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Topics of the Week.

The meeting of the Dominion Artillery Association, reported in this issue, was one of the most lively held for several years, thanks to the Provincial Rights party-if we may be permitted the expression-who were present from Toronto to protest against what they considered a slight of the Ontario Association in not duly consulting its representative on the executive. It is a matter for congratulation that the vote of censure proposed did not carry, for it would have created a bad feeling not to be lightly removed. As the matter now stands, the grievance has been aired, cordial explanations have been offered and more or less cordially received, and everything is happy. This result is due in large measure to the timely advise of Lord Stanley, who sat out the meeting, which lasted nearly three hours, and showed uncommon interest in the prcceedings.

That was a very valuable suggestion made by Lord Stanley in his address to the Dominion Artillery Association, concerning the sending of detatchments to Halifax to receive from the Imperial forces there instruction in the use of garrison guns of modern type. The expense involved is comparatively small, because the greater part of the travelling would be done over the government railroad, and all that would have to be spent would be the daily pay and the living expenses of the detachments. To give effect to His Excellency's proposal would in great measure revive the interest in the garrison artillery branch, rapidly dwindling down to a skeleton in the Canadian force.

The British Columbia representatives in the Senate have brought to the notice of that body the defences of the Pacific province, on a motion asking for copies of the correspondence passing between the Canadian and Imperial Governments on the subject. Senator McInnes in his speech pointed out how timely was the consideration of the subject in view of the activity shown by Russia concerning her Pacific coast arsenal at Vladovistock and the war cloud hanging over Europe. He cited the passage in the Queen's Speech at the opening of the Imperial Parliament a few days ago urging the advisability of preparation to meet any emergency. In reply Hon. J. J. C. Abbott, the leader of the Government in the Senate, said the subject of the Pacific coast defences had received due consideration, and negotiations with the Imperial Government were progressing satisfactorily. The correspondence was in great part confidential, but such as was not would be laid before the Senate.

The campaign of the Ninth Battalion in the Northwest in 1885 was rehearsed in the Commons on Monday, when the commanding officer, Lieut.-Col. Amyot, made the longest speech of the session in arguing out a personal matter between himself and the Minister of Militia. The discussion was not a very profitable or-from a military standpoint-edifying one, but it had the satisfactory conclusion that Sir Adolphe Caron assured Col. Amyot that he had never intended to in any way reflect upon his honour as a soldier, and cited the correspondence which the Colonel had just read to the House, as proof that he had not failed during the campaign to express warm admiration for the Ninth. General Laurie then added a few words of praise, called forth by his experience on the staff of the brigade in which the regiment served. He declared that he could not desire a better regiment than the Ninth had proved themselves to be, nor a better soldier than Col. Amyot.

Sir Adolphe Caron has stated, in reply to a question put in the House of Commons, that the proposed School of Cavalry at Toronto is to be established this year, and that the higher commands will be awarded in the ordinary course of promotion of the officers now in the permanent cavalry corps. This announcement is satisfactory in view of the statement going the rounds not long ago that officers not now in the permanent service were to be favoured.

Lieut.-Col. the Hon. J. A. Ouimet, the Speaker of the House of Commons, has been re-elected chairman of the council of the Dominion Rifle Association. Lieut.-Col. John Macpherson, treasurer, and Lieut.-Col. Thos. Bacon, secretary, have also been re-elected. Another noteworthy stroke of business decided at the council meeting held last week. was that there should be a Wimbledon team as usual this year, and the choice of the commandant was left to the chairman of the council.

When the General Officer Commanding the Militia officially states, as he did at the annual meeting of the Dominion Rifle Association, that of Canada's thirty-seven thousand militiamen, thirty thousand could not hit a haystack, is it not fitting that steps should be at once taken to bring about a more creditable condition of affairs? Sir Fred Middleton did not tell anything new to military men, but we fancy when his statement appeared in the public prints it must have surprised the civilian portion of the population. Yet no better results can be expected from the present system, when the men get neither the necessary instruction how to go about shooting to hit, nor an ammunition allowance sufficient to give practical effect to such instruction were it given. A parliamentary committee to inquire into the merits and demerits of the system of training the militia would be timely.

A Sergeant Major, whose letter appears in this issue, writes feelingly upon the anomalous place these officers occupy. The Sergeant-Major's position is quite as important as any in the battalion, not even excepting that of the commanding officer himself, and while as chief non-commissioned officer he cannot enjoy the honour or privileges attaching to an officer's position, he might at least be put more on an equality with the officers in the matter of pay. Our correspondent brings to notice again the exclusiveness of the military schools, where it is not permitted to militiamen desiring to receive instruction as non-commissioned officers, and ambitious to at some future time take officers' commissions, to make one schooling—one graduation—do. One must fit himself out as an officer before he is permitted to receive an education as such—though no one would think of, for instance, requiring a person intending to enter the legal profession, to set up an office and proclaim himself to the world as a barrister, before admitting him to the study of the law. How the present school system operates is shown by the fact that there are at present about eight hundred unqualified officers in the force.

The Annual Militia Report-IV.

The Musketry Instructors' reports contained in the annual publication of the Militia Department call for serious consideration. Only five of these officers have, it seems, gone to the trouble to make reports, but it is to be hoped such attention will be paid to their recommendations' that next year the Musketry Instructor at each camp will feel encouraged to commit to writing his experience and the improvements in the system which suggest themselves to him.

To take the reports in the order in which they appear, we find first that of Capt. Thos. R. Coogan, of the 24th Batt., who was instructor to the camp of No. 1 District, held at Stratford. He says:

"The firing this year is only moderate, on account of the great number of men who fired for the first time with a Government rifle or I believe with any other rifle.

"With few exceptions the men seemed to know very little if anything about the firing exercise. They are not to blame for this want of knowledge. I consider there is no better material to be found in the 'whole world' for the making of good soldiers than is comprised in our Canadian volunteers, if properly handled and instructed in the duties of a soldier, and it is, I consider, the duty of company officers and noncommissioned officers to give more attention (at the company headquarters) to the instruction of the men of their respective companies in the firing exercise, position drill and aiming drill. If this most important part of a soldier's training is neglected, it is not to be expected that the men will make good or even fair shocting.

"I strongly recommend that before the men are permitted to fire with ball, that they be practised to fire with blank cartridge, from five to ten rounds each man, with a view to give steadiness, and to accustom him. to the recoil which takes place on the explosion of the powder.

"A very great many of the rifles in use are unserviceable and in a high degree dangerous to the firer.

"In nearly every case officers commanding companies did not comply with the instructions contained in the Company Target Practice Returns, and appear to have exercised not a particle of care in filling them in, which will be seen on referring to the returns, as they were all more or less incomplete and very inaccurate."

It will be noticed that Capt. Coogan's proposed remedy is that the men should receive instruction at their company headquarters. But if they are to drill at company headquarters as well as in camp, it is but fair to ask for an extra allowance of pay. Many companies now drill voluntarily, but many more do not. As to the carelessness of the company officers it may have been studied rather than accidental, the shooting, perhaps, having been too "moderate" to record.

The next instructor heard from is Captain James Adam, one of the best and most widely known shots in the Dominion. He officiated at the camp of No. 2 District, held at Niagara, and this is the most interesting part of what he says:

"Six corps, viz., the 12th, 34th, 35th, 36th, 37th and 77th performed their target practice at 100, 200, 300 and 400 yards, five rounds at each range; the highest average of any company was made by "A" Company, 34th Battalion, whose figure of merit was 50.02, which is extraordinarily good shooting. The same battalion also made the highest average figure of merit, 37'49; the brigade figure of merit was 31'88, which I consider very good, as 80 per cent of the men never fired before, and it was quite apparent that they had little or no musketry instruction or position drill in their battalions at headquarters.

"I would recommend that all battalions should have a competent musketry instructor and sergeant instructor who would give special attention to the preliminary musketry instruction and position drill, and to further this very important part of a soldier's education each non-commissioned officer and man ought to be supplied, and obliged to fire, sixty rounds of ball cartridge every year at headquarters before coming to camp, and twenty at camp.

"That the system of offering badges or prizes for good shooting be resumed, as it would have a tendency to make the men more eager to shoot well, and more careful in shooting."

Another recommendation of instruction at headquarters is contained in the above, it will be noticed. Captain Adam would have the men taught at home and examined in camp. The next instructor heard from is Major C. W. Radiger, of the Victoria Rifles. His comments also take, the form of regret. This is what he says of the shooting powers of the 5th Cavalry, and the 11th, 54th, 58th and 79th Battalions :

"I regret that the brigade figure of merit $(28\frac{1}{4})$ is not higher, and attribute it in a great measure to the limited amount of time available for position drill. Those whom I found time to correct when at the ranges, as a rule showed good results, but the morning parade as recommended does not give sufficient time for this teaching. I would most respectfully suggest that, especially in camps where the detail has to be given both in French and English, an assistant instructor be allowed. This would enable corps to have one day of position drill before proceeding to the target practice."

As Major Radiger supervised the practice of 1,062 men, his suggestion that there should be an assistant instructor cannot be considered an extravagant one. In No. 6 district the instructor was Captain Charles Bosse. He too, complains of incomplete returns handed in by the company officers, but of those returns fyled he says:

"You will notice that many men did not fire at 300 and 400 yards who had not hit the targets at 100 and 200. This was done by my instructions, as many of these men, not having had sufficient instruction at 100 yards, were not only inefficient but dangerous at the longer ranges. In my opinion more instruction should be given to recruits at 100 yards than has hitherto been allowed."

It should be the soldier's ambition to be "dangerous at the longer ranges "-- but to the enemy, not his own comrades or the neutral populace. It would add not a little to the discomforts of war if one had to wage it in such perilous company.

Ontario and Quebec have spoken as above. The next and only other province heard from, through the Musketry Instructors is Nova Scotia. Of his experience at Camp Aldershot, Lieut.-Col. James D. Irving says:

"The practice was conducted on the same principles as was that of last year, viz., no man being allowed to fire until he had first been as carefully instructed in aiming and position drill, as the limited time at our disposal would allow, and all weak shots being required to fire over again at the shorter ranges.

"The necessity of thorough Musketry Instruction becomes more apparent each year. Very many of the recruits coming in have no knowledge whatever of how to use their rifles, the sending of whom to the targets without previous instruction therein being only a waste of time and a useless expenditure of ammunition. Were it for no other reason than to allow of this instruction being more effectually given than it is at present, it would be, I respectfully submit, a sufficient one for increasing the number of days of annual drill.

"The large proportion of third class shots shown by the returns, again forces the conclusion that it is high time something were done to improve the shooting of the mass of our militia force other than that afforded by means of the various Rifle Associations, whose annual Prize Meetings with the encouragnment they afford for practice and individual effort, do not, most certainly, reach the class of men who come into Camp. I hope yet to see your suggestion for the granting of a few money prizes for company competition at the annual Camps acted upon by the Department."

Such reports as these have for years been presented to Parliament annually by the Minister of Militia, but they have been received without comment. Of late, however, there has been a disposition shown to pay more attention to the country's defensive resources, and we fancy that were some of the officers in Parliament to press upon the House the necessity for providing more adequate instruction in rifle shooting the money required to effect improvement in the system would be readily forthcoming.

The Militia and the Civil Power.

A bill to amend the Militia Act in so far as relates to the calling out of the militia in aid of the civil power has been introduced in the House of Commons by Sir Adolphe Caron, Minister of Militia, and now stands for its second reading. Considerable interest has been taken in the bill by militiamen throughout the country, and as it has just been printed we publish this week its provisions *in toto*, as follows :---

I.—Sub-sections five and six of section thirty four of "The Militia Act" are hereby repealed, and the following sub sections substituted in lieu thereof:—

"5. The senior officer of militia shall, immediately upon receipt of such requisition, notify, in writing, the warden, mayor or other head of the municipality or county in which such riot, disturbance or other emergency occurs or is anticipated, that he has received such requisition, and shall at the same time transmit an estimate of the amount which will be required to defray, for a period of eight days, the expenses and allowances, according to this act, of the active militia whom it is pro posed to call out; and he shall not comply with any such requisition until the amount has been deposited with him; and if, on or before the expiration of the seventh day after the militia is called out, a further deposit of a like amount, to cover a further period of eight days, is not paid to the senior officer of militia, such neglect to make a second deposit shall be deemed to be a declaration that the services of the active militia are no longer required in the premises, and they shall be commanded to return to their headquarters and shall be there dismissed.

"6. When the active militia, or any corps thereof, is so called out in aid of the civil power, they shall be paid out of the amount deposited as hereinbefore provided, while so employed, the rates authorized to be paid for actual service to officers and men, and one dollar per diem for each horse actually and necessarily used by them, together with an allowance of one dollar to each officer and fifty cents to each man per diem in lieu of subsistence, and fifty cents per diem in lieu of forage for each horse—and, in addition, the cost of providing them with proper lodging, and with stabling for their horses, unless such lodging and stabling are furnished in kind, together with the reasonable cost of transport, shall be defrayed out of the amount so deposited.

"7. The senior officer of militia with whom the deposit is made shall prepare an account in duplicate of his expenditure under the foregoing provisions, and shall transmit one copy thereof to the Minister of Militia and Defence, and shall transmit the other copy to the person by whom the deposit was made. and he shall at the same time pay to the person by whom the deposit was made the balance of such deposit remaining unexpended.

"8. If the riot or disturbance or other emergency occurs or is anticipated in a locality in which no municipal organization exists the notification and estimate shall be transmitted to the Lieutenant-Govérnor of the province or territory in which such locality is situate; and in such case the provisions of this section shall, except as hereinafter provided, apply in like manner as if the Lieutenant Governor in Council was the municipal authority in this section before mentioned.

"9. No officer, non-commissioned officer or man enlisted for continuous service in a corps constituted under section twenty-eight of this act, or attached from time to time for instruction to such corps, shall be called out for active service under the provisions of this section unless the officer to whom the requisition is made has previously applied for and received permission from the Minister of Militia and Defence to comply with the requisition so received by him.

"10. Notwithstanding anything in this section contained, the Governor-in-Council may authorize the officer to whom any such requisition as aforesaid is made, to call out such portion of the active militia as he considers necessary under the circumstances, although the deposit hereinbefore mentioned has not been made; and in such case and in every case to which the next following subsection applies, the expenses and allowances which such deposit is intended to cover may be advanced in the first instance out of the consolidated revenue fund of Canada, by the authority of the Governor-in-Council; but if such advance is made, the same shall be deemed to be a debt due to Her Majesty, for the public uses of Canada, by the authority by whom the deposit should have been made, or by whom the guarantee hereinafter mentioned was or should have been given.

"11. The Lieutenant-Governor in Council of any province may,

in any case in which the services of the active militia are required in any part of the province, transmit to the proper officer of militia his requisition for calling out the necessary portion of the active militia by any means of communication which he deems expedient, and such officer of militia shall comply with such requisition; but before transmitting such requisition the Lieutenant-Governor shall, with the consent of his Executive Council, by a writing under his hand, guarantee the payment of the amount of the expenses and allowances in this section beforementioned, and such written guarantee shall be addressed to the proper officer of militia and deposited in the post office before the requisition is transmitted.^o

II.—Sub-section five of section thirty-six of the said Act is hereby repealed and the following substituted in lieu thereof:

"5. Such pay and allowances and the reasonable cost of transport to and from the place where the services of the force are required, may be paid out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund of Canada by authority of the Governor in Council, but if so paid the amount shall be deemed to be a debt due to Her Majesty, for the public uses of Canada, by the Government of the Northwest Territories."

The Dominion Artillery Association.

The annual business meeting of the Dominion Artillery Association was held last Thursday in a committee room of the parliamentary buildings, Ottawa. The meeting opened at noon, the president, 1.t.-Col.. A. H. Macdonald, 1st B. F. A., Guelph, in the chair, and there being also present His Excellency the Governor-General, attended by Captain Colville, A.D.C, Lieut.-General Sir Fred. Middleton, Col. Walker Powell, Adjutant-General; Lieut.-Cols. Irwin (Inspector of Artillery), Cotton, McKenzie, Curren, John Macpherson, Bacon, Turnbull, Prior, M. P., and Smith; Majors Stewart, King, Mead, Blaiklock, Carpenter, M. P., and Van Wagner; Captains Donaldson, McCrae and Bliss; Lieutenants Macnachtan, Irving, Hurdman and Mackeand; Dr. Ferguson, M.P, Messrs. J. Innes, M.P., E. S. Cox, W. C. Bonnell, T. W. Jones, A. W. Dodd, J. H. Beaty, J. H. Maclean, R. Myles and Webster.

Surgeon J. W. Daniel, of the New Brunswick Brigade of Garrison Artillery, having subscribed \$20 during 1888 his name was placed on the list of life members.

A vote of thanks to the Governor-General for his attendance, and the gift of prizes to the association, was moved by Lieut.-Col. McKenzie, seconded by Major Stewart.

LORD STANLEY'S SPEECH.

In response His Excellency said: "I assure you it is a sincere pleasure to me to carry on as far as may be the good work which has been encouraged by my predecessors. I can assure you that no one brings to the task a greater appreciation of the work than I do. Of course I am not a gunner, but I have seen a great deal of gun drill and therefore perhaps I am better able even than my predecessors, to appreciate the work in which you are engaged. I understand that the association does add very materially to the strength of the Dominion. We all know that ourforce is kept up for defensive purposes. We hope that it will never be required, even for this purpose; certainly not for any purposes of aggression. But in these days to be forearmed is to be forewarned, and as far as may be it is the duty of those who undertake the defence of the country to see they can do so efficiently.

I know very well we labour under a special difficulty. In the first place, whatever the wishes of the Minister of Militia and Defence may be, he has colleagues in the cabinet who control him as to ways and means; and further than that, they have behind them the country and a body of constituents who justly demand in the first place that the expenditure shall not be excessive, and in the next place that they shall get their money's worth. Therefore you never have the means here of indulging in those costly experiments with which we are too familiar at home, and of which as a former War Minister myself, I have some personal knowledge. That has its advantages and its disadvantages. There is no doubt that the perfect gun of to-day will be the past gun of to-morrow, and the obsolete gun of a few years hence, and that is the difficulty which by preserving an attitude of entire quiet you undoubtedly avoid.

On the other hand were circumstances unfortunately calling you out for the purpose of defence it implies much more to artillery than infantry. Artillery will be brought face to face with the question of dealing with the most improved ordnance, differing entirely from that which they have been in the habit of using, and furnished with the most improved appliances of modern science, supplied, I presume, by the government of the country. At the present moment you have the 64-pounder, which represents the garrison gun, and the 9 pr. muzzle loader which is used by the field artillery. Speaking of the latter, I venture, in the presence of many military men, to say that it appears to me for all the purposes for which it is ordinarily required, a very fairly efficient gun, and the se who have read the report of Major Prevost—the able superintendent of the cartridge factory at Quebec—will see that he thinks further improvement is possible in the shell by which it may be made an even more powerful gun than at present. But for ordinary work it is perhaps as good as we can have.

We cannot say quite as much about the garrison gun. I only venture to throw out in the most careful way the suggestion that there is a possibility of means by which the Dominion without occurring more expense for the purchase of guns may be enabled to approach the Imperial government with the view of using some of those guns which are mounted for Imperial defence, as at Halifax. I have some reason to believe that both the general officers and the authorities there are perfectly willing to put all facilities in the way and to give the utmost attention in their power. In that way, and that way only, does it seem to me at the present time that without great expense gun detachments could become acquainted with the working of improved modern guns. I understand that at Halifax there are some guns of the most improved modern type and if the Minister of Militia could see his way clear to the difficulty of travelling expenses, etc., it does seem to me possible that gun detachments may be sent down there in succession and that they might at all events have some idea how to use the more modern appliances that are attached to the modern guns. Of course a great deal can be learned in the ordinary drill and practically that will be carried on as before. That is the only way, I think, of carrying on the work in the most improved way, and without casting a great burden on the finances of the country. I have no authority to say so, but if the question of ammunition was raised the Imperial government might fairly be asked to help." In conclusion his Excellency said he would have much pleasure in rendering all the services he could towards furthering the interests of the association.

THE COUNCIL REPORT.

In moving the adoption of the report of the council, the president, Lieut.-Col. Macdonald, dwelt at length upon the several recommendations it contained—of the holding of a central competition at Quebec for field batteries—the issue of canvas clothing for fatigue duty work—four days preliminary drill in addition to the time now spent in camp—the advisability of forming provincial associations, in which connection he paid a high compliment to Lieut. L. H. Irving, secretary of the Ontario Association, the only provincial body now existing. He was sorry that there was not more in the report about the garrison artillery and that this arm did not get more encouragement.

Lieut.-Col. Irwin seconded the adoption of the report. He criticised the system of annual drill now prevailing, and pointed out that many batteries had been brought to camp last year at places where no ranges were available, and expressed the hope that this year the field batteries might be brought together to some central point where a good range could be secured. He thought Kingston would be more convenient than any other place. He was happy to state that the central competition for garrison batteries, held at Orleans last summer, had been very successful, there being represented twenty-seven batteries—or nearly every efficient battery in the Dominion.

On motion of Major King, an addition was made to the report of the council, thanking Mr. L. H. Irving for his services at Niagara and Toronto.

A PROTEST DISCUSSED.

Major Van Wagner, Hamilton Field Battery, moved, seconded by Mr. Myles, that the efficiency prizes for 1888 be not awarded, on the ground that the competitions were held under such varying circumstances that it was impossible to arrive at any just conclusions. He spoke briefly in support of the motion, which was in pursuance of a formal protest appearing in the annual report.

The trouble arose out of the batteries firing at Toronto having been permitted to use telephonic communication between the firing party and the party at the targets, whereby the place each shot had struck might be communicated more exactly than could be done by flag signalling as at other places. The telephone has been used at Toronto for several years, and no objection has hitherto been made. The executive considered the protest, and decided not to allow it, no particular advantage having been shown to have ensued. There were only a few points difference between the Hamilton and Guelph batteries, and the Hamilton men thought they would have had first place had they fired under the same conditions. Their score placed the Guelph battery first in the general efficiency competition, and gave them the prize presented by His Exeellency the Governor-General.

Capt. McCrae held that the Hamilton Field Battery had no just ground of complaint, and that if they did not fire under such favourable conditions as some others, this was merely the fortune of war. The special ground of the protest, he believed, was that telephones were used at Toronto, but he wished it understood that these telephones had been so used for many years, Major King said he did not think Capt. McCrae fully understood the question. The use of telephones gave the advantage that the batteries firing at Toronto knew exactly how far wide of the mark their shots had gone, and enabled them to apply a remedy more exact than if their shots were only signalled with flags. The Hamilton battery only wanted three points to have first place instead of the Guelph battery, and he claimed that they would have had these points had they fired on equal terms.

The Secretary explained that the protest, if allowed, would have sent to smash the whole efficiency competition, and it had not been thought that the Hamilton ba tery had suffered any greater injustice than must necessarily occur when the batteries fired at different times and places.

Lieut.-Col. Macdonald said that the telephones were used in accordance with the usual custom, and no objection had been mooted from any quarter Many outside officers were there, and if the possibility of an objection had been hinted at he had no doubt the use of the telephones would have been abandoned even after the firing had been commenced. It seems that telephones had been used for a great many years at Toronto, but nowhere else, and no objection had until this been raised. He thought it had perhaps arisen more on account of the so-called failure of the system used at Niagara than of any undue advantage received at Toronto.

Lieut.-Col. Irwin said it had been decided that a telephone was a necessity on account of the peculiar danger of the range, which crossed . two roads, thus making it imperative that there should be a means of prompt communication between the firing party and the range party. Strictly speaking, the use of telephones had always been irregular, as it had never been authorized.

Lord Stanley said he wished to add a few words as a private member of the association and as one interested in the prize in question. There were certain unavoidable advantages, such as wind and weather, and certain avoidable advantages, such as the use of a telephone was claimed to be. This use was something to which the executive might well give their attention. He believed that they were now used at Shoeburyness. Concerning their use at Toronto, it seemed to him that the interests of the public safety demanded it. He suggested that a vote should not be taken upon the matter, but that in the best interests of the association it should be allowed to rest, leaving the executive to make provision to cover the point for the future. It would be a bad thing to press the protest and thus give the idea that the association were disunited.

This recommendation of His Excellency met with demonstrations of approval, and Mr. Irving suggested that the matter be referred to the council.

Sir Fred. Middleton said it seemed to him unfortunate that this protest had been occasioned, but he thought there had been no greater advantage afforded than must be received by some battery or other in a competition carried on as this was. He thought the executive should have distinctly pronounced upon the use of telephones.

THE PROTEST WITHDRAWN.

After further discussion by Lieut.-Col. Cotton and Lieut.-Col. Turnbull, Lord Stanley suggested, as a way out of the difficulty, the following resolution : - "That this meeting, having heard the protest of the officers of the Hamilton Field Battery, desires to direct the attention of the council to the necessity of examining and revising the rules for marking." This resolution was then moved by Capt. McCrae, seconded by Lieut.-Col. McKenzie, and carried unanimously, the protest being withdrawn.

Mr. Irving then moved in amendment to the motion for the adoption of the report :—" That this meeting regrets that the executive committee decided upon the protest entered by the Hamilton Field Battery without consulting the representative of the Ontario Artillery Association, to which that association is entitled." This resolution was lost on division, on the casting vote of the chairman.

A vote of thanks to Sir Adolphe Caron, Minister of Militia, was moved by Lieut.-Col. Curren, seconded by Lieut.-Col. Turnbull, and unanimously accorded. It was acknowledged by Sir Fred. Middleton, who apologized for the unavoidable absence of the Minister.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

Officers for the ensuing year were then elected as follows :----

President—Lieut.-Col. A. H. Macdonald, Guelph (re-elected), Lieut.-Col. Curren, of Halifax, was nominated also, but declined to stand.

Vice-Presidents—Lieut.-Cols. A. A. Stevenson, Montreal Field Battery; J. Armstrong, New Brunswick Brigade Garrison Artillery; Curren, Halifax Garrison Artillery; and Capt. W. B. McMurrich, Toronto Garrison Artillery.

The following were elected members of council in addition to the

ex-officio members : Lieut.-General Laurie, M.P.; Col. Gzowski, A.D.C. to the Queen; Lieut.-Col. George A. Kirkpatrick, M. P.; Lieut.-Col. Oswald, Montreal; Capt. McCrae, Guelph; Capt. Bliss, Ottawa; Major Garrison, Capt. Maxwell, Halifax; Capt. Hendrie, Capt. Stuart, Hamilton; Lieuts. Myles and Irving, Messrs. Cox, Dodd, and Jones, Torontc.

Mr. Irving moved, seconded by Mr. Dodd, that the Militia Department be requested to furnish two instructional targets to each battery. Carried.

A vote of thanks to the secretary, Capt. Donaldson, was then proposed and carried unanimously. It embodied besides the kind words a vote of \$300 for Capt. Donaldson's services.

THE COUNCIL MEETING.

A meeting of the new council was held in the afternoon. There were present Lieut.-Cols. McKenzie, Irwin, Cotton, Macdonald, Turnbull; Majors Stewart, Van Wagner, Mead and King; Captains McCrae, Donaldson, Bliss and Hendrie; Lieut. Irvin, and Messrs. Cox, Dodd and Jones. The election of officers was first proceeded with and resulted as follows:

President-Lieut.-Col. Turnbull.

Vice-Presidents-Major Lindsay, Major Stewart, Capt. Hendrie, Lieut.-Col. Moore.

Secretary-Treasurer-Capt. J. B. Donaldson.

Executive Committee—Lieut. Irving, Major Cole, Major Stewart (from Ontario Artillery Association).

It was moved by Lieut.-Col. Curren, seconded by Capt. Donaldson, That the executive committee be requested to consider the advisability of making arrangements so that the result of each man's scoring should be made known immediately after the man has fired. Carried.

It was moved by Lieut.-Col. Macdonald, seconded by Major Stewart, That the arrangements for the annual competitions and prizes for 1889 be referred to the executive committee; and that the equalization of the prize lists be specially considered. Carried.

Lieut.-Col. Irwin then explained the proposed arrangements for 1889, and requested suggestions from the meeting. There was no further formal business transacted, and the meeting shortly adjourned.

Correspondence.

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

THAT COMPREHENSIVE CHALLENGE.

EDITOR MILITIA GAZETTE,—I notice in your issue of 21st February, a letter under the above heading. The term "comprehensive" is very appropriate and I hope was put in by you as a hint.

For the last fifteen years I have been interested in the most important rifle matches that have taken place in the Dominion, and I am proud to say that I have never known a match to be shot for a wager as proposed by our Toronto friend.

My opinion is that the further gambling, betting and drinking is kept from the public gaze the better, especially in connection with reports of rifle contests, and I hope these gentlemen will have to look further than the editor of the GAZETTE for a stakeholder, or any other encouragement in a course that will certainly injure the cause of

"PURE SPORT."

FENIAN RAID DISTINCTIONS.

EDITOR MILITIA GAZETTE,-Under date of Wednesday, May 4th, 1887 (nearly two years ago), a large and representative delegation of militiamen and ex-militiamen from the provinces of Ontario and Quebec (and including a number of members of parliament) waited upon the Rt. Hon. Sir John Macdonald, and several members of his cabinet, and presented them with largely signed memorials asking them that some tangible acknowledgment, such as a decoration, be granted to those who had served during the Fenian raids of 1866-70. If I am not mistaken, the reply of the Rt. Hon. the Premier was to the effect that "the subject was one that called for action by the Imperial government; that the matter would be duly laid before them with favourable recommendations, etc., and that in the event of the Home government not entertaining the suggestion, the Dominion government would then deal with the matter in a manner acceptable to the memorialists." Can you inform your readers as to what shape the matter now stands, or is it (like other questions affecting the militia force) considered a stock subject, and as such pigeon-holed for the time being?

FENTAN RAID.

THE SERGEANT MAJOR,

EDITOR MILITIA GAZETTE, -- I am particularly interested in a part of Col. Smith's report on No. 1 District in the Militia Report, just published, where he says: "The absence of suitable sergeants-major is very marked. No effort should be spared to induce good men to qualify for this latter rank, and to remain in the position after qualifying."

Now, sir, under the existing state of affairs it is no wonder to me that Col. Smith finds it necessary to report as above, or that when a suitable man is promoted he speedily tires of the position. In the first place he finds that after all he is only a n.c.o.; his pay is only roc. per day more than an ordinary staff-sergeant; if he qualifies he cannot take better than a grade B certificate; so that when he eventually takes a commission he can only rank as high as a Lieutenant, and is therefore put to the trouble and expense of again attending the School to take a grade A certificate; and yet a sergeant-major is expected to and should know as much if not more than any officer in his regiment.

Then again in the matter of expense, his outfit is as costly as an officer's, and in the event of his going on active service, he finds himself at the end of the campaign, as was the case in the late rebellion, in need of a new outfit or nearly so. The officers will find themselves in the same predicament but they will have been in receipt of their field service pay, 69c. for a 2nd Lieut, which is given with the object of covering this extra expense, while the sergt.-major has the pleasure of providing himself anew out of his own pocket. Besides this his prominent position in his corps entails upon him many sundry expenses.

As regards his knowledge of military matters he is expected to be a walking encyclopedia, while his other necessary qualities, as laid down in the Rules and Regulations for the Canadian Militia on page 4τ , are to say the least pretty fair. The paragraph reads : "The sergt.-major is the senior and chief of the n.c.o's. He should be selected for his intelligence, tact and soldierlike qualities. In him should be embodied all that is manly, soldierlike and zealous." A list of his many duties is then given: "These duties are so manifold that he should be the smartest and most intelligent man in the regiment, and his conduct and example such as shall cause him to be esteemed and respected by every man in it."

A pretty fair specimen of a man! And if such a one is ever got to fill the bill he is not likely to be content to remain in such a thankless position. Perhaps the gallant D.A G. of No 1 can suggest some means of making the position more encouraging, but it is little wonder under the existing state of things that it is hard to get good and efficient men to take the rank or to keep it for any length of time after being promoted.

Toronto, 26th February, 1889.

Regimental News.

A SERGEANT-MAJOR

The band of the 27th Batt. have issued an exceedingly attractive programme and invitation card combined for their first annual ball, to be held at Sarnia, Ont., on Monday next. The officers of the committee are: Thos. H. Cook, president; Geo. Wenino, secretary; and A. J. Patterson, chairman.

Bandmaster James Carter, of the 43rd Ottawa and Carleton Rifles, who only recently took over the charge of the smart musical body attached to that battalion, is likely to resign on account of failing health.

The Dufferin Rifles.

There appears in the Brantford *Expositor* of the 19th inst., the following report of the first of an interesting series of entertainments to be given by the 38th : "Perhaps no more pleasant spot may be found in this city than in the elegantly fitted-up and comfortable quarters of the officers of the Dufferin Rifles. And it is particularly pleasant when Licut.-Col. Jones and his officers are "at home" to their friends. On Monday evening the first of what promises to be a most enjoyable monthly affair, was given, taking the form of an informal concert or entertainment, through which everybody smoked. Among those present were Lt.-Col. Jones, Surgeon Harris, Major B. H. Rothwell, Capt. W. A. Wilkes, Capt. H. J. McGlashan, Capt. H. F. Leonard, Capt. A. E. Christie, Capt. J. H. McLean, Lieuts. Jos. Ruddy, W. G. Kilmaster, Charles Ott, and the following guests : E. L. Goold, Major Snartt, Lord T. Whitehead, G. R. Van No man, Q.C., H. K. Wickstead, J. K. Osborne, J. V. Morton, Chief J. J. Vaughan, L. F. Heyd, J. W. Bowlby, H. Gow. F. B. Pollard, W. G. Raymond. Jos. N. Shenston, Thos. Foster, C. K. McGregor, S. G. Read, F. D. Reville, R. J. Smith, J. R. Lawler, H.J. Minty, Dr. Minchin, Mr. Gardner, C. L. Daniel and a few others.

Captain Christie had been instructed to see that a programme of entertainment was provided for and succeeded admirably. In the first place two great jars of the most fragrant tobacco were supplied along with a few pipes. But it was generally understood that those who attended should bring along their own pipes and the behest was obeyed. As a consequence there was a variety of dhudeens agoing sufficient to

fill a curiosity shop. Out of all that company but two were non-smok-These gentlemen did not smoke but they were smoked. Added ers. to the programme however, was a list of songs and readings that served to pass the hours still more pleasantly. Songs were sung by Capt. W. A. Wilkes, Capt. McGlashan, Asst. Surgeon Bishop, Mr. F. D. Reville and Mr. L. F. Heyd; Lt.-Col. Jones recited the Charge of the Light Brigade, Lieut. Jos. Ruddy read an amusing selection from Mark Twain's Innocents Abroad, Mr. C. L. Daniel gave a humorous sketch, The Irish Widow; Surgeon Harris and Capt. Leonard contributed some exercises in mind reading; Asst. Surgeon Bishop gave a club swinging exercise, Capt. Wilkes and Mr. Reville a piano duet, and there were several choruses by the company. The evening was thoroughly enjoyable and future evenings "at home" with the "Duffers" will be sure to be largely attended. Before the company separated, as they did at 11 o'clock, Col. Jones announced that the next gathering was dated for the evening of the first Monday in March. These are informal affairs to which no formal invitations are sent and should all prove as pleasant as the first, will be very popular.

Captain Cooper's Rifle.

(Toronto Globe.) Captain Wm. M. Cooper, of the 12th Battalion, has scored a great success in the new military and sporting magazine rifle, which, in conjunction with Mr. Cashmore, he has invented and patented in Canada, the United States, England, Germany, France, Italy, Australia and Belgium. In conversation with a Globe representative yesterday, Mr. Cooper explained the mechanism of the new rifle and illustrated his points by reference to a splendid rifle of the new pattern made at his premises on Bay street. For years he has worked on the perfecting of a rifle that would not be liable to injury through defective shells or water, the great causes of the failure of magazine rifles. He has succeeded, and specimens of the invention will soon be in the hands of the various governments. A large number of prominent business men in the province have examined the weapon and have pronounced it a wonderful advance on even the advanced Lee, Remington and new Winchester rifles. Mr. Cooper believes that at present there is no weapon for military purposes that seems to meet the requirements of modern warfare, and as a consequence almost every government is on the lookout for a perfect weapon. As a case in point, both the English and German Governments, although they have been experimenting for years with new rifles, have not yet definitely decided upon one.

The coming rifle must, in the first place, be a magazine rifle capable of being used either as a single shot breech-loading weapon for ordinary use, or in emergency having such a reserve of firing power as will enable the users to keep up such a continuous fire as to render the approach of an enemy to bayonet distance an utter impossibility.

It must be of a smaller calibre than the present weapons and possess a much longer range. In order to secure the latter a stronger class of explosives will have to be used, thus necessitating a very much stronger breech action than any now in use. The calibre must be smaller in order to enable the soldiers to carry the larger supply of cartridges rendered necessary by the more rapid firing the weapon will be capable of.

The Cooper-Cashmore rifle meets these requirements in the highest degree and in every particular. The principle feature is of course the loading mechanism, and in this it differs from all other magazine rifles, inasmuch as the breech block, which takes up the recoil of the explosive, has almost no connection with the loading, and firing mechanism.

The breech is so strongly built that it will stand the strain of the most powerful explosive ever used in a rifle without any danger whatever of being blown to pieces. It is tight-fitting and so perfectly gas tight as to render it impervious to water or dust.

The barrel and magazine are made out of a single piece of steel and so constructed as to render it strong enough to prevent the bending of the barrel if used in a bayonet charge, or of having the magazine rendered unserviceable by a sword cut. It can also be arranged to be used with an attachable and detachable magazine for military purposes and possesses the advantage of having its 20 or 25 cartridges situated directly in front of the trigger guard, thus preserving under all conditions of firing the equilibrium of the rifle.

The calibre of the rifle is '32 and the cartridge, which is of special pattern and construction, is of more than ordinary length and can be made up in any other calibre. The operation of loading and firing is performed by a simple lever action, similar to that of the Martini-Henry, but having the advantage of a much shorter stroke. This rifle has also the peculiarity of an automatic bayonet, which is so constructed as to slide up and down the magazine. It is very simple in its workings and can be loaded at any angle, can be instantly changed from a repeater to single shooter and vice versa, contains fewer parts and is stronger than any magazine rifle ever made, and is so simple in its construction that any person of ordinary intelligence can take it apart and put it together.

Military Handbooks.

[Published by Messrs. Keegan, Paul, Tiench & Co., 1 Paternoster square, London, Eng.] MILITARY SKETCHING AND RECONNAISSANCE-By Col. F. J. Hutchison, late 64th Regt., Garrison Instructor Western District, and

Major H. G. MacGregor, late 29th Regt., and Garrison Instructor Home District. Wfth 16 plates. Being the first volume of military handbooks for regimental officers. Edited by Col. C. B. Brackenbury, R.A. 5th edition ; p.p. 120.

A perusal of this excellent handbook will repay the reader, be he a soldier or civilian, and to those officers who desire to acquaint themselves with this most important part of their professional qualifications it is invaluable. The scope of the work is ample, and the subject is treated in a clear and comprehensive manner. The subject, though an important one, is unfortunately much neglected by militia officers, whose professional and theoretical knowledge should be of a high order. We therefore heartily recommend this little work to all who desire to render themselves fitted for the active work in the field. A careful study of its contents will enable the company officer to lead his handful of men to the best advantage, and the commanding officer so to dispose of his battalion as to deserve success if not to command it. The officer must, indeed, be dull who cannot learn by its aid to read the details of ground on a military map, and to produce a readable and fairly accurate sketch of ground, accompanied by a "reconnaissance report." We hope the knowledge of the fact that in the Canadian militia we possess no "Intelligence Department" and but few opportunities of perfecting ourselves in the subject under consideration, may stimulate the more actively inclined and ambitious soldiers amongst us to devote themselves to this work. The book is divided into two portions, first, Military Sketching, comprising amongst others the following subjects : Objects of military sketching and the instruments used; scales and measurements of distances; sketching with Field book and with the plane table; flatness of ground; contouring; execution and finishing of sketches; shading; reading maps; drawing sections of ground; copying, reducing and enlarging maps. Second, Reconnaissance, including topographical reconnaissance; the report; reconnaissance of a road, river, wood, railway, villages, camping and bivouac ground, mountains; a position; arrangements for concerted reconnaissance of a district; coast reconnaissance; notes on estimation of supplies; instructions for a course of field sketching and reconnaissance of ground.

An officer who will take the trouble to practically acquaint himself with the details and principles which are so clearly enunciated in this little work, could not fail if the occasion for his services should arise, to render himself of great service to his commanding officer and the force with which he might be serving.

A correspondent of the Army and Navy Gazette gives the following account of the origin of the military salute :--" Within the last few years, among the many changes which have been introduced into the army is that of the salute. Why the old time-honoured salute was abolished no one knows; but it is an interesting fact, and one probably unknown to most of our readers, that the old salute, which consisted in the hand being brought into a horizontal position over the eyebrows, has a very old origin, dating, in fact, from the commencement of the history of the English army. Its origin is found in the tournaments of the Middle Ages, and was as follows :---After the Queen of Beauty was enthroned, the Knights who were to take part in the sports of the day marched past the dais on which she sat, and as they passed they shielded their eyes from the rays of her beauty. Such was the very interesting origin of the old salute, and it is a question worthy the attention of our military authorities, why should not the old salute, possessing such an origin, and associated with our army from the very earliest times, be restored? It is difficult to discover for what purpose it was ever abolished. The principal part of the officers' salute, kissing the hilt of the sword, dates also from the Middle Ages. When the Crusaders were on the march to the Holy City, the Knights were in the daily custom of planting their long two-hand swords upright in the ground, thereby forming a cross, and before these they performed their morning devotions. On all military occasions they kissed the hilts of their swords in token of devotion to the Cross, and this custom was perpetuated after the Crusaders were numbered among the things of the past, and when the religious origin of the salute was forgotten.

Improvements in missile weapons have, partly by keeping the combatants wider apart, tended materially to reduce the cost of victories in their most costly element-human life and suffering. The French War Office has worked out the statistics of this question, and the following are some of the results: At the battle of Friedland, the French lost fourteen per cent. and the Russians thirty per cent. of their troops; and at Wagram, the French lost thirteen per cent. and the Austrians fourteen per cent. At Moscow, the French lost thirty per cent. and the Russians forty-four per cent.



THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE.

