

THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE

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No. 7, of 31st October, 1889.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Topics of the Week.

Noticing our warning to the Toronto militiamen against allowing their rifle range to be closed by fair promises of compensating benefits to be conferred, the advocates of the measure reiterate their cry of alarm about the density of population having made it dangerous to continue the use of Garrison Common as a rifle range. Granted that this is so, a new problem presents itself: Is it possible to make the range one safe to use? We believe it could be made absolutely safe, and this at a cost which would be nothing compared to the expense to Government and to all shooting men involved in the carrying out of rifle practice on a range many miles out of the city.

Sir Adolphe Caron recently intimated that the extension of the militia system to the Northwest Territories is one of the probabilities of the near future; and it seems not unlikely that a proposition of that nature will come before Parliament at the approaching Session. This will be in response to a general demand from the Northwest, which constitutes a guarantee that the country is quite ready to take up volunteer soldiering, recognizing in it a healthy pastime as well as a safeguard against disorder. There are now in the territories a sufficient number of men, who in the East were known as enthusiastic volunteers, to form a well-trained nucleus for the territorial corps.

The Brigade Major of the Third and Fourth Military Districts has just set a worthy example to the officers of those districts. As will be seen from the General Orders published in this issue, Col. Lewis has, to brush himself up in the new drill, taken a course at the Royal School of Infantry, and has passed a very creditable examination, as might have been expected from an officer of his aptitude and experience, even though he has long-passed the age when men readily take such studies.

A reminiscence of the inception and first prize meeting of the Dominion Rifle Association, which appears in this issue, will be of great interest to the surviving marksmen of that period, to whom it will doubtless bring back many long forgotten pleasant incidents; and to the rifle men of the present as well, who cannot fail to note with surprise how radical has been the change in methods during the twenty-one years which have since elapsed. That the change has been for the better, no one will dispute. With, as then, only a few prizes for a multitude of competitors, the game was one of chance rather than of skill; for in rifle shooting no one can enter a single match with any confidence of being first, second or third, or even tenth or twentieth, out of three or four hundred competitors; but with the rewards more widely distributed, as

they have been of late years, the skilful man who has been faithful at his practice may be reasonably sure of obtaining a fair share of the prize money in compensation for his trouble and expense. The fact that the reminiscence is from the pen of Major Henry F. Perley, H.Q.S., an officer to whom the Dominion riflemen are not a little indebted for his unselfish devotion to their interests, will, we are sure, add largely to the interest with which it will be read.

Major-General Edwards, commanding at Hong Kong, has completed his inspection of the Australian defences. He recommends the federation of the forces, and the appointment of a lieutenant-general to act as adviser in time of peace, and to take the command in war time. Among General Edwards' other recommendations are the adoption of a uniform system of organization and armament, the establishment of a federal military college, the extension of rifle clubs, and the introduction of a uniform gauge on the railways. Sir Henry Parkes, the Premier of New South Wales, has addressed a communication to the Premiers of the other Australian colonies, in which he suggests that a consultation should be held with a view to federal action upon Major-General Edwards' recommendations.

Sir Frederick Roberts has once again been calling public attention to the lamentable lack of accurate shooting amongst the rank and file of the British regular army. The new rifle with which the army is about to be armed is reckoned the most perfect arm of precision yet placed in the hands of the infantry soldier. Used by a trained expert, it shoots well up to 2,500 yards, and perfect accuracy is guaranteed at medium ranges. But, says the *United Service Gazette*, "satisfactory results, even with this arm, ought not to be expected from the average soldier, so long as he is allowed so lamentably few opportunities per year of spending ball cartridge at the "butts." A certain proportion of our volunteer soldiers become good shots, chiefly because of the fact that they are, out of their own pockets, able to purchase ball cartridge. A regular soldier, whom his country expects shall acquit himself well on the field of battle, cannot afford, out of his limited pay, to get himself up at the butts, and hence it happens that, in the Transvaal and elsewhere, he has been placed at a great disadvantage in the presence of an enemy who can shoot straight at wonderful distances. A little less drill in the barrack square, and much more practice at the ranges than they get now, would tend to make our regular infantry considerably more efficient in the field than they at present are."

The defences of the rivers Thames and Medley against naval attack are to be strengthened by the construction of a new earthwork fort at Scarp's Gate, near Sheernees. The site of the present rifle butts, which is about forty yards from the sea wall, has been selected for the proposed fort, which will, therefore, immediately face the Nore light vessel, and will command the entrances to both the Thames and the Medway. The armament will consist of two 10-inch 30-ton steel breech-loading guns, and two 6-inch 5-ton breech-loading guns.

A Reminiscence.

By MAJOR HENRY F. PERLEV, H. Q. S.

As the Dominion Rifle Association has passed its twenty-first birthday, it may not be out of place to tell, for the information of its younger members, the story of its formation, and to give, tersely, an account of the first prize meeting.

Early in 1868, it was suggested that an Association, similar to the National of England, should be established in the Dominion, and its importance was brought to the notice of Sir George Cartier, the Minister of Militia, who at once saw the benefit which would result therefrom to the Force he had been so instrumental in creating in Canada, and he authorized the assembling of delegates from each of the Provinces, on the 1st April, 1868, in Ottawa, to draw up a form of Constitution, etc., for such an Association. As it was considered advisable that the organization should assume a national character, the attendance of all members of the Senate and Commons, then in session, connected with or interested in the Volunteer or Militia Force, was requested.

On the 1st April, the following delegates—who may be considered to be the originators of the Dominion of Canada Rifle Association—met as requested :

- | | |
|--|---|
| Lt.-Col. Moffatt, B. M. London | Lt.-Col. Higginson, 18th Bn. Hawkesbury |
| " R. Lewis, 7th Batt. " | Major A. Macdonald, 11th Bn. St. Andrews |
| Dr. J. Howitt, Guelph Rifle Club. Guelph | Lt.-Col. Osborne Smith, A. A. G. Montreal |
| Capt. McClenaghan, 22nd Bn. Woodstock | " McEachern, 50th Bn. Ormstown |
| Major C. Clarke, 38th Batt. Guelph | Thos. Morland, Esq. Montreal |
| Capt. Walker, 24th Batt. London | Lemuel Pope, Esq. ... Robinson, Compton |
| Lt.-Col. Brunel, 10th Batt. Toronto | Lt.-Col. Hon. C. Dunkin, M.P., |
| " Gillmor, 3rd Batt. " | 32nd Batt. Brome |
| " Fairbanks, 34th Batt. Oshawa | B. Chamberlin, Esq., M. P. ... Missisquoi |
| " Tisdale, 39th Batt. Simcoe | Lt.-Col. Cassault, A. A. G. |
| " Villiers, B. M. Hamilton | " Panet, 9th Batt. Quebec |
| Major Scoble, 37th Batt. | " Hon. J. G. Blanchet, M.P., |
| Lt.-Col. Dennis, B. M. Toronto | 17th Batt. Levis |
| Major Thompson, M. P., 37th Batt. | Michael Stevenson, Esq. Quebec |
| C. McGill, Esq., M. P. Hamilton | Lt.-Col. Gallwey, B. M. Montreal |
| John White, Esq., M. P. Halton | " Wily, Commandant. Ottawa |
| A. Lord Russell, Esq. Toronto | " Maunsell, A. G. Fredericton |
| Lt.-Col. Shaw, B. M. Kingston | " Beer. Sussex |
| " Paton, 14th Batt. " | " Hon. J. H. Gray, M. P. St. John |
| " Cubitt, 45th Batt. ... Bowmanville | " Hon. A. E. Botsford, Sen. ... N. B. |
| Major Langmuire, 16th Batt. Picton | " B. Weir, Senator. Halifax |
| Capt. Dumble, Cobourg G. B. ... Cobourg | " J. Bourinot, Senator ... Sydney |
| Lt.-Col. Jackson, B. M. Brockville | Capt. Thompson, Secretary N. S. |
| M. Clarke, Esq., M. P. Prescott | Pro. R. A. Halifax |
| Lt.-Col. Masson, M. P. Terrebonne | Capt. Myers Gray. " |

With these, quite a large number of Senators and M. P.'s assembled. Lt.-Col. Botsford was called to the chair, and Capt. (late Lt.-Col.) Stuart assumed the duties of Secretary. After an address by the Adjutant-General—Col. McDougall—and the subject and object for which it had been called had been fully and carefully explained, a committee of eleven was appointed to prepare and submit a scheme for the Constitution of the Association. This committee met and resolved itself into a select committee of three, viz.—Lt.-Col. Osborne Smith, Lt.-Col. Paton and Capt. Thompson, associated with whom was Lt.-Col. Beer, who drew up the several heads of a Constitution and submitted them to the committee.

On the 2nd April, printed copies of the proposed Constitution were distributed, and after the several clauses had been explained by Lt.-Col. Osborne Smith, they were read, discussed and passed, clause by clause. This Constitution in its general character was similar to that now in force, such corrections, amendments and alterations as were from time to time found to be necessary, having materially changed many of its clauses. At first the Council consisted of forty-two members, sixteen from Ontario, twelve from Quebec, seven from New Brunswick, and seven from Nova Scotia, four of whom were a quorum. The President was chosen by the Council from its members, but the Vice-Presidents were to be selected from among the members of the Association. The Council had the sole management of affairs, under by-laws passed by themselves. The annual prize meetings were to be held alternately in the different provinces, and the annual election was to be held at such time and place as the Council should select.

On the 3rd April, the delegates again assembled, and, in compliance with the 8th clause of the Constitution, which provided that the first Council should be elected by the delegates then assembled, and afterwards at an annual meeting, the following were elected :

- ONTARIO.
- | | |
|---|---|
| Allan Gilmour, Esq. Ottawa | Lt.-Col. Brunel, 10th Royals. Toronto |
| Lt.-Col. Higginson, 18th Bn. Hawkesbury | " Fairbanks, 34th Batt. Oshawa |
| W. J. Morris, Esq. Perth | Major E. O'Reilly, late 13th Batt. Hamilton |
| Lt.-Col. Dickinson (retired).... Cornwall | Judge McDonald. Guelph |
| " Shaw, B. M. Kingston | Capt. A Stephenson, M.P., 24th |
| " Paton, 14th Batt. " | Batt. Chatham |
| Capt. Dumble, Gar. Bt. Cohourg | Capt. McClenaghan, 22nd Batt. Woodstock |
| Lt.-Col. Cubitt, 45th Batt. ... Bowmanville | Lt.-Col. Moffatt, B. M. London |
| C. S. Gzowski, Esq. Toronto | |

QUEBEC.

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|--------------------------------------|---|
| Lt.-Col. Hon. J. G. Blanchet, | Thos. Morland, Esq. Montreal |
| M. P., 17th Batt. Levis | Chas. F. Smith, Esq. Quebec |
| Lt.-Col. A. B Foster. Quebec | Lt.-Col. Panet, 9th Batt. " |
| " R. Masson, M. P. ... Terrebonne | " Barwis, 55th Batt. |
| " F. Marchand, 21st Batt. St. John's | " J. Grant, 5th Batt. Montreal |
| " C. J. Coursol. Montreal | Lemuel Pope, Esq. ... Robinson, Compton |
| " A. McEachern, 50th Bn. Ormstown | |

NEW BRUNSWICK.

- | | |
|--|--|
| Lt.-Col. Hon. A. E. Botsford, | Lt.-Col. Hon. J. Ferguson, Sen. Bathurst |
| Senator. Westmoreland | " F. B. Beer, 2nd Batt. ... Sussex |
| Lt.-Col. Hon. J. H. Gray, M. P. St. John | " W. M. Jarvis, 3rd Batt. St. John |
| " " J. Robertson, Sen. | John Boyd, Esq. " |

NOVA SCOTIA.

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| Lt.-Col. Hon. A. G. Jones, M.P., | Lt.-Col. L. DeV. Chipman. Kentville |
| H. G. A. Halifax | " Hon. J. Bourinot, Sen. ... Sydney |
| Lt.-Col. Hon. B. Weir, Senator. | Major A. K. MacKinlay. Halifax |
| " J. Hudson. | Hon. John Locke, Senator. ... Shelburne |

A committee composed of the Chairman, the Hon. A. E. Botsford; Hon. Lt.-Col. Dunkin, Hon. Lt.-Col. Blanchet, Lt.-Col. Masson and Lt.-Col. Tisdale, was appointed to wait on the Minister of Militia, as a deputation from the delegates, for the purpose of acquainting him with the proceedings of their meetings, to present a copy of the Constitution, and to "respectfully express to him their earnest hope that the Government will make an appropriation in aid of the objects of the Association."

After a few more resolutions, and a vote of thanks to the Chairman and Secretary, were passed, the work of the delegates was declared to have been completed, and their duties ceased.

Following the dissolution of the meeting of the delegates, a meeting of the Council was held, at which Lt.-Col. Botsford was elected president, Lt.-Col. (then Captain) Stuart secretary, and Col. (then Lt.-Col., D.A.G.) Powell treasurer. A code of by-laws was also framed and adopted, and a finance committee and auditors were appointed, when an adjournment was made until the 5th May, at which a committee was appointed to arrange for the first annual prize meeting at Montreal, and it was resolved that "one-third, as a minimum of the whole funds of the Association be devoted to encouraging the practice of rifle shooting, by allotting such amount in prizes to be divided amongst all affiliated societies in such proportion as the Council may from time to time determine upon."

The Council appear to have met often and to have been well attended. Laprairie was selected as the range, and the "Wimbledon" regulations of 1867, with necessary modifications, were adopted. The Government appropriated \$5,000 and a prize list was prepared.

At the meeting of the Council in August, 1868, it was decided that officers who had retired retaining rank would be permitted to compete in volunteer matches, but that officers, n. c. o. and men who had served five years and retired should not be permitted to compete. Short Snider rifles and Spencer rifles could be used in all matches, and the "regulations" permitted "any description of rifle" in matches open to all-comers, the shooting to be in "any position," and in "All-Comers" and "Dominion" matches, any competitor who did not score 8 points at the first range was disqualified from further competition in these matches. In other matches the disqualification was placed at 4 points.

At this meeting Lady Macdougall presented her well known cup, with the conditions that it should be competed for by "all efficient volunteers or militiamen of the Dominion of Canada, being members of the Dominion of Canada Rifle Association, with Snider-Enfield rifles, no artificial rests, five rounds each at 400 and 600 yards, any competitor failing to score 8 points at the first or 400 range to be disqualified, and to be won two years in succession by the same person before becoming the property of the winner.

The first match of the Association commenced on the 15th Sept. at Laprairie, and was attended by some 425 competitors, as it is somewhat difficult to ascertain exactly the number present from the statement published in the report of 1868. The matches in which entries were made were the "All-Comers," "Dominion," "Provincial," "All-Comers International," "Affiliated Association," "Military District," "Battalion Match," "Military Match," and the "Macdougall."

The "All-Comers" was shot in two stages; the first, open to all, at 400 and 600 yards; and the second, open only to the 40 highest scores in the first stage, at 800 and 1000 yards. The prize list in this match was as follows :

FIRST STAGE.		
5 highest scores.	\$20.00 each.	\$100.00
10 second highest scores.	10.00 "	100.00
10 third highest scores.	5.00 "	50.00
SECOND STAGE.		
1st prize.		250.00
2nd "		100.00
<hr/>		
27 prizes for 425 competitors. Total.		\$600.00

The first prize, second stage, was won by R. A. Field, Esq., of Montreal, with a score of 30 points, and the second by Lieut. Macdougall, 5th Bn. (Royal Lt. Infantry), Montreal, with 27 points.

In the "Affiliated Match," one prize of \$200 to the winning association, one prize of \$50 to the highest individual score, and ten prizes of \$15, and ten of \$5, were offered to be shot at 300, 600 and 900 yards, three shots at each range. The main prize was won by the five members of the Victoria Rifle Association of Hamilton, with a score of 132, and the prize of \$50 was captured by Mr. J. Cawker, Victoria Club, Hamilton. Twenty-two associations competed, and local associations entered side by side with provincial associations, those of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick being the only ones represented.

The "Battalion Match" was competed for by six officers, n. c. o. or men from each battalion, who were members of the D. R. A. or an affiliated association. The first prize was \$250, and was won by the 8th Royal Rifles of Quebec, the first individual prize of \$30 by Corpl. Andrews, Victoria Rifles, and the second, of \$20, by Pte. Mullins, 14th Bn. The match was fired at 300 and 500 yards, 5 shots at each range, and the individual possession of the prize of \$250 was to be decided upon by three shots at 500 yards. Thirty-nine battalions entered.

The "Dominion of Canada" was competed in two stages, the first stage at 300, 400 and 500 yards, in which the first thirty received \$20 and a first class badge each, and the second thirty \$10 each and a second class badge. The second stage was shot by the sixty winners in the first stage at 600 and 700 yards, five rounds at each range, and the prize of \$500 and special badge was won by Lt.-Col. Jackson, Brigade Major.

The "Macdougall Challenge Cup" was shot for for the first time, being the only prize; 401 competitors entered, and Pte. A. May, 19th Batt., St. Catherines, won with a score of 35.

An "All-comers International Match," open to all-comers of any nation, and any rifle within Wimbledon regulations, was shot at 400 and 800 yards, five shots at each range. The first prize of \$300 was won by Capt. Piers of Nova Scotia, and the second, \$100, by Capt. McLean of Brockville. Ten prizes of \$15 each were also awarded.

The "Provincial Match" was shot by 15 competitors from each province, at 300, 400 500 and 600 yards, five shots at each range, the first prize, a piece of plate of the value of \$800, which was won by the Province of Quebec, and three individual prizes of \$50, \$30 and \$20, which were won by Major McAdam, of New Brunswick, Sergt. Campbell of Nova Scotia, and Corpl. Raith, 54th Batt.

The first prize in the "Military District" match, \$400 in plate or money, was won by ten competitors from Lt.-Col. Atcherley's district (Brockville and Prescott). Ensign Wilmot of New Brunswick took the first individual prize of \$50, the ten next taking \$10 each, and the following ten \$5 each.

The medical men had a little shoot all to themselves, and the only prize, a silver cup presented by a gentleman in Montreal, was won by Dr. Bunting, N. B. Artillery. Seven doctors entered the lists at 200, 400 and 600 yards, five shots at each range, and the highest made 31 and the lowest 10, the winner hitting the target *once* at 600 yards.

A "Military Match" with a prize list of \$205, open to n.c.o.'s. and men of H. M. regular forces stationed in Canada, was shot at 300, 400 and 600 yards, three shots at each range, but as the score sheets were destroyed by fire the winners' names are not given in the report.

During the "All-comers" match it was ascertained that two or more were using the same rifle, and on the matter being brought to the notice of the Council, it was ordered that such procedure would not be allowed. The question of "what constituted a fixed artificial rest" was brought up for solution, and it was decided that a competitor might take advantage of natural inequalities of the ground at the firing point to rest his arm or hand upon, but the rifle should not touch the ground, the "firing point" to be confined to "five feet on each side of the distance stake and ten feet to the rear of it." The Council passed a by-law for the meeting "for the purpose of debarring contestants from the aid afforded by the use of a telescope, and an assistant at the firing point."

Towards the funds of the association in this the first year of its existence, the Dominion Government contributed \$5,000, special donations from the City of Montreal \$2,804.73, from members \$276, from affiliated associations \$1,363, special donations \$250, cups \$1,000, entrance fees \$1,202.25, from sighters, etc., \$230, and from license to restaurant booth \$110.

It is not desirable to place infantry in rear of artillery; for the guns should always be relied on to protect their own front, and infantry in the rear of them would not be in the best position for protecting the flanks, which are the weakest points; while the fire of the small arms would be masked until the enemy had penetrated the battery and an increased depth of formation would be offered to the enemy's projectiles.—*Hamley*.

The New Manual of Field Artillery Drill.

(United Services Gazette.)

Living as we do in an age when all sciences are more or less in a state of fusion and development, and when every month brings forth some unexpected change, it is not surprising that text-books and manuals follow one another with startling rapidity, and that what is decided on to-day is obsolete sometimes ere it appears in official type.

The Germans, the French, and the English have all recently brought out new regulations for the drill and tactics of their armies, and our new Artillery manual is the latest product of the age of progress. In noticing it we first will allude to its outward form, which, being in three handy volumes, is most convenient and suitable for being carried about. The loss of the old cumbersome single volume will not be regretted.

The first volume most logically comprises those portions of drills and exercises that are required in preparing the recruit or remount for his place on parade, and likewise contains those parts of the gunner's education that may be considered secondary and subsidiary, such as cavalry sword exercise, carbine drill, the ridiculous pantomime known as sword-bayonet exercise, and foot parade. Nothing very original or striking is here to be noted, and matters are left much where they were and have been for some time.

But in the second volume, which contains Chapters IV., V. and VI., of the Manual we find considerable improvements, and much that will be of immense value in the education of the gunner is here collected in a convenient and handy form. The remarks on theoretical gunnery strike us as particularly practical, and without unduly dwelling on more or less scientific terms and details give a sufficient insight into the laws on which the science of gunnery is based. Some excellent diagrams very clearly illustrate the meaning of the gunnery terms employed, while the descriptions of the *matériel* in use are simple and exhaustive, and are moreover also materially supplemented by the elaborate plates which accompany them.

Officers will for the future find all they require to teach their men within the covers of this official text-book, and no other manuals will be needed. This will be a considerable convenience in camp or on manoeuvres, where every additional article that has to be carried with his kit is an encumbrance to the officer.

We gladly welcome likewise the portion (section 8) which is devoted to instruction in shooting. As is well remarked in the commencement, "to shoot well is the chief attainment of Artillery," and the best battery is that which can hit with the greatest certainty. A few years ago this most important branch of a battery's efficiency was, we fear, somewhat overlooked, and more attention was paid to celerity of movement and smartness on parade. Our gunners are now, however, on their mettle, and they are beginning to realize their true *raison d'être*, and without neglecting appearance look for something else besides from those under their command.

Chapter V., which deals with the employment of artillery in the field, is also well thought out, and comprises in a small compass all that has recently been decided by the experts who have written on the tactics of the arm. Chapter VI. is full of much miscellaneous information, some of which was in the old manual, but a great deal of which is new. We especially notice the more amplified instruction for the entraining and disentraining of guns and horses, and the embarkation and disembarkation of the same. The section on the disablement of guns by means of guncotton is a most useful addition, and supplies a detailed mass of information that it would not otherwise be easy for an officer to lay his hand on in a sudden emergency.

Chapter VII., which forms the commencement of the third volume, contains all that applies to the equipment of horses and carriages. We notice an innovation in the rules of the equipment of officers, and the table showing the weights of the various articles carried by the horse and his rider. Information on these points is not often easy to arrive at, and is of great value to those who take an interest in their profession.

An alteration in nomenclature will here also be observed, which will be a distinct improvement, and will go far to do away with the present confusion arising from the various meanings that have had up to the present to be attached to the same terms employed in our military vocabulary. The artillery "division," as the third of a battery, or subaltern's command, has hitherto been called, has disappeared, and is replaced by the more intelligible word "section." The equally misleading "brigade," which used to signify a collection of two or three batteries, has likewise been abolished, and the modern term "brigade division" is substituted.

So far we have only had to speak with approval, and have come across nothing but what is useful and indispensable. Some, however, of the

movements that are still in Chapter VIII., which deals with the instruction of the battery and brigade mounted, might, we think, have been omitted with advantage: Manœuvres such as changing front on the central sub-division, and "left," or "right back," would never be attempted except on the parade ground, and are merely useful as exercises in driving. Driving can be equally well taught without burthening the minds of the officers and men with details which they would only learn to forget on service, and the time spent on perfecting a battery in all the various evolutions still comprised in the drill book might be more advantageously employed in teaching gunnery, and all that tends to make a man a good shot.

The greatest artillerist of the age has gone so far as to say that the advance "in line" and "column of route" are all the movements a battery need find use for in the presence of the enemy. While still believing in the value of drill evolutions as calculated to improve discipline, horsemanship, and driving, we still think they should be kept as simple and few as possible, and therefore regret that the pruning knife has not been more courageously applied in the present case. With these slight exceptions, however, we feel sure that the new Manual will be warmly welcomed by officers, and especially by those who take an interest in the practical work of their profession. It may be accepted as an earnest that the authorities are alive to the points of real value in a battery, and that practical efficiency will in future attract more attention than a showy superficial excellence. We have so few guns that we must look to them all to hit, and hit hard.

Regimental and Other News.

An interesting meeting took place in Montreal recently, when the Sergeant-Majors of the nine corps there met for the first time, and had a beneficial discussion on matters pertaining to the welfare of the Montreal militia generally, and of the non-commissioned ranks in particular. The Sergeant-Majors had hitherto been unacquainted with each other. The initiative step in bringing about the meeting was made by Sergeant-Major Gardner, of the Vics. Now that the ice has been broken it is proposed to have meetings periodically, and a regular organization of Sergeant-Majors will be established.

THE QUEEN'S OWN RIFLES.

Five hundred and twenty-seven officers and men turned out for the Queen's Own parade last week. After assembling at the drill shed they marched, under command of Major Sankey, to the corner of Jarvis and Wilton avenue, preceded by an advance guard. From there they marched to Church street, and thence to Wellington street pavement, where they practised the manual exercise, general salute and the march past. On the return of the regiment to the shed it was announced that Private Pearson had been promoted to be corporal in "E" Company, vice Hector, promoted; Corporal Thorn to be sergeant in "G" Company, vice Sanson, discharged; and Private Capp to be Corporal in "G" Company, vice Thorn, promoted.

The following names were also read out as having qualified as marksmen for the year 1889:

Battalion's best shot, Staff Sergt. Harp, D Company. Silk cross guns:—Color-Sergt. Donnelly, A Company; Corp. Duncan, A Company; Corp. Westman, A Company; Priv. Westman, A Company; Priv. Meadows, A Company; Priv. McNeil, A Company; Priv. Turner, D Company; Corp. Agnew, F Company; Corp. Bryant, F Company; Sergt. Sanson, G Company; Corp. Thorn, G Company; Sergt. Brooks, K Company. Worsted Cross Guns:—Sergt. Owen, C Company; Corp. Batstone, C Company; Priv. Blainey, D Company; Priv. Dewdney, D Company; Priv. Matthews, E Company; Corp. Cockburn, E Company; Priv. Davison, F Company; Priv. Argles, H Company; Bugler Scott.

After the parade Captain Macdonald presented the prizes won at the recent matches to the fortunate shots in "G" Company.

Fort Mississagua.

A correspondent of the Toronto *Empire* thus writes concerning the historic past, which it is the intention of the Dominion Government to in part restore so as to preserve it as a relic:

"After the burning of Niagara in December, 1813, by the enemy when they evacuated the town, the ruins of it were gathered up and built into a fort in 1814, and this fort, together with the American Fort Niagara—which had been captured by our troops in December, 1813, and the Canadian Fort George on the other side of the town—formed together such a strong triangle of defence that the American army of regular troops and their best generals—under Brown, Riely and Scott—which invaded the Niagara frontier in June, 1814, and marched full of confidence down to Niagara, were suddenly held in check by the concentrated fires of Fort Mississagua, Fort George and Fort Niagara, and could make no impression upon them. The invading army was victor-

iously repulsed, and retreated back the road they came, followed up by the British troops under Riall and Drummond, when the great battle of Lundy's Lane, July 25, completed their overthrow, and the enemy fled to Fort Erie and again evacuated Canada, and sued for peace by sending Henry Clay, the main author of the war, to London to make peace on any terms available. In these important events Fort Mississagua played its part bravely and nobly. It deserves an honourable place in our history and is worthy of the reparation which the government is bestowing on its time-honoured walls.

"It is worth mentioning in this connection that at this moment the United States Government is repairing Fort Niagara, opposite Mississagua, and will expend \$300,000 upon it in the next two years. That fort is in a bad state for needed repairs. So long as the Democratic party were in power they would not do anything, the locality of the fort being in a Republican county, but now that the Republicans are in power at Washington, large sums are to be expended for repairs. That is the way of American federal finance, still it is gratifying to us to hear that a fort which was once ours is to be rescued from ruin and decay."

The Rifle.

The new Mauser magazine rifle has been definitively adopted for the re-armament of the Belgian army. The manufacturers will have to furnish 300,000, and the cost of each rifle will be about 80 francs.

On the occasion of the distribution of prizes by Lady Roberts, at the Simla rifle meeting, says the Calcutta correspondent of the *Times*, the Commander-in-Chief, in the course of his speech, insisted on the necessity of good shooting in the battlefield. It is better not to fire at all than to fire wildly. Mentioning the new weapon which is to replace the Martini, he said that with the new rifle he expected that the men would be able to put a bullet through a loophole at 400, and pour rapid volleys into enclosures at 2,500 yards. Marksmanship was a tradition of the English race. Musketry had been placed on such a firm basis in the army in India, that the necessity of mastering it, both theoretically and practically, was hardly ever disputed. The scores of the present meeting showed a marked improvement. Referring to the simultaneous match, he congratulated the 7th Dragoon Guards on winning it, especially mentioning Private Phillips, who made 35 at 200, 34 at 500, and 33 at 600 yards—a total of 102 out of a possible 105. This is characterised as magnificent shooting. The Diana competition was won by his daughter at the highest possible score of 35.

The latest eclipsing of team shooting performances was done recently by a team of ten members of H Company of the 2nd Liverpool in a match fired at Wrexham. The grand total of the team was 920 points—an average of 92 points per man, and its members were: Lieut. Burrell, 96; Pte. Skinner, 95; Pte. Paul, 94; Pte. Thornton, 94; Pte. Dodd, 94; Corpl. Hooton, 92; Major Davison, 90; Lieut. Baker, 90; Lieut. McCann, 88; and Sergt. McCoy, 87.

It is feared that Hythe as a school of musketry instruction is doomed, for a large new school on exactly the same lines has been formed at Aldershot, where, it seems, everything in the way of army shooting is being gradually concentrated. The reason of the new school being brought to Aldershot is not far to seek, and is a good omen that our soldiers will very soon have the new repeating rifle in their hands. That weapon will shoot with accuracy up to 2,000 yards, and the ranges at Hythe do not give a greater length than a thousand. For a few years the lesser ranges at Hythe will be used, but instruction at the longer ranges will be given at Aldershot.

Capt. Chase, of the Massachusetts Volunteer Militia, writing on the subject of real proficiency with the rifle, says: "Rifle-shooting calls for peculiar qualities of mind and body, and as steadiness is pre-requisite, it exacts much of every man who would excel. The training is severe, with constant self-denial, and that a man is a first rate all-round shot is *prima facie* evidence that he is in good form and possessed of abundant self-control, qualities that go to make up a good citizen as well as capable soldier. For such competitions as those in England and the annual meeting at Creedmoor when the army and volunteers cross rifles, experience goes a long way, and tried men are most desirable. It is perhaps natural that that the team is made up about the same, and that once on, is a *quasi patent* to a permanent place. . . . The possibility of being called into service seems so remote it becomes overlooked and and some men value their rifles if at all more for the medals to be won, than as the final recourse to sustain their country in a crisis. . . . Now, as to qualifications for marksmanship: Where practicable, armoury firing with reduced charge is most desirable instruction, but it should go without the saying that no man, new to the rifle, ought to fire on a range before practice in the *aiming drill*—it is a waste of ammunition, and too often develops a slouchy, hopelessly uncertain shot. In almost every company there are a few fairly good marksmen who can 'expend' the

whole company allowance of powder and shot, and profitably enough for themselves, improving the shooting and turning out a very respectable company team; men to be encouraged, a healthy leaven, but a leaven that must work and raise the whole company standard. Such men can do much in helping along new shots, giving freely, frankly, and fully of their experience, with a generous desire to have their company stand well as a company, and to be good soldiers for the commonwealth; and surely none would admit wearing the cloth for any other end."

The result of the simultaneous match, fired all over India on September 25, has been most exciting. The 7th Dragoon Guards was first with 913 points; the Seaforth Highlanders next with 905 points; the Musketry School at Changla Galli was third with 897 points; and the Allahabad Station team fourth with 889 points. The winning team will be presented with a miniature shield with an inscription to each member.

At the old shooting ground of the N.R.A. at Wimbledon, there was only one range for both the "running deer" and the "running man" targets, consequently, these had to be shot at on alternate days, much to the inconvenience of those who used hunting rifles. At "Bisley," the new Wimbledon, they are making separate ranges for the "deer" and the "man," which is a great improvement, and will admit of daily shooting for hunting rifles, without being interfered with by having to give way to the Martinis.

The Latest Issued Martini.

An issue of "Mark IV" Martini rifles is now being made to some of the English Volunteers; and, with the natural desire to be possessed of the very latest, others who still have to use the Mark III's or earlier issues are complaining that they will be thereby handicapped. It appears that there are not yet manufactured enough Mark IV's to go round. Noticing a letter embodying this plaint, Bandmaster T. W. Heath, of the 18th Middlesex Regiment, writes to the *Volunteer Record* to show that the superiority of the new issue is perhaps more fancied than real. He says:

"As a member of the first regiment which has been served out with this rifle, and having examined several, for the information of your correspondent I beg to offer the following remarks:—The rifling is the same as Mark 3. The block of the foresight is sloped away to enable it to receive the new sword-bayonet, easier fixing and unfixing. The lever is three inches longer, to give greater purchase in extracting the cartridge cases. It is not near so handy in holding the rifle at the shoulder, as the loop is too far down to allow the fingers to close under. Also, when lying down (extracting) the rifle must be canted on one side, or held higher from the ground, to allow the lever to work. If canted to the left, it throws the cases in the firer's face.

"In rapid firing it is a disadvantage, as the right hand has to travel further, the motion being longer; it takes more time to extract. Another point is open in my mind as doubtful—whether this rifle is as good as Mark 3, as these rifles were the small bores made for the army, and have been *re-bored*. It is a question in boring a tube, whether the metal will stand the boring machine, without, in some cases, bulging slightly, and not producing such accurately made rifles, generally, as we have received hitherto. The grooves do not appear to me to be smooth and perfect as the old rifle. For the above reasons, I do not think those regiments who have them have any advantage over the Mark 3 rifle."

In Canada the Mark III, not long issued here, have become prime favourites; and some of the best known shots are quite content to use them rather than rifles by private makers. Several of the high prizes taken by our men at Wimbledon this year, were won with the Mark III Government issue.

The Lebel Rifle.

Reports continue to come in of the wonderful performance of the Lebel rifle, the new arm now being supplied to the French infantry. What with the smallness of the calibre and the velocity imparted by the smokeless powder, the trajectory is so flat as to make the accuracy of the piece simply phenomenal. The latest achievement to hand is that of Lieut. Malteste of the marines, who succeeded the other day, at Toulon, in transforming a five-franc piece into a veritable ring in three shots at a distance of 200 meters, or 218 yards. Lieut. Malteste always enjoyed the reputation of a crack shot, but he was never able to make such a showing with any other rifle than a Lebel. According to the latest reports furnished to the world, the daily product of the rifle is said to be 1,000. There are 5,000 machines employed in its manufacture at St. Etienne, 2,000 at Châtellerault, and 1,200 at Toul. Up to September of last year 580,000 rifles of the new pattern had been delivered, but in no instance was a single Lebel accepted until 5,000 cartridges were ready for it. In general appearance the Lebel rifle resembles a Hotchkiss repeating arm, such as is in use in the United

States navy, in all but the barrel arrangement. The magazine of the Lebel is under the barrel: in the case of the Hotchkiss it is in the stock. The Lebel carries eight cartridges in its magazine, the Hotchkiss seven cartridges. The Lebel is fitted to receive a sword bayonet of a quadrangular shape. With bayonet fixed the extreme length is 71.8 inches; without the bayonet the piece measures 51.4 inches in length. But it is the calibre of the piece that calls for special note. In this instance a minimum is .3142 and maximum .3228 inch. The total weight of the piece, with magazine full, is 9.713 pounds. The sight is graduated for a range of 2,187 yards, a distance greater than in any service arm in use. It bears strong comparison to the extreme twelve hundred yard range of the Springfield rifle in the United States service.

The bullet is necessarily very small in diameter, but it makes up in weight by reason of its length. The latter 1.181 inches, with a weight of 231.48 grains. Some idea of the tremendous muzzle velocity of this small projectile can be had when it is known that it will pierce over 15 inches of solid oak at a distance of nearly 220 yards from the muzzle of the gun. When performing this feat, the muzzle velocity is no less than 2,194 foot-seconds. Of course, it must not be understood that black powder gives this result. The Lebel bullet is propelled by the mysterious smokeless powder, a secret compound known to have for its principal ingredients gun cotton and collodion. Besides being smokeless, the powder creates but little noise on explosion and gives only slight recoil. So far the only objection which has been raised against the new compound, is the strong stifling stench it causes. This is said to be little short of suffocating in its effect when a battalion is firing on a comparatively still day. What the effect would be on troops firing from houses and behind barricades can be in a measure imagined. The Lebel bullet, in order to render it the more efficient in penetration, is coated with nickel, the rifle's grooves being taken by soft metal ridges. It has been reported recently that a new cartridge has been invented which is superior to the regulation 86 M. The new explosive, it is said, requires no metallic case, which, in consequence, reduces the weight 277 grains. At a distance of 107 yards from the gun the Lebel bullet is said to traverse .433 inches of iron. Last year a comparative test was made between the Lebel rifle and the old Gras rifle. The test was conducted at St. Cyr and was to determine the relative merits of the two arms in target practice. A company of infantry was armed with the Lebel rifle and another infantry company with the Gras rifle. At 400 meters (437 yards) the former made 180 hits in 200 shots, and the latter only 80 hits under the same conditions. The firing with the Lebel was completed in forty seconds, without noise and without smoke. The firing with the Gras produced a dense cloud of smoke, which interfered with the accuracy of aim.

Experiments were made lately by the French Academy of Medicine to determine the wounding effects of the bullet from the Lebel rifle. Twenty corpses were placed standing at ranges of 218, 434, 656, 1,993, 1,531, 1,749 and 2,187 yards. The apertures were very small, and the cure of the wounds would have been difficult. At less than 328 yards the bullet made very large flesh wounds which would have proved almost incurable. The Lebel bullet was found to pass through the bone when it struck full, and produced fracture only when the impact was tangential. It was liable to deformation only at long ranges; the bullet did not flatten entirely, the lead formed in small points on the surface, and the points remained in the wound, rendering its treatment more complicated.—*Exchange*.

A useful practical application of the telephone to military, railway, and other purposes has been effected by Messrs. Mix & Genest, telegraph engineers, of Berlin. This apparatus is contained in a case 12 in. long by 6 in. wide and 8 in. deep, which, for general purposes, is slung by a strap in front of the user. This case contains a dry cell battery, a magneto bell, and an induction coil. In some instances, where it is desirable that the sound of the bell should not be heard, the Neef hammer is substituted for it, and is used as a means of calling attention between the communicating parties. The case also contains a combined receiving and transmitting apparatus, which is fixed with Mix & Genest's microphone as a transmitter, the apparatus being conveniently made for application to the ear and mouth. For field purposes an outpost equipped with the apparatus proceeds to the front, his telephone being in communication by a wire with that of the field watch, the latter being again in telephonic communication with headquarters to the rear. A number of outposts, either infantry or cavalry, may be on duty at the same time and in communication with the field watch, who will transmit to headquarters the reports received from the outposts. At the trials the apparatus worked clearly and well. It is also applicable to railway, mining and other similar purposes. It is suggested that a portable telephone might be carried with every train, so that in the event of accident the guard should be able to communicate with the nearest station by making a connection with the conductor of his instrument and a wire carried along the line.

Militia General Orders (No. 7) of 31st October, 1889.

No. 1.—DISTRICT STAFF.

Lieut.-Col. F. M. Pope, whose appointment was notified in General Orders (14) 2nd August, 1889, will assume the duties of Brigade Major of the 3rd and easterly part of 2nd Brigade Division, Quebec, with headquarters at Sherbrooke.

No. 2.—ROYAL MILITARY COLLEGE OF CANADA.

MILITARY STAFF.—Lieut. James Alexander Moren, Royal Artillery, lately appointed to the staff of the Royal Military College as assistant instructor of mathematics, has been taken on the strength of the establishment from 26th August, 1889.

No. 3.—ACTIVE MILITIA.

1st Reg. Cav.—To be major, prov., William Moir Gartshore, from retired list of majors, vice W. Dempster, retired.

Capt. and Adj. Cavendish Neville retires retaining rank.

8th Cav.—Assist.-Surg. Walter Jenks Norfolk, M.D., resigns.

Welland Canal Field Bat.—The appointment of 2nd Lieut. George Ecclestone, notified in General Orders (16) 27th September, 1889, is antedated to 17th September, 1889.

British Columbia Brig. Gar. Art.—No. 3 Bat.—To be lieut., prov., E. W. Matthews, vice W. J. Quinlan, promoted.

Montreal Brig. Gar. Art.—To be capt.: 2nd Lieut. T. A. Grathern, R.S.A., vice W. H. Lulham, retired; 2nd Lieut. E. H. Bissett, R.S.A., vice J. Lewis, resigned.

To be lieuts.: 2nd Lieut. W. D. Macfarlane, R.S.A., vice C. S. Campbell, resigned; 2nd Lieut. R. Costigan, R.S.A., vice J. A. Finlayson, promoted; 2nd Lieut. C. H. Anderson, R.S.A., vice L. R. Gregor, promoted.

Levis Gar. Art.—No. 1 Bat.—To be 2nd lieut., prov., from 1st August, 1889, La Parré Marsan, vice Louis Adelard Turgeon, failed to qualify.

Lieut. J. E. Chabot, having failed to qualify, his name is removed from the list of officers of the active militia.

Quebec Gar. Art.—No. 3 Bat.—To be 2nd lieut., prov., Pierre Paul Boulanger, vice Antoine Chartier de Lotbinere Panet, failed to qualify.

Co. of Mounted Infantry.—To be lieut., prov., from 28th September, 1889, Victor Arthur Seymour Williams, formerly an inspector in the North-West Mounted Police, vice Archibald Cameron Macdonell, who has resigned his commission in this company, and is hereby transferred to the list of unemployed officers, with seniority from 29th June, 1886.

Infantry School Corps.—To be lieut., from 2nd October, 1889, Lieut. John Haliburton Laurie (Royal Lancaster Regiment), vice Young, promoted.

Lieut. Laurie has been detailed for duty with "C" Co., until further orders.

Lieut. Carpenter has been detailed for duty with "A" Co., until further orders.

1st Bn.—Capt. and Adj. George Rutherford Lighthall, is hereby permitted to retire retaining rank.

2nd Bn.—Lieut. W. J. Nelson resigns.

5th Bn.—To be 2nd lieut., prov., Malcom Austice Rafferty, vice G. W. Cameron, promoted.

12th Bn.—No. 2 Co.—To be lieut., prov., Arthur George Nicol, vice R. M. Hillary, promoted.

14th Bn.—To be lieut., Lieut. N. P. Joyner, R.S.I., from No. 7 Co., 47th Bn., vice F. Strange, appointed a district paymaster.

44th Bn.—No. 2 Co.—To be lieut., prov., Col.-Sergt. John Hillman, vice E. H. Simson, resigned.

54th Bn.—No. 3 Co.—To be lieut., 2nd Lieut. John Vincent Thomas Brooks, R.S.I., vice P. S. G. Mackenzie.

57th Bn.—To be major, Capt. Elihu Burritt Edwards, V.B., from No. 1 Co., vice T. M. Grover, who retires retaining rank.

No. 1 Co.—To be capt., Lieut. Ernest Frederick Mason, vice E. B. Edwards, promoted.

To be adjutant, Capt. R. M. Dennistoun, R.S.I., vice R. W. Bell, promoted.

82nd Bn.—No. 1 Co.—To be capt., 2nd lieut., D. L. Hooper, R.S.I., vice Isaac Henderson, who retires retaining rank.

87th Bn. of Infantry.—Paymaster Tancrede Pierre Morin has been granted the honorary rank of captain from 30th May, 1889.

Quartermaster Eugene DeBlois has been granted the honorary rank of captain from 27th September, 1889.

90th Bn.—To be 2nd lieut., prov., W. F. Godson, vice L. W. G. Broughall, left limits.

96th Bn.—No. 1 Co.—To be capt., Lieut. M. N. Garland, R.S.I., vice T. H. Elliott, promoted.

To be lieut., 2nd Lieut. J. H. Woodside, R.S.I., vice M. N. Garland, promoted.

To be paymaster, Pte. Alexander Lord Russell.

CONFIRMATION OF RANK.

2nd Lieut. W. D. Macfarlane, R.S.A., Montreal Gar. Art.; from 7th September, 1889.

2nd Lieut. E. H. Bissett, R.S.A., Montreal Brig. Art.; from 7th September, 1889.

2nd Lieut. C. H. Anderson, R.S.A., Montreal Brig. Gar. Art.; from 7th September, 1889.

2nd Lieut. T. A. Crathern, R.S.A., Montreal Brig. Gar. Art.; from 10th September, 1889.

2nd Lieut. R. Costigan, R.S.A., Montreal Brig. Gar. Art.; from 10th September, 1889.

2nd Lieut. T. F. H. Dixon, R.S.I., 10th Bn.; from 3rd October, 1889.

Lieut. J. A. E. Steeves, R.S.A., No. 5 Battery, New Brunswick Brig. Gar. Art.; from 10th September, 1889.

Lieut. J. B. M. Baxter, R.S.A., No. 3 Battery, New Brunswick Bri. Gar. Art.; from 10th September, 1889.

2nd Lieut. C. F. Harrison, R.S.A., No. 3 Battery, New Brunswick Brig. Gar. Art.; from 10th September, 1889.

2nd Lieut. W. W. White, R.S.A., No. 2 Battery, New Brunswick Brig. Gar. Art.; from 10th September, 1889.

Capt. F. H. Oxley, R.S.A., 1st Halifax Brig. Gar. Art.; from 6th September, 1889.

2nd Lieut. A. H. McLaren, R.S.A., 1st Halifax Brig. Gar. Art.; from 6th September, 1889.

2nd Lieut. F. E. Halls, R.S.A., 1st Halifax Brig. Gar. Art.; from 6th September, 1889.

Capt. James Brennan, R.S.A., No. 4 Bat., Prince Edward Island Brig. Gar. Art.; from 4th October, 1889.

No. 4.—CERTIFICATES GRANTED.

Rank, Name and Corps.	Class.	Course.	Grade.	Percentage of marks obtained		
				Written.	Practical.	Aggregate Percentage.
<i>Royal School of Artillery.</i>						
Capt. F. H. Oxley, 1st Halifax Brigade.....	I	Sp	A	.72	.82	.78
2nd Lieut. A. H. McLaren, 1st Halifax Brigade.....	I	Sp	A	.81	.80	.80
2nd Lieut. F. E. Halls, 1st Halifax Brigade.....	I	Sp	A	.80	.80	.80
Lieut. J. A. E. Steeves, New Brunswick Brigade....	I	Sp	A	.76	.75	.75
Lieut. J. B. M. Baxter, New Brunswick Brigade....	I	Sp	A	.75	.78	.77
2nd Lieut. C. F. Harrison, New Brunswick Brigade..	I	Sp	A	.87	.80	.82
2nd Lieut. W. W. White, New Brunswick Brigade... I	Sp	A	.86	.79	.81	
2nd Lieut. W. D. Macfarlane, Montreal Brigade.... I	Sp	A	.77	.75	.76	
2nd Lieut. E. H. Bissett, Montreal Brigade..... I	Sp	A	.74	.76	.75	
2nd Lieut. R. Costigan, Montreal Brigade..... I	Sp	A	.74	.81	.78	
2nd Lieut. C. H. Anderson, Montreal Brigade..... 2	Sp	A	.66	.71	.69	
2nd Lieut. T. A. Crathern, Montreal Brigade..... 2	Sp	A	.64	.59	.60	
Capt. J. Brennan, Prince Edward Island Brigade.... 2	Sp	A	.63	.61	.62	
<i>Royal Schools of Infantry.</i>						
Lieut. W. Hord, 14th Batt.....	2	Lg	A	.79	.86	.8
Lieut.-Col. J. W. Lewis, Brigade Major.....	I	Sp	A	.81	.79	.80
Capt. B. Billings, 43rd Batt.....	I	Sp	A	.70	.71	.70
2nd Lieut. T. F. H. Dixon, 10th Batt.....	2	Sp	A	.59	.56	.57
Col.-Sergt. C. Hindson, 37th Batt.....	I	Lg	B	.74	.83	.78

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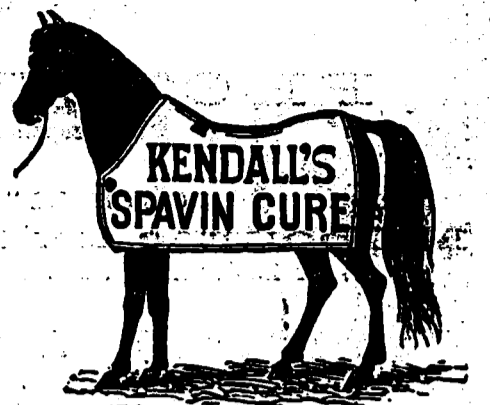
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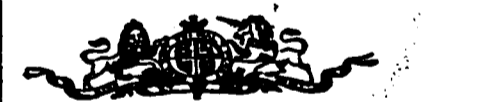
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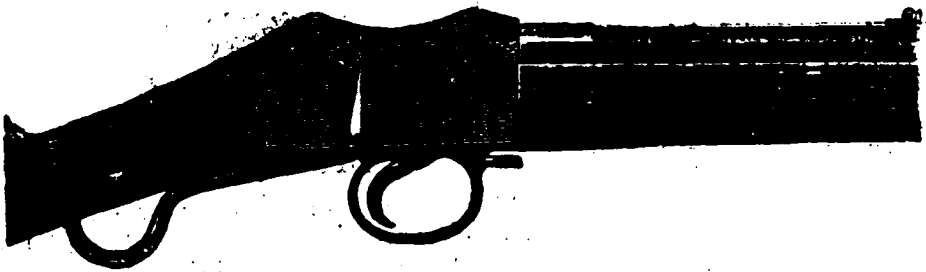
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