

# THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE

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### MISCELLANEOUS.

## Current Topics.

LIEUT.-GENERAL SIR JOHN ROSS, who has been appointed to succeed Lord Alexander Russell in the command of the British troops in Canada, has had an eventful and highly creditable career. Born at Stonehouse, Cumberland, England, in 1829, he joined the rifle brigade in 1846, as second lieutenant, and first saw active service on the outbreak of the war with Russia in 1854. As adjutant of the 2nd battalion he made his influence felt in the exceptional discipline displayed by the troops at the Battle of the Alma. On November 5, in the same year he took part in the victory of Inkerman. His Crimean services were rewarded with promotion to the rank of brevet-major and the conferring of three medals. On the outbreak of the Indian mutiny at Meerut, 1857, he was engaged with his battalion in the suppression of the Sepoys' revolt, and was present at Cawnpore, and subsequently at the relief and capture of Lucknow, which virtually brought the mutiny to a close.

PROCEEDING then to Central India, Major Ross served with distinguished success under Sir Hugh Rose, as commander of a camel corps, which he had raised and organized immediately after the fall of Lucknow. For these services he was raised to the rank of brevet lieutenant-colonel, received a medal and was made a C. B. In January, 1864, he was present at the action of Schuhkudder, for which he received the North-West Frontier medal; and to this a clasp was added for his services in command of the Bengal troops in the Perak expedition of 1875-6. At the close of the Russo-Turkish war, when the late Lord Beaconsfield made his magnificent *coup* by massing the Indian troops in readiness to appear on the scene of action, and thus demonstrated to the astounded Muscovite the enormous reserve force on which England could rely in case of war, it was Sir John Ross who was selected to command the Indian brigade at Malta, and on his return to Hindustan after the collapse of the Eastern crisis he resumed the command of the Calcutta District brigade, which he had temporarily resigned for the purpose of making the European demonstration. During the war in Afghanistan he commanded the reserve division of the field force under Sir Frederick Roberts, and with him he made the memorable march from Cabul to Candahar in 1880, as commander of the infantry brigade. For these services he received the thanks of both Houses of Parliament, got the Afghan medal and the star of Candahar, and was made a Knight Commander of the Bath. In 1881 he was appointed to the command of the Poonah division of the Bombay army, which position he filled till the year 1886, when he retired with the rank of lieutenant-general.

CAPTAIN D. STEVENSON and Quarter-Master-Sergeant T. Maxwell, of the Montreal Brigade of Garrison Artillery, have compiled an aid to instruction of the gunners of their corps, which will doubtless prove of great utility. It might be profitably adopted by other garrison corps, as it comprises in the compass of a very small pamphlet the more important points of a Canadian gunner's duties. The first seventeen pages gives a synopsis of the requisities in the training of garrison artillery, adapted from a memorandum issued by Major Walford, R. A., B. M., at Shoeburyness, and then follow from the *Manual of Garrison Artillery*, 1887, the drill for 64-pr R. M. L. guns on common standing carriages, and for 40-pr. R. B. I. guns on travelling siege carriages; repository exercises and definition of gunnery terms. Improvements which we should suggest for future editions would be an enlargement of the print, margin, etc., and full references to the sources from which the instructions were taken, so as to give them the stamp of the highest authority.

WHEN staunch political supporters of the Minister of Militia rise in the House to publicly press, on behalf of men who have served under them, for an allowance which he has refused, it may be taken for granted that their claim is a just one, or they would not thus compromise the government. It is a matter of notoriety that the men who served in the North-West had in many cases to do without articles of clothing and equipment which the law says shall be provided at the public expense. That more claims such as that put forward on behalf of the York-Simcoe battalion were not presented, is due largely to the fact that, serving for patriotism, the men did not wish to diminish the credit they had thus earned by mercenary wrangling. They believed that the country was disposed to act fairly, and in dealing with them the government should have exercised not only justice but generosity.

THE estimates for the fiscal year 1888-89 submitted since last issue, show that the militia authorities have not yet come to a determination to act upon the suggestions for the improvement of the efficiency of the force so persistently made by the officer commanding and other officers employed at large salaries to give advice on such matters. Despite the fact that it is on all sides admitted that the ammunition allowance is too small to allow the men to have sufficient practice to be of any benefit to them, the vote asked for this purpose shows no increase. Neither is there any addition in the vote asked for drill pay, or expenses connected with the annual drill. The sole increases are \$2,400 added to the payments to brigade majors for salaries and expenses; and \$40,000 for the permanent corps, the latter being consequent on the increase in the establishment made since last year. Provision is made for the salaries of only six D. A. G.'s in place of eight last year, the decrease being consequent on two more officers of the permanent corps undertaking these district duties. The saving thus made in salary and allowances, amounts to \$3,400. The total vote asked for militia purposes is \$1,319,900, an increase of \$32,000. It is not too late yet to take steps to have something additional appear in the supplementary estimates.

IT is difficult to speak moderately of so exquisite a souvenir as the Canadian Club of New York, or more probably its energetic president, Mr. Eastus Wiman, has just issued under the patriotic title of "Canadian Leaves." This book in printing and paper is simply perfect, and its illustrations, by Mr. Thomson Willing, A. R. C. A., are on a par with its typographical excellence. They consist of portraits of the several contributors to the pages, in most cases excellent likenesses and in every case rigorous drawings, and of initials, fancy headpieces, embracing mottoes, and a few tail pieces, all specially designed and showing a high degree of artistic ingenuity and appropriateness. The literary portion consists for the most part of papers read before the Canadian Club by the foremost litterateurs of the Dominion. Mr. Goldwin Smith's already widely published "Schism in the Anglo-Saxon Race," occupies a prominent place. Principal Grant discourses on Canada First; Mr. Bengough gives a characteristic paper on the humorous side of Canadian history; Mr. J. M. LeMoine tells the story of three notable heroines in New France; Mr. J. A. Fraser gives an artist's experiences in the Canadian Rockies; and the Rev. Dr. Ecclestone speaks of our vast North-West; Prof. Roberts entertains us with "Echoes of old Acadia"; Dr. Geo. Stewart speaks of the literature; Mr. John McDougall of the minerals, and Mr. Collins of the future of our Dominion; Hon. Mr. Butterworth has an article on Commercial Union, and Mr. Wiman's speech on the same subject, delivered at the reception to the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, is reproduced. The book contains finally a description of the club, its origin and its objects, by Mr. Geo. M. Fairchild, vice-president, who has acted as editor of the volume and who is to be congratulated on his great success. While some views may have been advanced that would challenge discussion, the extremely high literary reputation of the several contributors are a sufficient guarantee of the high quality of the papers. The book, on a whole, must be of great service to the Dominion as embodying articles of rare literary and artistic merit.

### "Boots and Saddles!"

BY TROOPER WILL T. JAMES, GOV. GEN'S BODY GUARD.

WHAT trooper ever mustered on the field,  
Where battle parts the trophies lost or won,  
And where one alternative—die or yield—  
Comforts him at the muzzle of each gun,  
Has felt no thrill when, on some pitch dark night,  
That forefelt danger—why he can't account—  
Seems brooding o'er the way to a fierce fight,  
The startling trumpet sounds the call to mount?

It may be for some venturous raid or, worse,  
The interception of a midnight march;  
Seldom he knows which 'tis: orders are terse.  
No time has he to guess. The lantern torch  
Shows him familiar things while he equips.  
His tender eyes rest last on those from home;  
Perchance he lifts a keepsake to his lips,  
Thinking of one he left in youth to roam.

When once outside the canvas threshold, he  
Forgets he ever had a home, till when  
The squadron forward trots, and thought is free  
To conjure up old memories again,  
Or to anticipate the journey's end,  
From which alive he never may return  
To camp, to home, to mother nor to friend,  
To all for whom his quickened love may yearn.

War's but a game of chance to those who fight,  
And bullets like the rattling of the dice;  
Who stands at morning may fall ere the night,  
A victim of the slaughter's sacrifice.  
Among the dead or dying have been found  
Both steed and rider who obeyed the call  
Of "boots and saddles" near the marshalling ground,  
With corpse for comrade or black night for pall.

But there's exhilaration in its notes  
For him who has to warfare been inured;  
The pulse of courage amply antidotes  
Fear of impending harm to him obscured.  
Music has in it more than soothing charms,  
It can arouse as well as lull to sleep,  
Its cadenced tongue can trumpet war's alarms,  
And eyes it ope'd to laughter cause to weep.

Summing up the whole matter, then, I affirm that, as common humanity demands that relief should at once be afforded to the suffering veterans of the Union army; since the veterans of the Confederacy are even more needy; since we acknowledge the honesty of their purpose, and have long ago condoned their offence; and since they are fellow-citizens of the Republic both in duty and in privilege, it follows that we should at once relieve them from actual suffering if we can; and we certainly can, if we will, because we have the money, and don't know what to do with it. *Rev. John A. Cass in American Magazine for March.*

## THE STATE OF THE FORCE.

### Inutility of the present system of Target Practice.

Recommendations from the District Commanders.

EXTRACTS from the report of the Deputies of the Adjutant General in charge of the several military districts, contained in the annual report of the Department of Militia and Defence furnish, in detail much interesting information concerning the state of the force. In the hope that the extended publicity thus given may prove beneficial in effect, we give below a synopsis of the most noteworthy complaints and recommendations:—

An outcry has been raised about rural corps being authorized to drill only once in two years, but Lieut.-Col. Otter, in his report for No. 2 District, calls attention to a case even worse. He says:

"Among the corps unauthorized will be noticed the 37th battalion (Haldimand) which has unfortunately not been under arms for two annual drills, or nearly three years. This occurs owing to the strength allowed not being sufficient to cover all the corps not drilled last year.

"In this connection I would beg to draw attention to the apparent unequal division of the drilled strength of the several districts, through which in some cases a battalion has two drills in three years, while in the case of the 37th it has only one drill in three years."

Col. Otter also embodies his recommendations on the subject of the drill of the city corps in camp, as follows:—

"In entering upon my report of the city corps, I would most strongly recommend that they be sent to camp at least once in every three years; the additional cost would not be much, while I am convinced that the knowledge acquired of duties, discipline and interior economy with the practice of extended order, outposts, etc., which such a plan ensures, would be most beneficial to them."

The same officer draws attention to the absence of hospital supplies, so often the subject of complaint. Speaking of a serious accident at the camp for No. 2 district he says: "In this and one or two minor cases that occurred, great inconvenience was caused by the absence of instruments, splints, etc., and I would most fully endorse the recommendations of Surgeon Strange for the issue of such articles in each camp, as well as an extra blanket per man; also hospital cots, with palliasses for use in the Field Hospital."

This paragraph also sounds familiar; let us hope occasion for its reappearance will be removed: "It is my duty in this connection to call attention to the number of almost useless rifles (issue of 1867) that are to be found throughout the district (No. 2), being honeycombed and worn out by wear, age and bad care, also to the saddlery of the cavalry and accoutrements of the infantry, hardly any single article of which, save new issues, is really fit for ordinary use to say nothing of actual service."

On the subject of accoutrements the testimony of Lieut.-Col. Houghton, D. A. G. of the Winnipeg district, may be added: "The accoutrements, however, as frequently reported by me, as well as by both Regimental and District Boards, are quite unserviceable, and until they are replaced the battalion cannot be regarded as being in an efficient state to take the field for actual service." Also the report of Lieut.-Col. Worsley, D. A. G. of No. 9: "Canteens were served out to the remainder of the district. The equipment in camp consists of a great-coat, strap, waist-belt and ball bag—10 rounds, a frog and havresack. The 50-round pouch is no longer serviceable, and has been condemned in both my districts by the Regulation Board, the leather having perished and become rotten. I trust that the "Oliver Equipment" may be purchased and issued; it is acknowledged, by the most distinguished officers in Her Majesty's service, to be on a true principle, and is far superior to anything the British have, or, I think, any nation has, and I do hope its merit may be recognized by my department."

#### THE TROUBLE IN THE NINETY-FIRST.

The official investigation into the affairs of the 91st Battalion, Winnipeg, having been made the subject of so many newspaper paragraphs, it will be interesting to read the report of the D. A. G. in this connection. He says: "I regret much to have to state that, consequent upon the death of the late commanding officer, the corps has fallen into a rather disorganized and highly unsatisfactory condition the next senior officer, now in command of them, not appearing to have obtained their confidence or support, as may be seen from the tabular report of the inspection of that corps on the 25th November, 1887, showing that of an authorized establishment of 26 officers and 276 non-

commissioned officers and men, of whom 267 were authorized to receive pay for drill, only 11 officers and 74 non-commissioned officers and men (including a band of 16) were present on parade on that occasion.

"I am therefore reluctantly compelled to recommend that this corps be either removed from the Active Militia List, or else at once re-organized under some more competent commanding officer, as I am unable at the present time to report or, under existing circumstances, to hope that this battalion will ever again be brought to a state of efficiency.

"The accoutrements," he concludes, "I have already on previous occasions reported as, in my opinion, totally unfit for service."

#### HALF A CENTURY OF SERVICE.

With pardonable pride, Lieut.-Col. D. E. Boulton, of the 3rd Prince of Wales Canadian Dragoons, refers in his report of No. 3 district camp, of which he took command upon Col. Villiers being suddenly called away, to the fact that during that period he celebrated the "50th anniversary of my military service, beginning with the organization of 'The Queen's Own' as an incorporated battalion in 1837."

#### RECOMMENDATIONS ON RIFLE SHOOTING.

Lieut.-Col. Jackson, D. A. G. of No. 1 District, thus grapples with the much vexed question of musketry instruction and practice:—

"The lease of the rifle range to the Western Rifle Association, which had heretofore been used by the militia, having expired last spring, the owners of which declined renewal, a new location was sought for and the only apparent available one was rented by the Association, but on inspection it was found so dangerous, I could not recommend its use by the troops in camp, consequently the Major General Commanding was pleased to authorize the suspension of target practice.

"In a large camp, such as assemblies in this district, if firing takes place, some of the corps, in order that all may finish, would require to commence on the day after assembling, consequently they could not first receive any instruction in musketry, and as the musketry instructor would be required constantly on the ranges, all other corps would be similarly situated except that they would have an opportunity of learning something of drill.

"In order that the men might profit by target practice, they should first be taught their turnings, how to form fours and wheel, sufficient of the manual and firing exercise to ensure handling the rifle so as not to cause accident, with position and aiming drill, and such explanation of the sights and trajectory as will enable them to comprehend in some slight degree the theoretical principles of musketry. On this account, I believe better results would be obtained if these instructions were carried out during the annual drill, and target practice at company headquarters.

"Some years ago I ventured to suggest encouragement to rifle shooting at company headquarters. After several more years' experience I am more fully confirmed such would result beneficially to the force, and particularly to the rank and file.

"For the year ended 30th June last, nine rifle associations sent in returns, showing matches had taken place, viz.: Western District at London, Ingersoll, Wellington at Guelph, Leamington, County of Perth at Stratford, 33rd Battalion at Seaforth, County of Bruce at Walkerton, County of Huron at Clinton, 30th Battalion at Moorefield.

"The sums granted in aid of these associations by the Department amounted to the large total of \$625. From the small number of competitors, 386 all told, it would appear the usefulness of these associations is fast departing, and that some other method should be devised to meet the difficulty. It is also observed that these few competitors are largely composed of retired and non-combatant officers, staff sergeants and civilians, or, in other words, the absence of the rank and file is very marked. There is a diversity of opinion as to the propriety of officers competing with the men, but I think it is desirable the officers on the active list should receive such encouragement as will induce them to so perfect themselves with the use of the rifle as to be enabled to impart instruction in this very important branch to the men serving under them. With the view of having the rank and file more carefully instructed, and the ammunition fired without waste, it appears desirable an increased number of rounds should be granted, and the practice carried out at company headquarters.

"If an equal amount of money given to the local rifle association were divided among the companies, or say ten dollars to each, on such conditions as might be considered expedient—for example, on consideration that no less than a like sum should be raised locally, a prize meeting held, no one person be allowed to take more than one prize, and, if possible, each competitor to be awarded something, an increase of ammunition to forty rounds per man, twenty to be fired in practice (during camp if present regulations are continued), and twenty in competition for the prizes—this would induce the men to contribute their

time, keep up a more active organization locally, cultivate a military spirit among the younger men and boys, resulting beneficially to the force generally. Practice should be carried out annually, irrespective of the company being selected for drill in camps. These, of course, are only crude suggestions as a foundation to work upon, with the view of more thoughtful consideration, and will no doubt be objected to, particularly by those who take in the tour of rifle associations, and carry off, year after year, a large proportion of the prizes, as also others who will say the ammunition will be improperly expended; but I believe the improved results would more than compensate for all disadvantages. This system would also form a much more extended nursery for the Provincial and Dominion matches, where the most successful would naturally congregate, to compete for the valuable prizes offered, as also for places on the Wimbledon team.

*Lt.-Col. Maunsell (No. 8) on same subject.*

"The following suggestion (one I submit for serious consideration) comes from various quarters, viz.: that target practice, instead of being carried out as at present in brigade camp, should be carried out at local headquarters of corps subsequent to the completion of drill in camp, under proper supervision.

"The reasons for this are, I submit, many and obvious, as obvious as is the importance of the attainment of skill, individually and collectively in corps, in the use of the rifle, as part of all training.

"Target practice during the far too short period of training in camp, however active or energetic the instructor may be, is too often done in a perfunctory manner, with but little preliminary drill and with indifferent shooting.

"If carried out at local headquarters as I recommend, after camp, the previous training, with strict attention during the performance of the drill to the instruction of each company in the 'firing exercises'—important in preliminary drill—by company officers would produce good practical results. All such previous training would certainly serve the better to prepare corps for target practice.

"In order to insure this being carried out successfully at local headquarters it should be carefully done under the supervision of a district staff officer—D.A.G. or B.M.—one day's extra pay being allowed to each company for this service.

"As every company has, or should have a rifle range with proper targets at its disposal, there could be no insuperable difficulties to overcome.

"I would, in conclusion, repeat the recommendation often submitted that company and battalion prizes for rifle practice—granted for several years by the department with the best results—be again authorized. I have endeavoured to keep up this system of granting prizes, at my own cost and by other means. But, I submit, a government grant as above recommended would produce infinitely better results.

*Lt.-Col. Worsley, No. 9 District.*

"The shooting of the district I look upon as very bad. The men of the Canadian militia are not trained in the use of the rifle, are not heaven-born riflemen any more than their British brothers, and more than half the force in my district are third-class shots. In the camps those who did not obtain 15 points in the 10 rounds at 200 yards were sent back to fire again at that distance, this being the proportion required in Imperial service in order to pass in to the second class. I regret that the prizes recommended by the Lieutenant-General and myself for the militia in their annual shooting have not been acceded to; the liberal grants for rifle shooting scarcely touch the rank and file of the militia, certainly not in the rural districts. I therefore respectfully suggest a consideration of my report of last year, page 44, Annual Report.

*The Musketry Instruction at Camp Aldershot (Major Irving).*

"It will be seen that nearly three-fourths of the men who fired are in the third class; in view of this fact and of the importance of steps being taken to remedy it and increase the number of efficient shots, I would venture to suggest that the annual issue of twenty rounds of ball cartridge per man be made general and not restricted to the strength authorized for annual drill, those relieved from drill expending their allowance at company headquarters, under, if possible, the superintendence of a staff officer, in which case, were your recommendation in last year's report as to prizes carried out, I have no doubt but that in a very short time the shooting of the force would be vastly improved.

All the garrisons within the limit of the Seventh Army Corps (Lower Rhine and Westphalia) have now been provided with large samples of the new article of food which is in future to form the so-called "iron ration" of the men in the field. It is a peculiar kind of bread in the shape of small cubes the size of a chocolate drop, made of fine wheat bread, strongly spiced and calculated to keep for a long time. When taken into the mouth it quickly softens, and is both palatable and nutritious. It is chiefly intended for forced marches when there is no time for camping and cooking.—*Berlin Tageblatt.*

## Modern Tactics.

[By Capt. H. R. Gall—From Illustrated Naval and Military Magazine.]

(Continued from Page 278.)

THE following is the generally accepted method in the British army of posting a battalion of eight companies in the front line of defence. It is open to the objection that companies are needlessly mixed up.

(1.) Firing line three companies in single rank, each man occupying one yard, which gives him room to use his rifle with precision at long ranges. This gives a front to the battalion of 300 yards.

(2.) Two companies in support, posted under cover, not more than 150 yards in rear, to replace casualties in the firing line.

(3.) Three companies, as local reserves, posted not more than three hundred yards back from the supports, to be moved up wherever they are required to expel any intruders immediately they gain a footing, and before they can be reinforced. At this moment the fire of the assailants must have ceased, and it is very favourable to deliver a well-directed counter attack with a compact body of fresh troops. This plan, in addition to mixing up companies in the firing line, divides a battalion into two unequal parts.

The following arrangement is suggested. Three sections of each of the four right or left half-battalion companies in the firing line, and the fourth section of each in support. This would give the same front, viz., 300 yards, and avoid all mixing of companies in the firing line, which would then remain always under their own section commanders.

A section per company in support ought to be ample for the purpose of replacing casualties, and would present a smaller target to the attack. The whole of the rear half-battalion would be in reserve, divided into two double companies if necessary, or kept together, according to the requirements of the position. The amount of fire action developed would be the same as before, the target smaller, and the reserves stronger.

### Fire Action.

The object of the defence is to endeavour to exhaust the attack. This is done by providing cover for everybody, supplementing whatever natural cover exists by entrenchments and redoubts. From this cover the defenders keep up a continuous fire from the moment they have an adequate mark to aim at. Ammunition should never be wasted by firing at an inadequate mark, and its expenditure ought to be controlled by section commanders; but considerable latitude should be given, as the object of the defenders is to prevent the assailants reaching within point-blank range of the position, and diminish their force at a distance, when their return fire can only be random and comparatively harmless.

The field exercise, Part V., under the heading

### Musketry Fire Tactics,

Lays down at considerable length, the limits of employment with the Martini-Henry rifle, and this section requires to be carefully studied.

"In action musketry fire is the main element. It cannot be left to individual initiation without the danger of its degenerating into a useless expenditure of ammunition.

"The duty of 'directing' musketry fire falls on the company commanders in the firing line (both in defence and attack); that of 'regulating' the fire on the section commanders, under the direction of the company commanders.

"The captain points out the objectives to be attacked, and the nature of the fire to be employed. He carefully watches the direction of the fire of the various sections, and endeavours to keep it under control.

"The section commander, having pointed out the position of the object on which the sections should aim, will name the distances for which the elevation is to be used, the number of rounds to be fired, and the description of fire.

"The direction and control of fire requires, on the part of the company and section commanders, calmness and decision, skill in judging distance, a quick perception in estimating the importance of the various objectives, together with a complete knowledge of the advantages and disadvantages of the varying formation of the ground, and of the curve of the trajectory of the rifle at the different ranges.

"The general principles for the regulation and direction of musketry fire are as follows:—

"The number of men to be placed in the fighting line in the defence depends on the configuration of the ground. The fire must be slow enough to insure accuracy. Pauses of some length should occasionally be made to allow the smoke to clear away to judge of the effect produced, to give the necessary orders, and to keep the men steady.

"In the defence the pauses in firing should take place when the attacking troops are lying down or partly covered.

"The cessation of fire in one portion of the line of defence may often serve to draw on the enemy to the point which he thinks has been abandoned, and a sudden resumption of fire, from the same spot, will produce a considerable effect on the assailants.

"Volley firing keeps troops in hand, facilitates the employment of converging fire, allows of the correction of elevation and direction, by observing the points where the bullets strike, and affords the best means for regulating the expenditure of ammu-

munition, always a very important consideration, though less so in the defence than in the attack.

"The distances at which fire should be opened depend on the formation of the ground, on the vulnerability of the objectives, and on their tactical importance. Firing on an enemy at a 'long' distance may result in shaking him, and retarding his entry into action: it may render difficult the occupation of an important point, such as a bridge, an intersection of roads, or any particular line of advance imposed on him."

A remarkable instance of this was furnished during Suleiman Pasha's attack on the Shipka Pass. The Turks from the woody mountain position commanded the only line of retreat and of communication the Russians possessed, and at long ranges inflicted frightful losses on them.

"In the defence opportunities will be generally found for firing with effect at 'long' distances, and at 'medium' distances the practice of the defence should always be very destructive.

"Long range firing on the part of the defence may often have the effect of inducing the attacking force to break into extended order too soon, and to expend more ammunition at 'long' distances than they can afford."

### Artillery Fire Tactics in Defence.

If decidedly inferior to the artillery of the assailants the guns should be carefully masked, so as not to draw the concentrated fire of the attack upon them until the enemy's infantry shows. If not very inferior (taking into consideration the advantage of being able to throw up epaulments and procure cover by either natural or artificial means for gunners and teams) the defenders' artillery replies to that of the attack.

When the assailants' infantry appear, all the artillery fire of the defence should be directed on it, as, until the attacking infantry gets within rifle range of the position the defender's artillery can shell it with impunity, and every advantage should be taken of these precious moments.

At all times during the progress of an engagement, the defenders' artillery should look out for opportunities for firing on the enemy's guns when limbering up, in movement, or when forming for action; at such times they are silenced and very vulnerable.

The defenders should have the exact ranges of all the artillery positions capable of being occupied by the enemy carefully marked.

### Artillery with the Outposts.

The Field Exercise says:—

"The employment of artillery, except under special circumstances, might result in bringing on a general action in advance of the selected position, or in the capture of the guns.

"If, however, the outpost line commands, within range, defiles or bridges over which the enemy must pass, it may be advantageous to place guns to harass the enemy crossing; skirmishers in this case should be thrown forward to protect the guns from the enemy's sharpshooters, who might have crossed the fords by other means."

The increased accuracy and range of modern rifles is continually diminishing the effect of artillery fire, which, after all, on the field of battle, is limited to the range of human vision. The margin between the two arms in this respect is being continually reduced.

In 1877 the Russian artillery was very inferior; but Gen. Todleben appears to have attributed the feeble role that it played more to the use of artificial cover adopted by the Turks than any other cause. General Todleben is credited with having said that it took a Russian battery a whole day's firing to kill one Turk. The data on which this rough calculation was formed is not given; but such was the opinion of the first military engineer during the most recent European war.

Again, the Russians suffered more severely during the same campaign (1877) from the long range rifle fire of the Turks, directed from behind the cover of their entrenchments, than from their artillery, which was of the latest construction.

(To be continued.)

The 1st battalion of the King's Own (Yorkshire Light Infantry) under the command of Lieut.-Col. C. K. Chatfield, arrived at Mandalay from the Upper Burmah frontier on the 31st October, in the Indian Marine steamer *Sir William Peel*, en route to England. A short time after their arrival a lance-corp. of the bn., named Upton, fell overboard; the Colonel, who was standing with his officers on deck at the time, seeing the man fall over, ran to the bridge and jumped overboard in his uniform after him. Upton, who was unable to swim, rose only once to the surface, and sank just before the Colonel could reach him; he was never seen again. The Irrawaddy runs with dangerous force past Mandalay, and has proved fatal to many of our gallant soldiers. Col. Chatfield's right hand was partly disabled and bandaged at the time he jumped overboard. He swam some distance down the river in the hope of the unfortunate corporal coming to the surface again, but no trace of him was seen though hundreds of eager eyes were watching from the decks of the steamer. Two men of a company of the bn. which had disembarked, Privates Mills and Staton, both fine swimmers, seeing the excitement on board and someone in the water, pluckily went into the stream and swam out towards the steamer, and afterwards followed their colonel down the river. All three succeeded afterwards in reaching the shore without much difficulty. On the 2nd November, Maj.-Gen. Sir George White, K. C. B., V. C., commanding the Upper Burmah Field Force, accompanied by the whole of the headquarter staff, inspected this fine bn., which had disembarked on the occasion, and at the conclusion of the parade Sir George White referred to the above occurrence in a stirring address to the regiment. He said that while sympathising with them deeply on the sad fate of their comrade, he could not but congratulate them on having at their head an officer who had shown such gallantry, and who had not hesitated to risk his life in the hope of saving one of his own men with desperate odds against him.

## GOSSIP OF THE MILITIA.

### Notes of the Week from the Chief Military Centres.

#### Why those who don't "soger" should pay.

QUITE a discussion arose in the House on Monday last, over an enquiry by Mr. Mulock concerning the money allowance in lieu of kit claimed for the York-Simcoe battalion which served in the North-West. The allowance has been refused on the ground that the kit was provided by the county of York not by the men, and that if anyone has a claim it is the county only. It was pointed out in the discussion that the men of the battalion had been compelled to make purchases to supplement what they had received from the county and also that they had suffered much discomfort on account of the department's failure to furnish proper supplies; as for instance many had to march barefooted, their boots hurting them owing to being misfits. Mr. Mulock is a member of the Opposition, but his claims on behalf of the battalion were supported by speeches from three friends of the Government, Lieut.-Col. O'Brien, who commanded it; Lieut.-Col. Tyrwhitt, one of the majors; and Major-General Laurie, who made this the occasion of his maiden speech in the House. In reply the Minister of Militia repeated his contention that the men of the battalion had no claim, but promised to bring down the papers.

Lieut.-Col. Amyot has been pursuing the Minister of Militia ever since the opening of the session. He has asked a great number of questions, but no debate has taken place on any of them, and the answers returned are not very instructive. The Minister has, however, stated that the matter of supplying water to the Quebec drill hall is to be attended to.

Col. Amyot now wants the correspondence about the water supply above alluded to; wants to know about the remuneration to be paid to the chaplain of B School of Infantry; and also has an inquiry relative to the omission from the Minister's report of a part of Major-General Strange's account of his operations in the North-West.

Regimental orders of the Governor-General's Foot Guards, just issued, contain notice of the appointment of Sergt. Gallwey, from No. 5 Co., to be assistant orderly room clerk, of Corporal C. Strounger, to be sergeant to fill vacancy thus created in that company, and of Lance-Corpl. F. Thomas to be corporal there.

The Halifax *Mail* states it is reported that the York and Lancaster regiment (now stationed at Halifax) is under orders to remove to Vancouver, British Columbia. This, if true, is very significant, as the sending of an Imperial regiment to the Pacific, indicates that England is preparing for war. The recommendation of Gen. Middleton for the appointment of a military commission of Canadian officers to report on a plan for the improvement of the defences of the Dominion, indicates that the General believes that we also should be getting ready for the coming European struggle, in which probable event the enemy's cruisers may attack our seaports, and there may be hostile demonstrations by Fenians from the States.—*Fredericton Capital*.

#### Toronto.

FOR some time past the daily press has been giving us articles on the militia, in every shape and form, and from every standpoint, through the spectacles of all sides of politics, the land leaguer included, even down to the man who wants "no sodgering." The last man may for all I know believe in having no policemen, probably because he has intentions of breaking in and stealing.

The Major-General in his last report finds himself compelled to say, that unless the grant is largely increased he recommends the cutting down of the militia. There is no denying it that the present vote is barely sufficient to drill and maintain 18,000 men, the permanent corps, the Military College and staff, and incidentas therewith.

Our 40,000 men are but a mere drop in the bucket. As at present constituted it is a force which would not suffice for Canada in case of war, it is a force stronger than is necessary in time of peace to secure internal tranquillity, but totally inadequate to repel any external attack. What is wanted is not 40,000 partially drilled men, but from 100,000 to 150,000 men—well equipped, disciplined and drilled. What we want is that the brunt of defending Canada should bear upon every man evenly. Why should 40,000 men do all the militia work for Canada? Why should one man sit alone enjoying a pipe and I do sentry-go with the rain trickling down my back? The other man answers always, "because you like the thing and I don't." Tax him then, I say—money or work he must give.

The peaceable man, who is also usually a man for looking after the almighty dollar, wants no militia—it costs money. Certainly it does, but he forgets that a good system of militia in any country contributes greatly towards keeping up that country's credit—notwithstanding any debt it may have. A country, which is incapable or indisposed to provide for its own defence, is not a country in which capitalists will invest either in public funds, railways or private enterprise. If it had not been for the services of the militia during the Grand Trunk disturbances in 1876, the Quebec riots in 1878 and 1879, and numerous other occasions, the peaceable man's investments might probably now be worth only 25 cents on the dollar. And what are the thanks the militia receive? A generous country votes annually sufficient money to half drill and discipline 18,000 men.

When the militia is criticized—is it in such a state that it does not stand criticism—the critic is immediately told that he is "a sorehead." My own idea is the militia has been killed by too much civilian interference. However, I would like to know the candid opinion of the following criticism of the Imperial army, and I would ask if the speaker was, in your opinion, a sorehead, a crank, a lunatic, or what he was. He said: "I believe in novelties, and I think the more novelties adopted into an army, the better it is for the army and those concerned. \* \* \* You may be certain you ought to have a corps of cyclists, and that many novel institutions should be adopted and applied to your army; but I should like to see any of the gentlemen who have those theories in their heads go to the war office and ask to have expensive weapons. \* \* \* What is our position at the present moment? It is not only in telegraphic instruments that our army is deficient; we are sadly in want of great guns of a modern type. \* \* \* Study the subject yourselves. \* \* \* I do not hesitate to say we are in a condition which is discreditable to the nation, and discreditable to everyone who is responsible for

them." (And I do not hesitate to say the same as regards Canada.) "If you ask for machine guns, etc., \* \* \* what is it that takes place? I am sorry to say that the process gone through involves a great expenditure of pen and ink, and an enormous expenditure of patience. Your proposition goes backwards and forwards from one person to another, between gentlemen who perhaps had never heard of the invention before; notwithstanding this fact they conceive it to be their province to write long minutes upon it. In fact \* \* \* if we continue the system that has been pursued hitherto we shall arrive before long at a condition of things when the fighting strength of our army will be little over the proverbial "two men and a boy." And so it goes on. I would again ask was the man who uttered those sentiments, a crank, lunatic, sorehead, a demagogue, or what?

Things are coming to a terrible state. Before long perhaps the militia will develop into "a boy and the Collingwood 18 pr." My, oh my, read the last militia report—it is terrible; but that depends upon how you look upon it.

Some flatter themselves that the militia if called out would scare everything off the face of the earth. A mosquito with his tool is far more dangerous to others than the militia infantry armed with the useless rifle and unserviceable ammunition. A short time ago it was rank heresy to say that the Canadian ammunition was inferior, but now we have discovered that the centre of gravity of the bullet was too far forward.

We are going to have a commission to consider the defences of Canada. A commission without an engineer officer on it—great Scott! "go up foot."

The militia of Canada reminds me of a badly equipped and administered volunteer fire brigade in a town. The alarm after several futile attempts managed to ring. The fire is a big one; the men come tumbling in one after another. The chief is at the station armed with a trumpet: "Come boys, look sharp"; "wait until we get this wheel mended"; "wait until I run down to Bill's and get some hose, that lot burst the last time we tried to get out"; "hurry up," again from the chief; "where's Mike and the horses," and by the time the brigade is ready (?) to move the fire has burnt itself out, and the chief writes a grand report on the fire for the information of the town council, telling them plainly what they may expect if things are not attended to. Such small things do not bother councils, but eventually the council get a grand idea. They will have a regular fire brigade, 3 chiefs, 1 man, an engine and a horse, but no hose—that was an oversight—eventually supplied. The citizens in the end discover that the volunteer brigade with all their faults were just as efficient and probably as trustworthy as the "R. F. B. of Topseyville," for the simple reason as expressed, "our boys weren't got up in such grand uniforms, but once they got at a fire it was out in no time," and "if the council had only treated the boys half decent, we wouldn't be paying twice as much as we do now for 3 chiefs, a man and a horse."

LINCH-PIN.

#### Montreal.

AT the Vics' armoury the past week has been a busy one at play and practice. The shooting gallery has gone up another peg by a score lacking but one point of a possible—49 out of 10 shots, 200 and 500. Staff-Sergt. Corbin, 63rd Rifles, was the performer, the occasion being the fifth spoon competition. Needless to say, the spoon did not look further for an owner.

The latest are "all round" team competitions, best three out of five events, shooting, billiards, pool, bowling and cocked hat, two, three or more men a side from different companies.

As the spring draws on the longing to see something done about a range grows stronger but hope fainter. Desire increases because it is time the matter was seriously taken up and pushed forward with vigour, regardless of likes and dislikes, or the little item of extra expense by starting at the latter part of this month, and hope diminishes because the men in this district, who shoot in spite of difficulties, are now used to disappointments and look for the usual trouble about ranges to occur again this spring. In fact, the general idea seems to be that we shall get no real shooting until July or August. If so what shining lights the Montreal contingent to the D. R. A. will be.

BUSBY.

#### Quebec.

LIEUT.-COL. REEVE, the first commanding officer of the 8th Battalion, or Stadacona Rifles, died at Quebec on Monday of last week, and was buried with military honours on the 29th ult. The deceased was formerly a captain in H. M. 79th Highlanders, and was appointed lieut.-col. commanding the 8th when it was first formed into a battalion, 28th March, 1868. He retired on the 6th of April, 1877.

The funeral service was read by Rev. H. G. Petry, at the English Cathedral, for which a start was made shortly after two o'clock. The remains were interred at Mount Hermon cemetery. "B" Battery furnished the firing party. The men marched to the strains of the "Dead March in Saul," beautifully played by the band of the Queen's Own Canadian Hussars. After the chief mourners came the officers who served under Col. Reeve in the 8th Stadacona Rifles, Major Morgan, Capt. F. C. Wurtele, Ahearn and Gilmour, Lieuts. A. H. White, B. K. Eppes, T. H. Jones, J. McLimont, Paymaster P. E. Poulin, (Sr.) Mr. C. E. Holiwell, also Capt. Russel and Lieuts. Norris and Stuart. The 8th Royal Rifles turned out in strong force, and so did the Cavalry School corps. The former corps was commanded by Major Prower, and was in two companies of fifty men each, one under Capt. Dunbar and Lieut. Woods, and the other under Capt. Montzambert and Lieut. Peters. There was a good attendance also from the Queen's Own Hussars, the other corps represented being Major Crawford Lindsay's Field Battery, the 9th Battalion, and the different batteries of garrison artillery. A large number of officers of various city corps brought up the rear of the military portion of the procession, juniors in front. The pall-bearers were Lieut.-Cols. Duchesnay, Rhodes, Pope, Turnbull, Montzambert, Roy and Scott. Lieut.-Col. Miller was unable to attend in consequence of indisposition.

In *The American Magazine* for March, lovers of Indian antiquities will find much to interest them in an article by Charles Ellis, describing and illustrating the national features of Mackinac Island in Lake Huron. Mr. Ellis has been fortunate in discovering a very curious Indian legend of the Creation, which accounts for white men as well as red, but not in a flattering way. To the question, "What do Anarchists want?" a full answer is given by Z. L. White, in a careful resumé of their origin, doctrines and purposes. The article shows by quotation from their own utterances how deep and radical is the enmity of Anarchists toward all law, government, morality, religion and society, and how unscrupulous are their plans for destroying the persons and property of all who oppose their projects. Another interesting contribution is that of Rev. John A. Cass, of Philadelphia, who offers a startling suggestion for disposing of part of the surplus which overburdens the U. S. national treasury. He urges a distribution of sufficient funds to relieve the necessities of sick and disabled soldiers who served on either side during the war. The argument is strongly presented on the broad ground of humanity.

## Correspondence.

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

## THE SCORING AT ARTILLERY COMPETITIONS.

To the Editor of the Canadian Militia Gazette:

SIR,—In your last issue I notice that Lieut.-Col. Irwin says (referring to the artillery competition at Orleans Island) that "the general results of the meeting were extremely satisfactory, the scores made were generally very good," etc.

As an officer who commanded a detachment at that competition I beg leave to remark that the of *system* scoring was not entirely satisfactory—no blame to the officers who kept the scores. I have reason to believe that this subject is already engaging the attention of the inspecting officers. We must always learn something. Now I object to the present system of scoring on the following grounds:—

a. The value of the shot is not at once signalled to the battery, but is calculated in the evening by comparing the score for direction with that for elevation and fuze.

b. The keeping of two registers, one at the gun for direction and the other at the target for elevation, gives one a feeling of uncertainty as to whether you are getting the whole of your score or only part of it and part of another man's.

c. Six points extra for a direct hit is too much.

How often does it happen that when fixing up a target one or two shot holes are discovered that have not been marked on the register? Or suppose a shot carries away one corner of the target, it counts 12 points. Another shot comes exactly in the same direction, but it only counts 6 points, because there is nothing to strike.

Everyone knows how disheartening it is to a competitor to have the slightest suspicion that the scoring is not correct, and I trust that some changes will be made in the present system of scoring.

ARTILLERYMAN.

## COMPLIMENTS ON THE MARCH.

To the Editor of the Canadian Militia Gazette:

SIR,—My friend "Linch-pin" runs away from the question in dispute, which arose over the statement that a company under arms, on the march, and under the command of an officer of the permanent corps, neglected to "shoulder arms" on meeting the brigade-major of the district, he being in uniform. I maintain there was no neglect of duty, and "Linch-pin" has failed to give a rule, precedent, or paragraph from R. & O., "Otter's Guide," or "Queen's Regulations." I may be wrong in my reading, but am willing to learn like other recruits, and must have something more than has yet been shown to cause me to depart from my original contention.

MILISH.

## THE CANADIAN ARTILLERY AND LIEUTENANT SMITH.

To the Editor of the Canadian Militia Gazette:

SIR,—Permit me to take exception to the opinion expressed in the GAZETTE in answer to the query of "X Pounder," as to whether an artillery officer of the active militia force has the "right" to use the words "Canadian artillery" after his name on a visiting card.

I should think that as a question of "right" the matter would be decided by the fact of whether one "is" or "is not," an officer of the "Canadian Artillery, not by the possibility of a misconception of the term.

If one is an officer of the Canadian artillery surely his "right" to designate himself as such cannot properly be contested, and, inasmuch as the officers of the Regiment of Canadian Artillery have no special precedence over the other officers of the Canadian Artillery, I cannot see any just reason why they should enjoy a monopoly of a designation that is the pride of the service, more particularly as they have the specific designation of "Regiment of Canadian Artillery." It has never, so far as I have been aware, been the custom for officers of artillery to mark the name of their corps or regiment on their visiting cards. In the Imperial service, while officers of the cavalry and infantry state the number or name of the regiment they belong to, all officers of artillery use simply the words "Royal Artillery."

I am under the impression that your reply as to "Lieutenant Smith" or "Mr. Smith" is also in part open to criticism. While it is proper to address strictly official communications "Lieutenant A. E. Smith" other communications in writing should be addressed "A. E. Smith, Esq., Lieut., — Battalion."

BILL-HOOK.

Ottawa, 6th March, 1888.

## Gleanings.

An effort will be made at the next session of the North Carolina Legislature to abolish the present law giving pensions to Confederate soldiers and devote the amount so appropriated to the building of a soldiers' home. As the law now exists the amount for each pensioner is so small that but very little benefit is derived from it.

With the hostile forces of Abyssinia and Italy drawing closer, the Red Sea for the moment attracts much of the public attention that had been centred on the Black. Italy's concession to Spain of a fifteen years' right to a coaling station on Assab Bay indicates her purpose permanently to occupy that region. The bay is capacious, having a width of about five miles and a length thrice its width, so that there will be room enough for such Spanish vessels as may find their way there, even with all the rights of occupation reserved by Italy.

Experiments with the view of the rapid entraining of troops at night time have been recently made at Konenbourg, in Austria. The light is created by electricity. The trials were satisfactory, and are to be repeated shortly at Vienna, with troop trains comprising sections of 300 vans for despatch at the same summons.

A French paper gives assurance that the sabre bayonet of the Lebel rifle is a real gem: "Quadrangular, pointed, of strong and flexible steel, it has all the appearance of a short fighting sword. The hilt is nickel. Our little *chasseurs* are quite proud to wear it. They look as if they thought that a good deal of business could be done with such a fork (*fourchette*), and they are right."

The 198,000 English soldiers with their colours cost as much as the 428,000 regular troops in Germany, the round figures for both countries being \$94,200,000 a year. Huge as the German army is it has less officers above the rank of captain than the English army, and this, with the smaller pay, cheaper clothing, and rigid economy in all departments, helps to make up the difference in the cost of the soldiers of the two nations.

"Portable railways of a new type will assuredly be among the leading features of the next great war," says the *St. James' Gazette*. "The latest invention in this line is the idea of an Austrian engineer, Herr Leinwather. His rails are said to be the best of the kind ever made, being especially good over uneven ground. The Austrian war office has ordered a small supply, and will make a trial of the railway at once. Germany has also asked Herr Leinwather for samples both of his rails and wagons."

"John S. Narg," a marine, writes to the New York *Herald* in regard to the recent article in that paper as to the "waifs and strays" who recruit the army, and says: "Men who make soldiering a profession have made up their minds that all that is required of them is implicit obedience; so when a recruit thinks an officer is acting like a Russian Czar, the old soldier thinks he is doing exactly that which he ought to do. Then, again, there are always at every barracks a lot of soreheads (generally deserters from the English army), who are always finding fault with everything and saying from month to month, 'I'll skin out next pay-day,' but they hardly ever go until fired out by the sentence of a court martial."

In the days of Brown Bess, no less an authority on musketry fire than the Iron Duke was asked his opinion upon a change of calibre in the fire-arm of the time, and bluntly answered that no bullet was worth having that would not take a charge hard and heavy enough to break a horse's leg. The guides on the field of Waterloo, at the present day, profess their ability to distinguish between the British and French or foreign bullets yet found in the soil. The first mentioned missiles are about one-third larger and heavier than the other specimens, and the volleys from the British squares certainly told with more sure and unerring effect upon the mail-clad cuirassiers of Napoleon, than the smaller leaden spheres projected by the Martini-Henry did upon the naked bodies of the Soudanese warriors of Osman Digna in Egypt.

"The bloated armaments of the great military powers of Europe" display their proportions in a very striking manner in Col. Vogt's work on "The European Armies of the Present." The mobilized strength of France is set down at 2,051,458 troops, exclusive of the territorial army, which is equally large; that of Russia at 1,922,405; Germany 1,493,690 and Austria-Hungary 1,035,955. The military strength of Italy has now attained proportions that would have been deemed incredible ten years ago. Including militia it is alleged to amount to 2,387,332 men. Compared with these figures the numerical proportions of the British Army ought almost to satisfy the members of the Peace Society. Including our militia and volunteers, as well as the Indian army, we can just muster 781,677 troops.—*London Court Journal*.

The March number of *Woman* more than fulfils the promise of that excellent magazine's earlier issues. In literary quality *Woman* stands second to no periodical of the day, and in its illustrated features, as well as its mechanical construction, it has already asserted a footing for itself in close companionship with the best of the older magazines. The number is embellished with a frontispiece of Gleeson, representing the famous stairway of rock on the island of Capri, which in turn is embellished with an exquisitely touching tale by Beatrice Presswood King, relating a romance of that spot, famous in Italian love story since the days of the Caesars. Thomas Stevens who travelled round the globe on a bicycle, gives an entertaining account of the manner in which women in Afghanistan are kept so absolutely in the background as to justify the traveller in bestowing upon that region the name of "The Womanless Land." The principal article is a thrilling recital of some of the horrors of polygamy, written by Kate Field, whose investigations of Mormonism have shed so much light upon the iniquities of that institution. An article of special interest on account of the pending dispute between the United States and Canada is contributed by Fred. Schwatka, the daring Arctic explorer who describes in lively style the Alaska seal fisheries.

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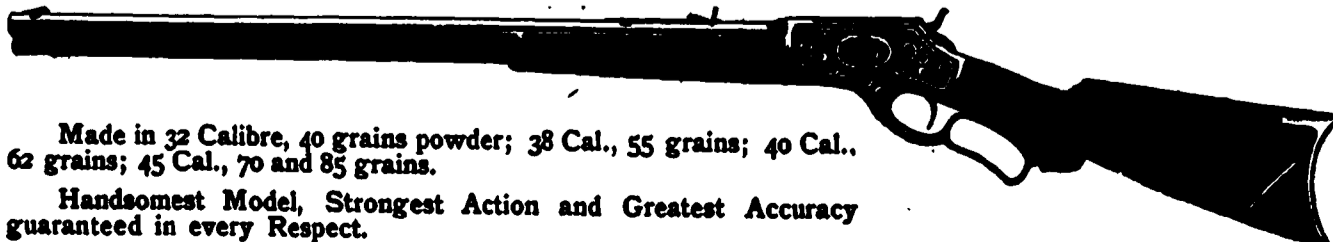
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Correspondence on topics of interest to the Militia is invited. To ensure insertion of any communication the name and address of the writer must be forwarded with it. No name so communicated will be published without consent.

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

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

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

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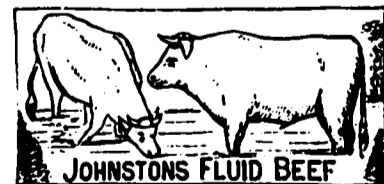
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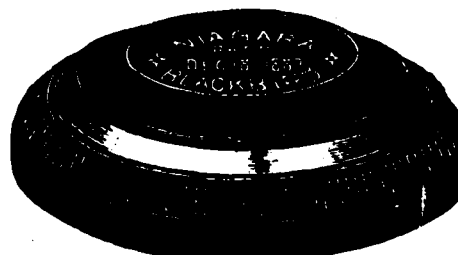
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