts of the world.

#### NEW BRUNSWICK RIFLE ASS'N.

The New Brunswick Rifle Association are to be congratulated upon the very satisfactory annual report published by the council of that association, and especially upon the financial statement, which reflects the highest credit upon the able and economical administration of the association by the executive.

The proportion of receipts distributed in prizes is very large—nearly 50 per cent. of the total revenue—and is unusually so compared with the amount received from entrance fee. This is a feature which might commend itself strongly to the officials of other similar associations.

An interesting statement was presented to a meeting of council held subsequently to the annual meeting which showed the amount of cash prizes won by different competitors at the annual matches. If a similar analysis were made by secretaries of other rifle associations throughout the Dominion, it would probably do more to disabuse the public mind of the popular idea that rifle shooting is an exceedingly profitable pastime than any other argument that could be used.

At the meeting in question 3 competitors won over \$40 each, 6 won between \$30 and \$40, and the remaining 73 won less than \$30 each, 40 of them winning less than \$10 each.

To anyone who is at all familiar with the expenses attendant upon regular target practice and competition at matches, these figures will furnish very conclusive proof that there is no fortune in rifle shooting.

Captain J. Twining Hartt has been re-elected secretary-treasurer for the ensuing year, and the association are to be congratulated upon again securing his valuable services.

#### ANNUAL TRAINING.

"The annual drills have been carried out during the current year with the usual results. \* \* \*

"The system pursued secures as much efficiency as the provision made by Parliament allows, but it would have been more generally perceptible if the whole force could have been trained.

"Both officers and men of the force have made great progress during the twelve days allotted to drill, more indeed than seems possible; but especially is this so in the rural corps, not that they are better than the city corps, but because their drills are carried out under greater difficulties. I may therefore without impropriety ask your consideration of such a scheme as will provide requisite facilities for training the whole of the rural corps every year; indeed it seems

"desirable that such should be done."—(*Report of Adjutant General to Minister of Militia, 24th Nov., 1890.*)

"Some officers have made strenuous efforts, and deserve great credit. But to keep up and carry on this, I have again to bring to your notice and to recommend that the officers, at least, be drilled every year (if one expects that they should retain what they have learnt at the schools). \* \* \* With the continual change of drill and the rapid progress made in the military art, I consider it an absolute necessity that the officers should drill every year."—(*Annual Report D. A. G., M. D. No. 6, 14 Nov. 1890.*)

"In considering efficiency secured in rural cavalry and infantry corps it is of course necessary to bear in mind the serious drawback of not having annual drill."—(*Annual Report D. A. G., M. D. No. 5, 28 Oct., 1890.*)

"The conduct of the men was excellent, and we made the best possible use of our time. \* \* \* If they were drilled every year, they would compare very favourably with the city regiments, even in smartness, but perhaps it is thought, if we had our knife too sharp, it might cut somebody."—(*Annual Report D. A. G., M. D. No. 9, 9 Nov., 1890.*)

The above expressions of opinion taken from the annual report of the Department of Militia for the year, 1890, are but fair samples of the ideas of various officers of standing and experience upon the subject of annual training for the militia of Canada.

The reports of the Department have for years past fairly bristled with similar recommendations, which, however, have failed to bear fruit, although many commanders of rural corps who have seats in the House have but to press the matter with any degree of sincerity to secure this much desired reform. This fact ought not to be overlooked when these gentlemen appeal again to their constituents.

An old adage teaches us to fight the devil with his own weapons, and if the militia is to be ruled from a political standpoint alone, then it is high time that the members of it should take active measures to get on an equal footing with their adversaries.

\* \* \*

Although the Government is unable to devote sufficient money to the use of the militia to enable the Department to drill the members of it already enrolled annually, it found no difficulty in securing a special grant to enrol and drill an entirely new corps in the city of Toronto, because the matter was presented to them in a sufficiently pertinent and determined manner by the politicians of that city. *Verb. sap.!*

## THE U.S. NATIONAL GUARD.

The "New National Guard" is the title of a very interesting article descriptive of the National Guard of the U. S. A., its origin, history and present position, which appears in the February number of the *Century*, written by Francis V. Greene.

Speaking of the parade in New York to commemorate the centennial of Washington's first inauguration, Mr. Greene says it revealed to more than a million astonished spectators a force of over 30,000 soldiers, well armed, equipped and drilled, of whom not more than 2,000 were in the service of the U.S. It was the largest body of armed men assembled on this continent since the close of the civil war, now nearly a generation ago. It was a force whose methods of organization and support are unlike those of any other military system; and its present condition of excellence is the result of barely more than a dozen years of well directed effort.

The organization of an efficient militia, which was advocated by Washington on all proper occasions with his usual dignified but forcible language, is just becoming a reality, ninety years after his death.

In the bill of rights Congress was authorized to organize, arm and discipline the Militia. To the States was reserved the right to appoint the officers, and to train the militia according to the method prescribed by Congress.

In spite of the ample authority given to Congress little or nothing has been done to provide an efficient militia; for years the annual appropriation for its armament and equipment was only \$200,000, and it was not until 1887 that this sum was increased to \$400,000.

The quaint and obsolete law of 1792 remains the law of the land as to enrolment, etc.; and after his enrolment the citizen is to "be constantly provided with a good musket or firelock, of a bore sufficient for balls of the eighteenth part of a pound, a sufficient bayonet and belt, two spare flints," and many other articles which can now be obtained only by loan from a museum of antiquities.

The officers "to be armed to be armed with a sword or hanger and spontoon."

Every State in the Union has revised its military code since 1881, and in all but seven States there is now an organized uniformed and armed National Guard.

The organized militia numbers 109,674 or 9,000 officers and 100,000 men. The

average attendance at camp varies from 75 to 95 per cent.

The annual cost of maintaining the United States Army is about \$1,000 per man, as against \$450 per man in England and \$125 per man in Russia. The militia of the U.S. cost a little less than \$24 per man, of which the general government contributes one-sixth and the States five-sixths. Officers and men give their services free (except a nominal pay while in camp) and contribute for uniforms, travelling expenses and other purposes an amount which probably exceeds the amount paid by the States.

Of the total force about 94,000 are infantry, 5,500 artillery, and 7,000 cavalry. About one-half the force in New Mexico and in South Carolina is cavalry, and the proportion of this arm in all the Southern States is much greater than in the Northern.

In the matter of armament there is a diversity which would prove disastrous if the troops of different States should serve together in the field. In New York the Guard is armed (at the expense of the State) with the Remington, calibre 50, in Connecticut with the Peabody, calibre 43, in some of the States are still to be found some of the Springfield, calibre 50. With these exceptions the troops are armed with the Springfield, calibre 45.

In thirty-three States the law provides for an annual encampment of various length, from four to fourteen days.

A comparison of the systems of organization and instruction pursued by the States of Pennsylvania and New York respectively follows, then a claim for more liberality and encouragement of the force on the part of the Federal government, and an expression of opinion that an inefficient militia is worse than useless and the money spent upon it is wholly thrown away. If it is to be maintained at all, it should be kept in the highest state of efficiency consistent with its fundamental principle of being a voluntary unpaid organization of men, engaged in other occupations for a livelihood.

What should be and can be accomplished in the militia is to provide a force with a proper organization, uniformly armed, clothed and equipped, well instructed in book drill and in the rudiments of guard and outpost duty, but above all perfectly familiar, by constant practice, with its fire arm. Mr. Greene considers that this can be accomplished, and says it was a maxim of the Colonel of the New York 7th Regiment, never to attempt anything that could not be well done, and to do perfectly whatever was attempted.

The result is seen in a regiment which has the maximum strength of 40 officers

and 1,000 men, authorized by law, with over 200 instructed recruits on the waiting list, which qualifies every year from ninety-five per cent. to ninety-seven per cent. of its strength as marksmen, whose proficiency in drill is known from one end of the land to the other, and which furnished 667 officers and men to the volunteer armies of the civil war.

## THE STORY OF A BRAVE DEED.

What one likes in Archibald Forbes's "Barracks, Bivouacs, and Battles" (Macmillan), is the air of freedom, the robustness, the jauntiness of these episodes in the pageant of war. Men do their brave deeds without parade and without false humility, but with just a touch of assumed carelessness. Of course no man risks his life without caring, unless he is utterly tired of it—and in that case there is no special merit in running after death. But really to enjoy life to the utmost, and put it all in peril for a sentiment or through ambition to wear a bauble of a cross which means Honor—that takes nerve; and to do it with a smile, as though it were one of the polite conventions of life which are expected of every gentleman, requires more than that physical imperturbableness which we call "nerve"—it demands a steadfast spirit.

So in these sketches when we read of Lord Wm. Beresford riding into the very face of death to snatch a wounded sergeant from the oncoming Zulus, we feel admiration for his humanity. And when we read that the wounded man refused to go with him because it would endanger two lives instead of bringing inevitable death to one—we say he also is a brave man. But when it is added that Lord William "swore with clenched fist that he would punch the wounded man's head if he did not allow his life to be saved"—the touch of humor brings the whole scene within the range of our sympathies. It is not a play any longer with actors of another race, but a bit of ordinary everyday life made ideal. Then we say "Here is a hero."

Then a third man appears, Irish Sergeant O'Toole, and he shoots down the pursuing Zulus, who are at the very heels of the over-burdened horse, and the three comrades together at last reach safety.

By and by the British troops sail home, but the news of the brave deed has long preceded them. Lord William is summoned to Windsor to receive the Victoria Cross. Surely he had earned it doubly; but there is room for even more "stuff" in such a hero. He will have no honor which he cannot share with O'Toole; and the Queen knows valor when she sees it, and gives two Victoria Crosses.

Then we say "Here is a hero who is not only humane and brave, but generous and modest, and withal he has a sense of humor. Why, he is not what the books call a hero—he is a Man, every inch of him, and I would like to take his hand and tell him so."—*Life*

## Regimental News.

### TORONTO.

Preparations are already under way for an active season of drill. E and G Cos., Q.O.R., held their annual meetings this last week and the reports presented by the different committees spoke very favourably of the management during the past year. Both of these companies have decided to have a company dinner in the near future.

Recruiting commences 1st March and promises to be very brisk; evidently the rumour that the Queen's Own will spend the 24th May in Montreal will have a great deal to do with it.

A rumour was published in Monday evening's *Telegram* which states that it is almost certain that the Quebec Cavalry School will be transferred from its isolated position in the eastern part of the Dominion up to Toronto, which has long since been recognized as the military centre of the Dominion. This would be hailed with delight by every cavalryman in Ontario, as the distance, climate, etc., of the present school no doubt prevents many men from undergoing a course, but this could easily be remedied by changing the school to Toronto.

The labour unions are still discontented over the stone for the new drill hall, and present indications point to considerable trouble. They confidently state that no stone masons can be procured to handle the stone cut by "scabs," and think that as Toronto has given a site about eight times worth the building, Toronto men should be employed on everything in connection with it.

The Q.O.R. Revolver Association will hold a practice for members only, at the drill hall, on Friday evenings, 19th and 26th inst. A splendid programme has been prepared for the last match of the season, which takes place on 4th March. Full accounts of which will be given in next issue.

A large number of outsiders are expected to be present at the 9th annual dinner of the Q.O.R. Sergeants' Mess, to be held on the 26th February. In order to let their many lady friends see their handsomely decorated rooms, an "At Home" will be held on the afternoon of the 26th, from 2 to 5 o'clock, and great interest is manifested by the fair sex in their visit to "The Mess," that they have heard so much of and yet have seen no more of than if it had been in J. richo.

BRECH-BLOCK.

At the regular monthly meeting of the Sergeants' Mess, Royal Grenadiers, held on Monday evening, the following resolution was moved by Pioneer-Sergt. Hardinge, seconded by Sergt. Parkinson, and carried unanimously:

That we, the members of the Sergeants'

Mess, Royal Grenadiers, now assembled, having read with regret the several letters that have appeared in the daily press of this city in reference to the management of the affairs of this regiment, desire to place on record our disapproval of the same, and to assure the commanding officer Lieut.-Col. Dawson, and the officers under his command of our implicit confidence in them and continued support. We believe that the present efficient state of the regiment is due to the energy displayed by the commanding officer on all occasions, and such letters must have been written by an enemy for the purpose of creating discontent among the members of the Royal Grenadiers.

Staff-Sergt. Bewley, president, gave a very interesting account of his visit to Hamilton on Wednesday last, the sergeants of the 13th battalion having very kindly sent an invitation to the Grens to send a representative, which they did in the person of Sergt. Bewley, who well and ably filled the office. The cordial and kind manner in which he was treated by the boys of the 13th spoke volumes for the good feeling which exists between the Royal Grens and their comrades of the Ambitious City. A very interesting lecture, entitled "The Defence of York," will be delivered in the mess room on Friday, February 19, by Mr. Barlow Chamberland an old and valued friend of the regiment.

### GLEANINGS.

According to the *Italia Militaire*, the Turkish Army has six different kinds of rifles in use—550,000 Martinis of 11.5 mm., 450,000 Mausers of 9.5 and 7.6 mm., and 250,000 Remington, Winchester and Snider rifles of 11 and 12 mm. None of them have smokeless powder cartridges.

The first experiment of American smokeless powder in high power cannon took place at Sandy Hook a few days ago under the auspices of the Army ordnance officials. The results were encouraging, though not sufficiently satisfactory to warrant the adoption of the brand tried without further test. The powder tried was that invented and furnished by W. S. Houghton, of North Adams, Mass., who thus far leads American inventors with smokeless powder for small arms. An eight-inch gun was used in the test. With a charge of thirty pounds of powder and projectile weighing 350 pounds the velocity given was about 1,800 feet, on a pressure of nearly fifteen tons. Considering the charge this is a pretty high velocity, but the quick burning qualities of the powder produced such a high pressure that it was not deemed prudent to increase the weight of the charge. Another lot will be made of slower burning qualities before the charge is increased.

## Letters to the Editor.

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

### MORRIS TUBES.

Dear Sir:

Since that useful little article the Morris tube has been taking so prominent a position in the service, the shooting of those regiments using it has been very materially improved.

Therefore the new Minister of Militia should encourage others to procure them by keeping a stock of tubes and ammunition in store at cost price; at present they have to be obtained direct from the company at a delay of some six or eight weeks and costing more than they ought.

The Montreal Brigade seem to possess the most complete ranges but were not by any means the first to adopt the tube. The Ottawa riflemen tried a contrivance firing a bulleted breech cap, but it was not found to shoot straight, besides ruining the rifle in which it was used.

The first Morris tube used in Canada was imported by Capt. F. C. Wurtele, then in command of "B" company, 8th Royal Rifles, in the summer of 1883, who intended it for his recruits, but they not appreciating that boon, the old shots of the company soon found out its value, which resulted in their placing a challenge for a company match at Queen's ranges, of ten men a side, in the hands of the adjutant, which was promptly taken up. This match was fired at Levis and won by "B" company by a hundred points.

The 6th Fusiliers began to make some enquiries about the Morris tube in December 1884, who next got one, or when, deponent saith not.

Experience proved that the chief good derived from their use is position, holding and steadiness of pull off. A third-class target reduced one-eighth and used at twenty-five yards is quite sufficient for all practicable purposes. A smooth steel plate one-quarter of an inch thick, having the target, rings and aiming point, this latter the same size as a bullseye, cut into it, is all that is necessary; but due precaution must be taken for the projectile fired from the Morris tube will kill at 500 yards.

As the tube and ammunition is not very expensive, riflemen would derive much pleasure from its use in summer holiday time at the seaside or elsewhere, where places could be found to use it without danger to the neighbours.

Capt. Walter J. Ray of "D" company, 8th Royal Rifles, has organized a gymnasium in connection with his company and fitted up a range in the same building. Practice will be commenced as soon as the tubes can be obtained from England.

Ernest F. Wurtele,

Captain, R.L.

Quebec, 15th February, 1892.

## Sports and Pastimes

The oft recurring annual difficulties which afflict lacrosse circles, are beginning to make their appearance this season, as the various clubs composing the different leagues hold their annual meetings.

It is apparent that a repetition of the wirepulling, and the circulation of manufactured statements, which was a disagreeable feature of the situation last spring, is likely to be carried on again this year, and no doubt much bad blood will be engendered thereby.

Already the Ottawa Lacrosse Club have been reported to have determined upon a line of action which their president has felt called upon to state has not been considered by them.

The members of the Union Lacrosse Club of St. John, N.B., claim to have a grievance against the N.A.L.A., for their treatment of the Maritime Province clubs, and propose to withdraw from the association, and form a Maritime Provinces Association.

Such action would undoubtedly benefit the game throughout the Maritime Provinces and it is to be hoped the proposition may be carried into effect.

It is to be regretted that the actions of the two strongest clubs in the Dominion—the Montreal and Toronto clubs—should be conducted so utterly regardless of the interests of the game, and so entirely subordinated to the one idea of gate money. That such is the case is apparent in all their methods of procedure, and again I say it is very greatly to be regretted in the true interests of the game.

The expenses attendant upon keeping up a first-class lacrosse field in a large city are undoubtedly very heavy, and must be met in some manner other than out of the pockets of the players; but the very liberal patronage always extended by the public to lacrosse in both Montreal and Toronto, makes a good gate at all matches a matter of moderate certainty, and neither of the principal clubs of the Dominion need have the least anxiety on this score.

The actions of these two clubs begin to have altogether too much the appearance of a business undertaking rather than a sporting organization, and the sooner a change in this respect is effected the better it will be in the true interests of the game.

I am glad to learn that it is the intention of the Junior Hockey Association to take energetic measures to prevent a repetition of the rough play which has disgraced some of the recent matches in their tie series.

The Juniors are worse offenders in this respect than the Seniors, and it is therefore very much in the interests of the

future of the game that an immediate check be put upon such objectionable conduct.

Very probably it is owing to the Juniors not being such accomplished skaters as the Seniors, that induces them to resort to rough practices when they are being outplayed by an opponent, but as they are presumably the coming seniors, it is absolutely necessary that they be made to understand before it is too late, and their style of play ruined, that the game is a gentlemanly one, and may be and must be played in a gentlemanly manner.

### CURLING.

#### CENTRAL CANADA CURLING ASSOCIATION

The annual bonspiel of this association was held at Almonte on 9th February and following days.

Three of the clubs composing the association—Pembroke, Renfrew and Kingston—failed to put in an appearance, and the remaining five clubs proceeded to play off.

The first game was between Perth and the Rideaus of Ottawa, and resulted in favour of the latter. Carleton and Almonte then met and Almonte won by 2 shots. Arnprior had a bye. In the second draw the Rideaus played Arnprior, the former winning by 5 shots.

The Rideau Club and the Almonte (Mississippi Club of Almonte) then met for the final, and the result proved the truth of the saying that there is nothing more slippery than ice and curling.

At the conclusion of the 11th end the Rideau Club had a lead of 13 points on the two rinks and the game was looked upon by most of those present as a foregone conclusion in their favour, but luck changed and it was but a few ends more when the Almonte Club had obtained a lead which they maintained to the finish, eventually winning by 6 shots.

A banquet in honour of the visiting clubs was held at the Davis House on Wednesday evening, and proved a most enjoyable affair.

Altogether the bonspiel was an undoubted success, altho' it was rather disappointing that three of the strong clubs were not represented.

### CYCLING.

The committee appointed to consider the question of military cycling in the French Army, in their report to the Minister of War, express the opinion that it is not practicable to employ cyclists as combatants, and their rôle in the army should be restricted to conveying orders and information between headquarters and the various bodies of troops. For this purpose the committee suggest the employment of two classes of cyclists, the first for service with the Staff and the second for service with the troops, both parties to be recruited exclusively from the Reserve and Territorial troops. If this proposal is

entertained men belonging to the Active Army would never be employed as cyclists except in a few instances when their period of service with the colours is about to expire. The Committee recommended that each Army Corps should include a total of ninety-six cyclists, distributed as follows:—Eight to the Army Corps Staff, four to each division, two to each brigade, four to each regiment and four to each battalion or other independent unit. These cyclists would be borne on special lists, and during peace time, and for service in towns where the corps commanders deem it necessary, they would be called up for service in succession. On July 1st in each year, however, all men who engage as cyclists would be called up; those intended for service with the General Staff would have to prove their ability to cover 90 kilometres (56 miles) on a good road with a shorter period than six hours, whilst the others must be capable of covering 50 kilometres (31 miles) in less than four hours. The men must use their own safety cycles, but by way of compensation they will be paid 50 centimes a day at ordinary times, or 75 centimes during the manoeuvres. In the event of mobilisation the cycles will be requisitioned and their value assured, their owners receiving on the termination of the war an indemnity for the wear and tear or loss of their machines. All repairs during war time will also be paid for by the State. The Committee make a further recommendation that the War Department should manufacture and keep a stock of 600 safety bicycles for ordinary use, and to serve as a reserve to replace cycles which require repair during the manoeuvres. This last recommendation is however strongly combatted by the French Service papers, which maintain that improvements are more likely to be introduced by leaving the manufacture of cycles entirely in the hands of the cycling trade than by the government entering into competition with private firms.

### COURSING.

The fact that the abolition of rabbit coursing in England, on account of its cruelty, is being agitated, and that the Queen has written a letter condemning the sport, has drawn attention to the Royal Buckhounds, a pack which has been maintained for ages. The master of the Royal Buckhounds is a salaried officer of state, and the office is in the gift of the Prime Minister, the honour being always bestowed upon some peer of high standing. The Buckhounds hunt nothing but tame deer, reared in the Royal park at Windsor. When there is a stag hunt a deer is taken from the herd and conveyed to the place of the meet: there it is loosed in a strange locality and compelled by fear to run for its life—as the deer no doubt thinks—pursued by a pack of fifty staghounds and a large number of titled ladies and gentlemen on horseback. The object being to

catch, not to kill the deer—it is considered very bad form to allow the staghounds to kill the animal—the frightened quarry suffers all the terrors of the chase except actual death, and may be compelled to endure them many times. On the contrary, rabbits are killed when caught and suffer so much the less. Many critics think the Queen should begin preventing cruelty to animals by abolishing the Royal Buckhounds.

### FISH AND GAME PROTECTION.

The annual meeting of the Fish and Game Protection Club was held in the Windsor Hotel, Montreal, on the evening of the 5th inst.

The report read by Secretary Shewan shewed the difficulty the club had to contend with in consequence of limited resources owing to loss of membership, and the difficulty experienced in securing convictions.

The thanks of the club were due to Mr. W. S. Walker, advocate, who acted as the club's legal adviser.

The club had been in communication with the Ontario Game and Fish Commission with a view to securing uniformity in the laws, but as yet nothing had come of the correspondence, beyond the wish expressed by the secretary, Capt. Stewart, of Hamilton, that they might act in unison. This would be a very desirable thing were it only for the sake of causing some action to be taken with regard to the protection of ducks in Lake St. Francis, in which so many of our sportsmen are concerned.

In the month of March a deputation was named to obtain an interview with the Minister of Marine and Fisheries with regard to certain amendments to the fishing laws which it is desired to obtain. An interview was held in the month of July, and since then a correspondence has been opened, and it seems probable that the requests of the club will, in part at least, be complied with.

The changes which the club wish to have made, and which they think will very much improve the fishing in the province, may be summarized as follows:

1. Fixing the meshes of nets at four inches extension measure.
2. Making the close season for bass, maskinonge and pickerel from 1st Jan. to 1st July or 15th June, as at present.
3. Making the close season for speckled and lake trout from 15th Sept. or 1st Oct. to 1st May, with leave for settlers in the back woods to catch fish for their own use during Lent.
4. Appointing a sub-inspector of fisheries in Montreal with power to engage assistants during the close season, and thus do away with at least twelve fishing overseers and wardens in the district, who,

with one or two exceptions, are worse than useless.

5. To restrict somewhat netting, especially in the Ottawa river, between Vaudreuil and St. Andrews.

6. To secure greater accuracy in fishing statistics.

Should the club succeed in obtaining these concessions there can be little doubt but there soon will be a very great improvement in the fishing in the neighbourhood of Montreal.

The illegal duck-shooting in Lake St. Francis still continues. An officer was sent up to Lancaster early in October and saw some offenders at work, but as they were just across the line in Ontario, they could not be arrested. The committee has year by year called attention to the shooting of ducks in spring and hopes that the club will again try to have this practice abolished.

### THE LEGION OF HONOUR.

[By a Volunteer Abroad.—In Volunteer Service Gazette.]

Some interesting notes on the origin and attributions of the much coveted French Order of the Legion of Honour have been lately published in a Paris journal. The Legion, entitled to wear the "star of the brave," was first created by Napoleon the First on the 14th of July, 1804, at the camp of Boulogne, where the immense array of French troops had been assembled to await the favourable moment—which never arrived—for the invasion of England. The Order was primarily intended for the recognition of valour and merit amongst naval and military men alone, but its honours and emoluments had to be subsequently extended to worthy and in some cases also, as at the present day, to most unworthy civilians, and to such a degree, that the decoration has in many instances been refused by those over-susceptible Frenchmen who haughtily distained any association with such a questionable mixture of knighthood.

At first, the Legion of Honour was instituted according to the old Roman form, and consisted of 15 cohorts, each commanded by seven grand officers or "great eagles," 20 commanders and 30 officers, with 350 legionaries, or, as ruled by the Emperor, an effective of 6,000 honoured soldiers and sailors of all grades; but owing to the widespread warfare of the epoch, the Legion, in 1815, had been increased to more than double its primitive strength. Under the Restoration and the Monarchy of July, the statutes of the Order were considerably modified, and a large infusion of the civil element was imported into the ranks of the Legion, as well as under the Second Empire, until ten years ago the present Republican Government ordered a census to be made of the legionaries, and a balance sheet drawn up of their pension accounts. It was then found that the military members

counted for 39,793 individuals, drawing annually 12,718,000 frs., and 15,000 civilian members, who were not entitled to any pecuniary emolument with their decorations.

As at the moment constituted, three-fifths of the crosses periodically distributed are reserved for the army and navy, and the remaining two-fifths for the church, bar, and for other civil services. The proportions of the pension vary according to the degrees of rank in the order enjoyed by the military or naval recipients on the following scales: Chevalier, 250 frs. per annum; officers, 500 frs.; commanders, 1,000 frs.; grand officers, 2,000 frs.; and the grand crosses, 3,000 frs. The pay or pension of the Grand Chancellor charged with the administration of the order is 40,000 frs. a year with free residence in the Palace of the Legion of Honour, firing, &c. Certain rules for promotion are ostensibly laid down, but only occasionally adhered to, or controlled either by favour or circumstance dependent upon the goodwill and pleasure of the head of the State or the Ministry for the time being.

In connection with the Order and supported from its large revenues and funds, are two houses of education at St. Denis and in the forest of St. Germaine, for the daughters of impecunious legionaries, and the male children of the same if they elect to follow the profession of arms for a future career are assisted in their studies by various advantages. The Legion of Honour is the only national order of knighthood or nobility that has survived the former monarchical regimes, when three other orders existed for emulation either to valour and virtue. The Order of St. Michael (1469) was awarded for civil services, that of St. Louis (1693) for military pre-eminence, whilst the last Order, that of the Holy Ghost, instituted in 1574 by Henry III., was only bestowed upon one hundred members of the most ancient nobility of France, whom the royal founder designated as his "gentils depravés."

The German authorities deny that they propose to replace their Mannlichers with a smaller bore weapon, though they do propose to make some minor changes in it.

#### A Twelve Thousand Dollar Farm.

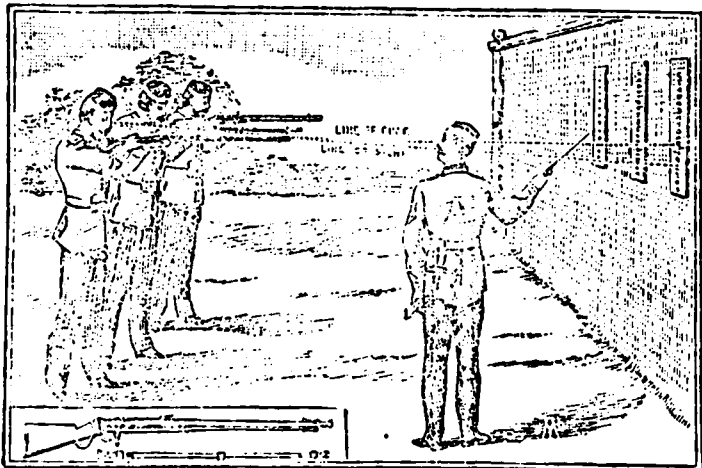
A subscriber to the Montreal *Weekly Witness* writes to that paper, that through the hints received in its agricultural column he is now the possessor of a twelve thousand dollar farm which he otherwise would not have owned, and that he, through following its advice, is making a success of his orchard and bee culture. It is a notable fact that the readers of the Montreal *Witness* are as a rule well-to-do, prosperous and influential. People of this class admire such a paper as the *Witness*, and the *Witness* aids in increasing their prosperity and extending their influence for good. It is a highly interesting paper. Messrs. John Dougall & Son, Montreal, are the publishers.

**ONTARIO ARTILLERY MEETING.**

The Seventh Annual General Meeting of the members for the Election of Officers and the transaction of General Business will be held at the Canadian Military Institute, Toronto, on Tuesday the 23rd February, 1892, at 2 p.m.

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300 yards.....	5 5 5 5 5 4-34	
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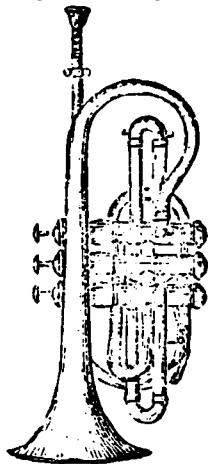
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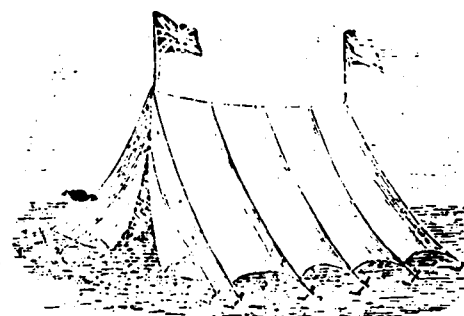
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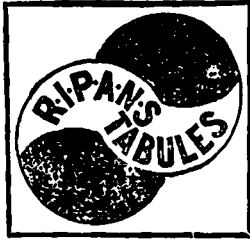
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