

THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE

A Weekly Journal devoted to the Interests of the Active Force of the Dominion.

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CORRESPONDENCE.

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

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Comment and Criticism.

IN our last week's issue, under the heading "Imperial Officers Employed on Colonial Service," we gave the text of the modified regulations recently promulgated respecting this class of appointments; but by one of those slips which will occur in even the best regulated printing offices an introductory paragraph, explaining what the clauses were, was omitted. Probably those most interested could grasp the situation, but it is as well to be explicit. By studying the regulations it will be seen that in the case of an officer who retired before occupying colonial service the rule is simple enough, but in the case of one retiring while in colonial employment the question arises whether he would not have to resign his colonial appointment, at least temporarily, to qualify him for his retired pay. We will not attempt to decide the question, which is enough to puzzle even the proverbial Philadelphia lawyer.

CANADIAN trade in horses for Imperial service is developing most satisfactorily. Colonel James Goldie, a distinguished cavalry officer, has been appointed purchasing agent, and, accompanied by a veterinary surgeon, will immediately begin a tour of Canada to purchase three hundred cavalry and artillery horses, and to make arrangements for securing a further annual supply. We have several times drawn attention to the importance to Canada of such a trade, and wish to see

some organized action inaugurated by our agricultural societies towards developing it systematically. Commenting on this new era for Canada a London paper says: "It rests with Canadian breeders themselves to say whether the export horse trade of Canada shall assume an importance equalling, it may be exceeding, that of the Canadian cattle trade with the mother country. If they only show themselves ready to meet the necessities of the case the European demand is in time almost certain to outstrip the supply. We say European demand advisedly, for not only is the mother country in urgent need of army remounts but, Germany, France, Russia and other European powers are rapidly falling into a like position, as their recent prohibition of the export of horses clearly shows. The opportunities of the trade are indeed larger than may be generally imagined."

THE kinds of animals required are bay, brown, black or chestnut, with a few grays. Riding horses for light, medium and heavy cavalry must be between four and seven years old, from 15 hands 2 inches to 16 hands high, not less than eight inches below the knee, nor less than seventy-two inches girth, and between 1,000 and 1,150 pounds, geldings preferred. For artillery or engineer purposes, the animals must weigh between 1,100 and 1,250 pounds for riding, and between 1,200 and 1,400 pounds for draught. For the latter, long, low, active animals are preferred. Provided they are the right shape, make and action, with sufficient breed, they may be in the rough state and straight from the plough, or the farm yard. The average price of suitable horses in England is about \$200. The War Office have a maximum price, and that price is for horses delivered in England, so that prices paid in Canada must be sufficiently less than the maximum to allow for the cost of transport to England.

AS the day appointed for the celebration of the Queen's Jubilee is fast approaching—for three months soon pass—the question of what will be the best way for the militia to keep it ought to be thoroughly looked into, with the result of having some good programme arranged. So far there have been a number of schemes suggested, or local programmes discussed, but what is wanted is some military demonstration which would be large enough to assume a national character, and which would be under the immediate control of the Militia Department. It is to be hoped that the Government can see their way clear to grant a certain sum towards the carrying out of a programme which will not only bring credit upon the force, but be worthy of such an occasion as the Jubilee year. A grand review and field day with as large a force as possible, or a number of such held simultaneously would be the proper way for the militia to do honor to the 50th anniversary of our beloved Sovereign's accession.

WHATEVER scheme is adopted the participating regiments should at least have their actual travelling and subsistence expenses defrayed by the Government, and this the Government cannot do without procuring a special vote for this special purpose. But we have not the least doubt that if an acceptable programme were arranged Parliament

would make a grant to cover the comparatively small amount that would be requisite for the military features of a jubilee celebration. The real point to be settled would be the form of the demonstration. If one grand review were to be the end, it would have to be at Montreal, Ottawa or Toronto, any of which places could be conveniently reached by the corps from the others. If it were thought well to have simultaneous demonstrations throughout the Dominion a central point for the Maritime Provinces, one for old Canada, and others at Winnipeg and Victoria, naturally suggest themselves. Whatever is to be done should be decided upon without delay, for the time is already short enough to drill up the several corps and perfect arrangements for comfortable transport and quarters.

THE Governor-General-in-Council has decided to proclaim the twenty-first of June as the date of the public holiday to be kept in honor of the completion of fifty years of Queen Victoria's reign. Why the twenty-first, the anniversary of her proclamation, is chosen instead of the twentieth, the anniversary of her accession, is not explained, but it will have the effect of facilitating extended leaves. The twenty-first will be a Tuesday, so that anyone by getting leave for the Monday can have three days. This would be an advantage to any corps wishing to leave their local headquarters to join in any jubilee celebration that may be organized.

WHEN a concern can afford to advertize in the gorgeous way that the Hop Bitters Company does, we do not object to walking into their trap with our eyes open and giving them a free puff ourselves. Their last scheme has been to give a gold cup of the value of a thousand guineas to the N.R.A., for competition on terms to be settled by the Council; they have, moreover, offered, if the N.R.A. should give any sum in money in addition to the prize, to give an equal sum themselves. The *Standard* newspaper has also given a prize of £100 to the Council of the N.R.A.

Personal.

Captain Greville-Harston, R.G., is in town.

Captain Fred White, Comptroller of the Mounted Police, has returned from a business trip to the North-West.

Capt. Douglas is to show the working of the Nordenfelt to His Excellency the Governor-General and Lord Alexander Russell to-morrow.

General Lord Alexander Russell, commanding at Halifax, with Capt. Russell, his son and A.D.C., is still a guest at Government House.

Lieut.-Col. Ouimet, M.P. for Laval, and commanding officer of the 65th Rifles, is to be next Speaker of the House of Commons—that is he is the Government's nominee, and as it is conceded that they have a clear majority he is as good as elected. This of course will prevent him from taking command of this year's Wimbledon team, as there was some talk of his doing.

Lieut. Robert Brown was heartily welcomed back to the Dragoon Guards last night on filing his first appearance since receiving his commission. He was sergeant-major of the troop until a couple of years ago, when the boys wanted "Bob," as he was always familiarly called, to accept the lieutenancy then vacant, but pressure of business forced him to retire. The lieutenancy having again become vacant through poor Harry Keefer's death, he has now returned to his old love. Lieut. Brown is the beau ideal of a cavalry soldier, and would be an acquisition to any corps.

Another Halifax boy has gone to the front. William Stairs, son of John Stairs, and cousin of J. F. Stairs, has gone out with Stanley to the relief of Emin Bey. Mr. Stairs is about twenty-four years of age, passed through the Royal Military College at Kingston, subsequently spent some years in New Zealand, being engaged surveying. A year ago he was appointed to the Royal Engineers. His knowledge of astronomy and photography, and his peculiar qualifications for the position, induced Henry M. Stanley to invite Mr. Stairs accompanying him into the heart

of Africa—in preference to 300 who applied. Mr. Stairs gladly responded to the call, and is now on his way to Zanzibar with the great explorer.—*Halifax Herald.*

Recent Deaths.

Dr. Daniel D. Harrington, of Halifax, assistant surgeon to the 66th Princess Louise Fusiliers, died last week. He accompanied the Halifax battalion to the North-West as their assistant surgeon, and was quite a favourite with the men.

His remains were interred in Camp Hill cemetery with full military honors. The funeral procession was very long. The firing party of one hundred men was under command of Capt. C. H. Mackinlay. The two bands of the York and Lancaster regiment were present, as well as the bands of the different volunteer corps.

The Department of Militia and Defence and the Military Force of Canada.

(Continued from page 692.)

WHILE the permanent corps of militia form the nucleus of an army corps, the schools of military instruction, which they likewise constitute, furnish the principal facilities offered to the officers and non-commissioned men of the active militia for acquiring the main elements of a military education; but foremost among the military institutions of the Dominion, and a credit alike to it and to the mother country, from whose service the commandant and principal officers of the college staff have been obtained, stands

THE ROYAL MILITARY COLLEGE OF CANADA.

The Royal Military College was founded at Kingston, Ont., in 1875, and opened in June, 1876, with a class of 18 cadets and a staff consisting of a commandant, a captain of cadets, and three professors, one of whom was a civilian.

The only building available at first was the old naval barrack, at Point Frederick, which is now used only as a dormitory. The present college building was completed in the summer of 1878. New batches of cadets were at first admitted every six months, and by June, 1880, when those who originally joined completed their course, the number had increased to about 90. The staff had in the meanwhile been gradually added to and was now complete.

The total number of cadets approved for admission to the present date is 235. Of these 226 actually joined. The number who have graduated is 108. The following is the number of cadets who have been gazetted to commissions in the Imperial army:—

| | |
|---------------------------|----|
| Cavalry | 1 |
| Royal Artillery | 13 |
| Royal Engineers | 22 |
| Infantry | 20 |
| Total | 56 |

In addition to the above, four ex-cadets have been appointed to commissions in the Mounted Police, three to the schools of artillery, two to the schools of infantry, and two to the staff of the Royal Military College; thus making a total of about 67 who have obtained permanent military employment. One is now assistant superintendent of the Government cartridge factory; and one is an employé of the engineer branch, Militia Department.

Three of the Royal Military College superior staff, viz.: one instructor and two assistant instructors, are graduates of the college. Of the cadets who have not obtained military employment the greater portion have become civil engineers, and the services of these gentlemen have been much sought after and very highly valued, not only in Canada, but in the United States.

Two of the graduates are employed on the Hydrographical Survey of the lakes, two on the Geological Survey, and about six in other Government departments.

About 30 cadets took part in the suppression of the rebellion in the North-West Territories in 1885.

The present strength of cadets is 73. This may be expected to be increased shortly to 96, as 24 are admitted every year.

The age for admission is over 15 and under 18 on the 1st of January preceding the entrance examination, which is held annually in June.

The college course being a four years' one allows ample time, not only for a thorough military training, but also for the study of civil surveying, civil engineering, physics, practical chemistry and other subjects which may be of great use to the cadets in civil life. The course

comprises military drills, both infantry, artillery and engineering, signalling, gymnastics, fencing, swimming, riding, tactics, strategy, military administration and law, fortification and military engineering, military topography and reconnaissance, drawing both geometrical and freehand, mathematics and mechanics, French, English, civil surveying, practical astronomy, civil engineering, physics, geology and mineralogy, chemistry and electricity.

The college possesses a small observatory, and a very valuable assortment of surveying instruments, a most complete chemical laboratory, physical apparatus of almost every description, and a good selection of drawing and other models. All this has been gradually built up, and it is needless to say at great expense; but the college is rapidly growing in public estimation, and quite recently a paragraph appeared in one of the leading English military newspapers in which it was spoken of as an institution of which Canada might well feel proud. In fact its success has been so noted that it seems likely that a military college will shortly be started in Australia.

Besides the education of cadets, the college staff carry out every year the three months' course of instruction in military engineering, strategy, tactics, military administration, military surveying and reconnaissance, which militia officers have to go through to qualify for long course certificates.

THE PERMANENT CORPS AND SCHOOLS OF MILITARY INSTRUCTION

may be more fully particularized as follows:—

"A" troop of cavalry, forming also a school of cavalry, established at Quebec in 1884.

In 1883 the Inspector of Artillery (formerly commandant of one of the batteries) was gazetted to the command of the regiment of Canadian artillery, which is now composed of the following batteries, royal schools of artillery:—

"A" Battery, Kingston.

"B" Battery, Quebec.

"C" Battery, in process of organization at Victoria, B.C. (its commandant being also the Acting Deputy Adjutant General in command of that military district, No. 11).

"A" and "B" Batteries are partly field, partly garrison artillery.

"C" Battery will be a garrison battery only.

The Infantry School Corps, organized in 1884, consists of the following companies:—

"A" Company, Fredericton, N.B.

"B" Company, St. Johns, Que.

"C" Company, Toronto, Ont.

A fourth company will be formed at London, Ontario; barracks for its accommodation are now in course of preparation.

A School of Mounted Infantry has also recently been organized at Winnipeg, Manitoba.

The following table shows the numbers of officers and non-commissioned officers who have attended these schools since their establishment, the courses of instruction lasting from three to twelve months:—

| Schools. | Date of Establishment. | Total Number Attending. | Number of Certificates Issued. | |
|---|------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------|
| | | | Officers. | N.-C. O. and Men. |
| Cavalry School Corps— | | | | |
| School of Cavalry, Quebec..... | Dec. 21, 1883 | 150 | 26 | 45 |
| Regiment of Canadian Artillery..... | | | | |
| "A" Battery, Royal School of Artillery..... | Oct. 20, 1871 | 1,675 | 108 | 393 |
| "B" do do | do | 1,325 | 214 | 623 |
| "C" do do | (*) Aug. 10, 1883 | 41 | 10 | 22 |
| School of Mounted Infantry, Winnipeg..... | Sept. 18, 1885 | 63 | 6 | 5 |
| Infantry School Corps— | | | | |
| "A" Company, School of Infantry..... | Dec. 21, 1883 | 232 | 53 | 106 |
| "B" do do | do | 239 | 75 | 76 |
| "C" do do | do | 306 | 89 | 113 |
| Total..... | | 4,031 | 581 | 1,483 |
| Total Certificates..... | | | | 581 |
| | | | | 1,964 |

(*) This school is not completely organized. Special authority was given to hold two courses, one in 1884, the other in 1886.

Although the total strength of these embodied corps is limited to 1,000 men, they will form nine schools in all; and by their being located in different provinces, they are calculated to afford the best opportunities for military education that have ever been practicable in Canada.

The growth of the militia system, naturally slow in countries where the energies of the people are so largely devoted to civil pursuits, has

progressed as rapidly in Canada as can reasonably be expected under the circumstances of the country. The active force, as now organized, seems to accord with the genius of the people and the institutions of the Dominion; and evidences are not wanting that the germ of military education which has been planted will in the course of time produce highly satisfactory results. The North-West campaign of 1885 is a proof that the training already attained is of a solid and practical nature, and has reflected credit upon the military discipline no less than the personal character and courage of the citizen soldiery of Canada.

The nominal strength of the active militia is upwards of 43,000; but for economical reasons it has been reduced, for purposes of annual drill, to about 37,000, of whom the city corps, about 10,000, are drilled during twelve days annually, and the rural corps, about 27,000, during the same period biennially, in camps of exercise, where, in addition to drill, the several corps have acquired some experience in using the facilities for transport, and in providing subsistence and shelter.

(To be continued.)

Military Dress and Equipment.

AN interesting essay on Military Dress and Equipment, by Capt. F. Toller, of the G.G.F.G., was read before the officers of that battalion on Monday evening of last week. Lieut.-Col. Pennington Macpherson presided. In the introductory part of the lecture the usefulness of infantry in both modern and ancient times was dwelt upon. The origin of the name was shown to be the Italian word "fanti," meaning a hired servant or soldier on foot. The increasing value of infantry was traced from the time that they were regarded as lads attending the army, a mere adjunct of the equestrian order, and of comparatively little importance from either a social or military point of view, down to the time when improved weapons and greater discipline made them able to successfully resist the charges of cavalry. An interesting description was given of the English archers and bill men with their iron skull caps or basinets, and short leathern doublets stuffed with wool. Their weapons of offence were of all sorts, and comprised bows, lances or pikes, swords, daggers, bills, mallets, forks, while the poorest brought the simplest of all weapons, a sling and a stone. The pike and the long bow were regarded as the great strength and bulwark of England, the former was from 15 to 18 feet long and required men of more than ordinary strength for its use, while the archers of England were undoubtedly the flower of feudal infantry. The long bow was the weapon on which Englishmen prided themselves, and it was by it that their great victories were won. Of these no more brilliant instances can be given than the fields of Crecy and Poitiers. These weapons were effective up to the almost incredible distance of 400 yards, and archery matches were held at distances between 200 and 420 yards, no man of the age of 24 years or upwards being allowed to shoot at any distance less than 220 yards under the penalty of a fine. For a long time after gunpowder was introduced the long bow still held its place, as the muskets then in use were of so primitive a style that six arrows could be discharged in the time that a musket could be loaded and fired once. In fact so strong a hold had the long bow on the affections of the English people that so recently as 1792 Lieut.-Colonel Lee strongly advocated the use of pikes and long bow in preference to muskets, giving as reasons that a man could fire more truly and four times as quick, that his view was not obstructed by smoke, that the moral effect was greater, and the weapons could be more easily provided. The origin of fire arms was then given, and explanations given of the various improvements in these weapons from the time they were invented by the Lucquese when besieged by the Florentines in 1430. They were at first called hand cannons, hand guns, and hand culverins, and afterwards acquired the appellation of arquebusses, hackbuts, calivers, muskets and fire locks. Their fire does not seem to have been very effective, as one officer says, "in a skirmish wherein 10,000 arquebussiers are shot (i.e. furnished with fire arms) there dieth not so much as one man, for the arquebussiers content themselves with making a noise, and so shoot at all adventures," and nearly 150 years after their invention Sir John Smythe declared that 1,500 archers were more than a match for 3,000 musketeers in an open and fair field. This can be understood when we consider that the musketeer had to carry his coarse powder in a flask, his fine powder for priming in a touch box, his bullets in a leathern bag, the strings of which he had to withdraw to get at them, while in his hand were his burning match and rest. Some writers affirm that it took fifteen minutes to get off one shot. The dress of the musketeers, including their war helmets, bandoliers, swords, girdles, hangers or bantircks, bullet moulds, worms, screws, rammers and pruning irons, were fully explained and illustrated by carefully prepared drawings, and much amusement was caused by the giving of the 40 "postures" which were used in the drill, of which no less than 32 were in the charging and discharging the weapon.

Capt. Toller then described the origin of military uniform from the

time when soldiers were only known by the distinctive cognisances or badges of the leaders under whom they fought. As an example of the disadvantages of this, he mentioned that at the battle of Barnet, the cognisances of King Edward and of the Earl of Oxford were so alike that the latter was mistaken for a Yorkist leader and beaten off the field by his own friends. In 1526 the coats of all the yeomen of the household were made of red cloth. This is the first time we hear of red as a military color in England. The color was changed to white in Mary's time, and became blue in the reign of Elizabeth. The various changes which took place as years rolled on were carefully gone over and made clear by illustrations, and Lord Macaulay was quoted as the authority for the statement that the British army was for the first time clothed in red during the Commonwealth. The reference made to the dress of the Foot Guards was particularly interesting. During the reign of Charles II the officers were exceedingly richly habited, some in coats of cloth of gold, others in crimson velvet, embroidered or laced with gold or silver, but most of them in fine scarlet cloth buttoned down the breast, and the facings of the sleeves ornamented with silver plate. Their scarves, which they wore about their waists, were either network of gold or silver or crimson taffeta richly fringed with gold or silver, and their hats were adorned with rows of white feathers. The captains were distinguished by corslets or gorgets of silver plate doubly gilt; the lieutenants by corslets of steel, polished and sanguined and studded with nails of gold, and the ensigns had their corslets of silver plate. Scarcely less gorgeous were the private soldiers with coats of red broad-cloth lined and faced with blue, their hats of black, laced with silver, turned up and garnished with blue ribbons, their breeches of blue broad-cloth and their stockings of blue worsted. The two companies of Grenadiers were distinguished by caps of red cloth lined with blue shaloon and laced with silver galoon about the edges and on the frontlets of the said caps (which were very long and high) was embroidered the King's cipher and crown.

Modern dress and equipment were then taken up and exhaustively treated. The necessity for smartness and uniformity was especially dwelt upon. Each article of dress was minutely described and the manner of wearing was carefully explained.

The lecture was made more interesting and instructive by being profusely illustrated by large and carefully prepared drawings representing the different weapons and articles of dress spoken of. These drawings, which showed signs of great natural talent, were understood to have been made by a son of Capt. Toller, a lad about 13 years of age.

Magazine and Repeating Rifles.

A paper on this subject, by Captain Walter H. James, late Royal Engineers, was read at the Royal United Service Institution on the 25th February, Major-General E. H. Clive, Commandant of the Staff College, in the chair. In the course of his exhaustive paper the lecturer said: The sudden intensity, the conversion of the shower of bullets into a blinding rain, is to be obtained from the magazine rifle alone. It is for this gain that we face the additional complication due to the repeating action, it is for this great quality that the nations of Europe are spending millions of money in the re-arming of their infantry, and that we too must follow their example.

The magazine rifle has two advantages. Besides the one to which I have already alluded there is the moral support which it gives to the soldier, who feels that he has a reserve of power constantly at hand. No breech action, however rapid, can give the same rapidity so long as the magazine supply lasts. In a properly constructed magazine rifle the time taken to press the cartridge into the barrel is eliminated. Drawing back the action cocks, throws out the old case, brings up a fresh cartridge, closing the breech, pushes the cartridge home, which is therefore never touched by the man's hand, nor has he to take it from pouch to the breech. No single-loader can give that confidence which a man feels who has five or more shots at his instant command. A repeating rifle, therefore, is of advantage both on the offensive and defensive. Troops, whether acting on the one or the other, have to pass through that supreme moment when the combat trembles in the balance, and to both alike the special quality of the magazine arm is of the highest importance. Conceive for a moment two lines holding one another in close action, one is suddenly enabled to quintuple its fire-rate, what will be the fate of the other? At times when surprise is of moment, such as counter attacks, it is also of the utmost value. To sentries, to small bodies of men acting by themselves, such as reconnoitring parties of cavalry, the use of a repeater is of the greatest assistance.

To anticipate a little, allow me to assume that we have a weapon which holds five or more cartridges in the magazine, that the latter can be easily loaded, and that the rifle can be used as a single-loader. Under ordinary circumstances the rules of fire discipline will remain the same as heretofore. Fire should be by volleys alone, the frequency of which will depend on the range and object, but on the offensive the final rush

should be prepared by the use of the magazine which should be reloaded the moment the position is carried. On the defensive the magazine may be similarly employed, but possibly a little more often and earlier, i.e., at longer ranges, when it can be rapidly loaded. For instance, at the advancing troops during their rushes, when they are so much more visible and form so much better targets than when lying down to fire. The fire during these transitory moments should be intensified, because good results may be obtained from it. In fact we may say generally that either on the offensive or defensive the magazine is chiefly for the close combats, though occasionally it may be used at longer ranges. Should it ever be employed for real long-range fire? Rarely. For it would probably give rise to a great expenditure of ammunition without correspondingly adequate results. Against favorable targets which from their nature are exposed only for a short time to fire it may be made use of. For example, against masses of infantry, the staff of the enemy, cavalry or artillery unlimbering. But it will always remain chiefly reserved for the decisive stage, when its proper employment may decide the issue.

Will the introduction of repeaters increase the expenditure of ammunition? To a certain extent yes. Hence it is highly desirable to lighten the cartridge. To this I shall allude farther on. But as a practical fact the increased expenditure of ammunition is not so much due to the magazine rifle, which, if its employment were limited to the last moment in a fight, would not greatly increase the number of rounds fired. Rather is it due to the fact to which I have before drawn your attention in this institution, in the first instance nine years ago, that having rifles of long range it would be very foolish to limit their employment to short distances. The school of fire is gradually gaining the day, to it belongs the future, and I look forward to the now not far distant day when it will be universally acknowledged in England as it is on the Continent to a great extent now, that in the proper use of long-range fire, in the adequate training of the men to pour in closely delivered showers of lead at distances up to 1,500 yards or over, lies the path to military pre-eminence. To this training the magazine rifle forms the proper complement. Armed with it the duly trained soldier possesses the power of multiplying his fire enormously at close range, or increasing its volume at long ranges when necessary. Such weapons require careful training, both of the officers and men. Frequent practice in their use, careful working out of the problems they give rise to. How are you to carry the increased number of rounds the soldier must have? He cannot carry beyond a certain weight, and that weight must in the future consist very largely of cartridges, his kit must be carried for him, the regimental supply of ammunition must be increased until each man at the moment of battle can have 100 rounds on him, and at least 40 to 50 in the regimental supply. Is it possible under modern fire to send cartridges to the fighting line? I doubt it.

Every nation has either definitely adopted, or is experimenting with a view to deciding on some form of magazine. We, too, have, I believe, made up our minds to follow suit, and I venture to think our authorities are to be congratulated on having determined to do so rather than to re-arm our infantry with an ordinary breech-loader, as was proposed but six months ago. I have here, by the kindness of the Secretary of State for war, two rifles, the one known as the Lee-Burton, the other as the improved Lee. Of each of these rifles a limited number will be manufactured and issued to the army for trial, but no pattern of magazine rifle has as yet been definitely settled on for the armament of our troops. In England we are about to adopt a magazine rifle. I should, speaking for myself, like to see experiments conducted under public conditions with bores smaller than 0.4. It must not be forgotten that a government rifle designer has not the free hand a private one has. He can do as he likes with regard to cartridge case, powder, and bullets. The government official has to consult two other departments, who may not agree in his views. To have a rifle to fulfil the most necessary quality in a good military arm, viz., flat trajectory, a small bore is an absolute necessity.

On the continent a large number of experiments have been made with compressed powder, and it seems destined to come into universal use, because with it the charge can be made more uniform, and hence more uniform velocities obtained. Here let me draw your attention to the desirability of using smokeless powder. A considerable amount of attention has been given to this question on the continent, and I need hardly point out the enormous advantage to be gained from it.

All forms of magazine can, so far as their position is concerned, be divided into four classes;—1. In the butt. 2. Under the barrel. 3. Over the barrel. 4. Under the breech. No nation has the first-named, except Russia, in the Evans repeater. The second has been adopted in France (Kropatscheck), Germany (Mauser), Switzerland (Vetterli), Sweden (Jarmann), Portugal (Kropatscheck.) It has the advantage of giving room for a number of cartridges, but the very great disadvantage, which it shares with first position, of being difficult to load. Moreover, the balance of the rifle is altered each time a shot is fired. The German rifle is very faulty in this respect, and is, when the magazine is filled, an

extremely awkward and ill-balanced weapon, besides being very heavy. Over the barrel is extremely awkward for the soldier, and in the case of those weapons which have the magazine on one side, is bad for aiming, especially when the sun is shining from the opposite side to that on which it is fixed. The Burton, the Lee-Burton, and the Owen Jones, have such magazines. Underneath the breech is the best. The rifle is more compact and better balanced. Its sole disadvantage is that it is difficult to arrange for more than about five cartridges. The Mannlicher, the Schulhoff, the Pieri, and the Lee, and the Improved Lee, all have this form of magazine. All hold five cartridges except the Schulhoff, which will take ten arranged around a drum like a revolver. Should the magazine be attachable or fixed, i.e., form part of the rifle? I think the latter plan to be preferable, because there is then no chance of its being lost at the moment it is wanted, and if a number of loose magazines are to be carried, or the cartridges have to be packed in special attachable frames, the armament becomes more costly, and a lot of unnecessary weight has to be carried. The theory, one I think essentially of peace, that the soldier can carry one or two magazines which he can affix just at the most critical moment of a combat, leaves out of consideration the disturbing elements of the fight, which would in all probability render it very problematical whether all the magazines would be forthcoming, and if they were would certainly interfere with the fixing of a large proportion of them. No great European nation proposes to adopt such a system, such as you have here in the first form of the Lee rifle. In the under-barrel forms of magazine rifles, it is not proposed to load the rifle during the heat of an action. It would be filled before going under fire, cut off from acting, and only brought into use at the supreme moment. In rifles like the Mannlicher, the Lee, the Improved Lee, the Pieri, the cartridges can be very easily replaced, and consequently a more prolonged intense fire be given than where this cannot be done, as the under-barrel type. In many instances, as a proof of this, that the five shots from the Mannlicher can be fired in $3\frac{1}{2}$ seconds, and that 46 have been fired in one minute, i.e., the frame has been six times replaced. If the magazine holds ten rounds, as in the Schulhoff, the fire will undoubtedly at the supreme moment be more intense, but it cannot be kept up at the same rate as when set after set can be fired, as in such rifles as the Pieri, Mannlicher, etc. Probably, therefore, on the whole, the latter is better. It is desirable to have a magazine holding a fairly large number of rounds, but too many would so increase the weight of the rifle as to strain the soldier far beyond his powers. This was found to be the case in some French experiments, in which the extra weight carried, owing to the cartridges in the magazine, took so much out of the men that they did not fire as effectively as those armed with a single-loader. This then is one great advantage possessed by those rifles which hold only a comparatively small number, but in which the loading of the magazine is only the work of a few seconds, such as the Mannlicher, the Pieri, and the Lee. The loading process in the Schulhoff is very quick, and can be made quicker by packing the cartridges in special frames. What action shall our rifle have? The much-abused bolt is of course a necessity; indeed, of all the weapons I have here, one alone, the Jones, is a block gun; shall it be one which pulls simply straight, backwards and forwards, or one which require a turn as well? I would point out that to fire without removal from the shoulder the former is a practical necessity, as with the latter form of action the aim would be too much disturbed, and the twisting motion required to open the breech is extremely difficult to carry out when keeping the rifle at the present. The Austrian (Mannlicher) and the Schulhoff have bolts of this description, the Jones has a straight pull-back, too, all the others that I have here require the double motion. The one simple motion is the better.

And now in conclusion, I can only say that my endeavor has been to put before you, as fairly as I could, the present state of the rifle question, to describe the various systems now adopted, or proposed, to point out their weak and strong points. I could not within the limits of a lecture go into a mechanical examination of all the systems that have been proposed. I have, therefore, limited myself to type forms, or to those which have actually been introduced into various services.—*Broad Arrow.*

Recent Types of the Gatling Gun.

THE illustrations which appear this week in our advertising columns represent improved Gatling guns; one mounted on a tripod and the other on a carriage, and showing different methods of supplying cartridges to the gun. Respecting these machine guns the *Scientific American* says:

The figure on the left shows a small six-barreled gun, mounted on a tripod. This gun weighs 78 pounds. It uses what is known as the Accles' positive feed, which eliminates the liability of the jamming of the cartridges, and which has increased the rapidity of the fire to the extra-

ordinary rate of 1,200 shots per minute. One hundred shots have been fired from the gun in two and two-tenths seconds. The fire can be made continuous, or the delivery can be made in salvos of 30 or 40 shots per second. The latter mode of firing would prove beneficial when the gun is being fired on shipboard in a rolling sea, a pointing lever being attached to the gun to enable the gunner to give it proper aim.

With the introduction of the positive feed to the Gatling gun, two kinds of high angle fire are made effective. These may be classed as direct and indirect; direct when the gun is aimed and fired at any elevated object; indirect when the bullets are fired up in the air, in order to hit the object in their fall. This latter mode of firing can be made very effective in getting men out of intrenched positions. Musket balls when fired from the gun at high elevations remain up in the air for 57 to 58 seconds, and when they fall they strike the ground with sufficient force to penetrate two inches of timber. This high angle fire greatly increases the power and value of the gun as a weapon of war.

The Gatling is the only machine gun that can deliver high angle or mortar fire, and is doubtless one of the most effective arms of its size in the world. Official reports say: "The feed is positive in action and entirely independent of the force of gravity. The feed is all that is claimed for it. It is believed the modified Gatling gun with the new feed has reached the utmost limit of improvement."

This light gun is designed for naval service, for mountain warfare, for cavalry service, for police use in cities for suppressing mobs, for use on board of railway trains, for protecting and guarding treasures shipped by express, etc.

With this new feed the firing and loading can go on uniformly and incessantly, even when the gun is worked by men inexperienced in its use.

This gun would prove of great service in defending such positions as villages, field entrenchments, and for the defence of caponniers, for covering the approach to bridges or *têtes-de-pont*, for defending a breach, and for employment in advanced trenches, or in field works where economy of space is often of the utmost importance; for use on shipboard to clear the enemy's decks or open ports, and from top-gallant fore-castle, poop deck, and tops of vessels of war, for the defence of sea coast batteries against the attack of boats, for assisting in keeping down the fire of ships engaging forts at close quarters or attempting to force a passage by pouring an incessant fire in their ports, and in clearing breaches and other proposed places for landing from boats, it would be most effective.

The figure on the right represents a light ten-barreled Gatling gun, mounted on a carriage. This gun uses what is known as the Bruce feed. This improved feed allows the cartridges to be fed to the gun at the rate of 1,000 shots per minute, directly from the paper boxes in which they are originally packed. For continuous and direct fire this kind of feed makes the gun very effective. Various calibers of Gatling guns are made.

Among the advantages of the musket caliber Gatling gun may be enumerated: The lightness of its parts, the simplicity and strength of its mechanism, the rapidity and continuity of its fire without sensible recoil, and its accuracy and effectiveness against troops at all ranges attainable by rifles. Also its peculiar power for protecting roads, defiles, and bridges; for silencing field batteries and batteries of position; for increasing the infantry fire at the critical moment of a battle; for supporting field batteries and protecting them against cavalry or infantry charges; for covering the retreat of a repulsed column, and its economy in men for serving it and animals for transporting it. The relation which the machine gun is to occupy to the different arms of the service will, no doubt, ere long be prescribed and settled by competent authority.

The superiority and great value of the Gatling gun as an auxiliary arm of both the military and naval service having been clearly demonstrated, it is evident it will be extensively employed in any future wars.

The day is not far distant when machine guns in large numbers will be considered indispensable on the battle field, in forts, and on shipboard, and the nation that is best provided with these arms, and has its soldiers and sailors drilled to serve them in the best manner, will best preserve the welfare and lives of its people. Gatling guns are manufactured by the Gatling Gun Company, of Hartford, Connecticut, U.S.A.

Correspondence.

The Editor desires it distinctly understood that he does not hold himself responsible for the opinions expressed by correspondents.

REMINISCENCES OF A NEW BRUNSWICK CAMP.

To the Editor of the *Canadian Militia Gazette*.

SIR,—In looking over your issue of the 24th February in reference to Lieut.-Col. Baird, who retired from the Canadian militia recently, in recounting some of the services performed by that officer, you mention the camp of instruction at Fredericton in July, 1865, when he acted as Lieut.-Col. of the 2nd Batt. Charlotte Co. militia, as being a camp of 26 days, when it was for 28 days, also the inspection by General

Doyle as having taken place on the 8th; it was on the 28th. We of St. John returned home on the 29th by steamer. I think those are the dates, if my memory serves me. I was senior sergeant of No. 1 company (the artillery) drilling as a company of infantry under Captain, late Lieut.-Col. M. H. Peters, whose recent death you refer to in the same column of your paper of the 24th. The deceased colonel was a most thorough and painstaking officer, and died respected and beloved by those over whom he had command for so many years. Our company in 1865 was composed of one detachment each from the following field batteries, viz., Capt. Pick (the Prince of Wales, my battery); Capt. Peters, Carleton; Capt. Farmer, Portland; Capt. Thompson, St. John; and Lieut. Allan, Fredericton. I think the artillerymen who drilled in this company in the enclosed racecourse of the ancient capital of New Brunswick will not soon forget the time or place, nor what they suffered with the forage caps in that July sun.

J. DALEY,
Captain D.B.G.A.

Digby, N.S., March 10, 1887.

PAID ADJUTANTS FOR RURAL CORPS.

To the Editor of the Canadian Militia Gazette.

DEAR SIR,—During the past few months I have read with much interest the various suggestions and criticisms made by correspondents in your columns, upon the subject of paid adjutants for city battalions, but so far have found no one coming forward to advocate the claims of our rural corps in the same direction. If paid adjutants would be of great advantage to city regiments, they would be immeasurably more so to those of the country districts. In cities it is not a difficult matter to secure the services of men of leisure and enthusiasm who are ready to accept the post of adjutant for the love of soldiering and who, knowing that any inefficiency on their part is sure to arouse the ridicule not only of members of the regiment but also of the spectators who are usually present to witness the drills, take advantage of a military school course with as little delay as possible. As a rule city adjutants are men of standing, energetic, and fairly efficient, and it is an open question whether the improvement in city corps under the proposed new plan would be substantial, or even perceptible enough to justify the annual extra expense. Would the game be worth the candle?

Let us now look at our rural battalions, which form the great bulk of the active militia, and contain too much shooting and fighting material to be easily ignored.

Why not appoint paid adjutants, thoroughly qualified, a portion of whose duties would be to take each company of the regiment, at company headquarters, and during the slack winter months put it through a course of four or five weeks drill, and also see that the arms and accoutrements were properly cared for. If this were done the annual brigade camps, instead of being a struggle to get the men into passably decent shape for inspection, would be a valuable and intelligent twelve days drill in battalion and brigade movements, with sufficient time to impart a fair knowledge of interior economy and the general duties of a soldier on active service.

The work during the winter would make a pleasant break in the monotony of that long season, and I ask your readers to imagine the effect a training of this kind would have upon the appearance and discipline of our rural troops when they assembled for the summer camps.

In addition to this; I would also mention the palpable, advantages of an interim brushing up of rusty officers and non-coms., and the impetus given to the *esprit de corps* of rural regiments at a period of the year when to all intents and purposes they are either dead or at best in a peculiarly torpid condition.

Which offers the better investment to the country at large, paid adjutants for city regiments or paid adjutants for rural regiments?

I should like to see the question fully discussed by members of the force, whether dwellers in cities or fields, so that in the multitude of our counsellors we may find much wisdom and the cause will profit thereby.

RUS T.

Ottawa, 22nd March, 1887.

Queries and Replies.

THE PRECEDENCE OF COMPANIES ON PARADE.

Q. Will you kindly say in your next issue if there is any regulation by which the two senior captains of a battalion can claim by right the flanks with their companies on regimental parade? This question applies equally to the Imperial army and our own force.

FRED LYDON, Captain, R. S. of C.

A. Par. 22, Sec. vii., Q. R. & O., 1883, says: "In a battalion of infantry two field officers only, in addition to the commanding officer, will be mounted on parade, excepting on the line of march, when all Majors will be mounted. The companies of a battalion of infantry are to be equally sized. They will form on parade according to the seniority of the Majors and Captains from flanks to centre, viz., the senior Major on the right, next senior on the left, and so on; but for the purposes of drill and exercises their positions may, in accordance with the 'Field Exercises,' be varied at the discretion of commanding officers." It is to be borne in mind that the Imperial army has four majors to a battalion, the two juniors, or "mud majors," commanding companies, whereas in our force there are only two, so that the two senior captains of our force would be the same as the senior and junior major who take the right and left of the battalion according to the above paragraph.—ED.

Regimental Notes.

Fredericton, N.B.—New uniform clothing for No. 7 Company, 71st "York" battalion (Capt. Cropley's) is on its way to Fredericton from Ottawa. This company will meet every Monday evening after this date, for drill, at the Drill Hall.

The fine regimental band of the 71st "York" battalion is steadily keeping up practice and is making commendable progress. The new bandmaster is well qualified for his position, coming as he does from a musical stock. He is the son of Bandmaster Offen of the 22nd regiment, whose band often delighted Frederictonians by the excellence of their performances.

Peterborough.—The officers of the 57th battalion held a meeting in the drill shed on Friday evening to take into consideration business of importance to the regiment. Among other matters of interest was a proposed visit to Peterborough of the Queen's Own of Toronto. A good deal of correspondence has already passed in connection with the visit. It was decided by the 57th officers to send the Queen's Own an invitation, and a committee was appointed to select a favorable location for camp grounds and other details required for the comfort of the regiment while under canvas there. The visit, if it comes off, will be an experience of great benefit to the youngest of the city battalions.

THE N. B. B. G. A. ANNUAL MEETING.

St. John, N.B.—The annual meeting of officers of the N. B. B. G. A. was held last week at the Waverley House. The regimental committee presented the annual financial statement, showing a balance on hand.

The band committee handed in their report, showing the band to be in a most satisfactory condition and its finances prosperous, notwithstanding a large expenditure for new instruments made during the past year.

The following votes of thanks were passed: To Messrs. Manchester, Robertson & Allison, for their kindness in importing the band instruments free of charge.

To Mr. Simeon Jones, Mr. Keltie Jones, Major Markham, Mr. H. D. Everett, Messrs. J. & J. D. Howe, and others for prizes and other help given in connection with the artillery sports held last summer.

To Blair Botsford, Esq.; of Dorchester, for the valuable challenge cup presented by him. The meeting decided that the conditions for winning this cup should be that it shall become the property of the battery winning it three times in succession at gun practice in competitions at which all the batteries of the corps take part.

A resolution of condolence on the death of Lieut.-Col. M. H. Peters was passed, extolling his services as an officer.

The members of the regimental committee elected were as follows: Paymaster George F. Smith, Surgeon J. W. Daniel, and Captain Geo. B. Seely.

The band committee elected were Lieut. S. D. Crawford, Capt. Geo. W. Jones and Adj. Langan.

A discussion then ensued as to the proper manner of celebrating the Queen's Jubilee, and on motion, it was decided to leave it to the discretion of the officer commanding the brigade, but it was the wish of all present that they should take their full share in anything that may be determined on.

As usual the officers voted their entire drill pay for the ensuing season to the regimental committee for the purposes of the brigade. Meeting adjourned.

Winnipeg.—Lieut. Stewart is at present on a visit to his brother in Texas.

Quartermaster Sergeant Young left on Wednesday for the East on a short trip.

Captain Worsnop is leaving about the end of the month on a short trip to the Pacific coast.

Lieut. Tulloch has been assigned to duty with his old company "B" and Lieut. Broughall to his old one "D."

The 90th Lacrosse Club will soon re-organize for the season. The banner won last year occupies the place of honor in the 90th club rooms.

The news that clasps are at last to be awarded to those who were under fire is most welcome to the L. B. D's. The boys intend having a jollification when they arrive.

The challenge shield purchased by the 90th club through Capt. Clark, in London, will shortly arrive. It is said to be a magnificent work of art and will be presented to the company having the thirty highest aggregate scores made at class firing.

Just at present there are four officers taking courses of instruction in the School of Mounted Infantry, Fort Osborne: Lieut. Healy, 90th battalion, long course; Lieuts. Broughall and Talbot, 90th battalion, short course, and Lieut. Percival, 95th Manitoba grenadiers, short course.

The 90th battalion is drilling every Monday night at 20 o'clock at the Drill Hall, Broadway. Just at present the various companies are being put through squad drill by their officers and it is amusing to see the old stagers once more practising the mysteries of the drill in single rank. Recruit drill is held in addition to this on Thursday evenings and the non-commissioned officers' class meets at the same time.—*Manitoban.*

The Target.

Lotus.—This village, in East Durham, has made an early start with rifle shooting, a team match having been fired last week by the local gun club, twelve men a side, 5 shots at 200. The team captained by Mr. Nelson beat that of Mr. J. Magill. Central Ontario is waking up in rifle shooting to some purpose.

Gleanings.

A question was lately asked in the Imperial House of Commons relative to the purchase of Canadian horses for the Imperial army remounts, of which we take the following from the *Canadian Gazette* of a late date:—

General Sir William Crossman, one of the members for Portsmouth—who is not altogether unknown in Canada, having been temporarily on the staff of the Quartermaster-General on the march of troops from Halifax to Riviere du Loup in December, 1861, and also having acted in the following year as Secretary to the Royal Commission on Canadian defences—asked the Secretary of State for War whether it was the case, as stated in the *Canadian Gazette*, that Colonel Goldie, Quartermaster-General at Halifax, has been instructed to purchase this year for the Imperial authorities no less than 300 horses in the various provinces of the Dominion, and that in each subsequent year further purchases will be made. If so, whether it was because a sufficient number of horses suitable for the army purposes could not be obtained in the United Kingdom.

In reply, Mr. Stanhope said that it was true that orders had been given for the purchase of horses in Canada for the Imperial authorities, it being considered advisable to ascertain what supply it would be possible to obtain from that part of Her Majesty's dominions in the event of mobilisation. The War Office desired, however, in every possible way to encourage the home breeding of horses of the stamp required.

Speaking on the subject; the *Morning Post* agricultural correspondent remarks:—"With the new demand for horses from Canada there is evidence that the Canadians are making efforts to meet it. A fortnight ago Mr. R. R. Ross, a well-known Canadian horse breeder, visited the Orange County Stock Farm at Middleton, New York, and purchased the seventeen-year-old thoroughbred stallion Volunteer Clay, by Harry Clay, dam by Volunteer, the price paid being £1,600. It is expected that this famous sire will do much useful work in improving the stamp of Canadian horses."

Our Trading Column.

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

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



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FULL DIRECTIONS WITH EACH BOTTLE.



DOMINION LANDS REGULATIONS.

Under the Dominion Lands Regulations all surveyed even-numbered sections, excepting 8 and 26, in Manitoba and the North-West Territories, which have not been homesteaded, reserved to provide wood lots for settlers, or otherwise disposed of or reserved, are to be held exclusively for homesteads and pre-emptions.

Upon payment of an office fee of ten dollars, surveyed agricultural land, of the class open to homestead entry, may be homesteaded in any one of the three following methods:—

1. The homesteader shall begin actual residence on his homestead and cultivation of a reasonable portion thereof within six months from date of entry, unless entry shall have been made on or after the 1st day of September, in which case residence need not commence until the first day of June following, and continue to live upon and cultivate the land for at least six months out of every twelve months for three years from date of homestead entry.

2. The homesteader shall begin actual residence, as above, within a radius of two miles of his homestead, and continue to make his home within such radius for at least six months out of every twelve months for the three years next succeeding the date of homestead entry; and shall within the first year from date of entry, break and prepare for crop ten acres of his homestead quarter section, and shall within the second year crop the said ten acres, and break and prepare for crop fifteen acres additional; making twenty-five acres; and within the third year after the date of his homestead entry he shall crop the said twenty-five acres, and break and prepare for crop fifteen acres additional, so that within three years of the date of his homestead entry he shall have not less than twenty-five acres cropped, and shall have erected on the land a habitable house in which he shall have lived during the three months next preceding his application for homestead patent.

3. The homesteader shall begin the cultivation of his homestead within six months after the date of entry, or if the entry was obtained after the first day of September in any year, then before the first day of June following; shall within the first year break and prepare for crop not less than five acres of his homestead; shall within the second year crop the said five acres, and break and prepare for crop not less than ten acres in addition, making not less than fifteen acres in all; shall have erected a habitable house on his homestead before the expiration of the second year, and on or before the commencement of the third year shall have begun to reside in the said house, and shall have continued to reside therein and cultivate his homestead for not less than three years next prior to the date of his application for patent.

In the event of a homesteader desiring to secure his patent within a shorter period than the three or five years, as the case may be, he will be permitted to purchase his homestead, or homestead and pre-emption, as the case may be, on furnishing proof that he has resided on the homestead for at least twelve months subsequent to date of entry, and in case entry was made after the 25th day of May, 1883, has cultivated thirty acres thereof.

PRE-EMPTIONS.

Any homesteader may at the same time as he makes his homestead entry, obtain entry for an adjoining unoccupied quarter-section as a pre-emption, on payment of a fee of ten dollars.

The pre-emption right entitles the homesteader to purchase the land so pre-empted on becoming entitled to his homestead patent, but a failure to fulfil the homestead conditions forfeits the pre-emption right.

INFORMATION.

Full information respecting the land, timber, coal and mineral laws, and copies of the Regulations, may be obtained upon application to the Secretary of the Department of the Interior, Ottawa, Ontario; the Commissioner of Dominion Lands, Winnipeg, Manitoba; or to any of the Dominion Land Agents in Manitoba or the North-West Territories.

A. M. BURGESS,

Deputy of the Minister of the Interior.

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| 2nd " | 50 | 5c. | 55 " |
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| 4th " | 50 | 15 | 65 " |
| 5th " | 50 | 20 | 70 " |

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Members of the force are supplied with free rations, a free kit on joining, and periodical issues during the term of service.

Ottawa, March 23rd, 1887.

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| | |
|------------------------------------|------|
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| " 20, " " 40 | 20c. |
| " 40, " " 60 | 30c. |
| " 60, " " 80 | 40c. |
| " 80, " " 100 | 50c. |

On Money Orders payable abroad the commission is:

| | |
|-------------------------------------|------|
| If not exceeding \$10 | 10c. |
| Over \$10, not exceeding \$20 | 20c. |
| " 20, " " 30 | 30c. |
| " 30, " " 40 | 40c. |
| " 40, " " 50 | 50c. |

For further information see OFFICIAL POSTAL GUIDE.

A. CAMPBELL,

Postmaster-General.

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

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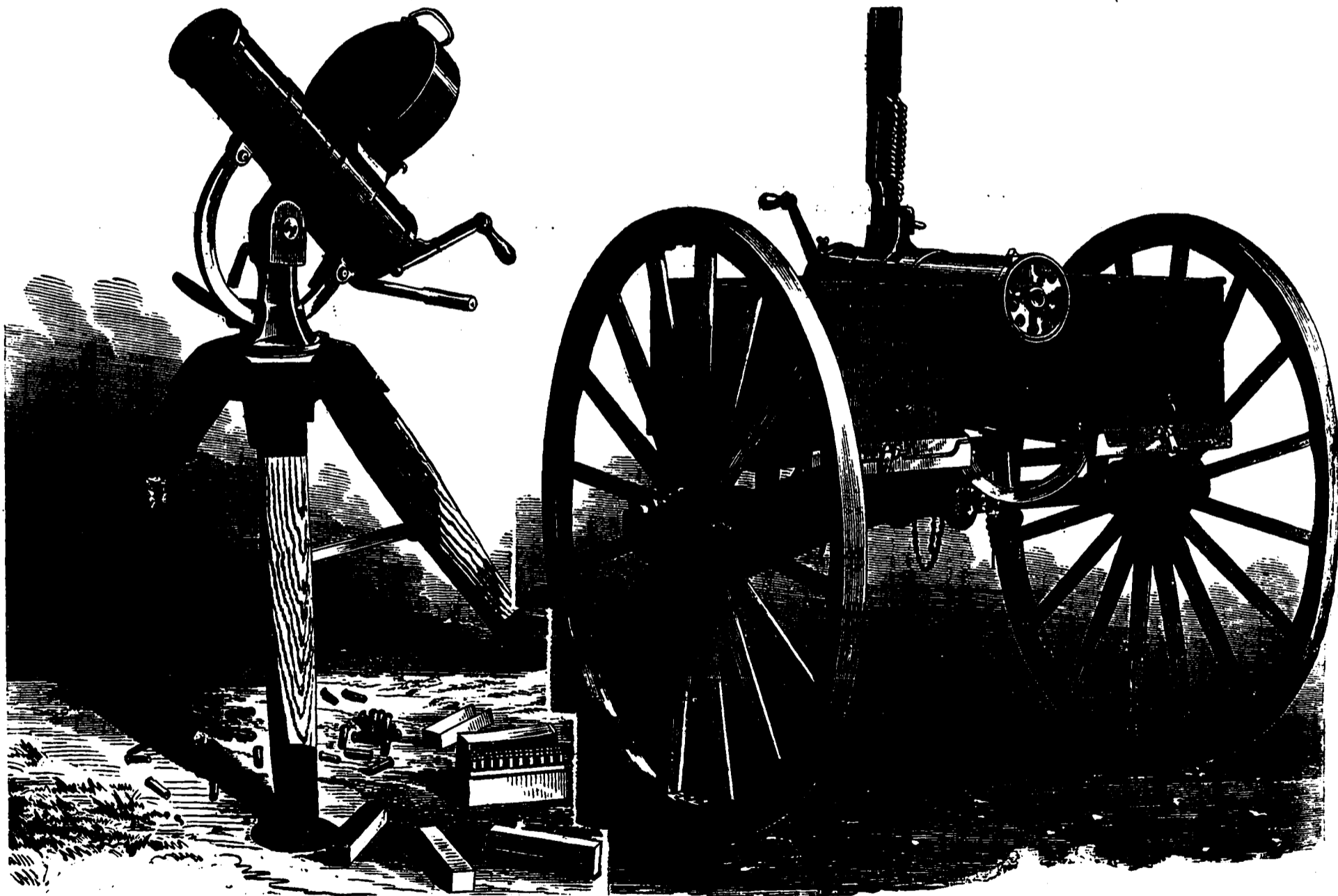
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