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MILITIA NEWS AND NOTES.

THE MILITIA PASTIME.

MILITIA GENERAL ORDERS.
No. 7 of 20th April, 1888.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Current Topics.

AN Order-in-Council was passed this week prescribing the long expected changes in the location of the district staff officers, but it is understood that these changes will not take effect until the termination of the approaching camping season, in order to obviate any confusion which might arise were the marching orders to be issued immediately. Lt.-Col. Smith, Commandant of the Royal School of Infantry at London, becomes Deputy Adjutant General of No. 1 District, replacing Lt.-Col. Jaakson, who is retired with a gratuity of two years' pay. Lt.-Col. Van Straubensee has been transferred from the command of No. 5 District, at Montreal, to No. 3, at Kingston. In No. 4 Military District, the headquarters staff at Ottawa undertake the duties heretofore discharged by the district staff, and Lt.-Col. Lamontagne, the present D. A. G., has been placed in command of No. 6 District, Montreal, in the stead of Lt.-Col. Harwood, who having passed the age limit, 63 years, is retired with a gratuity of two years' pay. No. 5 District, also centering in Montreal, will be presided over by Lt.-Col. Houghton, removed from Winnipeg, where he is succeeded by Lt.-Col. Villiers, from No. 3 District, Kingston. In No. 7, the Quebec city district, there is no change, and the D. A. G.'s in the Maritime Provinces and British Columbia are also undisturbed. It is understood that Lt.-Col. Lamontagne will at once assume command of No. 6, the change taking place immediately in that district because of the present incumbent having reached an age at which it is against the regulations for him to continue in office.

TWO Deputy-Adjutant-Generals having to be retired this year, Parliament has been asked to vote them each a gratuity of two years' pay, or \$3,400. We have no system of superannuating these officials, though retirement is made compulsory at the age of sixty-three. That they are recognized to have some sort of claim upon the country in their old age is evident from the fact that this gratuity is asked; and the claim being admitted, it is hard to see what good reason there can exist against making statutory provision for their superannuation, as in the case of the members of the Civil service. After holding a staff appointment for a number of years a man becomes practically unfit for other pursuits, and it is a hard thing that he is liable to be retired at any moment without any allowance. It may happen that the officer retired has saved sufficient money to keep himself in comfort for the remainder of his days. But on the other hand he may be so unfortunate as to have on retiring no resources but the gratuity which Parliament may be

pleased to vote. Then what becomes of him when this amount is used up? It is not creditable to the country that the possibility of being reduced to want in their old age should stare in the face any public servants.

A SPECIAL meeting of the Council of the Dominion Artillery Association was held at Ottawa to-day to consider the relative advisability of sending a team to Shoeburyness this year, or holding a competition at Quebec, or both. There were six members present, all Ottawa men, except Lieut.-Col. Cotton, of A Battery, Kingston, and written votes were received from eighteen. The consensus of opinion was in favour of abandoning all thought of the Shoeburyness team on account of the evident impossibility of raising the requisite funds. The energies of the Council will now be directed towards getting up an attractive artillery competition at Quebec.

GUNNER A. WILSON of the Halifax Garrison Artillery, and the twenty-third man in the order of merit of those eligible, has written accepting the twentieth place on this year's Wimbledon team, which is now complete. The refusals, three only, have been unusually few in number, and the best men naturally being those at the top of the list the team may be looked upon as an exceptionally strong one. An examination of the records of its members is confirmatory of this impression. Gunner Wilson has already been across with a Canadian team, this occasion being four years ago. The team records of other members have appeared in our issues of the past few weeks, as the acceptances came in.

IN our opinion the very best way to destroy interest in the Kolapore Cup competition, would be to give effect to the recent proposal that colonial teams should each shoot at home, instead of meeting together at Wimbledon or other common firing point. "This proposal," the cable intimates, "is intended to place colonial teams in a better position because they would know their own ranges, whereas Wimbledon is strange to them." If such a proposition has really been made by any responsible body, we fancy the consideration shown will not be appreciated in Canada at least. What honour would attach to a victory by Canada were it even open to suspicion that wind and weather, and not the superior skill of our riflemen, had been the determining factor. Such a competition as proposed would be about as satisfactory and conclusive as an international yacht race with the vessels starting from opposite sides of the Atlantic.

THE Secretary of the British Columbia Rifle Association, Capt. E. H. Fletcher, has forwarded the following motion passed by the Council of that Association at a meeting held on the 9th inst: "That, as it is desirable that all competitors at the Dominion of Canada Rifle Association prize meetings be placed on an equal footing, it is the opinion of this Council that the annual prize meetings should in future be held on a neutral range." This resolution was moved by Capt. P. A.

Irving, seconded by Sergt. Winsby, and the secretary was instructed to forward it to the MILITIA GAZETTE. No one will dispute the contention of the preamble, nor would anyone be disposed to object to having the contests take place on a neutral range provided such range were available. In the meantime the Rideau range comes as near as possible to meeting this requirement. The total number of competitors at last year's meeting was upwards of 360; of these about fifty were from Ottawa or its immediate vicinity, and had whatever advantage arises from familiarity with the range. To the remaining three hundred odd the range was neutral, and we fail to see how it is possible to make a more equitable arrangement, unless in order to minimize a trifling advantage at best the Dominion Association should adopt the rather expensive expedient of equipping and maintaining a range to be used only for the annual Dominion competitions.

FRIENDS of the Royal Military College are too apt when advocating the claims of graduates to preferment for commissions in the permanent corps, to overlook altogether the fact that militia officers are also entitled to some consideration. There are many men in the militia service who have not had the opportunity of attending the college, but who are eminently qualified for positions in the permanent service. It is no disparagement of the Royal Military College to say that it is quite possible for an officer not a graduate, but who has educated himself by practical experience in the militia and by courses at the schools, to prove a much more desirable acquisition to the permanent corps than a graduate who has had none but college experience. By all means let qualifications count above everything else in making selections for these appointments, but don't bar any deserving applicant because he has not in his boyhood days been able to avail himself of the military college course.

EASTER falling early this year, the weather to a certain extent marred the operations of the English volunteers in their annual manoeuvres. The operations this year extended over a wide area but the chief centres of interest were Dover, Portsmouth, Eastbourne and Aldershot; whilst in the North a respectable force of Liverpool volunteers took the field. At Portsmouth the navy co-operated in an attack upon the eastern defences of the southern military post, and were held by the umpires to have made good their descent. A staff officer attached to the Dover force, who furnishes his observations to the *Army and Navy Gazette*, says: "Errors were committed in the field on Monday, and some very silly mistakes too; but I have seen line commanding officers commit similar blunders, and not always display the same good feeling when called upon to correct them. There exists, I regret to say, a good deal of small-mindedness among professional soldiers. They do not at all times appreciate as thoroughly as they should do our wants and requirements as a nation, and among some there is a sort of idea that their rights are being usurped by the auxiliary forces. From all I have seen of the volunteers, I feel sure that it is not their wish to usurp any rights of the soldier, but rather to accept him as a model, and approach as near as they can to his standard of efficiency."

THERE are two reports concerning the retirement of the Negus of Abyssinia from in front of the position of the Italians. The story he tells his own people is that he has concluded a peace with the Italians, having accepted an offer of ten cannons, a thousand rifles, and all the money in the Italian treasury at Massowah. As he has a following of 70,000 or 80,000 men there are suggestions that he is simply biding his opportunity. The Italians have certainly won no laurels in Abyssinia, and, as the *Army and Navy Gazette* shows, the result of their experience is to demonstrate that the principle which should guide a

commander engaged in such an enterprise should always be to see that his organization is complete before advancing, then press on, and having come face to face with his opponents, strike decisively. It has been by the adoption of these tactics that Lord Wolseley has been invariably successful. "It is a pity," it adds, "for the Italians that their commander at Massowah has not had some of the dash and some of the perspicacity of Lord Wolseley. Had he possessed his lordship's qualities as a commander, his army would not have occupied the rather unpleasant, not to say ridiculous, position it does to-day in Abyssinia."

An Instructional Battalion.

WE fear that this is not a favourable moment for recommending any extension of military education. The strong opinions that have lately been expressed by high authorities on the useless extravagance of maintaining such places as Woolwich, Sandhurst, and the Army Medical School naturally make us diffident in advocating anything in the shape of military instruction. Still there is a good deal to be said in favour of military education, and there are some persons left who see advantage in giving our officers and soldiers opportunities of becoming acquainted with the technicalities of their profession. We should like to see an infantry school of instruction created at Aldershot. It will be said that Aldershot is already such a school of instruction as we require. So it is to a certain extent, but hardly as efficient a one as we should like to see. The infantry regiments composing the division at Aldershot are of varying strength and quality, they have to take their share of all guards, fatigues, and other duties, and this makes a great demand on their effective strength, so that it is rare that a battalion can parade much more than half its number. We should like to see an infantry instructional battalion created at Aldershot some 1000 or 1200 strong, by detaching officers, non-commissioned officers and men from every infantry regiment in the United Kingdom. For the command of such a battalion we would select the best officers we could find, to hold the posts of commanding officer, second in command, and adjutant, and we would have a staff of a sergeant-major and a certain number of drill sergeants. This year might be divided into two courses of five months each, with inter-nev-ing vacations of one month for the benefit of the staff. During the five months the instructional battalion would go through a complete course of infantry drill, field firing, and shelter-trench exercise in so thorough a way that the officers, non-commissioned officers and men who have been through it might be qualified to impart their knowledge to others when they return to their regiments. The officers should be the adjutants of the future, and the non-commissioned officers and men the drill instructors. To such a battalion as this should be permitted experiments of all kinds in infantry drill and the most suitable forms of attack and defence. And in order that it might devote itself to instruction, it might be free from all camp duties. The officers of the Auxiliary Forces who have to go through a course of instruction might also be sent to it. The great difficulty under the modern system of short service is to obtain thoroughly trained non-commissioned officers, and in Continental Armies special value is attached to schools of instruction. We believe the additional cost of an infantry instructional battalion would not be great. The pay of the permanent staff and the travelling expenses of the different detachments would be the whole of it. And we think the command of such a battalion would be an object of ambition to the smartest infantry commanding officer. Say that there are 60 battalions of infantry on the home establishment, we might take 30 at a time and from each detach 1 officer, 2 sergts., and 30 rank and file. This would give a very effective battalion, nearly 1000 strong of all ranks. All the latest developments of infantry drill might be thoroughly investigated and tested, and the presence of such a battalion in camp would be a model to all the others. The Guards have deservedly earned a high reputation for the excellence of their drill and the good qualities of their non-commissioned officers, and there is no doubt as to the great value of their school instruction in London for officers of the Auxiliary Forces. We think that the creation of an instructional infantry battalion at Aldershot would be a very good move for the Service and become a standard of drill for the whole Army.—*Broad Arrow*.

The Austrian *Army Gazette* announces that the Emperor, in order to give the infantry, as the principal arm of the Imperial forces, a proof of his especial care, has created the post of Inspector-General of Infantry, and appointed the Crown Prince Rudolph to fill it.

The authorities of Peking have recently taken a census of the Celestial Empire. The figures returned by the village bailiffs make the population 319,383,500, which, with estimates relating to five provinces omitted, makes an aggregate of about 392,000,000. These figures are independent of Corea, Thibet and Kashgar. As the population of India exceeds 250,000,000, the Hindoos and Chinese constitute more than half the whole human race.

Modern Tactics.

[By Capt. H. R. Gall—From Illustrated Naval and Military Magazine.]
(Continued from Page 333.)

IN this case the assailants would be forced to attack a carefully-chosen and strongly-entrenched position, with their backs to a defile, and probably only one line of retreat available, either through a mountain gorge, or over a bridge. The last plan offers the greatest chances of success to a general who can seize his opportunity, and handle his troops with daring and dexterity.

Beyond these few simple principles it is impossible to lay down any fixed rules for opposing a crossing.

Strategical considerations will influence the conduct of both sides to a large extent; but tactical movements within striking distance of an enemy must be planned and carried out on the spot, and will always be decided in favour of the commander who can most readily adapt himself to the circumstances, and take advantage of the nature of the ground, the peculiarities of his troops, and the mistakes of his enemies.

A broad and comprehensive knowledge of tactics can alone enable him to act with the confidence which commands success.

Forcing the Passage of a River.

The first thing to be done is to reconnoitre the banks carefully, and push secret reconnaissances over on the enemy's side if possible, to endeavour to discover his positions. In order to do this thoroughly the assailants' own side must be cleared of the defenders' scouts.

Meanwhile the troops should be concentrated at two or more points within a day's forced march of the river, and the most careful and elaborately-planned preparations made to prevent any hitch occurring at the last moment. With this object the boats should be procured, rafts constructed, pontoons collected, and the bridges themselves put together, if time permits, to ascertain that they are the required length. The actual crossing-place or places, will be finally fixed upon by the commander-in-chief, in accordance with the reports he may receive from his engineer and staff-officers selected to reconnoitre.

It is seldom that an army corps can hope to effect a crossing exactly at the most to be desired spot, as the enemy may frustrate it, and for this reason what are called secondary crossing places are most essential, and the preparations for these secondary crossings should, if possible, be as carefully planned as the principal one. If energetically commanded, the defenders will probably be in force to oppose all the most likely crossings.

It can rarely be expected that all the requirements of a good crossing-place will be obtainable. They may be briefly enumerated as follows:

1. Suitable cover on the enemy's side for the landing and establishment of a covering party of infantry.
2. Command of bank, and suitable ground for guns to be got into position, to protect the crossing of the covering party, and subsequently the protection of the bridge, during its construction.
3. A bend of river towards the assailants, to enable them to direct a convergent fire on the opposite side.
4. An island, or islands.
5. A tributary stream.
6. Good sound ground suitable for embarkation and disembarkation.
7. Cover on the assailants' side, to conceal the movements and concentration of troops within easy reach of the river.

There are three kinds of bridges—

1. Permanent bridges, entailing a considerable amount of time and labour.
2. Flying bridges, on-trestles, only suitable to medium sized rivers, and moderate currents.
3. Pontoons, and bridges of boats.

The latter are the easiest to throw across if a force has got them; but are liable to get out of gear, and also to be swept away.

The principles which govern the tactical operations in all three cases are the same.

All preparations completed as regards material, the first thing to be accomplished is the landing and establishment of a suitable covering party of infantry.

We read in ancient history that the swimming and fording of rivers were among the regular exercises of the Roman legionary. Though immersed up to his chin in water, he was an expert in plying his hatchet against the stakes which opposed his passage, while he held his buckler over his head not less steadily than on dry land. Behind him a constant storm of stones and darts was impelled against the enemy from the engines which always accompanied Roman armies. The enemy driven from their position, Cæsar established his covering party, and commenced his bridge.

In the absence of boats, or other means of crossing in these days as of old, covering parties may be forced to swim, although the swimming of rivers is not amongst the regular exercises of the army. Substitute guns for engines, and the principles of tactics for the passage of a river are still those which governed Cæsar.

After a covering-party has once established itself by driving off the enemy, if he appears to oppose the passage, the bridge is commenced from both ends if possible, and pushed on incessantly until completed. Meanwhile, infantry in sufficient numbers should be got across to protect the flanks and front of the covering party, and the moment the bridge is completed, the artillery, cavalry, and various trains, should be moved rapidly across.

The crossing of the River Leek, by Gustavus Adolphus, April 1631, in the presence of 22,000 troops under the veteran commander Tilly, furnishes a rare example of this most hazardous operation, and also a proof of the consummate knowledge of tactics possessed by the King of Sweden. It is thus described by Defoe, in his *Memoirs of a Cavalier*:

"Tilly, joined by the Duke of Bavaria, had about 22,000 men distributed along the Bavarian bank of the River Leek, and occupied all the convenient places on the river to dispute the King of Sweden's passage.

"The King, informed of Tilly's dispositions, resolved to go up and view the disposition of his troops, and setting out with an escort of horse, gained a height from whence he could see the course of the river for several miles. Turning to the north he observed a bend of the river towards his own side, and at once said, 'There's a point will do our business, and if the ground be good, I'll pass there; let Tilly do his worst.'

"He immediately directed a small party of horse to bring him word how high the bank was at the bend, 'and he shall have fifty dollars,' says the King, 'that will bring me word how deep the water is.'

"A sergeant of dragoons obtained leave to go disguised as a boor, and taking with him a long pole, went boldly to the bank of the river, and calling to the sentinels which Tilly had placed on the other bank, asked them if they could help him over the river, and pretended he wanted to come to them. At last, being come to the point where the bend was, he stood parleying with them a great while, and pretends to wade over, thrusting his pole in before him, till being gotten up to his middle he could reach beyond him, where it was too deep. 'Why, you fool,' says one of the sentinels, 'the channel of the river is 20 feet deep.' 'How do you know?' says the dragoon. 'Why, our engineer says he measured it yesterday.'

"This is what he wanted, but, not yet fully satisfied, 'Ay! but,' says he, 'may be it may not be very broad, and if one of you would wade to meet me till I could reach you with my pole, I'd give him half a ducat to pull me over.'

"One of the soldiers immediately strips, and goes in up to the shoulders, and our dragoon goes in on his side. The stream takes the other soldier away, and he being a good swimmer, came over to the dragoon's side.

"After some conversation, the dragoon pretended to be sorry he could not get over the river, and makes off, the Bavarian returning to his comrades on his own side.

"The King having examined the dragoon, understood from him that the ground on his side was higher than the enemy by 10 or 12 feet, and a hard gravel. Hereupon the King resolved to pass there, and himself gives particular directions for a bridge.

"His bridge was only loose planks laid upon large trestles; the trestles were made higher than one another to answer to the river as it became higher or shallower, and was all framed and fitted before any appearance was made of attempting to pass. When all was ready the King brings his army down to the bank of the river and plants his cannon, as the enemy had done, some here and some there, to amuse them.

"At night, on the 4th April, the King commanded 2,000 men to march to the bend, and throw up a trench on either side, and quite round it, with a battery of six pieces of cannon on each end, besides three small mounts, one at the point and one at each side of the bend, which had each of them two pieces upon them.

"This work was begun so briskly, and so well carried on, the King firing all night from the other parts of the river, that by daylight all the batteries at the new works were mounted, and the trench lined with 2,000 musketeers, and all the utensils of the bridge lay ready to be put together.

"Now the Imperialists discovered the design, but it was too late to hinder it. The musketeers in the great trench, and the five new batteries, made such continual fire, that the other bank, which, as said before, lay 12 feet below them, was too hot for the Imperialists, whereupon Tilly, to be provided for the King at his coming over, falls to work in a wood right against the point, and raises a great battery for twenty pieces of cannon, with a breastwork or line so near the river as he could to cover his men, thinking that when the King had built his bridge, he might easily beat it down with his cannon. But the King had doubly prevented him, first by laying his bridge so low that none of Tilly's shot could hurt it; for the bridge lay not half a foot above the water's edge, by which means the King, who had shown himself an excellent engineer, had secured it from any batteries to be made within the land, and the angle of the bank secured it from the remoter batteries on the other side, and the continual fire of the cannon and small shot beat the Imperialists from their station just against it, they having no works to cover them. In the second place to secure his passage, the King sent over 200 men, and after that 200 more, to cast up a ravelin on the other bank just where he designed to land his bridge. This was done with such expedition that it was done before night, and in condition to receive all the shot of Tilly's great battery, and effectually covered his bridge.

(To be continued.)

Recent experiments with carrier pigeons have been so successful that it has been decided to establish a permanent postal service of them in the Russian army. Depots are to be established at once at certain specified fortresses and other places, and the whole are to be divided into four divisions, corresponding to the same number of lines of communication; there are to be at each 250 carrier pigeons, making a grand total of 1,000 birds.

GOSSIP OF THE MILITIA.

Renewed Volunteering Activity at the Ancient Capital.

The Toronto corps at Drill—Wanted, some lecturing officers—The Richmond Battalion preparing for camp—Revival of Rifle Shooting at Danville—The Vics' Recreation Rooms.

A PROPOSED amalgamation of the 5th and 6th military districts does not meet with favour by the officers of the former district at all. The 5th is one of the largest districts, comprising two regiments of cavalry, 3 batteries of field artillery, 1 company of engineers, 1 brigade of garrison artillery, and 2 battalions of rifles and 11 battalions of infantry, making, as is claimed by a correspondent of the *Star* "the most complete and efficient brigade in the Dominion, and requires the constant and undivided attention of the D. A. G. and Brigade Major to see that their wants are carefully attended to." The same correspondent suggests that the 6th district be taken over by Lieut.-Col. D'Orsennes, commandant of the St. Johns' School of Infantry, and that if Col. Straubenzie has to be removed that his place be filled by Lieut.-Col. Viliers or Houghton, with which suggestion we are disposed to agree—*Sherbrooke Examiner*.

The different companies of the 57th Battalion are preparing to commence drilling. Since the departure of Captain Burke, for London, No. 5 company has been without a commanding officer. Captain Wes' Miller, at present quartermaster of the battalion, is spoken of favourably for the vacant position and as he is a popular officer with the men, there is no doubt that he would soon bring the company up to a good standard of efficiency.—*Peterboro' Review*.

The 57th Battalion are co-operating with the Amateur Athletic Association of Peterboro', are arranging for a grand Queen's Birthday celebration in that city. The programme outlined is an attractive and interesting one. It is proposed to have a base-ball match in the forenoon on the Association grounds and general athletic sports in the afternoon. The battalion will have a march out in the morning and will proceed to the grounds, where, at twelve o'clock, a *feu de joie* will be fired. In the afternoon the military will again turn out. They are arranging to have other battalions present to join with them.

The Danville correspondent of the *Sherbrooke Examiner* writes as follows:—"Rifle shooting is the prevailing amusement among our young men, this spring, and some of them are exhibiting a good deal of proficiency in it. It is well that this is excellent sport which has been somewhat neglected in this vicinity of late years is again attracting attention and it is to be hoped that before long the Danville company will again be represented on the Wimbledon team as it has been so creditably in the past by Sergt. Alfred Shaw of this village and Quartermaster Cleveland of Lorne, who are still excellent marksmen, though advancing in years. Perhaps it is not generally known that a representative of the 54th Battalion, Capt. L. Thomas, of Melbourne, shares with Lieut. W. Mitchell, of Hamilton, Ont., the honour of having been on the grand aggregate prize list at Ottawa every year since 1880, an honour to the enjoyment of which none but the most reliable of marksmanship could have entitled him.

Toronto.

WE have in the militia an officer who last year celebrated the 50th anniversary of his military service. How flat and stale all so-called reforms, recommendations, faults, complaints, etc., must be to him. Somebody has recommended lately that brown leather belts should be issued to the militia. That is a very old chestnut so old that the cathedral chimes ring upon its reputation. Brown leather belts were recommended by a commission in 1855. Thirty-three years ago. Don't we make strides!

The other day, I picked up some old pamphlets on the militia. The complaints in these are the same as now, and the youngest of the books is probably eighteen years old. If the accoutrements, which we then had, were ancient and bad, what must their condition be to-day.

In the Militia Report, 1878, Colonel Irwin, commandant of School of Gunnery at Kingston says: "I have again to repeat my previous recommendations as to the increase of the field battery establishment of horses." In the same year Col. Strange, commandant at Quebec, draws attention to previous recommendations, and says that his school is crippled by no having enough men, etc., "especially the mounted division which cannot be efficient without the establishment of a complete field battery."

Ten years afterwards we find Col. Irvine, and the two commandants still applying for this same increase—more horses wanted for instructional purposes. Will they ever come? Will a militia officer ever see a complete field battery turned out, with wagons, forge, etc.? Will a permanent corps officer ever have an opportunity of handling something larger than two guns?

That must have been a mistake of "Fougass" when he enquired by what class of officers would the permanent corps be commanded after the present seniors are out of the way? He will make the seniors very vain, they will begin to think terrible things of themselves; and how about the next seniors, Fougass? You are too sweeping. You had far better have called attention to Provisional Permanent Corps officers receiving pay of their rank whilst attending long courses, and at the same course militia officers receiving \$1 a day. You cannot hire a labourer in Toronto for that sum. Probably the authorities want to discourage officers going up for long courses.

THE THEORETICAL PRINCIPLES OF MUSKETRY.

The last of the series of lectures given under the auspices of the Sergeants' Mess of the Queen's Own was delivered on the 16th inst., by Capt. Sankey. The subject he selected was "The Theoretical Principles of Musketry." He explained, "in a clear and concise manner," the forces influencing the flight of the bullet, the reason why elevation is necessary, the necessity of holding the sights upright, the height of trajectory at different ranges, which he illustrated with some very good diagrams, etc. I hope this lecture is not the last; so far the audiences have been interested and the subjects well chosen, but the difficulty seem to be that officers are not anxious to come forward and give us the benefit of their views. However, I trust that in the coming autumn we shall have the pleasure of hearing "the General."

QUEEN'S OWN RIFLES.

The Queen's Own Rifles assembled at the drillshed on the 18th inst., at eight o'clock, mustering to the number of 467. Major Delamere was in command. Captain Pelatt acted as junior major and Captain Macdonald as adjutant, and most of the officers were also in their places. The regiment marched out to Clarence Square, where they were put through general battalion drill by Major Delamere, while the band, in an altogether different part of the square, played a number of excellent airs, which, as usual, drew around it a very large number of the public.

The orders issued last night were:—Promotions: To be sergeants, Corporal F. J. Laidlaw, vice Robinson, placed on the supernumerary list, and Corporal H. M. George. To be Corporals, Privates J. Agnew and H. T. Wyatt. These promotions are in F Company. The following officers have been posted:—Capt. Green and Lieut. Brock will do duty in K Company until further orders. Lieut. Gunther will do duty in H Company until further orders, and Lieut. Mercer in G Company.

The church parade of the regiment to St. George's church will take place on Sunday, the 26th inst. The regiment will assemble at the drillshed 1.45 p.m.

THE ROYAL GRENADIERS.

The Royal Grenadiers had a good turn out on the 19th at their weekly parade. The *Empire* says: The regiment had a march out, going as far as Clarence square, where a few battalion movements were practised. The brass band continues to show very good improvement. The music and time was excellent. The latter was a little slower than last week's, but much faster than usual.

No conclusion has been arrived at as to where the regiment will spend May 24th. Pressing invitations have been received from Guelph and Barrie and these are under consideration. Other invitations have been received, but as they do not offer special inducements they are not entertained.

Captain Davidson, "A" Company, talks of getting out an injunction to prevent men leaving his company to join the police force. In fact it is becoming a stepping stone to the force. Since he assumed command seventeen men have been transferred to the police. Last night three recruits applied for a discharge, as they were joining the police force. The gallant captain thinks matters are getting serious and wants to know where the end will be.

Lieut. Gibson is to take over charge of "E" Company, until further orders.

A regimental memo. has been issued calling the attention of n. c. officers and men to the adjutant's class, which meets Tuesday evening. Those n. c. officers now holding provisional rank will be given until the 15th October next to qualify, and if by that time they have not obtained the required certificate, their provisional rank will be cancelled, and the substantive rank will be given to those qualified, whether n. c. officers or private soldiers, when recommended by the officers commanding their companies.

LINCHPIN.

Richmond. Q.

THERE is a good deal of activity and stir in the 54th Battalion at present as we are under order for camp this year. It is expected the regiment will turn out in good shape.

A large number of the n. c. o.'s and privates have availed themselves of the advantages of the school. Seven men from the battalion having got certificates, in one course lately.

A movement is on foot to procure helmets before going into camp.

A very successful entertainment was held in the Town Hall, Richmond, on the 19th and 20th, under the auspices of the Ladies' Guild, half the proceeds of which is to be applied to the fund for purchasing colours for the battalion. The operetta of "Trial by Jury" was very well given, Capt. T. L. Prown, 54th, taking the principal part as "The Judge" splendidly. The farce of "Advice Gratis" was very creditably performed, the cast being, Mr. Eventide (Mr. Sutherland), Mr. Odbody (Mr. G. Aylmer Brooke), Edmund (Capt. T. S. Blackwell, 54th), Grimes, (Capt. T. L. Brown, 54th), Mrs. Eventide, (Mrs. Blackwell), Ellen, (Mrs. Brown). A great deal of the success was due to the exertions of the indefatigable Capt. J. W. Harkom, 54th, acted as stage manager. The band of the 54th performed one night, and the Richmond Cornet Band on the other. Close on \$200 was taken.

"LIV."

Montreal.

LAST week was an interesting one in the recreation department of the Victoria Rifles Armoury. A sweepstake bowling match, which has been going on for the two weeks ended with Sergt. E. H. Brown the winner.

A team match in the rifle gallery, six men a side, with the Prince of Wales Rifles, 7 shots each range, 200, 500 and 600 yards, was shot on Friday and resulted in a victory for the Victorias, but with little to spare. The totals by ranges were as follows:—

Vics—200.....	184	P. W. R.—200.....	174
500.....	170	500.....	148
600.....	146	600.....	167
	500		489

Third spoon match in series "B" was won by Pte. Cooke, V. R. C., with 46 points.

On Monday a team from the Montreal Athletic Association made its appearance in the bowling alley to carry out a challenge for 10 men a side with the Victoria Rifles, and won the match by 57 points, total scores being M.A.A.A. 1276, Vics 1219.

The same teams met again 24th inst. in a return match, the net result being still more unfavourable to the Rifles team, total scores being M.A.A.A. 1377, Vics 1237.

BUSBY.

THE BRIGADE MAJORITY.

There are said to be three applications for the brigade majorship of the 6th Military District, vacated by Col. Hughes. The most popular candidate in the Montreal district is Major Prevost, now commanding the 65th regiment in the absence of its commanding officer, the Hon. Mr. Ouimet, Speaker of the House. Major Prevost has never, as has been stated, severed his connection with the 65th. He succeeded in 1887 in being attached to the staff of one of the divisional corps of the French army, but had to give it up as the War Office refused to grant him permission to accept it. He has, therefore, never left the Queen's colours. He was in active service with his regiment in the North-West, has been in the militia for ten years, was second in command of the Wimbledon team in 1886, and has on several occasions acted as Brigade Major at district camps. He also holds a first-class certificate from the St. John's Military School, and is recommended for the position by the military authorities here as well as at Ottawa.—*Star*.

Quebec.

AS I think yours readers have not heard from Old Quebec for sometime, I venture to give you a few pointers about "the boys."

The 9th Voltigeurs turned out in full force last Thursday for the c. o.'s parade. The regiment looked exceedingly well, and the steadiness of their drill was much admired. The D. A. G. and several officers of the other city corps were present in mufti, and as usual the fair sex lent an additional charm to the proceedings by their presence. During the evening Mr. Chas. Thibandau, late of the Quebec Field Battery, presented a gold medal to one of the privates of No. 4 Co., as a prize in one of the late shooting competitions, and after drill the event was celebrated by the company in a convivial gathering of the most pleasant kind.

The 8th Royal Rifles, though rather short of men, and very short of officers, manages to keep up its old reputation for smartness and efficiently. They are looking forward to having a field day on the 10th, but if the present weather continues they will have no other than fields of "the beautiful."

The Q. O. C. Hussars and the Quebec Field Battery, are beginning to stir with the adgent of spring, like the bear at the citadel. However the bear found out he had come out too soon and had to go back to his hole in the snow. I hope this will not happen to our dashing mounted men.

Here is something that will interest "Linch-Pin:"—

How is it that in the Army List for January, '88, we find in the Colonial Militia, the list of the Canadian Militia corrected to the 14th November, 1883? Is it anybody's business at headquarters to keep the home authorities posted on that point? and if so, could it not be done every year? I notice that the other colonies are brought down to 1886 or 1887.

X POUNDER.

The Militia Pastime.

WITH your permission, Mr. Editor, which I shall take for granted until you suppress me, I propose to occupy some space in your columns week by week. My hobby is rifle shooting, and it has become pretty fully developed with the approach of seasonable weather.

I will first give a lift to your simultaneous rifle match idea, which does not appear to have been received with much enthusiasm, one having to search in vain through your issues of the past few weeks for the suggestions, endorsement or comment which you invited. Now, in India, where they have these things regularly, I believe the General Commanding interests himself in them. I have by me an address of General Roberts in this connection, in which he expressed his sense of the vital importance of accurate shooting, and held it to be the bounden duty of officers to encourage to their utmost rifle shooting among soldiers and volunteers. Experience in campaigns, he said, showed the great results achieved by a handful of men expert with the rifle, but it remained to be seen what could be effected if a brigade or division or a whole army corps were composed of crack shots. If he ever commanded an army in the field again, he should select those regiments who were not merely well drilled, but who had shown at a musketry range that they could shoot well. The General can find lots of good shooting stuff to choose from in India, judging from the scores made at this simultaneous match about which I started to write, and which was fired last fall. The rifle used must have been the Martini. Each team consisted of 10 men, and the conditions were—seven rounds a man at 200, 500 and 900 yards. The 2nd Warwickshire won with 918 points, Simla made 888, and the South Wales Borderers at Tounghoo made 847, the Scottish Borderers at Meerut 805, and 9th Dragoon Guards at Mhow 787. Highest possible score, 1,050.

THE more matches there are between cities, associations or regiments, the greater will be the public interest in the sport, and the wider will open the public purse in aid of its development. Just fancy what a boom will be given to rifle shooting were there are great weekly contests, as in lacrosse, cricket and other sports. Why, all the young fellows would be rushing to join the volunteers, and the sleepy musketry instructors would possibly wake up to a realization of the fact that their duties embrace more than to look grand on review day. Forestalling this possibility I will give here a few hints from an experienced musketry instructor on the methods of training recruits. He says: "The best method of teaching a beginner to shoot, after he has been well instructed in "preliminary practice" and aiming drill, is to let him fire a few rounds of ordinary ball cartridge into a sand bank, placing him at about 25 or 30 yards distance from it, making him use the three recognized "military positions," carefully scrutinizing every act as to the relative positions of fore-finger and trigger, check and butt, eye and sights etc., and when satisfied that the man is capable of letting off his rifle without "funking," then he may be safely taken to the regulation firing point and commence his classing. The utmost watchfulness on the part of the instructor is still necessary to see that the rifle is not accidentally fired in consequence of the finger being placed prematurely on the trigger, and to instantly stop the man should he show the least tendency to "funk" his shot. This is easily noticed, for when a man is nervous and is going to snatch at the trigger and "bob" the muzzle down, a peculiar twitching of the face occurs, which a practiced eye notices directly. By a little care, hundreds of bad ricochets would be prevented, and the safety of ranges ensured. Accidental shots are seldom fired. Ninety-nine per cent. of the mischievous ones and those that lead to ranges being closed are ricochets." All the musketry instructors I ever saw at camp or city class firing seemed to consider that they occupied on the range the position of taskmasters to make sure that the recruit in disposing of his ammunition did not hit anything which would suffer damage from the bullet.

To their discredit be it said, very few of our non-commissioned officers know enough about the rifle to be of the slightest assistance to a musketry instructor who, having a proper conception of his duties, finds himself unable to fulfil them alone in the allotted time. The reason is not far to seek. I know of no corps where a man has to pass a practical examination in rifle shooting in order to obtain his stripes. He gets his promotion perhaps because he is a good fellow socially, or if there is any examination it is only on the drill book, a parrot like repetition of which is too often looked upon as the great desideratum. It thus happens that the non-commissioned officers, the natural leaders of the men, have no interest whatever in rifle shooting, and general apathy results. If I ran a corps and could by any means raise the ammunition I would have half the drills done on the rifle range in place of in the drillshed. In England a volunteer must be able to attain a certain standard in shooting to be entitled to Government pay.

SPEAKING recently at Hyde in this connection, Sir Henry Dale was outspoken in declaring that each man who became a marksman was distinctly a point of defence for his country. A hundred marksmen, he considered, could hold out against an army. To his mind there was no nobler patriotism than that shown by the volunteers of England, men following all sorts of occupations, earning their bread by the sweat of their brow, giving up time for the greater security of England, for they formed a great insurance society, a society which preserved this country in peace and honour. Nothing had done greater good for England than the formation of the volunteers. During the twenty-eight years which they had existed many men had passed through the mill, and there was not one of them, however old he might be, who had not felt that the habits of discipline and regularity which volunteers cultivated had done him great good.

THE MAGPIE.

Militia General Orders (No. 7), of 20th April, 1888.

No. 1.—REGULATIONS AND ORDERS FOR THE MILITIA, 1887.

Organization—Commissions and Promotions.—The following is added as sub-section (2) to paragraph 81, Regulations and Orders for the Militia, 1887:—

"(2) It is to be understood that Artillery and Engineer Certificates will qualify for appointments or promotions in the Infantry.

Transport—The following is added as sub-section (2) of paragraph 608 of the Regulations and Orders, 1887:—

"(2) If the journey is to be made over more than one line of railway or public conveyance, a separate requisition will be issued for the transport required over each independent line. This is necessary in order to facilitate settlements, and prevent confusion in the accounts to be rendered by each company.

No. 2.—PERMANENT CORPS.

Travelling allowances on joining.—Officers appointed after the 1st of April, 1888, to a commission in one of the permanent corps, will be allowed transport and subsistence en route from their homes on joining, provided the distance is over 200 miles, or from the place where they are when their appointments are made, if the cost is not more. The journey when commenced must be continued without unnecessary delay. No allowance will be made for distances under 200 miles.

Each married officer will also be allowed transport and subsistence en route for his wife and children, provided they proceed with him, and the distance is over 200 miles.

Officers will only be entitled to free carriage for such furniture and baggage as the transport company carries free of charge with the passenger. Neither transport nor subsistence will be allowed for servants.

No. 3.—ACTIVE MILITIA.

2nd Regt. Cav.—No. 6 Troop.—To be captain, Lieut. Alex. Servos, R.S.C., vice Brown resigned.

Regt. Canadian Art.—To be quarter-master, from 9th April, 1888, with honorary rank of captain: Edward Palmer (formerly Paymaster Prince Edward Island Provisional Brigade of Garrison Artillery), vice White.

Quartermaster Palmer has been detailed for duty with "C" Battery.

Co. Mounted Infantry, Winnipeg.—To be lieut., from 6th April, 1888: Archibald Cameron Macdonell, Graduate Royal Military College.

Winnipeg Field Bat.—Lieut. A. G. Ross resigns.

1st Brig. Gar. Art.—To be majors: Capt. W. A. Garrison, R.S.A., vice Mowbray, promoted. Captain H. A. Boggs, R.S.A.

To be captains: Lieut. F. W. Parker, R.S.A., vice Garrison, promoted. 2nd Lieut. W. J. Stewart, R.S.A., vice Boggs, promoted.

To be lieutenants: 2nd Lieut. J. S. Dimock, R.S.A., vice Maxwell, promoted. 2nd Lieut. C. R. Reynolds, R.S.A., vice Parker, promoted.

2nd Lieut. James Donovan resigns.

2nd Batt.—To be 2nd lieuts., prov., Private Thomas Milner Harrison, vice Mercer, promoted.

Private Thomas Denton Derwent Llwyd, vice Johnson, promoted.

3rd Batt.—Lieut. and Adj. Duncan Macpherson, R.M.C., to have the rank of captain.

5th Batt.—To be 2nd lieut., prov., John Stephen Ibbotson, vice W. L. S. Jackson, who resigns.

6th Batt.—To be 2nd lieut., prov., Albert Knight Shorey, vice Chambers, promoted.

7th Batt.—No. 6 Co.—To be 2nd lieut. prov., Colour-Sergeant Alfred Colclough O'Brien, vice Cleghorn, resigned.

12th Batt.—No. 8 Co.—To be 2nd lieut., prov., Sydney Barrington Elliot, vice Williamson, resigned.

13th Batt.—To be captain, Lieut. S. C. Mewburn, V.B., vice J. C. Gillespie who retires with rank of lieutenant.

16th Batt.—To be major, Capt. M. D. Strachan, M.S., from the adjutancy, vice W. H. Orchard who retires retaining rank.

22nd Batt.—No. 7 Co.—To be captain, Lieut. W. F. Van Buskirk, R.M.C., vice Thos. Stoddart, left limits.

To be 2nd lieut., prov., Sergeant Charles Adolphe Beaupré, vice William Gray, left limits.

24th Batt.—Lieut. and Adj. J. B. Rankin, M.S., to have the rank of captain, from 13th April, 1888. To be major, Capt. J. B. Rankin, M.S., from the adjutancy, vice Brown retired.

32nd Batt.—No. 1 Co.—To be lieut., prov., Harry Smith, vice T. I. Thomson, left limits.

No. 2 Co.—To be 2nd lieut., prov., John Harold Ruettel, vice R. F. Robertson, who resigns.

35th Batt.—No. 5 Co.—To be 2nd lieut., prov., Bugler Charles Franklin Ward, vice J. F. Deane, who resigns.

39th Batt.—No. 2 Co.—To be lieut., prov., Private Thomas Robert Atkinson, G. M. Charters, who resigns.

51st Batt.—No. 6 Co.—This company, No. 6, having become non-effective is removed from the list of corps of the active militia.

The following officers are placed on the Retired List, retaining their respective ranks:—Capt. Richard Hayes, Lieut. Frederick S. Proper and 2nd Lieut. William Kingsbury.

54th Batt.—No. 6 Co.—To be lieut., prov., Staff-Sergeant William Richard Stevens, vice W. Mitchell left limits.
2nd Lieut. T. A. Bishop resigns.

57th Batt.—No. 5 Co.—Capt. Thomas Burke having left limits his name has been removed from the list of officers of the active militia, from 24th December, 1887.

59th Batt.—No. 6 Co.—To be captain, prov., Allan Howard Tinkiss, vice Smart, resigned.
To be lieut., prov., Frederick Warren, vice Robert N. Tinkiss, left limits.

63rd Batt.—To be 2nd Lieuts. Wm. Lester Kane, G.S. (formerly captain in the 1st Halifax Brigade of Garrison Artillery), vice Lostford Woolrich, deceased.
Sergeant Louis Dixon, M.S., vice J. A. Bell, left limits.

72nd Batt.—No. 1 Co.—To be 2nd Lieut. John Hawkins, M.S., (formerly 2nd lieutenant in this company), vice S. L. Tilley, who retires retaining rank.

No. 4 Co.—To be 2nd lieut., prov., Staff-Sergeant David Lauders Gates (S.I., 2nd B.), vice Beckwith, promoted.

74th Batt.—No. 4 Co.—To be 2nd lieut., prov., John Rupert Foster, vice Simpson, retired.

77th Batt.—No. 2 Co.—To be captain, prov., John Owen McGregor, vice James McMonies, who retires retaining rank.

No. 3 Co.—To be captain, Lieut. W. H. Ptolemy, R.S.I., from No. 2 Co., vice W. G. Fletcher, who retires retaining rank.

To be Assistant-Surgeon, James Anderson, vice Shaver resigned.

78th Batt.—No. 7 Co.—*Erratum.*—In No. 3 of G. O. (6), 6th April, 1888, read "New Larig" instead of New Laing."

82nd Batt.—No. 8 Co.—To be 2nd lieut., prov., Pte. James Morrison, vice George Bynon, left limits.

86th Batt.—No. 3 Co.—No. 5 of G.O. (5) 23rd March, 1888, is amended by substituting "To be captain: 2nd Lieut. Narcisse Grenier, M.S., from No. 6 Co., 80th Battalion," for "To be captain, prov., Narcisse Grenier."

88th Batt.—No. 5 Co.—To be 2nd lieut. prov., Edward Martin, vice Auguste Dumais, deceased.

BREVET.

To be major, from 6th April, 1887, Capt. Thos. A. Walker, V.B., No. 4 Co., 77th Battalion.

CONFIRMATION OF RANK.

Capt. Angus Carmichael, R.S.M.I., No. 3 Co., 96th Batt., from 5th April, 1888.

Lieut. G. A. Kobold, R.S.M.I., No. 3 Co., 96th Batt., from 5th April, 1888.

2nd Lieut. Geo. Percival, R.S.M.I., No. 2 Co., 95th Batt., from 5th April, 1888.

2nd Lieut. Henry Payne, R.S.I., No. 4 Co., 7th Batt.; from 10th April, 1888.

2nd Lieut. D. T. Ferguson, R. S. M. I., No. 3 Co., 96th Batt., from 5th April, 1888.

2nd Lieut. J. M. Dagneau, R.S.A., No. 2 Bat., Quebec Garrison Artillery, from 31st March, 1888.

No. 4.—CERTIFICATES GRANTED.

RANK, NAME AND CORPS.	Royal School.	Class.	Course.	Grade.	Percentage of Marks obtained		
					Written.	Practical.	Aggregate Percentage.
Lieut. J. C. DeWolf, 1st Halifax Bde. G. Art.	R.S.A	I	S	A	83	86	84
2nd Lieut. J. M. Dagneau, Quebec G. Art. . . .	"	I	S	A	68	79	73
Bomb. F. N. Donaldson, Prov. Bde. F. Art. . .	"	I	S	B	95	81	86
Bomb. J. W. Hart, Prov. Bde. F. Art.	"	I	S	B	95	79	85
Q. M. Sergt. J. Coombes, Hamilton F. B. . . .	"	I	S	B	89	88	88
Sergt. W. Fearnside, Hamilton F. B.	"	I	S	B	77	84	82
Sergt. R. E. Trumbull, Hamilton F. B.	"	I	S	B	88	81	84
Gunner R. Wiley, Woodstock F. B.	"	I	S	B	68	84	77
Gunner M. Brewer, Woodstock F. B.	"	I	S	B	56	84	73
Gunner J. R. Malsbury, Montreal Bde. G. Art.	"	I	S	B	70	78	75
Sergt. C. Daley, Digby By.	"	I	S	B	88	88	88
Corp. C. Taylor	"	I	S	B	88	78	82
Gunner P. Ernst, Mahone Bay By.	"	I	S	B	87	83	84
Gunner H. Smith, Pictou By.	"	I	S	B	91	75	81
Gunner G. A. Fisher, Pictou By.	"	I	S	B	81	79	80
Bomb. T. Ritchie, Pro. Bde. F. Art.	"	2	S	B	42	54	50
Gunner H. H. Cleugh, Prov. Bde. F. Art. . . .	"	2	S	B	71	67	68
Bomb. A. E. Hutchinson Durham F. B.	"	2	S	B	64	56	59
Bomb. T. Reynolds, Durham F. B.	"	2	S	B	60	44	50
Gunner A. Webster, Durham F. B.	"	2	S	B	52	51	51
Gunner H. Campbell, Hamilton F. B.	"	2	S	B	46	53	50
Gunner J. Dudley, Shefford F. B.	"	2	S	B	44	75	63
Gunner F. Skinner, Shefford F. B.	"	2	S	B	50	69	62
Gunner W. Rourke, New Brunswick B. F. A. .	"	2	S	B	57	75	68
Gunner J. Irvine, " " " " " " " " " " " "	"	2	S	B	54	57	56
Corp. D. Nolan, Levis By.	"	2	S	B	42	77	64
Capt. A. Carmichael, 96th Batt.	M. Inf.	I	S	A	92	66	79
Lieut. G. A. Kobold, " " " " " " " " " " " "	"	I	S	A	94	83	88
2nd Lieut. D. T. Ferguson, 96th Batt.	"	I	S	A	91	73	82
2nd Lieut. G. Percival, 95th Batt.	"	2	S	A	90	46	68
2nd Lieut. H. Payne, 7th Batt.	Inf.	2	Sp.	A	64	68	66

Correspondence.

[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.]

APPOINTMENTS TO COMMISSIONS IN THE PERMANENT CORPS.

To the Editor of the Canadian Militia Gazette:

SIR,—When the announcement was first made that the Government proposed to establish a military college for the purpose of imparting a complete education in subjects connected with, and necessary to, a thorough knowledge of the military profession, and of qualifying officers for command and for staff appointments, it was felt by those who had desired to obtain a higher military education that the time had at last arrived when this was possible. During 1878, a leading politician, objecting to the system under which the militia staff was appointed, said "they take an old officer and appoint him as a D. A. G. The office was a sinecure for life, and the man felt that he need not exert himself. Under this system all these D. A. G.'s would have to be replaced in the event of war. Not one of them would be of the slightest use." It is presumed this Minister knew whereof he was speaking, as the majority of staff appointments had been made by himself. This system is known as "the political system." To a system similar to this, a large number of permanent corps officers are undoubtedly indebted for their appointments; present and future candidates are and will also be guided by it.

It was evidently the intention that only graduates of the college and those militia officers who had successfully passed their examinations, would be selected to serve in the schools, and to fill staff appointments. But although the Government must be fully cognizant of the evils of the political system, they have been entirely governed, with a few exceptions, by it in their choice of officers; though, as General Luard puts it, "on their ability and example will depend the future of the militia of Canada; therefore none but officers of approved worth, and regularity of habits should be nominated."

If the fact is true, that some of the four unfortunates at the last long course examination were provisional officers from the permanent corps, it can scarcely be denied that "ability" and "approved worth" were the governing factors in their selection. We should make it our aim to have commissions in our permanent corps and staff appointments prizes which our graduates and young militia officers would be anxious and able to secure. Under the political system of appointments, we might possibly find that a young officer, attending a short course, whose capacity for receiving and giving instruction was not of the highest, but who is suddenly imbued with an idea that life in a permanent corps would be a happy one, becomes an applicant to fill an opportune vacancy. The commandant of the school, who—by the way is responsible for its efficiency—writes a confidential report to headquarters regarding the incapacity of the candidate. But through a mistaken idea of improving the militia, and backed up with powerful friends, the inefficient applicant becomes a provisional officer, and in time may or may not pull through his long course examination. This is a mere suppositious case, although it might happen in a degree more or less true. It is in fact doing the best to bring the corps into contempt. It is sincerely to be hoped that General Middleton had none of these officers in his mind when he recommended that all officers of the permanent corps should be senior in their respective ranks to all militia officers.

April 16th, 1888.

Fougass.

Portrait of a Hunter.

A head like a snake and a skin like a mouse;
An eye like a woman's, bright, gentle and brown;
With lions and back that could carry a house,
And quarters to lift him smack over a town.

Where the country is deepest, I give you my word;
'Tis a pride and a pleasure to put him along;
O'er fallow and pasture he sweeps like a bird,
And there's nothing to high, nor too wide, nor too strong.

Last Monday we rau for an hour in the Vale;
Not a bullfinch was trimm'd; of a gap not a sign.
All the nitches were double; each fence oad a rail,
And the farmers had locked every gate in the Inc.

I'd a lead of them all when we came to the brook;
A big one, a bumper, and up to your chin;
As he threw it behind him, I turned for a look;
There were eight of us had it, and seven got in.
—The Field.

Spain has made it, by absolute legislation, obligatory on managers of theatres in Madrid to light those buildings by electricity, to the total exclusion of gas. Six months are allowed in which to carry out this most important reform.

The Spanish correspondent of the *Progress Militaire* reports that Gen. Pando, who has been experimenting for some time, has invented a new projectile, which will probably be applicable to guns up to 24 c. m. The principle of the new shells depends upon the reaction of two substances, both liquid, or one liquid and the other solid, which, separated, are harmless but which being brought together by the shock of the projectile striking against any object, cause a violent explosion. Although Gen. Pando keeps the nature of his explosives secret, several substances are known which act in the manner described, and this property has been made use of in the "land torpedoes" of the Italians at Massowah.

The mineral discoveries in Alaska are making that territory increasingly valuable each year, and as it grows in population and importance the value of British Columbia as a dependency of England lessens. One Alaska mine, the Treadwell, on Douglas Island, in Lynn Channel, near the British boundary, is reported to yield an average of \$67,500, more than one-half of it from the concentrated sulphurets crushed on the spot. Besides, gold, silver, copper, lead and iron have been discovered in the country between the Yukon River and Mount St. Elias, which lies west of it. So the time is not distant when Alaska will yearly yield to the public treasury the full amount of its original purchase money, taking the percentage of revenue to each unit of population as the basis of the computation.—*U. S. Army and Navy Journal.*



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Correspondence on topics of interest to the Militia is invited. To ensure insertion of any communication the name and address of the writer must be forwarded with it. No name so communicated will be published without consent.

REGIMENTAL NEWS.

It is our desire to record all events of general interest transpiring in connection with each and every corps in the Dominion. That we may be kept posted, officers are respectfully requested to interest themselves in seeing that the news of their respective corps shall be forwarded to the MILITIA GAZETTE—if possible by some person chosen by them as regular correspondent.

Adjutants will greatly oblige by forwarding copies of regimental orders, especially those relating to promotions or transfers of non-commissioned officers and officers.

Reports of annual or other meetings of regimental or company clubs, etc., or rifle associations, should be forwarded by the secretaries as early as possible. Scores of rifle matches must be accompanied by full particulars as to description of rifle, distances, number of shots, etc.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

Advertisements of unobjectionable character will be inserted at reasonable rates, which will be made known upon application to the Manager.

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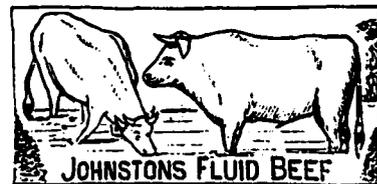
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