

THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE

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

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NOTICE.

SUBSCRIBERS will not in future be sent receipts for moneys remitted for subscription fees. The number on each printed address label indicates the last issue for which payment has been received, and a change of this number will be equivalent to a receipt. Our friends are reminded that all subscriptions are payable in advance, so that the second year's subscription of any one whose label shows a less number than 68 is now due. We have to thank many for responding to this notice in past issues; but there are great numbers yet in arrears, and we would be greatly obliged if they will not let this matter escape their attention. Please strengthen our hands by remitting promptly.

Comment and Criticism.

THE difficulty of securing suitable rifle ranges in England for the volunteers and militia is yearly becoming greater, for not only does the value of land and density of population prevent the opening of new ranges, but existing ones are rapidly being condemned as unsafe and closed by the government, so that commanding officers and musketry instructors often find it impossible to carry out the existing regulations for the practices of their corps. Mr. Morris, the inventor of the Morris' tube, has succeeded in making short ranges safe by interposing an ingenious system of iron screens and earth embankments between the firing points and the targets, but this is chiefly suitable for firing at one fixed distance, preferably 300 yards; and now Lieut.-Col.

Hadden suggests the adoption of underground ranges similar to those used in New York. This is one point in which at least we Canadians have the advantage of the mother country—we can find plenty of good and safe ranges, and we should make the most of our privilege while we have it.

COLONEL NAIRNE, commandant of the school of gunnery, commenting in his official report to the D.A.G., R.A. upon the lessons taught by the Shoeburyness meeting, takes occasion, amongst other things, to remark that "the gun drill generally was better than last year, many of the defects then brought to notice having been corrected. I must, however, bring to your notice that there is a great tendency to incorrect laying, Nos. 1 preferring to make allowances for wind, etc., by laying off the target, and so violating the rules of gunnery, and impairing their shooting. In many cases I looked over the guns myself, and almost invariably found them laid with a fine sight, and, on questioning Nos. 1, I found they were unaware that the guns were sighted for a full sight. I recommend that the attention of adjutants and commanding officers be called to the necessity of instruction being given in laying, and the use of the scales; and, if approved, I will draw up a short precis of instruction for circulation. They will not search through the large drill books for that which, I feel sure, will improve their shooting, did they understand the necessity and the simplicity of it. I found Nos. 1 also very frequently ignorant of the principles attending the use of time fuzes. The value of the use of the instructional target should also be brought to the notice of commanding officers. I consider that the theoretical instruction above alluded to, sufficient to improve the shooting 15 to 20 per cent., could be imparted in three lectures of one hour each." In the report of Col. Lewis, camp commandant, Lieut.-Col. Armstrong's team is referred to in the following complimentary terms: "The Canadian artillery have certainly detracted nothing from the good name earned here by their predecessors, and I cannot speak too highly of their bearing and conduct."

"CHARLES WILLIAMS, Savage Club, London," the well-known special war correspondent, announces in the English service journals that he is preparing a magazine article on "Famous Marches of the Present Century," and that he would like to receive brief particulars from any officer who took part in a march characterized by rapidity or endurance. We wonder if Mr. Williams would consider the performances of our little force in the North-west last year worthy of a place in his record—they were certainly notable achievements, even if they were made by only a colonial militia.

WE reproduce the comments of an English service paper upon the proposition of a South African volunteer that England should take to London for the Queen's Jubilee representative bodies of troops from the several colonies. The article will be read with interest here in consequence of the talk last winter with regard to sending some Canadian corps to the jubilee; talk that we have heard none of for some time back. We think that if even transport alone could be provided by

the Imperial Government it would insure the presence of a Canadian contingent, but the only way to make the affair a success here would be for some particular regiment or regiments to make arrangements for covering their own expenses in other respects; for we are sure that no system of provisional battalions selected by government could ever be satisfactory either to the men themselves or to the militia department.

JUST at present the question of rearming the Imperial forces, and a comparison of English rifles with those of other countries, are the topics uppermost in all the English service papers, and the importance of the issue seems to justify the time given to its discussion. Ever since Mr. Lowe wrote to the *Times* in September last, there has been a succession of condemnations of the Martini-Enfield, while very little has been written in its defence. The consequence is that the manufacture of the new arm, which appears to have been more extensive than the public were led to believe, has been stopped, and England is now in the dilemma of being dissatisfied with the present service arm, and totally at a loss where to look, not merely for a better one, but for a better one than that of any other power. The points to be decided, and decided promptly are, what shall be the gauge, rifling and breech action of the future arm, and last, but not least, whether it should not be a repeater.

WE begin the publication in this issue, with the author's consent of course, of a historical sketch of our militia, originally published on the 8th of March last as a lecture to the Young Men's Association of St. Paul's church, Montreal, by Lieut.-Col. Oswald, the popular commander of the Montreal Brigade of Garrison Artillery. It is a brief epitome of what led to the formation of Canadian militia, and their achievements from the time of Wolfe down to to-day, and will be, or at least should be, of interest to every Canadian, and will form not the least valuable portion of the GAZETTE when bound up in our current volume.

The Rifle Question.

THE discussion on the new rifle, and cognate questions, which was started by Lord Wemyss and Mr. C. F. Lowe some six weeks since, and which bid fair at one time to be conducted in a lively and profitable fashion in the columns of the *Times* and *Daily Telegraph*, has, like so many controversies on military subjects, been doomed to become somewhat fitful and desultory. It is something, however, to find that the conductors of great dailies deem their readers sufficiently interested in technical military questions to allow of their columns being open to even an occasional letter on such topics. The present debate was opened, it will be recollected, by the publication in the *Times* of September 11, of a letter from Mr. Lowe, traversing a statement which had been made by Mr. Woodall in the House of Commons, to the effect that the new Enfield Martini had elicited the warm approval of the skilled volunteers who shot with it at Wimbledon last July. Mr. Lowe, as one of the "skilled volunteers" alluded to, asserted, on the contrary, that the new weapon had been found in many respects unsatisfactory. Sir Samuel Baker followed Mr. Lowe, condemning the existing form of stock, and declaring that the Martini "action," which it is proposed to use in the new weapon, was the worst in existence. Soon after the publication of these letters, the *Times* had a leading article in which it practically endorsed the views of its two correspondents. The *Times* soon afterwards gave insertion to two other letters—one from Capt. Walter James, late R.E., in which the desirability of introducing a "repeating" rifle into the British service was strongly urged. On the other hand, "a Ranker," writing in the *Daily Telegraph*, warned the nation against the danger of introducing the repeater. Mr. Lowe soon returned to the charge in the *Times*, describing several improvements which his long experience shows to be necessary in the present and proposed rifles, and, assuming that a repeater of some sort will become a necessity, went on to urge the Government to abandon the old prejudice against the "bolt" action, by which only it would appear a single-loader can readily be turned into a repeater. But the strongest appeal in favor of the introduction of a repeater was that made by Lord Wemyss in his letter to the *Times*, which was reprinted in our last number. Mr. Lowe's reply to Lord Wemyss will be found in another column, but it does not touch upon the question or

repeating rifles. The *Daily Telegraph* has had two articles wholly or partly on the subject of the military rifle—one a regular "leader," the other what is termed a "headed article." In both, the necessity of the speedy introduction of a repeating arm into the British service is ably urged. Meanwhile "Ranker" again protests against it as a dangerous and unnecessary weapon. On the whole the result of the discussion seems to be this, that the proposed Martini-Enfield finds no favour in the eyes of any of the correspondents of the *Times* or of the *Telegraph*, that the Martini-Henry in its present form is, except by Lord Wemyss, considered imperfect, but good enough to go on with, while all of them except "Ranker" are of opinion that a repeater of some kind should be introduced as soon as possible.

We look, we confess, with a feeling akin to dismay at the prospect before us. Supposing—a very bold supposition—that no great emergency should arise for years, we apprehend that what will happen will be something as follows: A certain number of the M.E. rifles will be issued to the regular troops. There will be complaints, well or ill founded, from all sides, especially from the outside, and practically it will be several years before the regular army, to say nothing of the auxiliaries, is armed with a weapon which the military authorities now consider to be the best available. During this time there can be very little doubt that the whole question of repeating arms will have been thoroughly worked out by most, if not all of the great continental powers, though, if what we hear is true, the principle has been already substantially accepted by Germany and Austria. Assuming then, that repeaters are adopted within a year or two by the great armies of the continent, and that we continue to manufacture and squabble over the single-shooting Martini-Enfield for at least the same space of time, we shall have in the end and at the very best to commence the manufacture and issue of *our* repeaters when other armies are already equipped with them. If we are at war and likely to go to war, we must make our resolve immediately, accept the best repeater we can get, and manufacture and issue it with the greatest speed and at any cost. If, on the other hand, we are still at peace, we shall have the old heated controversies, the old objections, and then the old delay; and we may at the last find ourselves obliged to face European armies at the same disadvantage as Austria was at when she opposed her muzzle-loaders to the Prussian needle-guns in 1866.

On the whole it appears to us that the *Times* and *Telegraph* are right in the conclusion to which they have come—viz., that there seems to have been no sufficient reason shown at present for the introduction of a new rifle, of which both the rifling and the breech action are condemned as at least obsolete by the most competent judges, and in which the sole important advantage over the Martini-Henry is the lower trajectory, involving of course, the corresponding great disadvantage, for some years at any rate, of what has been termed a "break of gauge." The new rifle has, moreover, the special disadvantage that its "action" cannot, we are told, be possibly adapted to any form of repeater. We are by no means blind to the importance of having for military purposes a rifle of the longest possible range. We must sooner or later come to such a rifle, and must put up with the accompanying evil of a new calibre. But we think that no necessity has been as yet shown for the introduction of what we may call a transition weapon, and that the whole energies of those immediately concerned ought to be concentrated upon the question of "repeaters." We are aware that the question has been already studied, but we have yet to learn that the main point has been settled—*i. e.*, whether the British army is or is not to have a repeater. When that has been settled no time ought to be lost in finding out the best form of the weapon. But the first points ought really to be decided, and might be decided without delay. It may be hoped that "Ranker" of the *Daily Telegraph* is right, and that an army with single-shooters will be at an advantage against one armed with "repeaters." But we cannot conceal from ourselves that all the theoretical arguments which he brings against the repeater *versus* the single-shooter are at least equally true in regard to the breech-loader *versus* the muzzle-loader. The great Duke of Wellington was always said to look with much doubt upon the substitution of rifles for smoothbores, and insisted, it is said, upon the term "rifle-musket" being always employed for the long Enfield, least his famous Line Infantry should take to looking upon themselves as "Riflemen." No doubt there were plenty of opponents to Frederick the Great's iron ramrods, to Maurice of Nassau's substitution of musketeers for pikemen, and probably to the suppression of the bow and arrow by fire-arms. It does not, however, follow by any means that every change is for an improvement. But the English nation will have a heavy reckoning to cast with any government which may neglect to discover, as soon at least as foreign governments have discovered, any really vital improvement in the armament of its troops; and we therefore reiterate our assertion that the next thing to be done before any new form of single-shooting rifle is introduced is to settle the question whether a repeating arm is or is not to be the future weapon of the British army.—*Volunteer Service Gazette.*

The Canadian Militia:—A Historical Sketch.

BY LIEUT.-COL. W. R. OSWALD,

Commanding Montreal Brigade of Garrison Artillery.

I bring before your notice no great story of the soldier's glory; I cannot sing, as old Virgil did, of mighty deeds of arms and of men; I cannot, with Macaulay, weave into heroic measure "lays of the brave days of old;" neither can I rouse Scottish blood into enthusiasm with stories such as bewitched our childhood, of the desperate valor of Wallace and of Bruce, or gladden the English heart by recounting great battles like Trafalgar and Waterloo. I can but try to portray to you in unskilled language some of the endeavors of our forefathers, and of our brothers of the present day, to keep intact and safe from internal trouble or foreign invasion the great inheritance of this great Dominion. And yet, was there ever nation born into this world under a fiercer or more glorious struggle than that which dyed with blood the Plains of Abraham on the 13th of September, 1759, when in the midst of heroism and of death the *fleur de lis* of France gave place on the rocky Citadel of Quebec to the ensign of Great Britain? To most of you the story of this great achievement is well known, but inasmuch as from it sprang the British Canada of to-day, and that in it I find the first record of an English volunteer in Canada, a slight reference to it and to its hero—General Wolfe—now may not be amiss. In the assault Wolfe himself led the way at the head of the Louisburg Grenadiers. Then over the fields arose the British cheer, mixed with the fierce yell of the Highland slogan. The clansmen drew their swords, keen and swift as bloodhounds. A shot shattered Wolfe's wrist; he muffled his handkerchief about it and kept on. Another shot struck him and he still advanced. When a third lodged in his breast, he staggered and sat on the ground. Lieut. Brown, of the Grenadiers, one Henderson, a *volunteer*, and a private soldier, aided by an officer of artillery, who ran to join them, carried him in their arms to the rear. He begged them to lay him down; they did so, and asked if he would have a surgeon. "There's no need," he answered, "it's all over with me." A moment after one of them cried out: "They run! See how they run!" "Who run?" Wolfe demanded, like a man roused from sleep. "The enemy, sir. Egad, they give way everywhere." "Go one of you to Col. Burton," returned the dying man. "Tell him to march Webb's regiment down to Charles river to cut off their retreat from the Bridge." Then, turning on his side, he murmured, "Now, God be praised, I will die in peace!" And in a few minutes his soul had fled. For his country Wolfe died, as did his worthy opponent, Montcalm, one of the bravest of the brave sons of France. Measured by the numbers engaged, the battle of Quebec was but a heavy skirmish; measured by results it was one of the greatest battles of the world. From this decisive victory and from the graves of those two heroes what marvellous results have sprung! Under the monument to Montcalm and his gallant followers lies buried the supremacy of France in the new world, and from the resting place of Wolfe has grown and flourished the sturdy Anglo-Saxon race, spreading, like one of Britain's stately oaks, its mighty branches over an entire continent, from wave to farthest wave, from the Atlantic to the Pacific ocean.

After the conquest, commenced, as a matter of course, the reorganization of the government of the colony, as it was styled in the documents of the day. Through the kindness and courtesy of an old Montreal friend, well known to many of you, Mr. Douglas Brymner, now keeper of the archives of the Dominion in the Parliament buildings, Ottawa, I find the earliest records of the Canadian militia, *i.e.*, of the *British* militia. The first entry is in the year following the conquest. On the 19th day of September, 1760, Governor Amherst (afterwards Lord Amherst) writes to Colonel Haldimand to the effect that the militia of Montreal, under the old regime, should meet on a certain day and give in their arms, after which they should take the oath of allegiance to the British crown, when their arms would be returned to them or placed in an armory. And thence on, from time to time, we see mention made of the militia. On the 25th March, 1764, Col. Haldimand writes to General Gage with reference to the difficulty of obtaining the necessary militia-force, but that he had secured a certain number, having given the command to M. de Montizambert, the ancestor of one of our best soldiers, and most efficient artillerymen to-day, Lieut.-Col. C. E. Montizambert, commandant of the Citadel at Quebec, and as his lieutenants one M. de Richeville, also of the colony, and one Mr. Smith, who has always been employed in the militia. I suppose there has always been some one of the name of "Smith" in the militia from that day to this. Then, on the 4th April, 1771, Quartermaster-General Robertson writes to Colonel Haldimand from New York as to the raising of two regiments in Canada, to be officered by young gentlemen of family in Canada, in order to show that the *noblesse* there may be employed to more advantage in ours than in the French service. I also find a curious item in one of these letters, complaining that the captains of the militia are very much troubled

by "bad lawyers." I leave it to your experience to say whether this race has become extinct or not. Let us hope that it has. As it is impossible for me here to enter into a history of the struggles of the earliest colonists and their wars, principally with the Indians, I cannot do better than refer you to the delightful works of Parkman. Talk of novel reading for recreation and rest to the mind; there can be nothing more exciting and interesting than those true historic stories. Because we are what is called a Colony, and a comparatively new country, because we have no ancient ivy-crowned and castellated ruins, we are apt to imagine we have no history, that is no Canadian history. Why, the very ground we walk on, the city we live in, the country round about us, its rocks, its rivers, its graceful elms and lovely scenery, all could tell a wondrous story of the desperate fights and struggles engaged in here, of the suffering of delicate women, pious nuns, devoted and self-sacrificing priests and dauntless soldiers. From the founding of the little pallisaded town of Montreal by Maisonneuve in 1642 as a mission colony, under the protection of the Holy Virgin, as the records have it, and for many years afterwards under both the French and English regimes, Indian wars and attacks were of constant occurrence. Probably on the very ground on which St. Paul's church is built the fiendish war whoop of the Hurons and the Iroquois frequently resounded, carrying fear and death to the hearts of many a brave pioneer, with the horrid savage accompaniments of torture, scalping and burning to death of the prisoners. Those two old Martello-like towers at the Priest's farm, familiar to all of us, formed part of the fortifications of an outlying post built chiefly for the protection of the converted Iroquois Indians by the Sulpician fathers at a very early date. Beyond these sanguinary and horrible contests there is nothing specially upon the subject of these remarks until the year 1775 to '76. From the commencement to the end of the American war of independence (the declaration of independence by our neighbors was, as you all know, made in 1776, and the preliminaries of peace signed in 1783-4,) we constantly find reference to the Canadian militia, particularly to their gallant conduct in the defence of Quebec, when in December, 1775, it was assaulted by the Americans under Gen. Montgomery, during which attack he met his death, as any one who has seen the placard on the rock at Quebec can testify. The Americans set up scaling ladders, but the fire kept up by the Canadians was so deadly that the assailants, driven back, were fain to take shelter in the houses. Then an intrepid militiaman—named Charland—advanced amid a shower of bullets, seized the ladders and drew them inside the barricades. The Canadians were soon relieved, and the Americans were slowly driven off from Quebec and its environs, and eventually from the frontier of Canada, the struggle being continued, says Garneau, the historian, rather between antagonistic militias than between the royalists and the troops of the Congress in the Canadian arena. When the Legislative chambers opened in Quebec in 1793, we find the Governor, Lord Dorchester, calling the attention of Parliament to the organization or reorganization of the militia. Two battalions were afterwards raised, and eventually disbanded, but apparently the force was maintained in some shape. We find frequent references to it, as, for example, of orders being sent to captains of militia to arrest all such persons as should endeavor to break the King's peace. If captains of the militia of the present day were permitted this amusement, there would be some lively times, and broken heads occasionally. Then when trouble commenced to brew between Great Britain and the United States an unfounded rumor was set on foot that the mere appearance of the American flag amongst the Canadian militia would cause them to rise in a body and join the American Federation. The Americans, who mooted this in order to put an end to European domination in all parts of this continent, eagerly propagated the report through their numerous journals. Accordingly in the summer of 1807 a grand military demonstration was made, a fifth part of the colonial militia being called out, and ordered to be ready to march at the first signal. The balloting for men, and their training afterwards, was cheerfully and briskly carried on to a degree which belied the insinuations thrown out against the loyalty of the Canadians. All, however, was comparatively quiet until the war broke out in 1812.

(To be continued.)

English Militia and Volunteers.

It is always satisfactory for soldiers to see the general newspapers discuss military subjects, especially when they are approached in the grave and thoughtful manner in which the *Daily News* of the 12th inst. deals with the important question of the militia. All that the writer has to tell is no news to those behind the scenes. We all know that the militia is 28,000 men below its proper strength; that the men cannot shoot; that the annual course of instruction is about as unpractical a preparation for war as ever was devised by the mind of man; and that the officers as a class are by no means sufficiently educated profes-

sionally to be able to take the field. But to the British taxpayer this is probably startling news; and now that the fact is clearly presented to him that the nation annually pays over £1,300,000 for about 110,000 half-trained troops, it is to be hoped that John Bull will demand, with no uncertain voice, the prompt reform of so undesirable a state of affairs. In one respect we think the writer is unduly severe upon the militia colonels. He reprobates with justice the absurd and useless movements upon which all attention is concentrated, to the neglect of useful and practical work; but he does not emphasize the fact that the fault lies more in the inspecting officers than in those whom they inspect. These inspecting officers are the judges of the efficiency of a regiment; on their verdict depends the estimation in which the corps is held in Pall Mall, its standing in the service; even the possible and much-coveted C.B. is influenced by their confidential reports. So the colonels of regiments "work up the questions" which their examiners are sure to ask for; and as the average inspecting officer is immensely keen on marching past and showy theatrical movements, these are incessantly practised, to the detriment of musketry and the neglect of all fighting manœuvres. This applies with equal force to the volunteers. Imagine the horror of an average inspecting officer who, when examining an auxiliary regiment, was told by its commander that he had only gone in for real fighting drill; that his men had practised few battalion movements; but that they knew the attack thoroughly, and had a fair practical idea of outposts and advanced guards! The poor man would run the risk of dying of apoplexy from rage, and when sufficiently recovered to gallop off the ground he would send in such a "confidential" as effectually to ruin colonel and regiment alike. Lord Wolseley and Sir Archibald Alison, and men of their intellectual standard, would doubtless deeply sympathize with the colonel who, having but a short time in which to train his men, preferred to teach them the practical rather than the showy part of their profession; but the average officials would combine to snub so ambitious and daring an innovator out of the service. No, the reform must come from above. Let the inspecting officers have orders from headquarters to examine and report on the capacities of each battalion in their district for the serious work of warfare; and in two years' time both militia and volunteers will have dropped much useless nonsense and acquired information invaluable in the event of their being called upon to fulfil the duty for which they are maintained—viz. the defence of their Queen and country.—*United Service Gazette.*

Adjutants.

A GOOD adjutant, like a poet, *nascitur non fit*. The position he fills requires a combination of qualities that would be rare even where the field of selections was a large one, but very rare when the selection is confined to the officers of a single regiment. Formerly it was the custom to select for the post of adjutant an officer who had passed through the ranks, and the custom still obtains, though rarer than formerly, in most cavalry regiments. As a rule the adjutants who had had the training of the ranks were the better drills. It came easier to them to thunder out at the gaping line whole pages of cautions, and tell every individual his proper place. But such adjutants were not unfrequently wanting in education and deficient in tact, although we have known many noble exceptions, when they had to command and instruct a high-spirited body of young officers. Neither were these adjutants as a rule popular with the non-commissioned officers and men. Of course there was the natural infirmity of human nature, and jealousy felt of a man who had raised himself above his fellows, and further, the adjutant who had been through the ranks knew too much about the little tricks and ways of soldiers to be pleasant. But take it all in all a commanding officer will do well if he can secure a good adjutant from among his officers. Looking to the smallness of the field for selection it speaks well for the body of officers that there should be so many good adjutants in the service. The qualifications required are numerous. An adjutant should be active in mind and body, have an old head on young shoulders, be a good rider and a leader in athletic sports, a thorough sportsman, though subordinating his sporting proclivities to his regimental duties. He should have an aptitude for drill, be methodical in his office, and well acquainted with the regulations; and should know something more about military law than is required to pass a promotion examination. He should be popular with the officers and be respected by the men, should have pleasant manners but a determined will. If he is not an early riser he will not do for adjutant, for he ought to attend the early morning parades, and it requires no little strength of mind to get up morning after morning by candle-light and walk shivering up and down the parade-ground while the recruits are doing their "wun—tow."

Some commanding officers hold, or used to hold—for we believe that they have become more rational, and see that all work and no play makes Jack a dull boy—that an adjutant should never go on leave. All the same, a really enthusiastic adjutant will give up nearly all amusements

and all hopes of leave. Even if his commanding officer is a liberal-minded man, the adjutant dares not take advantage of his kindness, for he thinks that the regiment will go to the devil without him. He has not yet learned the fact that no man is indispensable, and that the affairs of an office or of a regiment, like those of the world, go on much as usual, whoever may direct or fancy he directs them. As the duties of an adjutant require so very opposite qualifications, such as an aptitude for office work and decision, and a clear head in the field, many commanding officers hold that there ought to be an office adjutant and a parade adjutant. Be that as it may, it is very hard to find an adjutant equally good in the orderly room and in the field. It need hardly be said that a good adjutant makes an excellent staff-officer, and many of the graduates of the Staff College are ex-adjutants. Doubtless there would be more but that the duties of adjutant are so exacting as to make the necessary preparation for the Staff College examination almost impossible. A career on the staff is not, however, closed to such men, and we find that several ex-adjutants are employed on the Staff who have never passed through the Staff College. It was a great improvement when the post of adjutant was thrown open to the captains as well as to the subalterns, as it doubled the field of selection. All the same, it is a mistake to retain an adjutant too long in his appointment. The best of men will weary of the daily round of arduous and after a time uninteresting duties, and it was not a bad rule of a certain commanding officer when he appointed his adjutant to make him clearly understand that he was to hold it for a limited time only—three years, if we remember right. By these means he had a larger proportion than usual of highly instructed subalterns in his regiment. This, however, was a case of keeping a dog and barking himself. Our readers will know the two kinds of regiments. The C.O.'s regiment, where the C.O. acts as adjutant, quarter master, and sergeant-major, besides commanding all the companies, and the adjutant's regiment, where the adjutant commands everybody, including the commanding officer. We do not know which is the worse type. Such regiments always fall to pieces when the guiding spirit is lost. The regiments for work are those in which every one knows his duty and does it. But even in these the good condition of the regiment rests much with the adjutant, and there is no finer position in the service for a young officer than the adjutancy of a good regiment.—*Broad Arrow.*

"Threes" or "Fours" for Cavalry.

WITH reference to a letter from "An Old Cavalry Officer," which appeared in our last issue but one, advocating the return to the formation of threes for the cavalry, we have been able to ascertain that, although threes are in almost universal use abroad, many foreign authorities look with favour on our use of fours. In most continental armies the system of "Zuge," or half-troops is employed for manœuvring purposes; on the column of march they break into threes; for dismounted fighting in groups they subdivide the zuge into half-zuge. Now with fours, if they are properly utilized, we have no need of zuge, and they give all the fractions, as required above, as well as those required for detached duties, such as outposts, advanced guards, etc., without incurring the loss of time and confusion incident to a fresh telling-off for each new duty. The method is applied in the following way:—In telling-off his squadron by fours, the leader selects a non-commissioned officer or old soldier for the No. 1 front rank of each four. This No. 1 is then in command of his four, or squad (the term group sounding too like troop to be of practical value, and section having already another signification): squads are then numbered from right to left of the squadron—thus the ordinary squadron of 32 files consists of 8 squads. If it is desired to form a service advanced guard, the squadron leader merely gives the order, "No. 1 squad, advanced party under Sergeant-Major—." In this way an advanced party of 6 privates, 2 corporals (guides), and the troop sergeant-major is at once formed. "No. 2 squad, front rank, left flanking patrol under Sergeant—." "Rear rank, right flanking patrol under Corporal—;" "Nos. 3 and 4 squads, support, under Lieutenant—;" "Left troop reserve." If the squadron is ordered to reconnoitre the command is merely given, "No. 1 squad, right patrol; No. 2 squad, No. 2 patrol; No. 3 squad, No. 3 patrol; No. 4 squad, No. 4 patrol;" "Left troop squadron, headquarters." If the troop is to form outposts, "Nos. 1 and 2 squads, patrols;" "No. 3 squad, front rank; No. 1 cossack post; rear rank, No. 2 cossack post;" "No. 4 squad, front rank, No. 3 cossack post;" "No. 4 squad, rear rank, dismounted sentry and reliefs, and orderly." If the troop is to act dismounted, the squads form on foot in the same formation as when mounted, and are under the direction of their Nos. 1. The general regulation of movements and fire is easily carried out by the officer in command giving his orders to individual squads by their number. This system recommends itself as being particularly easy of comprehension by both men and officers, and in practice is found to save a great deal of time and confusion at critical moments. The utility of squads is great when required to advance in line through

bush or broken country, or under fire, or against artillery in action, since they can extend to any desirable interval between squads for the purpose of availing themselves of cover, of good going, of gaps, etc., and yet be under such command of the squadron leader, through the medium of their Nos. 1, as to be able to reunite in line in a few seconds at a signal from their leader. It must be remembered, too, that in dismounting by squads ("by sections," according to the book) the Nos. 3 only remain mounted; thus three-quarters of the carbines of the troop are available in the firing line, whereas in dismounting by threes only two-thirds act on foot.—*Broad Arrow*.

The Queen's Jubilee.

WE HAVE received from Major Deare, who commands the Prince Alfred's Guard volunteers at Port Elizabeth, a suggestion that the occasion of Her Majesty's Jubilee, next year should be celebrated by the assembling in London of contingents of Regular and Auxiliary troops from every part of the Empire. Stay-at-home Englishmen still know but little of their colonial brethren; very few indeed have the faintest conception of the magnificent material of which the local troops are composed in Canada and Australia, New Zealand and the Cape. Nothing would more strongly tend to weld together the Mother Country and her Colonies than such a meeting in the old country upon an occasion so auspicious as the grand function which is to take place in Westminster Abbey. Imagine the magnificent effect of the streets of London being lined with troops from every quarter of the globe, who are serving the Queen without compulsion, sent by their respective provinces to do honour to her jubilee. The idea is admirable; but the question of cost is, alas! rather appalling. Major Deare suggests, in his letter, that the contingents should assemble at central points in their colonies, there to be picked up by transports to be provided by the home government; but he does not enter into further particulars, and proposes that the details of the scheme should be worked out by a committee. To this body, which has yet to be formed, we offer our best wishes for the success of their thoroughly Imperial project.—*United Service Gazette*.

A New Torpedo.

A NEW Torpedo, the invention of an Australian civil engineer, named Brennan, is now under the consideration of the authorities. Mr. Brennan had faith enough in his theory to construct and experiment with one of his torpedoes in the Antipodes, and, finding it bore out his anticipations, he put it on board ship and came to this country to offer it to the Admiralty. Trials were offered, and these have been privately conducted for some months by the naval officers belonging to the torpedo department. It is stated that the reports show the results to have been most satisfactory, and in this new weapon our country possesses by far the best apparatus of the kind that has yet been devised. The Brennan, so far as can be learned from those who have seen the trials, will prove a most efficient guardian for posts and harbours. It can also be employed for offensive operations against the enemy's fleet. The present form of this addition to our armament is designed to be sent out from a fort or other harbour work to sink an enemy's vessel. There is, however, another type, intended to be directed from shipboard against an antagonist's craft. A number of advantages are claimed for it over those known as the fish, Lay, and Whitehead torpedoes. In the first place it is entirely a mechanical contrivance not dependent in any way on chemicals or gases for propulsion or electricity for steering. Next, it is said to run farther at a greater speed than any existing machine of the kind, and, finally, such is its weight and power, it will pierce any netting and get at the vessel's hull. It is between twenty and thirty feet long, and its weight about one ton. In shape it differs somewhat from the Whitehead, being not only a third longer, but having a blunter head and a greater length of taper aft. In fact its form, except that it is cylindrical, is proportioned much the same as a fish—blunt head, bulging back, and then fining away to the tail. Experiment, it appears, has demonstrated that nature, wiser than man, requires that submerged bodies must be so constructed, in order that the force exerted to drive them forward shall not be unnecessarily wasted in any way. The Brennan torpedo is started rapidly down an inclining plane. A stationary engine with the requisite gearing, rapidly unwinds from within the missile to 18-gauge steel wires which drive the screw shafts. Into the sea and onward goes the terrible weapon, its two screws whirling with power and speed only limited by the strength of the stationary engine ashore. At a speed of twenty-six knots an hour, which can be raised to thirty, swiftly as a locomotive the moving bores through the water. The steersman ashore can turn it to left or right or at the close of its course of 1,500 or 2,000 yds, direct it home again. It is probable that no netting a ship can carry would be any safeguard against such a heavy, rapidly-moving body as the Brennan. Its effective range, too, is from two to three times farther than the Whitehead. The author-

ities talk of building specially constructed gun-boats from which to launch while in action Brennan torpedoes.—*United Service Gazette*.

Our Editor Errant—Fredericton.

FROM time to time our editor is compelled by his business pursuits, (for it goes without saying that the MILITIA GAZETTE will not yet provide for the full support of an able-bodied editor) to travel through various parts of this fair Dominion, and he proposes, as space and his own erratic fancy permit, to give some account of what he spies out concerning our militia during such periprinations.

Last summer it was my good fortune to visit Fredericton, and as I went up from St. John by steamer, I was captivated by the magnificent scenery of the noble river which I now saw for the first time, and on whose banks the capital of New Brunswick stands. I looked forward with considerable pleasure to a hurried inspection of C School and a chat with its commandant, Col. Maunsell, who had made himself very popular in Ottawa while D.A.G. there, but on reaching the city I was disappointed to learn that the corps had that day gone into camp at Fern Hill, on the colonel's property, some four miles north of the town. However, a visit to the cathedral, with its fine gothic proportions and almost mediæval aspect and to the legislative buildings, which seemed well adapted for their purpose, and a prowl around the deserted barracks, put me in a more comfortable frame of mind, one adapted for appreciation of the beauty of the little city. The barracks were evidently built under the direction of the Imperial troops; the well trimmed lawn adorned with some old guns and *chevaux de frise*, the solid stone undecorated buildings, and the heavy slate colored doors with white lettering on them bore the mark of the broad arrow as unmistakeably as if it had been imprinted on each. From what could be judged by the outside, the corps must be tolerably comfortable in their quarters there, situated as they are on the bank of the river close to the steamboat landing, and in the very heart of the city. During the afternoon some ladies playing tennis occupied the lawn, and some of the married men's families were sunning themselves on the verandas, relieving the otherwise desolate aspect of the place.

After tea I drove out to Fern Hill and found cause to congratulate myself that the school had left town, for the road was most picturesque, with the St. John river winding through the valley on my right, and an undulating park stretching out like country on my left. Fern Hill was soon reached, where the field of tents formed an abrupt contrast to the Sylvan surroundings. The men had got fairly settled down and were strolling about and making ready for night, while the officers were just sitting down to mess. The site of the camp was a cleared hill side, with enough boulders lying about to make the navigation of a buggy interesting, and great bunches of the bracken that gives the place its name springing up at intervals. Off to the north and east, beyond the road, stretched the beautiful river valley that I never tired of admiring, while to the south was Col. Maunsell's residence, the old homestead, nearly hidden in the evergreens, and behind the camp to the west were more hills than I had time to investigate. As night drew on the camp fires lighted up the scene and completed an exceedingly effective picture.

The corps were as comfortably settled as if they had been in camp for weeks, and in this showed the value of their yearly training in turning out for and taking part in the annual brigade camps. I had no opportunity of seeing any drill, but from what I heard of the school from friends in the force I know there would have been nothing but good work to refer to. At the time of my visit no officers were attached to the school, as one batch had passed out in July, and the next was not due till September.

Col. Maunsell looked younger if anything than when he left Ottawa, and a soldier every inch. He made close enquiries about all his old associates in No. 4 district, and was full of enthusiasm about his school and his district. In fact the whole mess showed unmistakeable signs of being well up to their work—I do not mean dining, the occupation at which I discovered them—but their duties as officers of a permanent and instructional force.

The only thing I regretted during my visit to Fredericton, was that I had not time to look up the 71st battalion, with their band and new drill hall, and particularly Capt. Cropley, who, as a fellow-editor and one who gives us a military corner in the *Capital*, I greatly wished to meet.

Mess Room Yarns.

"That reminds me."

A GERMAN JOKE.

This time the laugh is on the German army. A sergeant was putting a squad through the "goose step," which in the German army requires the leg to be held out almost straight; the sergeant, who was a little near-sighted, had given the command, causing the left leg of each man to be raised, but one recruit had lifted his right leg instead, and the sergeant, looking down the line and seeing two legs close together, roared out "who is that d— fool with both his legs up in front of him!!" S.

ANOTHER GERMAN ONE.

(Scene.—Officer catechising a recruit.)

Q. "On the approach of a general officer, if you were on sentry, what would you do?"

A. "I should 'present arms.'"

Q. "And if a lot of drunken people approached your post?"

A. "I should 'present arms.'"

Q. "Why?"

A. "In case there should happen to be a general officer among them." (Tableau.)
—*Volunteer Service Review.*

THE USES OF SPURS.

The story is told of Major O'Gorman, the well known Irish M.P., that, when appointed adjutant of the 23rd Lancashire Rifle Volunteers, he attended a musketry class at the Fleetwood school of musketry (now abolished). On a squad of volunteer officers falling in for position drill, a sergeant-instructor reminded Capt. O'Gorman he had his spurs on, to which the latter contemptuously replied, "Of course I have got my spurs on—I am an adjutant." The sergeant received a look from the officer-instructor to be silent, and the command was then given, "Position drill—third practice as a front rank kneeling—ready." This was promptly obeyed by every officer in the squad excepting one—that one, O'Gorman, asked leave to fall out and take his spurs off first.

This reminds us of another Irish major, in the Canadian militia, who was a most enthusiastic brigade musketry instructor. The fearful and wonderful contortions of the recruits in trying to acquire the kneeling position had tried him all day, till at last, with a burst of impatience at one particularly awkward specimen, who had his right foot sprawled away out behind him, he cried out, "Tut, man, you can never shoot steadily like that, get your foot well under you like this," and suiting the action to the word, by way of illustration, he came down on his spur with emphasis.

It is confidently asserted that the standing high jump Major W—— then made would have beaten the record, could it have been measured; of course discipline was at an end for that squad, and ever since he imitates Major O'Gorman, and leaves his spurs at home at musketry instruction.—PAT.

Queries and Replies.

I should like to hear the opinion of some of your readers on the following:—When inspecting a company, after the command "examine arms," from which flank does the officer commence in examining the rifles? Give reasons or authority.

SNAP CAP.

The Target.

TARGET PRACTICE BY NIGHT IN INDIA.

The following interesting account of a novel experiment is taken from the *Broad Arrow*. We are doubtful of the utility of such a practice, and would make a small bet that at 600 yards, at which distance it is suggested the practice should be, there would not be over two per cent of hits, and they would be flukes; especially if the distance were unknown:

"General Rowlands, commanding the Mysore division, has been carrying out target practice by night. The target fired at was 23 ft. wide by 6 ft. high, and the distance was 250 yards. The firing commenced at 7 p.m. The sky was clear, and there was no wind. The target was invisible from the firing point, and the shooters were guided by the occasional firing of a carbine from the marker's butt and by occasional flashes of a lantern on the targets. No use was made of the sights. A troop of the 12th Lancers, 47 strong, fired 10 volleys in single rank, 5 standing position and 5 sitting. The result was 78 hits on the target, or a percentage of hits to rounds fired of 16.06. A company of the 2nd battalion Oxfordshire light infantry, 50 strong, with rifle sights fixed at 300 yards, then fired 5 rounds kneeling by ranks as if from behind a parapet, the flashing of the lamp being dispensed with and only the carbine flashes to guide them. The result obtained was 52 hits out of 250 shots, or a percentage of 20.20 hits to rounds fired. The company then fired 5 volleys, with front rank kneeling and rear rank standing, the result being 42 hits, or a percentage of hits to rounds fired of 16.80. The night was too dark for the effective use of the sights, and there were very few ricochets. The flashing of the lamps was a mistake, as such a thing would not be met with on service. The carbine flashes from the butts are unobjectionable, as they might be viewed as representing the enemy's fire, but the distance fired at was too near, and the target in use too large, to be of any practical use. The target should be opened out to represent individuals (*ghurrahs* placed 3 ft. apart on a parapet would be suitable objects) and the distance should not be less than 600 to 800 yards. This kind of practice would teach the men the effect of fire by night, and they should be instructed to use what shelter may be obtainable at the firing point, so that the conditions under which the practice is carried out may, as nearly as possible, be assimilated to what may be expected in actual warfare. General Rowlands is to be congratulated on initiating night practice in India, and we hope to hear of their being generally adopted at all stations throughout India, where the ground in the vicinity of cantonments will allow of their being carried out with safety.

Regimental Notes.

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

St. John, N.B.—The 62nd Fusiliers have now nearly completed their annual drill, and will be inspected by the D.A.G. on the morning of Thanksgiving Day, 18th inst., in heavy marching order. This corps has been drilling steadily since June, and will probably turn out with full ranks for inspection. Battalion drills only are now held. The St. John Rifle Company will be inspected at the same time.

Winnipeg.—(From the *Manitoban*).—Major Jarvis has resigned his position in the field battery, and is to be succeeded by Capt. Coutlee.

The battery drills on Tuesday evenings at the drill hall. At present they are undergoing a course in the sword exercise under Capt. Coutlee.

The non-commissioned officers of the 90th battalion meet for instruction on Thursday evenings. Recruit drill is also held on the same night.

Under a regimental order dated on the 14th inst. an orderly officer of the 90th battalion is detailed for duty weekly. He is to visit the drill hall and armories at least once a day, and is to be present at the non-commissioned officers' class and recruit drill on Thursday evenings.

The Winnipeg light infantry had their usual parade on Tuesday night at the band room, Rorie street, and were duly initiated into the mysteries of the goose step by the efficient adjutant, Lieut. Lawlor.

Recruits for the 91st battalion band are still being received. The band is to consist of 48 instruments. Practice is held five times a week, and the bandmaster flatters himself that he will have the best band in Winnipeg before spring.

The Minister of Militia has decided to organize a company of rifles at Shoal Lake. A. H. Scouton, M.S., has been authorized to enroll the same. All who wish to become members can send in their applications to him. By order, G. W. Street, major military district No. 10.—*Shoal Lake Echo*

Quebec.—In the competition on the 28th, between A and B batteries, for the D.A.G. prizes, the latter battery won the shifting ordnance competition in 15 mins. 35 secs. The time for A battery was 16 mins. 18 secs.

The men of A battery, Kingston, are aggrieved. During past years the cost for transportation for one team has been allowed by the government. The rates on the railroad having been increased, the sum allowed by the government, \$150, is now inadequate. One hundred dollars additional were required, and the men had to start a subscription amongst themselves and raise the amount.

Montreal.—The sergeants of the Prince of Wales' rifles have completed all arrangements to hold their annual ball in the Queen's Hall, on the 9th, in honour of the birthday of H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, who is sponsor for the regiment. The invitation cards are very neat, being headed by the regimental crest, and printed in gold. Sergt. F. Lefebvre is again honorary secretary of the committee.

Ottawa.—The G.G.F.G. had battalion drill in the hall on Friday evening and subsequently marched out through the principal streets headed by their two bands. The turnout was not large.

Recruiting is proceeding satisfactorily and the new comers are pretty faithful in attendance at drill. They are well looked after by Capt. and Adjutant Hodgins and Sergt. Davis. The prescribed standard of height and chest measurement is in future to be more rigidly enforced against applicants for admission. The commanding officer is making it hot for those who do not attend drills regularly.

On Sunday afternoon the Guards and Dragoon Guards had a church parade, proceeding to Christ Church, accompanied by band and bugles, where a special service was held and an appropriate sermon preached by the Rev. Mr. Mucklestone. The attendance was large and both corps looked and marched their best, encouraged by large crowds of spectators.

Capt. Jowsey, commanding No. 5 Co. of the 43rd Rifles, having resigned, it is proposed to transfer the headquarters of this company to Arnprior, where Mr. John A. Macdonald has received the preliminary blank forms from the Militia department for its enrolment. The company, which has already been recruited, is composed of the most active young men in the town.

Toronto.—The annual roll call of the Queen's Own was held at the drill shed, on Wednesday evening. The bad state of the weather no doubt kept some off parade, but as it was, the parade was a very large one, there being 594 officers, non-commissioned officers and men, including the band, buglers and pioneers. The roll was called by Paymaster Blain, and there were present besides him Lieut.-Col. Otter, D.A.G., Major Smith, C Co., I.S.C., acting brigade major, and Lieut.-Col. Alger, district paymaster. After the parade was dismissed, the members of the regimental tug-of-war team had some good practice. The team consists of 10 men and they pulled a scratch team of 17 men and the large gun of the garrison artillery.

It was announced in "orders" that Capt. Macdonald had been gazetted adjutant vice Capt. Delamere, who resigns the adjutancy only.

The Grenadiers paraded on Thursday, but as usual the weather was not of the best kind, so they were compelled to drill in the sheds. Lieut.-Col. Grasett was in command.

On Saturday afternoon the inspection of the Queen's Own and the Grenadiers took place on the Toronto baseball grounds, the inspecting officer being Major-General Sir Fred. Middleton. At half past three the two battalions were drawn up in line, and shortly afterwards the general arrived, accompanied by Capt. Wise, A.D.C. He was received with a general salute from both battalions. After riding down the lines, accompanied by Lieut.-Col. Otter, D.A.G., Major Smith and Lieut. Sears, C Co., I.S.C., and making a close inspection, the regiments broke into column to the right and marched past in column, quarter-column, and at the double, and all these movements were well executed by the battalions. The regiments then reformed line and were put through the manual and firing exercises by the majors. The major-general then asked Col. Miller to call out a captain to put the Queen's Own through some battalion movements. Capt. Brown was selected, and he handled the regiment in good style; Lieut. Morphy was also called out and acquitted himself in a most creditable manner. Col. Miller then took the regiment and formed square on the two centre companies at the double, and the crowd in the grand stand applauded this movement enthusiastically. After reforming line, Gen. Middleton made a similar inspection of the Grenadiers. The regiments then advanced in review order and presented arms. After congratulating the two commanding officers on the fine regiments they commanded the inspecting officer left the grounds. The regiments then marched to the drill shed and were dismissed, thus ending one of the best inspections ever held.

Major Smith's horse ran away with him on the grounds and threw its rider against the fence, but nothing more than a black eye was the result.

A rather serious accident happened to Major Harrison, of the Grenadiers, as the regiments were returning from the inspection. His horse slipped on the street car track and fell, with the major underneath, and broke his leg; the ambulance corps and surgeon of the regiment attended to him, until the ambulance arrived, when he was conveyed to his home.

Col. Miller informed the members of the regiment on returning to the shed that that was his last parade as commanding officer of the regiment. He hoped they would keep up the good name that the regiment had always had and now has, and it was with great regret that he was leaving, after being a member for 21 years. The colonel was very much moved when speaking, and all are very sorry to lose him.

The Major-General promised to be present at the tournament on Monday evening.

THE QUEEN'S OWN TOURNAMENT.

"'Twas a great success" says the *World* and so say all who attended the military

tournament of the Queen's Own Rifles in the Mutual street rink last night. The boys in green are to be congratulated on giving an entertainment first-class in every respect. The floor of the big rink was laid out in circus style with a ring of which eighteen laps made a mile. In the centre were the tug-of-war cleats. Around the ring and in the galleries sat over 200 people, and everyone had a good view. Nearly all the officers in town and some from outside were there, and Grenadiers, Queen's Owns and regulars from the fort were scattered all over. For some unexplained reason Gen. Middleton and Gov. Robinson did not attend as was expected they would. The Queen's Own band was in the gallery and played several choice selections. Col. Otter, D.A.G., Major Hamilton, Q.O.R., and Capt. Sims, Victoria Rifles, Montreal, were the judges; John Massey, starter; John Henderson, timekeeper, and Sergt.-Major Crean, clerk of the course.

The event of the evening was the tug-of-war in five-minute heats, for ten silver mugs, between these teams:

First Provisional Brigade Field Artillery of Guelph.—Lieut. Higginbotham, Capt.; Sergeants Armstrong (anchor), Brown, Holley, Merryweather, Newstead, Corporals Knowles and Watson, Bombardiers McFarlane and Hines, and Gunner Causford.

Grenadiers—Adjutant Manley, captain; Sergeants Metcalf and Walker, Privates Newman, McIlwan, McMurray, Tipton, Richardson, Stemin, Ross, and Coulter (anchor).

C Co. Infantry School—Sergt. Borland, captain; Privates Evans (anchor), Bird, Watson, Tuft, Elliget, Barber, Tipton, Ransbury, Beck and Macdonald.

Queen's Own Rifles—Col. Sergt. Cooper, captain; Surgeon Lesslie (anchor), Capt. McGee, Lieut. Morphy, Sergt. Thompson, Pioneers Geo. Doctor and Brash, Privates S. C. Cunningham, F. H. Thompson, Coulter, Berry and Prior.

The first heat, between the Grenadiers and the Guelph artillerymen, was won by the former, who got the drop first and gained a few inches which they kept till the end, notwithstanding occasional giant jerks by the Guelphites. The *Mail* says both teams were pretty evenly matched as to weight and strength, but that the work seemed to be new to the artillery team, which was not so well managed as their opponent's. In the second heat the Queen's Own lads got a quick drop on the infantry school team, who were lighter and less muscular looking than the riflemen, and hung in great style on to a couple of inches advantage which they got. They slowly added an inch or two more and finally won. Then came the decisive heat between the rivals, Toronto's two crack corps. At the pistol's report the Q. O. R. dropped first like pile-drivers, and pulled the white mark on the rope nearly a foot to their side. The Grenadiers worked like Trojans and pulled back till the teams were even. The excitement grew wild, and everyone rose to their feet and yelled. Then the Queen's Own gave some tough tugs, and when time was called they had won by an inch. The victorious yell that went up from the Queen's Own boys was a ripper. Both Adjutant Manley and Color-Sergt. Cooper captained their teams nobly.

Prof. Reid performed some marvellous sword feats, such as cutting an apple on Color-Sergt. Cooper's neck. It was a great Lord High Executioner act. He and his Nankipoo (Sergt. Cooper) gave an interesting sword and bayonet contest. Fifteen men of "C" Company Infantry School, under Sergt.-Major Spackman, gave such a faultless exhibition of bayonet, manual and firing exercises that they had to repeat it.

A number of races were well contested, notably the half-mile race in which Sewell, although last and away behind from the start, won by a magnificent spurt. There were:—

Quarter-mile race—1, Pte. Sewell, Q.O.R.; 2, Sergt. Creighton, Q.O.R.

One mile race—1, Pte. T. Henderson, Q.O.R.; 2, Corp. Geo. Watts, Q.O.R.

100 yards sack race—1, Pte. Daniel, "H" Co., Grenadiers; 2, Pte. Drynan, Q.O.R.

Half-mile race—1, Pte. Sewell, Q.O.R.; 2, Pte. M. H. Burtch, 19th Battalion, Lincoln.

100 yards potatoe race—1, Pte. Brynan, Q.O.R.; 2, Pte. Watt, Q.O.R.

100 yards relief race—1, Sergt. Creighton and Pte. George Watts, Q.O.R.; 2, Privates Drynan and Sewell, Q.O.R.

One mile drill order race—1, Sergt. Jones, Montreal Garrison Artillery; 2, Corp. George Watts, Q.O.R.

The Medals and cups were presented at the conclusion of the sports to the various winners by Mrs. Hamilton, wife of Major Hamilton. The affair on the whole was very successful, and Col.-Sergt. Cooper, Pioneer-Sergt. Harp, Sergt. Robinson, Sergt. Creighton, Sergt. Richardson, Col.-Sergt. McKell and Sergt. Higginbotham, who composed the committee, deserve great credit for the way in which they did their work.

News Notes.

The *Bellerophon*, Captain B. F. Clark, flag-ship of Vice-Admiral A. McL. Lyons, with the *Emerald*, *Lily*, *Tourmaline* and *Mallard*, were to leave Halifax, N.S., on the 29th ult., for Bermuda.

The manufacture of the new Martini-Enfield has been stopped, but not until a large number had been wholly or partly made. This change of plan has necessitated the dismissal of many workmen engaged at the small arms factory at Enfield.

Some weeks ago work was reported begun in the new cartridge factory at Brownsburg, near Lachute, of which "Gatling" Howard is manager. The most improved machinery has been obtained and no difficulty will be experienced in manufacturing one hundred thousand cartridges daily. One hundred men will be constantly employed. The firm expects to capture the entire Canadian trade, owing to the high duties at present existing.

Mr. J. B. Gibson has lost \$500 on his contract for erecting the volunteers' monument in Winnipeg, owing to extra labor being entailed in getting out the stone, which he did not calculate on when making his estimates. He has furnished the citizens' committee with a statement of how the money was expended, and has informed the committee that he is willing to lose his time if they will undertake to pay the shortage, all of which is due the workmen for wages.

The second battalion of the York and Lancaster regiment, which has just come to Halifax, is the original York and Lancaster regiment, the 84th, of which the regimental headquarters, under the territorial system, is Pontefract. The second battalion of the Royal Irish Rifles, which it replaces, is the old 86th Royal County Down regiment. These last sailed for Gibraltar on the 28th on the troopship *Orontes*, amid the lamentations of the usual concourse of matrons and maidens.

Rear-Admiral Sir Michael Culme Seymour, Bart, commander-in-chief on the Pacific station, has left Esquimalt in the *Triumph*, for an extended cruise, which will occupy about three months. He will visit San Francisco, San Diego, Magdalena Bay, Mazatlan, Acapulco, San Jose de Guatemala, La Libertad, La Union, Punta Arenas, Panama, Manta, Payta, Callao, Arica, Iquique, Caldera, Coquimbo, Valparaiso, Talcahuano, Coronel, Juan Fernandez, and Coquimbo, which will be reached on or about February 11. At the last named place it is expected that the *Pelican* will join for the remainder of the cruise and before it is finished there will be six ships in the fleet.

A new repeating rifle, invented by a Herr Schulhof, has been tried at Vienna. The weapon may be used either as a repeating or as a single-firing rifle. When fired as a single-shooter, it discharges 24 shots per minute. On being changed into a repeater, which can be done by simply touching a spring, the repeating mechanism is brought into action, 52 shots being fired per minute, and this includes loading, although the magazine holds only ten cartridges. As a magazine rifle, this new weapon is said to be very satisfactory, and authorities claim that it has the most perfect mechanism of any rifle yet invented.

What must be considered the heaviest gun at present in existence has been just shipped at Antwerp for Italy. It was manufactured by Krupp, is 46 feet long, weighs nearly 116 tons without the breech-piece, and 118 tons $3\frac{1}{4}$ cwt. with the breech. It arrived at Antwerp on a specially constructed carriage, 105 feet long, and running on 32 wheels. It was at first intended to send the gun overland, but the St. Gothard railway and other Swiss railways objecting on account of its great weight, and fearing for their bridges, the weapon had to be taken to Antwerp, and thence forwarded to Italy by sea. Its ultimate destination is said to be Spezia, where it is to be mounted in one of the ironclad forts guarding that harbor.

Our Trading Column.

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

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

FOUND.—In 1885, north of Lake Superior, a medal. Owner can recover it by proving property and paying expenses. Register No. 1.

WILL THE COMPETITOR who, on the 26th August, took a Turner Snider out of the Grand Union at Ottawa, leaving his own in its place, communicate with a view to rectification of mistake. Register No. 2.

WANTED TO PURCHASE.—Rifle mounted officer's saddlery. Describe and quote prices. Register No. 3.

RIFLE OFFICER'S UNIFORM.—Tunic—regulation English made mess suit, new, for height 5 ft. $7\frac{1}{2}$ in.—Morocco cross and sword belt—sword—will be sold cheap. Register No. 4.

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Notice Respecting Passports.

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G. POWELL,

Under Secretary of State

Ottawa, 19th Feb., 1886.

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SEALED TENDERS addressed to the undersigned, and endorsed "Tender for Hot-water Heating apparatus, Drill Hall, Montreal, Que.," will be received at this office until Friday, 12th November next, for the erection and completion of a

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Plans and specifications can be seen at the Department of Public Works, Ottawa, and at the office of A. Raza, Esq., Architect, Montreal, on and after Friday, 22nd instant.

Persons tendering are notified that tenders will not be considered unless made on the printed form, applied, and signed with their actual signatures.

Each tender must be accompanied by an acceptable bank cheque made payable to the order of the honorable the Minister of Public Works, equal *five per cent.* of the amount of the tender, which will be forfeited if the party decline to enter into a contract when called upon to do so, or if he fail to complete the work contracted for. If the tender be not accepted the cheque will be returned.

The Department does not bind itself to accept the lowest or any tender.

By order,

A. GOBELL,
Secretary.

Department of Public Works,
Ottawa, 14th Oct., 1886.

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For further information see OFFICIAL POSTAL GUIDE.

A. CAMPBELL,

Postmaster-General.

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