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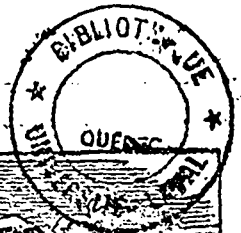
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NOTICES.

All correspondence connected with the *C. M. Review* should be addressed to the Secretary, F.S.G., Kingston.

Communications intended for publication in the next issue of the *C. M. Review*, must reach the Editor not later than the 20th of the month.

NOTE.—Officers of the Militia are requested to kindly forward to the Editor, for insertion in the "Militia Item" column, any information respecting their own regiments which they think might be of interest to their brother officers.

List of useful scientific books for sale, published at the Royal School of Gunnery, Kingston, Ont.:

|   |    |
|---|----|
| Canadian Militia Field Artillery Manual. (by Lt.-Col. T. Bland Strauch) | 75 |
| Prospect of the late Franco-German War (same author)                    | 70 |
| Field Gun Drill. (extract from C.F.A.M.)                                | 10 |
| Rules for Competitive Practice for Artillery                            | 15 |
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AVIS.

Conformément à la loi, toute personne qui reçoit un journal et qui ne le renvoie pas, se trouve abonné de droit.

Les personnes qui auraient quelques communications à nous adresser sont priées de nous les envoyer avant le 20 de chaque mois.

Les personnes qui désirent entrer dans la Batterie "B" sont priées de se présenter au Commandant (Kingston) tous les jours de 10 heures à midi, ou de lui envoyer leur demande avec leurs certificats de bonne conduite. Il faut aussi qu'elles sachent lire et écrivent qu'elles jouissent d'une bonne santé, que leur hauteur ne soit pas moindre de 5 pieds 4 pouces, la mesure de la poitrine de 24 pouces. Enfin, nous les prévenons que les ouvriers charpentiers, menuisiers et forgerons ont une extra paie de 20 cents par jour.

La Batterie "B" informe le public militaire qu'elle tient à sa disposition les ouvrages de drill pour le smooth bore, le mortier, les canons rayés etc., ouvrages imprimés par les presses de l'École Royale d'Artillerie sous la haute surveillance du commandant.

## Canadian Military (and Literary) Review.

TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC.

The success during the past year has attended the experiment of establishing the *Canadian Military Review*, as a monthly journal especially devoted to the interests of Canada's militia, and the diffusion of artillery knowledge and military science generally, and the patronage bestowed from all quarters upon the effort, has induced the promoters to believe that a liberal treatment of the important topics of the day, combined with military intelligence, would be acceptable to the readers of the Review.

It is therefore proposed henceforth to devote a portion of its columns to social and domestic matters of interest—party politics being rigidly excluded—trusting by so doing the *Canadian Military (and Literary) Review* will earn for itself an extended circulation, and should its success warrant the experiment the size of the paper will be increased in proportion and published fortnightly. Subscription, \$1.00 per annum; 5c. per copy.

TO ADVERTISERS.

In commencing another year with the publication of the *Canadian Military Review* we wish to return our sincere thanks to our friends for the cordial support we have received, and beg respectfully to solicit its continuation for another year.

No effort on our part will be omitted to make the paper a greater success than last year.

We wish to draw the attention of the public generally, especially those firms supplying military uniform accoutrements and appointments, fire arms etc., to our advertising medium. Viz. a circulation of over 700 and extending from P. E. I. to British Columbia also East India and London England. Among our London subscribers are several West end clubs our circulation extending over such a vast space offers a good opportunity for advertising we therefore respectfully solicit a share of the patronage of the general public.

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All letters and communications relative to english part of C M R to be addressed to

Staff Sergeant G. STEWART, R. S. G.  
Kingston Ont

## The Canadian Military Review,

JUNE 1st., 1881

### Reviews.

—The neutral tint water-proof cover for the helmet recommended in the military column of the *Star* is one of those good ideas which will not be carried out. Chimneys and fire-places are never improved in summer, they are only ornamented with colored rags tags, tinsel and other rubbish to please the ladies. The same thing happens in peace time to voluntary armies, which depend for their existence upon the suffrages of the sweet sex that loves a gorgeous darwinian development.

—Russia has made herself free of the Black sea Turkey commands the Bosphorus. Egypt dominates the Suez Canal France has seized Tunis It only remains for Spain to secure Gibraltar, for Italy to take Malta, and for Russia to seize the whole of Afghanistan, to make the average radical politician in England feel crowded, and to make him think that Jingoism was not a moral monstrosity, nor a spirited foreign policy or a thing to be despised.

—Lord Beaconsfield watched the affairs of his country until the last day of his life. The last words he was understood to utter were, "Is there any bad news in the *Gazette*?" It is through the *London Gazette* that official notices of battles on sea and land, of victories and reverses, are given, and the dying Earl seems to have entertained the impression that something was wrong. It was at that very time that the evacuation of Caudabar, which means the abandonment of the scientific frontier for India, was in progress.

—When General Colley's force was first seen on the Maja-ba Hill the Boers imagined it was only a feint to cover an attack on the Neck, and accordingly sent only 600 to the mountain, keeping all the remainder at the Neck. Of these 600 men some 150 were ordered to attack, and the others remained on the plateau, firing at any soldier who showed on the top. Our shots went high over the heads of the attacking party. The rifles when taken by the Boers were sighted for 400 yards and a few only had them fixed for 200.

"The Australian Eloven," who so distinguished themselves in England some 12 months back, have been thoroughly well beaten within the last fortnight in Sydney by another set of Australian cricketers called the "Combined Eloven," composed partly of Victorian and partly of New South Wales players. In a previous inter-colonial contest between the New South Wales men and the Victorians, the latter came off victorious.

—It should be stated that the substitution of breech-loading for muzzle-loading guns of heavy calibre in the navy depends mainly upon the War Office, which alone has the power of ordering their manufacture. It has, however, been arranged that the Ajax and Agamemnon, now approaching completion, shall be the last of Her Majesty's Navy to be armed with muzzle loading guns, and they would receive weapons of the new pattern were they not too far advanced to permit of any alteration in the character of their armament.

—Once more the 24th of May has passed away, and it would seem as if the absence of H. R. H. the Princess Louise, has somewhat damped the ardour of our Militia. For the first time in the history of British Canada, there was no general turn out of the Volunteers in Montreal to celebrate the Sovereign's birthday. We suppose they are reserving themselves for the grand review at Sussex on the 1st of July at which His Excellency the Governor-General will be present.

—In South Africa the Boers are yet seizing cattle and plundering the property of British subjects.

—On the Gold Coast, the Governor has gone up from Cape Coast Castle to Prahsu to meet the representatives of King Koffie. It was here that a previous Governor went on a similar mission, who, upon having concluded a treaty with the King, throwing all the ammunition into the river as part of the agreement, he and a large body of English troops being thus rendered helpless, were fallen upon by the Ashantees and massacred to a man. Our present representative might as well bear these little details in mind.

—Mr. Childers, Secretary of State for War, announces that the Prince of Wales' Royal Canadian Regiment (100th), will be changed to that of the "Leinster Regiment," being associated with the 109th under the new system of territorial regiments.

—At London an agreement has been carried out to locate the brigade camp on Carling's Farm, near the city.

—At Amherstburg a report was circulated on the 25th to the effect that 500 Fenians had landed at the Canadian Southern Railway Depot, creating considerable excitement at the time.

—At St. John, N.B., on the 18th ult., the 25th anniversary of the landing of the Loyalists was celebrated, a salute being fired by the volunteer artillery.

—The ex-officers of the 10th Regt. are again ventilating their supposed grievance in the columns of the *Toronto Globe*.

—The 77th Battalion has ordered its new uniform.

—A Royal Commission has gone out to South Africa, it will not enter the Transvaal until the guns taken at Potchefstroom are surrendered.

—The Queen's Own Rifles, Colonel Otter, were presented on the 24th ult, with a handsome silver cup for rifle competition bearing the following inscription:—"Presented to the Queen's Own Rifles, by the Officers of the 38th Battalion, and some of the citizens of Brantford, May 24th, 1881."

—A new military genius has arisen in China—a sort of combined Tamerlane and Bismarck, his name is General Tso-Tsang-Tang. He has become Minister of War, advocates the building of railways, establishment of newspapers, and the importation of foreign devils' inventions, especially arms, ammunition and machinery. He is a strong anti-opium, man and lops off the heads of all the soldiers who happen to indulge in the practice.

—The 24th of May, 1881, will be long remembered in Upper Canada. On that glorious May day, when the Dominion had decked itself in holiday attire to welcome the return of another happy year in the reign of Her Majesty the Queen, when the sun shone brightly, and happiness had spread her wings throughout the land, a cloud suddenly broke with fury over the town named after England's metropolis. Other fearful calamities have befallen us: hundreds of immigrants arriving by ship have been carried off in a few days by yellow fever on the St. Lawrence; an emigrant train has been precipitated over an open bridge, burying its human freight in the dark river below, but the victims of such belonged to many widely dispersed homes, and each sorrowing relative was surrounded by sympathizing friends and neighbours. But the awfulness of the dire calamity which has so unexpectedly arose and overshadowed the fair city of London, lies in the fact that the whole of the sacrificed belong to one community—sacrificed by the oft-recurring tale, a greed of money, and a thoughtlessness in the moments of revelry, a greed on the part of those who would seize the opportunity of making money out of unreflecting pleasure seekers, and thoughtlessness on the part of a body of excursionists, lead away by the buoyancy of light-heartedness. The story is simple—an excursion from London to the number of six hundred, comprising the principal families of the city, crowded upon a pleasure boat that should not have had half the number on board, on their return trip after a day's outing, a slight commotion,—a panic—a rush to one side—the capsizing of the upper deck—the capsizing of the boat!—*a watery grave for two hundred and fifty of the merry passengers!* Thus over one per cent. of the whole city, without a moment's warning, were launched into eternity! What a contrast, from the pleasures of the day,—there's not a joy the world can give like that it takes away," and if we turn for a moment towards those bon-fires along the banks of the river, caetering their lurid flames over the ghastly faces of those now gone forever more, and listen to the wail of anguish poured forth by the relatives and friends of the drowned, we reflect with a shudder at the littleness of our own every-day troubles.

"Last noon beheld them full of lusty life,  
Last eve in Beauty's circle proudly gay,  
The evening brought the signal!"

The war note we all have to face as nothing did they die,—and the sorrow of a bereaved people appeal to our hearts for sympathy—an appeal heartily responded to from one end of the Dominion to the other.

—Two of the new 13 pr. field guns have completed a trial of 500 rounds as a test of serviceability and to determine the rival merits of two systems of the breech arrangement, the one being the French or screw relief plan and the other a copy of the reuter lever of a locomotive. Both answer well, the latter especially. The shooting was exceedingly accurate. The targets were placed at 1,000, 1,500, and 2,000 yards ranges, and fully two-thirds of the shots were direct hits.

—The "hanging committee." At the mention of the name our mind wanders somewhere—wanders to Russian conspirators and Nihilist desperadoes. Why the rope breaks, stupid people, they don't know even how to hang

—but we do—though our hangings are rather of happier pendants to cords than those who dim by their darkened shadow this age of civilization; but we leave them in their dark work and return to the brighter sphere from whence we started, "Art in Canada." Colonial intelligence is not behind the age, and the Royal Canadian Academy stands out as one of the most welcomed institutions organized in the Dominion by our Governor-General and H. R. H. the Princess Louise. "Around the Studios," at home is a familiar expression—all must have a beginning; and the studios with us at present are few and far between. However, within the past few days we have had the pleasure of viewing several oil paintings of undoubted merit, about to be exhibited at the Halifax Art Exhibition, which will shortly open in that city. We refer to the paintings by Forshaw Day, Esq., A.R.C.A., Professor of Drawing, etc., at the Royal Military College of Canada. There are six in number, two of considerable size, and which certainly do honor to this artist's abilities. The first is a large oil painting, a view on the Novello River, Bay Chaleurs. This work was executed from a colored sketch taken on the spot, after considerable difficulty in ascending the river in canoes, in the early part of last year. This picture is executed in a style which is simply a perceptive of a beautifully quiet landscape, whilst the coloring and perspective are, in all, scientific and mechanically correct. The second is a view of Campbelltown Mountain, called the "Sugar Loaf," taken from the railway track. The third, "The Bridge—Nouvelle River," with mountains in the distance. The principal shadow in this picture is in the middle distance, and is most effective. The next we came to is a small winter scene, "Moose Hunting in Nova Scotia," a very prettily conceived drawing. The fifth is a study in oil, "A French Soubrette," the head of the painting is finely effective. The last is a view near Tambridge Wells, England. The entrance to the grave yard, the old church is seen in the foreground with figures entering through the old gateway. This picture is a most praiseworthy exemplar of an old country reminiscence, one of those little pictures which carry the mind back to the old home of its birth. We certainly congratulate Professor Day on his works of love as well as art, and trust the cords in the exhibition may be sufficiently long to hold them effectively before the gaze of the public.

—Two interesting problems which have long perplexed the scientific world appear at last to have been definitely settled by the eminent geologist, Dr. Hahn. These questions are, first, whether or not celestial bodies, other than the earth, belonging to our solar system, are inhabited by animate beings, and secondly, whether the meteoric stones from time to time cast upon the surface of this globe emanate from incandescent comets or from volcanic planets. That they at no time formed a part of the earth itself has been conclusively demonstrated. Dr. Hahn has recently completed a series of investigations upon some of the huge meteoric stones that fell from the skies in Hungary during the summer of 1866. Thin laminæ of these mysterious bodies, subjected to examination under a powerful microscope, have been found to contain coralline and spongy formations, and to reveal unmistakable traces of the lower forms of vegetation. All the organisms, animal and vegetable, discovered by Dr. Hahn in the delicate stone shavings he has thus dealt with indicate the condition of their parent world to be one of what is technically termed "primary formation." But the presence of water in that world is proved by the fact that the tiny petrified creatures revealed by the magic of the lens, one and all, belong to the so-called tubaqueous classes of animals. They could not, therefore, have possibly existed in comets, at least if the assumption be correct that these are in a state of active combustion.

—A fearful accident, involving the loss of several lives, occurred on the 5th ult. Our ironclad the *Corbora*, having been taken down the Bay for some gun practice, Captain Mandoville, her commander, made arrangements also for some torpedo experiments to come off abreast of Queenscliff, our principal watering place, near the heads of Hobson's Bay. From some bungle in the management of the apparatus, which nobody as yet has been able to explain, an explosion of a torpedo took place, blowing the operators themselves and their boat high into the air, only one of the men having escaped destruction. Captain Mandoville and his first officer, Lieutenant Collins, had left the scene of action, and gone on shore at Queenscliff to witness from that point of view the action of the torpedoes, and the scenic character of the business, ending in a frightful catastrophe, has been somewhat severely criticised. The remains of only two of the boat's crew were recovered from the sea, and on those an inquest has been held without throwing any light on the immediate cause of the explosion. If our torpedo defences are merely to blow up our own defenders, the sooner we abjure such critical and bungled novelties the better.—*English paper.*

—The rapidity with which the Japanese and Chinese people appropriate the ideas and imitate the practices of the western people is very remarkable. At a very early period of Chinese irruption into this continent the immigrants began to assimilate American ideas. "Mo alloo fanceo Melican man—hato nigger, hato Injun." That was the first step in approach to nationalism. But the Chinese have not stopped there, and the Japanese have also been progressive. The latter have learned to produce Dahlgren and Armstrongs, and the former have learned to strike. Our despatches show that the most enlightened native Americans could not raise a more dangerous riot, nor get a store with more success, nor demand high wages with greater confidence. The day when Chinese labor was cheap has nearly run its course. The poet tells us that "Through the age one increasing purpose runs, and the moon widens with the process of the suns," and probably he did not intend to confine the idea to the Caucasian race.

—The weapons of modern Republicanism, whether in Ireland or Russia, are such as are quite as easily wielded by the agents of oligarchy or even of absolutism, as those of democracy. A mere handful of men, less than one per cent of the people, can if they are so resolved, carry out a system of terrorism by secret murder, or more open slaughter. It is certainly an alarming feature of modern society that murder should be so successful, and no sentiment evoked by its commission, except a desire to save the neck of the assassin from the halter. Unfortunately too this crime has been repeatedly successful. Large concessions to trade unionism followed the murders, outrages and "rattlings" of Sheffield and other manufacturing centres. And the wounding of Prince Alfred in Australia in an attempt upon his life, was followed by large concessions to the peasantry of Ireland. The political apostles of majorities are teaching resolute and unscrupulous minorities the road to power, and are rapidly making all peaceful government of mankind utterly impracticable.

### Short Tactical Lessons for all arms at the Ontario Gunnery School.

"B" Battery, Royal School of Gunnery, Kingston.

#### FIELD ARTILLERY ORGANIZATION.

In European armies, field artillery is divided into horse and field, but in the Militia Field Artillery of Canada there is no such distinction. All the field batteries, with their full complement of six horses to each gun, 9 pr. M.L.R., 800 lbs., would be able to move with sufficient rapidity to accompany cavalry—in fact, the system followed is that of the old Bengal Horse Artillery, viz., carrying the gunners on the off horses, gun axle seats and limbers which answers all practical purposes of mobility. An artillery advance at speed is rarely over a mile,

and each time the guns come into action, the horses are rested, while the gunners are also comparatively rested during an advance and fresh for their work instead of attemping to run after their guns on foot, and arriving—if they ever did arrive—at the scene of action too tired and exhausted to fight their guns. It is inconceivable that an undesirable feeling of jealousy should for so many years have kept the "Field Artillery" of Great Britain and France in the extraordinary condition of choosing the alternative of arriving in action (after anything of a rapid advance) without their gunners, or following the other alternative of bringing the ammunition wagons under fire, as the only means of carrying up the gunners, and running the risk of ammunition wagons being exploded by a stray bullet, but as we cannot afford the luxury of what are called horse artillery in European armies, we, in Canada, have changed all that. Our Canadian or Bengal Horse Artillery system, brings a minimum of men, horses and ammunition wagons into the first line of fire, for it is rarely that undulations of ground or other cover cannot be found for the ammunition wagons within the distance required to supply ammunition when that in the limbers is exhausted. To effect this the wagon need not be exposed, but the wagon limber trotted up and exchanged for the gun limber, which trots to the rear, relieving the horses and drivers of the gun teams who require relief, for it should be remembered that no soldier of the fighting line has so severe a strain put upon his passive courage as the artillery driver, sitting or standing still under fire, with no weapon but a whip in his hand, and none of that active duty which makes men forget danger.

#### THE BATTERY UNIT

It is fortunate for field artillery that the fighting or tactical and the administrative unit are the same. It is not so with any other arm.

A battalion of infantry extended for attack ceases to be a tactical unit, being uncontrollable by one man.

It first resolves itself into wings under its majors, and then into companies under their captains. The present War Minister of Great Britain has, for purposes of promotion, increased the number of majors to four, but they will not be like the German Hauptman, administrative as well as tactical leaders. In the cavalry the squadron becomes an impromptu incongruous tactical unit, exemplifying the scriptural difficulty of serving two masters.

The field artillery having this advantage, of being in peace and war under the same tactical and administrative leader, becomes a splendid fighting organization.

It has, moreover, the great advantage of becoming in our small armies, and widely severed operations, a tactical unit somewhat equivalent to that of a brigade of infantry, which is the smallest unit with which it can be associated, and its commander becomes from the nature of things in a great measure the decider of his own fighting movements, having received a general idea of what may be required of him, from his artillery chief if with a large force, or from his Brigadier, or General of division, if with a smaller force. These points have been dwelt upon at length, because the command of a field battery though requiring the tactical *coup d'œil* and decision of a General, generally falls to the lot of a comparatively young man, and as such a command on active service may be considered within the reach of every "field artillery subaltern," he should lose no opportunity of acquiring a knowledge of tactics of all arms, which can be gained by any observant officer in the course of the service of artillery with other arms.

Though a battery of artillery often has to act as an almost independent tactical unit, especially in the little wars of Great Britain, and also probably in the unavoidable detached defensive operations with which we Canadians would probably, and unfortunately have to commence a defensive war, in which we would not have taken the initiative of concentration, the lessons of the late great wars in Europe show that great artillery results can only be obtained by concentrated artillery action, and as our battery unit consists of only

four guns, two or more batteries would have to be brigaded together under a lieutenant-colonel. The four gun unit is a convenient and correct one, it can be sub-divided into the two gun divisional unit without dislocation. A six gun battery, if divided into half batteries, breaks up a subaltern's two gun command, which should not be done. Our four guns are taught to manoeuvre without their waggons, which, under the old system, formed an inconvenient rear rank, without offensive power, necessitating adherence to the old fashioned fancy of pivot and reverse flanks and numerical order of guns and waggons, which it was thought necessary to maintain.

A Canadian four gun battery with its wagons safely under cover in rear, is a very handy fighting unit, not interfering with the formations of other arms, which it can be quickly manoeuvred to support from any direction.

#### ARTILLERY FIGHTING TACTICS IN CONNECTION WITH OTHER ARMS.

Field artillery tactics may be considered under four heads:

1st. Tentative, or trying the strength of the enemy in connection with the "advance cavalry" of an army, or with the "advance guard."

The cavalry man may find and feel the enemy, but they cannot probe him, force him to unmask, touch his masses or reserves, nor compel him to delay his advance, by deploying his masses. This, the advanced artillery, when judiciously handled, can effectively do, but no General should allow his whole army to be committed to attack by a couple of advanced guns, as General Burrows appears to have done at the battle of Maidwand. If it is necessary to force the enemy's hand by the forward advance of a few guns, when they have done their business and cannot be supported by the troops accompanying them, they must retire, and may be lost, but it must be remembered that guns may be lost with honor, though this should seldom be in an advance.

On the other hand, great advantages may be gained by the judicious handling of a few guns with the advanced cavalry. The strength of cavalry does not lie in fire. Fire from the saddle is useless, and in dismounting to fire the number of horse-holders necessary, seriously diminishes the effective fire.

When a mass of horses, except under unusual conditions, are exposed to the enemy's fire, the loss of horses would absolutely cripple the the cavalry, and horses taught to lie down under cover has not yet become part of cavalry instruction.

Artillery is the fire complement necessary to cavalry against infantry attack or superior cavalry attack, while for the offensive a few guns would in a few minutes drive an enemy out of a village, no matter how numerously posted without artillery, the cavalry and guns could then occupy. In a similar manner a bridge may be seized and held by a handful of advanced cavalry and a couple of guns. In the same manner the re-entering angle of a river, with a ford or where it is intended to construct a bridge for the passage of your army, may be held by sweeping the opposite projecting angle of the shore with guns converging on it from the opposite side of the river.

*To be Continued.*

#### Correspondence.

To the Editor of the CANADIAN MILITARY REVIEW.

DEAR SIR,—I find that a muzzle velocity of 1,240 feet has been obtained with the Martini-Henry rifle, and it would appear from a New York paper quoted in the last number of your valuable *Review* that the United States Ordnance Department have obtained in their experiments only 1,252 feet. This is a rather serious discrepancy that should, I think, make us accept with distrust other results published in the New York paper.

Yours truly,

OSCAR PREVOST,  
Captain, O.A.

Quebec, 11th May, 1881,

To the Editor of the CANADIAN MILITARY REVIEW.

SIR,—With reference to the review of my little work on "Military Administration," which appeared in your issue of the 1st instant, I have to express my surprise that because I differ totally from the opinions frequently expressed in the *MILITARY REVIEW* relating to conscription, I should be accused of timidly following in the "rut" of those who are afraid of expressing their opinions, and of teaching what I do not consider true.

Whatever be my personal views I do not consider it my duty to criticize the military policy of the Government. I serve in a book intended for use as a text-book in a public institution, especially as this is a political question. I have entered into the relative merits of conscription and voluntary service at some length, showing clearly the advantages and disadvantages of each system, and no one who reads the book can fail to see the great advantage of compulsory service from a purely military aspect, nor the great hardship such a system entails on the citizens of a country.

I deny the "dire necessity" for conscription for the British army, nor do I think compulsory service feasible for an army which is stationed in all parts of the world, and conscription could in any case only be introduced for a home army. The ballot may be enforced for the militia, should volunteering not produce the required number of recruits, and the duty every subject owes to the defence of his country is fully recognized in England as elsewhere.

The insinuation that I teach, what I do not consider true I pass over as beneath notice merely pointing out that feelings of honour should lead the writer to make an apology for such an unwarranted statement.

The remarks you have allowed to be inserted in the *Military Review* would not be worthy of any refutation had they appeared in an ordinary newspaper, but as you are universally believed to be an officer of high standing in this country such an attack on me needs a reply and I have consequently to request you to be good enough to insert this letter in your next issue.

I remain

Your obedient servant,

DOUGLAS JONES,  
Major R. A.

[The portions of the above letter which we have put in italics plainly admit the opinion expressed by us in our *critique*. Conscription has a military as well as a political side, as has the subject of strategy, yet no general could effectually serve his country or be held blameless who thought fit to ignore the political strategy of an impending campaign, and advised or taught his countrymen only to consider the military aspect of strategy. Neither the hardships of conscription or of any other sort of duty render it less a duty, and from the unpleasant duty of criticism the CANADIAN MILITARY REVIEW has no intention of shrinking, nor have we any intention of apologizing for doing what we considered a duty. On the other hand, the writer of the letter attributes to us opinions never expressed in the C.M.R. We never advocated conscription for the British army stationed in all parts of the world; but only for the Militia with exemptions for efficient volunteers, so as to avoid destroying what we call the regular army by turning men out of it after short service in the hope of forming a national reserve. The regular army of 100,000 effectives or thereabouts is too small a mill to grind out a national reserve, and it has destroyed itself in the effort, without making a reserve, which, even if it could be collected or relied upon with certainty, would not equal one *corps d'armée* of any real military nation. Major Jones

may deny the necessity of conscription, but the Commander-in-Chief and the *Broad Arrow* have at last expressed an opinion in favor of what the C.M.R. has been the first and hitherto the only journal to advocate. God grant that the English people may in time recognize the duty every subject owes his country. When the day of dire necessity arrives, it is too late to institute new military organizations. A forgotten clause in the statute book, each year set aside, is not a recognition by the people of the duty every subject owes to his country. Major Jones we spoke of as conscientious, zealous and able. No doubt, as his letter states, the course he has taken he considers his duty.—Ed.]

"No one who has ever risen to any great height in this world refuses to move till he knows where he is going. He is impelled in each step which he takes by a force within himself. He satisfies himself only that the step is a right one, and he leaves the rest to Providence."—Froude.

### THE BROAD ARROW AT LAST!—"BETTER LATE THAN NEVER."

We have long viewed the idea that the English people would not approve nor willingly submit to the Militia ballot as one of those absurd superstitions which seem to have been accepted as arguments, so greatly to the detriment of every practical scheme which has been put forward for providing a sufficient defence for the country; and if any English Minister would be bold enough to test the question by omitting to ask for a Militia Ballot Suspension Act—thereupon putting in force the Militia ballot—we believe the veil would drop from his eyes, not only with regard to this fallacy, but with regard to many other doubts and fears as to what men with reasoning faculties, and thoroughly awake to the dangers which an altered state of science and society has brought upon us, would be prepared to submit to both for patriotism and self-interest. With the ranks of the Volunteers thus doubled or trebled at an infinitesimal expense, with the militia battalions constantly kept at their full strength by a very light ballot to supplement the Volunteer recruits, and with our regular battalions also constantly filled, either on the peace footing or on the foreign service footing by means of volunteering from the Militia battalions of each territorial regiment, we should be in a position to keep with the colors a much larger proportion of fully trained soldiers than ever we can hope to do by the unaided assistance of the short-service system, as applied solely to what are now, for all practical purposes, the two full service battalions of each of our new regiments.

### H. R. H. At Last!

The Duke of Cambridge hit the right nail on the head in his remarks the other night on Army organization. As to comparisons between the English Army and Continental armies," he said. "our position was entirely different from the Continental position. He had not heard anyone use the word 'conscription,' and yet it was conscription that made all the difference." To hear some of the learned talk about "reserves" and "first lines," one would imagine that British soldiers could be called forth by a mere wave of the hand, or a whistle, like Roderick Dhu's Highlanders. The fact is, that if we are to have a strong foreign army and a strong home army too, as well as inexhaustible reserves, some form of conscription, whether called "balloting" or by any other name, must necessarily be faced. By conscription, and by conscription only, does Germany produce her large force; and if we would follow suit in one respect, we must do so in the other. While admitting that it was impossible to resort to conscription for the Army, the Duke said he still entertained a decided opinion that there ought to be conscription for the Militia if it were necessary in order to fill up the ranks.

### Majuba Hill.—A Lesson in Tactics.

To the Editor of the Canadian Military Review.

Sir.—Having seen many references to the disaster at Majuba Hill, in papers civil and military; all of which attribute the result of that unfortunate event more or less directly to bad shooting on the part of our infantry, I am induced to ask your permission to state briefly what appear to be the real causes of our defeat as I think a lesson is conveyed thereby which should be taken seriously to heart by all soldiers.

I must promise that I write with no information beyond that available in the public prints and therefore cannot vouch for the accuracy of the details. The Hill occupied by our forces appears to have been a lofty summit on the proper right of the Boer positions with a cup-like hollow on the top and having very precipitous sides—and it commanded and took in flank, though apparently at a very considerable range, the Boer position.

I shall not enter into the strategical question as to whether the occupation of this hill was or was not desirable, under the then existing circumstances, which apparently forbid, (through lack of numbers) any co-operation by the troops left in front of the Boers during the engagement which must inevitably have resulted; but shall confine my remarks to the two following points.

1st. Was the Hill occupied a suitable position for defence?

2nd. Was it properly occupied, tactically?

Both these questions must I think be answered in the negative.—There is nothing more certain than that a very steep slope is the worst possible fore ground for musketry defence, because in order to fire down such a slope the defenders must lean over and so expose themselves largely to the fire of the assailants, and when, from its inequality, the slope affords natural cover to the assailants the danger from this cause is greatly increased. The inevitable result took place at Majuba as it did over and over again in the Russo-Turkish war; defenders rather than expose themselves fired, without looking over the edge of the slope, in the air; hence of course the Boer losses were (if truly stated) absurdly small, but this was to be expected, and should not be a matter for the least surprise, nor does it need to be accounted for by supposing that our infantry cannot use their rifles, if properly posted.

In the second place we are told that the edge of the basin was occupied by men at 10 paces interval, the remainder of the troops being massed in the cup shaped hollow, in reserve. Now the position was a purely defensive one, no counter attack from it was possible, and it is therefore quite clear that the accepted rule for posting troops in such a position should have been followed, viz: that the shooting line should have been given the greatest possible strength, or in other words, that the men comprising it should have been placed as close together as possible, consistently with freedom of use of their rifles. The reserve was of minor importance; it was proved to be useless, for when the Boers arrived at the summit, there appears to have been no time for it to act, they had been allowed to come up close in superior numbers without loss, and the battle was therefore, as a necessary result: lost!

A minor cause of failure may, I think, be found in the composition of the force, made up, as it was, of dribblets of various corps, sailors, marines, and various infantry regiments, being, I believe represented; it could not have had any efficient discipline or cohesion.

I am, Sir,  
Yours faithfully,

G. R. WALKER,  
Major, R.E.

Royal Military College,  
Kingston, 26th May, 1881.

1st June 1881

*Canadian Military Review.*

Favorable Field Artillery position--Converging Fire on a Bridge.

