

THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE

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

Second Year.
VOL. II, No. 80.

OTTAWA, THURSDAY, 27th JANUARY, 1887.

\$1.50 per annum in advance.
Single Copies Five Cents

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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Should be made by Registered Letter, Post Office Order or Draft. For Great Britain, each dollar may be taken as equivalent to 4s., and cents as half-pence. All communications must be addressed to

THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE,

Box 316, OTTAWA, Canada.

Printed by MASON & REYNOLDS, 45 Elgin Street, Ottawa.

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subscriber who writes us from Montreal:—"I find I have let my subscription run behind ten numbers, and for fear of having the *Gazette* stopped shall not let it run longer. Allow me to bear my mite of testimony to the value of your *Gazette* to the volunteer force in Canada. I would not be without it at double the subscription price." Now it is not necessary for our friends, when they feel enthusiastic, to send us double the subscription price, they can serve us nearly as well, at less cost to themselves, by getting us new subscribers, and by promptly remitting the sinews of war.

AN item is going the rounds to the effect that the difficulty of sighting rifles in the dark in warfare has been ingeniously overcome by affixing a small luminous bead over the fore sight and another over the rear sight, which when used at night can be readily aligned. The English war office authorities have, it is added, had these sights under trial for the past six months, and have now given their first order for some. All that is now needed to perfect this wonderful invention is a little luminous paint on the enemy, so that the riflemen may have something on which to align their luminous sights.

THE agricultural and rural press should take up this subject vigorously and urge the importance of this branch of agricultural industry on our stock raisers, and should educate the people up to know how to breed and care for their horses so as to produce the grade required. Both in the older provinces and in the North-West all the conditions are favorable for a large and profitable development of this industry. As an earnest of the probable future demand it has lately been announced that an agent of the Imperial Government will be in Canada very shortly to purchase a large number of horses suitable for cavalry and artillery purposes.

Comment and Criticism.

A NEW warrant has just been issued by the Imperial authorities regulating the admission of officers to the army and their subsequent promotion and retirement. Its provisions will be found more or less at length in the service papers of the 8th instant, and will doubtless prove interesting to the many retired officers now in Canada. We may draw attention here to a couple of points: one is that the rank of second lieutenant has been revived, the pay being the same as that previously given to a lieutenant on appointment, promotions from that rank only being made to fit regimental vacancies, or in the artillery or engineers after three years' service. It is further to be noted that graduates of the Kingston Royal Military College enjoy the same privileges with regard to obtaining commissions in all branches of the service as are granted to graduates of the R.M.C., Sandhurst, for cavalry and infantry, and the Military Academy for the scientific branches, and that officers of the colonial forces are also eligible to receive first commissions.

WE feel very grateful for the kind way in which our friends throughout the Dominion receive our little paper, but we do not often run across so great an enthusiast nor one with so tender a conscience as a

AT the annual meeting of the Ontario Artillery Association in Toronto on the 13th instant, the CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE was officially recognized as the organ of that association, and a rule was adopted to the effect that notice of all meetings should be given simply by the secretary inserting an advertisement to that effect in this journal. Under these circumstances we would suggest that any members who do not already take the GAZETTE would find it to their interest to subscribe now. We will make it a point to publish as fully, as promptly, and as correctly as possible all matters affecting the association.

WE are sorry to learn that some militiamen have been combining to hold political meetings in the west. This is most strongly to be condemned, not only because it is directly contrary to Regulations and Orders, but also because it can in no wise help the cause that the promoters of the agitation, equally with ourselves, have at heart. If our friends want better terms in any direction they must work for them by proving their discipline and observance of regulations, and so continuing to show themselves worthy of consideration, and not by objecting to that authority which, by joining the force, they have acknowledged. We do

not for a moment wish to deny to our militiamen the right to take part in the political campaign, or to attend election meetings in their capacity as citizens, for we feel very strongly that they have a duty to perform in the coming contest; we simply deprecate their acting in concert, avowedly as militiamen; at the best such a course could only result in their being used as tools by one or other of the parties, which even now are appealing on widely different grounds to their prejudices and their sectional feelings.

THE provision of remounts for the British army continues to agitate the military press, and many editorials have been published in England to demonstrate how desirable it is that the horses needed should be bred at home. It is perfectly natural that the English should prefer to produce their own horses, and it is quite as natural that we should wish to compete with them in the trade, and the victory will rest with whichever can furnish the animals required, of standard quality, at the lowest price. Colonels Ravenhill and Philips, during their late visit, complained that our horses were most of them unsound and not sufficiently highly bred to suit the requirements of the army, but those are details that could easily be overcome if our breeders were assured of fair prices and a steady market. And it looks very much as if there would be a lively demand for army horses for many years to come. England alone has in the last twelve years imported over 200,000 horses, at a cost of about fifty millions of dollars, and requires immediately a large number of extra horses, and in case of European war that which seems so fearfully imminent not only England but all the great powers would be scouring the world for cavalry steeds.

CAPTAIN DOUGLAS, R.N.R., received on Tuesday the Nordenfelt machine gun which he has been awaiting; it is now set up in the militia stores, and is a particularly neat piece of mechanism; two trails accompany the gun, which is of the three-barrel type, one being the usual service trail and the other larger and heavier, adapting the gun and ammunition for ready transport by foot soldiers. We hope in a future issue to give some interesting details respecting the various patterns of machine guns manufactured by the Nordenfelt Company.

WE notice that the handbill calling a meeting for the 25th in Shaftesbury hall, Toronto, headed "Volunteers' rights" very carefully abstains from inviting militiamen to attend, as it specifies that the presence of "all interested citizens and ex-volunteers" only is desired. The circular is signed by W. J. Urquhart, who, we understand, is an ex-militiaman. As sympathisers with the militia the citizens have a perfect right to meet, but once more we would warn militiamen from participating as militiamen in political meetings.

Obituary.

When it was rumored here on Saturday morning that "Harry" Keefer was dead, those of us who had met him during the week, rejoicing in the vigor of his perfect manhood, could scarcely credit the news, and when anxious enquiry proved that the report was but too true, and that a deplorable accident had suddenly snatched him away, an intensity of regret was felt that is seldom inspired by the loss of one so young.

Lieut. Harold Waldorf Keefer was the son of that well-known Canadian engineer, T. C. Keefer, Esq., and was educated at Bishop's College, Lennoxville. Thence he went to the Royal Military College, being one of the first eighteen to enter that institution. At college he was foremost in all manly sports and acquirements, and soon became Battalion Sergeant-Major of the cadets, that being the highest military grade obtainable.

He graduated creditably in 1880, but not with so high a place as his talents might have won, had his physical activity been less. Since his graduation he has been employed on several important civil engineering works, principally on railways, and in October, 1885, accepted the lieutenancy of the Princess Louise Dragoon Guards, then vacant. At the time of his death he was inspecting engineer of the new bridge which the C.P.R. are building over the Ottawa between Ste. Anne and Vudreuil

Going up on to one of the abutments on Friday he slipped on the glaze which had formed on it, and fell to the ground, striking his head, and succumbing next day to concussion of the brain. He was 28 years of age. Lieut. Keefer was a universal favorite, being endowed with all the qualities that go to make a man popular, sociability, rectitude and talent. The Dragoon Guards, the Cricket Club, the Taché Sliding Club and the R.M.C. graduates have all done everything possible to show the regret they feel at the loss of so genial a companion.

Mr. Keefer's funeral took place on Tuesday from his father's residence, in New Edinburgh, and was largely attended. The pallbearers were Captain Wise and Lieuts. Dixon, Macpherson, Anderson, White, Hooper and Lambe, all graduates of the R.M.C., and Captain Stewart, late commanding P.L.D.G. The Dragoon Guards attended in a body, in plain clothes, and preceded the hearse.

Dominion Artillery Association.

WE are now able to present in tabular form the official returns of the competitions held under the auspices of the Dominion Association, for general efficiency, of the several field and garrison batteries.

It will be seen that Ottawa leads the field batteries with a score of 296, and that No. 2 battery of the P.E.I. brigade, is at the head of the garrison list with 110, leading No. 4 battery of the N.B. brigade by only one point.

CREDITS AWARDED EACH BATTERY FOR GENERAL EFFICIENCY.

FIELD BATTERIES—9-PR. R. M. L. GUNS.

Name of Battery.	Officer Commanding Battery.	Inspecting Officer.	Full Credits.		Clothing and Accoutrements.	Guns, Carriages and Equipment.	Horses.	Harness and Harnessing.	Marching Post.	Standing Gun Drill, Position and General Duties.	Officers.	N.-C. Officers.	Field Manœuvres.	Sword Drill by Mounted Officers and N.-C. Officers.	Dismounted and disabled ordnance.	Discipline, including Camping details.	One-fifth Total Score at Competitive Practice.	Total.
No. 1 Battery, 1st. Prov. Brigade	Major Nicoll	Lieut.-Col. Cotton	9	10	12	12	12	16	15	21	30	42	14	6	10	112	292	2
do	Major Hood	do	10	8	10	10	15	12	25	29	44	13	4	10	99	276	4	
Durham Field Battery	Major McLean	do	8	10	12	12	20	20	20	14	29	12	4	8	82	219	6	
Garnanoque	Lieut.-Col. McKenzie	do	9	9	9	12	10	16	16	30	23	12	4	1	86	221	4	
Hamilton	Major Van Wagner	do	11	9	11	15	15	22	22	30	45	13	4	10	64	279	7	
Kingston	Capt. Drennan	do	8	8	8	12	10	20	20	23	25	12	2	10	84	240	8	
London	Lieut.-Col. Peters	do	10	10	10	14	14	20	20	38	37	14	4	10	115	296	8	
Ottawa	Major Stewart	do	10	8	9	13	14	20	20	20	28	12	7	10	78	229	8	
Toronto	Lieut.-Col. Gray	do	7	10	10	14	14	20	20	29	35	14	3	10	107	276	7	
Welland Canal	Major King	do	11	12	9	15	14	26	26	20	37	19	6	10	96	284	8	
Montreal	Lieut.-Col. Stevenson	Lt.-Col. Montzambert	9	12	10	12	12	25	25	29	37	10	5	12	90	241	8	
Newcastle	Lieut.-Col. Call	do	10	11	10	14	15	25	25	30	36	14	5	12	87	281	4	
Quebec	Major Lindsay	do	10	10	10	12	12	23	23	27	13	24	9	10	103	232	6	
Richmond	Major Hon. H. Aylmer	do	8	7	9	8	12	24	24	26	27	9	5	10	66	233	6	
Shefford	Lieut.-Col. Amyrauld	do	8	10	12	12	14	20	20	27	26	9	5	10	103	232	6	
Woodstock	Major Dibblee	do	8	10	12	12	14	20	20	27	26	9	5	10	66	233	6	
Winnipeg	Major Coutlee	Lieut.-Col. Irwin	9	4	8	8	10	18	18	20	24	36	4	8	68	158	6	

D. T. IRWIN, Lieut.-Col.
Inspector of Artillery.

CREDITS AWARDED EACH BATTERY FOR GENERAL EFFICIENCY.

GARRISON ARTILLERY.

Batteries.	Officer Commanding the Battery.	Inspecting Officer.	Credits										Total.	Present at Inspection.		Remarks.
			Full Credits..	Clothing and Ac- countments.	Manual and Firing Exercises.	Company Drill.	Gun Drill, each De- tachment.	Discipline.	Officers.	N.-C. Officers.	Officers.	N.-C. Officers and Men.				
Prince Edward Island Brigade.	No. 1. Capt. Passmore	Lieut.-Col. Irwin	10	9	7	6	33	4	24	12	95	3	35			
	" 2. Capt. Moore	do	10	8	8	7	37	5	28	17	110	2	35			
	" 3. Capt. Owen	do	10	4	4	4	18	2	20	15	67	3	26			
	" 4. Lieut. Fraser	do	10	4	4	4	14	2	13	16	39	2	35			
	" 5. Major Purcell	do	10	4	4	5	14	2	10	16	58	2	26			
	" 6. Capt. Garrison	do	10	4	4	5	14	2	12	14	55	2	27			
	" 7. Capt. Curren	do	10	4	4	5	14	2	15	16	70	2	23			
Halifax Brigade.	" 1. Lieut. Little	do	10	4	4	5	8	2	3	7	33	1	21	Lieut.-Col. Mowbray in com- mand. Three Staff Officers.		
	" 2. Capt. Bogs	do	10	4	4	5	8	2	9	17	55	1	25			
	" 3. Capt. Kane	do	10	4	4	5	7	2	7	17	55	1	29	*Questions omitted accident- ally.		
	" 4. Capt. Anderson	do	10	4	4	5	8	2	7	18	47	2	20			
	" 5. Capt. Dalry	do	10	4	4	5	27	3	18	21	76	2	34			
	" 6. Capt. Jolly	do	10	4	4	5	22	4	17	17	91	2	34			
	" 7. Capt. Seeley	do	10	4	4	5	22	4	17	17	92	3	36			
Varmouth	No. 1. Capt. Gordon	do	10	4	4	5	11	4	14	11	59	2	29			
	" 2. Capt. Botsford	do	10	4	4	5	11	4	14	11	59	3	30			
	" 3. Capt. Armstrong	do	10	4	4	5	15	4	17	8	66	2	42	Lieut.-Col. Armstrong in com- mand. Five Staff Officers.		
	" 4. Capt. Scammell	do	10	4	4	5	15	4	17	19	109	3	33			
	" 5. Capt. McMurrich	do	10	4	4	5	27	4	23	16	72	3	38			
Toronto	Capt. Morgan	L.-Col. Montizambert	10	4	4	5	27	5	21	17	81	3	42			
Quebec G.A., No. 3	Capt. Martineau	do	10	4	4	5	27	5	21	17	81	3	39			
Levis G.A., No. 1	Capt. Dumble	Lieut.-Col. Cotton	10	4	4	5	24	4	25	13 1/2	87 1/2	3	32			
Cobourg	Lieut. Col. Hogg	do	10	4	4	5	9	2	15	12 1/2	55 1/2	1	32	*Declined to answer.		
Collingwood	Capt. Gordon	do	10	4	4	5	9	2	15	12 1/2	55 1/2	1	32			
Pictou	Capt. James	District Staff	10	4	4	5	9	2	15	12 1/2	55 1/2	1	32			
Malbone Bay	Capt. James	District Staff	10	4	4	5	9	2	15	12 1/2	55 1/2	1	32			

T. D. IRWIN, Lieut.-Col.
Inspector of Artillery.

Personal.

Major-General Laurie is running for the Commons as the Conservative candidate for the County of Shelburne, Nova Scotia.

Sir Fred. Middleton, K.C.M.G., and Captain Wise, A.D.C., are to take part in the theatricals at Government House this evening.

Lt.-Col. F. C. Denison, C.M.G., of the Governor-General's Body Guard, has secured the nomination for West Toronto in the Conservative interest.

Captain W. C. Macdonald, Q.O.R., the popular rifle shot, was married yesterday to Miss Carrie Wil, daughter of an influential merchant of Toronto. We wish him and his bride every happiness.

The Minister, and the Deputy Minister of Militia, the Major-General Commanding, the Adjutant-General, and the Director of Stores are all in Ottawa, and there is no immediate intention on the part of any of them to leave town.

A letter received from Capt. Prevost, 65th Batt., who has not returned to Canada since he accompanied last year's Wimbledon team to England as its adjutant, says that he is on the point of sailing for Tonquin. He is, it appears, merely attached to the staff of the French army in Tonquin, and has not therefore severed his allegiance to the Queen.

New Publications.

WHILE our voyageurs were in Egypt there appeared in one of the Quebec newspapers a series of letters from Gaston P. Labatt, a sergeant in B battery, who accompanied the expedition in the capacity of hospital sergeant. These communications, written in sprightly French, have since been gathered together, and with some more solid matters added, have been republished in the form of a neat book of over 200 pages, which is now offered to the public as an interesting souvenir of a trip that redounded to the credit of Canada.* To all our French Canadian subscribers, and to any of our English speaking friends conversant with French, we would recommend the little volume. It opens with a dedication to the Governor-General, and a few chapters on Egyptian manners and customs, and other information concerning the land of the Pharaohs, a subject old yet ever new in interest; then follow the letters, lively and erratic, with a soupçon of poetry cropping up now and then, and much left to imagination to fill in, rather than presenting finished pictures. Not the least interesting and important part of the work is the full list of the voyageurs and their residences, their foremen and their officers, which concludes the volume.

The reprinting was done while the author was in the North-west, and the proof-reading has been simply execrable; so bad is it that Sergt. Labat has been compelled to add on a fly leaf a word of excuse to the readers. He says, in presenting this his first-born: "The child was certainly promising well formed, but as it came into the world while I was in the North-west, the doctor who delivered it managed to cripple it. Oh, those editors! those editors! My first impulse was to disown the child." But he thinks better of it. "Let us then leave matters as Nature wills. Often they present more originality so. This is why at last I have thought it right to adopt my first-born and present it to you, knowing in advance that there is a course dedicated to hospitality in every Canadian heart." There is certainly some originality in this, and a similar vein runs through all the letters.

The Gzowski Engineer Competition.

IN 1885 Col. Gzowski, A.D.C. to the Queen, staff officer to the engineer force, with his wonted liberality presented two silver cups to be offered as prizes for engineer work, an annual competition being held under the following conditions:—

1. The prizes to be awarded by the Inspector of Engineers at the end of his annual inspection. The cups to be held for one year by the commanding officers of the companies to which they are awarded.

2. Each company entering for the prizes will, at the annual inspection, execute as a company some full sized engineer work, which shall be designed as a 6-hour relief for the full sanctioned strength of the company. No allowance will be made for incompleteness of work due to the company being below its proper strength.

3. The nature of the work to be done shall be decided each year by the Inspector of Engineers.

4. The award of the prizes will be based on the comparative excellence of the companies in the following respects; no award being made if no company is considered to be worthy of the prize:

(a) The design of the practical details of the work and the general distribution of working parties and stores.

(b) Skilful utilization of ground and resources available.

(c) The laying out of the work and the supervision by the non-commissioned officers of their squads.

(d) The method, order and regularity with which the work is commenced and carried on.

(e) The thoroughness of the work when reported complete by the officer commanding, and the time occupied.

The first prize was, in 1885, won by the Charlottetown company, under Capt. Macdougall with a well executed two-gun field battery.

In the next competition (1886) the 1st prize was carried off by the Brighton Engineers, under Major Vince, with a field bridge of which the following is a short description:—

The bridge was constructed in July last at Sussex, N.B., across a stream called Trout Creek, the bed of which is about 100 feet wide at the spot chosen for the bridge, but only about half of it was at that time covered by the water. The total length of the bridge itself was 107 feet.

*Les Voyageurs Canadiens à l'expédition du Soudan, ou quatre-vingt-dix jours avec les crocodiles; par Gaston P. Labat, Québec. L. J. Demeurs et frère, 1886. Prix 50 centimes.

According to the conditions of the competition it was to be wide enough for the passage of infantry in fours, and it was essential that it should be completed in six hours.

The only materials available were tamarack poles; no planks could be obtained for the roadway, which had therefore to be corduroyed; no lashings or spikes were to be had, and accordingly all the fastenings needed were made with treenails.

The working party available consisted of 32 N.-Com's. and sappers with three officers. It will, therefore, be seen at once that the company had plenty of work cut out for it.

Most of the poles (the roadway alone required more than 300) had been felled by the company on the previous day and hauled to the site of the bridge, but some still remained to be fetched. N.B.—(They had not been cut to the proper length required.) A small number of trenails, but not nearly enough, had also been prepared beforehand.

The 107 feet of the bridge was divided into nine spans of just under 12 feet each; eight piers were therefore required; they consisted of one four-legged trestle and seven two-legged trestles, the average height of the trestles being about $5\frac{1}{2}$ feet.

The working party was divided into six squads of four sappers each, under a non-commissioned officer. At the commencement four of these squads were employed in constructing the trestles. The 5th squad prepared the roadbearers; the 6th squad prepared the small spars for the corduroy roadway. The two remaining sappers were meanwhile busy making treenails.

Work was commenced at 6.15 a.m. and by 8.30 a.m. seven out of the eight trestles were finished. These were then carried out into position and held until the outer roadbearers were pinned to the transom; auger holes for which purpose had previously been made. The intermediate roadbearers, three in number, were next placed and then the corduroy roadway, the spars forming which were steadied by ribands pinned at intervals to the outer roadbearers.

In about $4\frac{1}{2}$ hours from commencing work the bridge was passable for troops though still unfinished.

In $5\frac{3}{4}$ hours the work was done, handrails and ramps all complete, with a notice board to state what loads the bridge was fit for.

Shortly after it was finished the bridge was tried by marching a company of infantry across it, and it was found to stand the test perfectly.

Captain Stuart Davidson, R.E., Inspector of Engineers, remarks, concerning this achievement:—

"The large amount of work done in the time and the total absence of avoidable delays of any kind combine to render this really admirable piece of bridging the best work of its kind which it has ever been my good fortune to witness."

The bridge, after completion, was photographed, and the view shows a substantial structure, built with a good and very regular camber, and with apparently a surplus of strength for any use to which such a bridge might be put. The idea with which an examiner is impressed is the wonderfully great amount of good work evidently accomplished in a short time by men with very few advantages for doing such a task.

Cavalry Distance Rides.

WE have to thank Colonel H. M. Bengough (assistant adjutant-general, Bangalore) for a copy of a small pamphlet in which he has taken some pains to give the detailed conditions regarding abnormal cavalry marches made in English and foreign armies, and the subject is undoubtedly one of considerable interest to cavalry men. The reaction which of late years, and more particularly since the Franco-German war, has set in favor of *l'arme blanche*, and the employment of horsemen in large proportion in every *corps d'armée*, has led to many inquiries as to the actual extent of the marching powers of the mounted branch, and the information thus gained has considerably astonished some of those whose cry has been that the days of cavalry, acting in large bodies, are numbered. Not many years ago, Colonel Chesney read at the United Service Institution an exceedingly clever paper, the central idea of which was an ideal cavalry force, numbering some 20,000 or 30,000 men, drilled and equipped to fight on foot or on horseback, and composed entirely, as a *corps d'élite*, of carefully picked and chosen men. With this body of troops, the lecturer maintained, a skilful leader could march through almost any hostile force, and in any civilised country maintain himself independently of any commissariat or transport train. The theory was original, and in some measure favored by the extraordinary feats performed in 1870 and 1871 by the Uhlan horsemen, whose exploits towards the close of that terrible campaign in France, gave a new reading to the art of employing cavalry in war. History repeats itself, and the military student whose enthusiasm has been fired by the deeds of these daring German riders, has only to go back to our own great civil war to see how well Cromwell understood the value of mobility and celerity of move-

ments in the operations of his cavalry, who were taught to fight in the saddle at close quarters, or with pike and matchlock as skirmishers on foot. Colonel Bengough says most truly that many English cavalry officers object to knocking their horses about by practising such distance rides and exceptional marches in peace time as they would, on certain occasions, be compelled to attempt in war. This is a mistake, and one which has frequently led to disaster.

The depletion of our cavalry in the Crimea was, no doubt, largely due to lack of commissariat, want of forage and blankets; but also it has been allowed, to the system then in vogue of over-"coddling" our troop horses in peace time, and thus rendering them less hardy under privation and scanty supplies. That prince of cavalry leaders, Seidlitz, explained to his master, the Great Frederick, how impossible it was to train cavalry without knocking them about, and even occasionally maiming or killing a horse or man. Lord Lake, General Gilbert, Lord Cardigan, Captain Nolan, Colonels Barrow and Drury-Lowe, and all our best cavalry leaders of the present day, believe in the principle that "omelettes cannot be made without breaking eggs," and that to make a fine and dashing squadron, men and horses must be well rattled about. The author of the little pamphlet under notice gives us some interesting extracts from the German *Militär Wochenblatt*, describing several remarkable distance rides carried out by the Russian cavalry early in the year 1884, and he very pertinently asks how it is that we, a nation of horsemen should utterly ignore the necessity for special training in peace, and wait invariably for the terrible experiences of the actual campaign. 149 miles in $40\frac{1}{2}$ hours, of which $27\frac{1}{2}$ hours were actual marching, so that the actual rate was about $5\frac{1}{2}$ miles an hour, was the distance performed by a detachment of the cavalry school of Krasnoze, St. Petersburg. A distance ride of two sotinas of the 15th Cossack Regiment, extending to 217 miles from Warsaw, crossing the Vistula to Tschenschuchan, was successfully carried out between the 11th and daybreak on the 14th January. The detachment marched 210 miles in 72 hours, over ground half level half hilly, through forests, and under the most unfavourable circumstances of weather. In 1804 Lord Lake's cavalry, when pursuing Holkar, marched 79 miles in 24 hours, of which 36 miles were during the night, and this after a long and harassing succession of marches, amounting to 350 miles in 15 days. Stewart's cavalry of the Confederate army, composed of 1800 horsemen, marched from Chambersburg to Leesburgh, 90 miles, in 36 hours, and General Morgan in the following year achieved a similar feat, but Morgan's cavalry carried nothing but the rider, his arms, 100 rounds of ammunition, saddle, bridle and blanket. General Drury-Lowe's cavalry brigade, after Tel-el-Kebir, marched from Kassassin to Belbeis, 22 miles, in one day, and from Belbeis to Cairo, 36 miles, on the day following. At Bangalore, some 20 years ago, an experimental march of 500 miles was made to test the relative powers of entire horses and geldings, fifty of each being selected, when it was found that the latter suffered less, and finished the task in fresher condition than the former. At the Cape of Good Hope extraordinary distances are ridden by the Dutch and English farmers, and by English officers in sporting expeditions, but the quadruped has the advantage of being able to canter across the springy turf "veldt," instead of a rough stony road. We owe gratitude to Colonel Bengough for calling attention to the great importance of long distance cavalry rides, which, strange to say, are almost unknown during peace time in the British army on home service.

Since the foregoing lines were written; it is most gratifying to chronicle the measures recently taken by that accomplished soldier, Sir Evelyn Wood, to carry out the cavalry exercises we have described. Sir Evelyn, who is no mean performer across country either in silk or scarlet, has inaugurated his Colchester command by several useful reforms and original ideas for the good of the service, amongst others a series of "cavalry distance rides," on the principle of those described above. The last experiment of this nature was made a few days ago, where a party consisting of Lieut. Maryon-Wilson and a sergeant and four men of the 13th Hussars, with a led horse, were detailed to march from Colchester to Norwich and back, a distance of $137\frac{1}{2}$ miles, the time occupied from start to finish being $68\frac{1}{2}$ hours. This included two night halts at Ipswich, so that the actual marching time was only 20 hours, 30 minutes, or an average of nearly seven miles an hour. The men were clothed and equipped on the supposition that they were carrying important dispatches from one army to another, across an unfriendly country. With the exception of the officer's horse, the others had to carry an average weight of 227 lbs., and the entire journey was completed without any casualty, each horse on arrival in Colchester Barracks being fresh and fit for further service. Upon the report furnished by the General to headquarters, instructions have been sent to all general officers commanding the military districts at home to organize similar distance rides, His Royal Highness expressing his warmest approval at the satisfactory results which have been obtained from the experiments undertaken at the instance of Sir Evelyn Wood. In every garrison where cavalry are quartered experimental distance rides of this nature should be carried out, both with

small and large bodies. Topographical knowledge, practice in reconnaissance and outpost duties, and experiences useful in real campaign would be acquired, and the cavalry soldiers thus employed would be, as they are supposed to be, the "eyes and ears" of an army.—*Broad Arrow*.

The Soul-Stirring Drum.

THE drum, it is said, is to be re-established in the Italian Army. Over four years ago General Farre, then in the plenitude of his power, decreed its abolishment in the armies of the French Republic, and shortly after both Belgium and Italy followed suit, and the roll of the "sheep-skin fiddlers" was no longer heard in their ranks. The French, keenly imitative of all German models, no doubt observed that the Prussians, long before the idea of German unity had become a reality, cut down the big drum from the dimensions it had assumed under Frederick to the shape and proportions of an ordinary tambourine. So the edict went forth, and "not a drum was heard" in French regiments for some four years, to the inexpressible grief of the *bonnes* and *gamins*, who were wont to worship the big beard and much-belaced man, the tambour-major, as he flourished his awe-imposing stick, surmounted with a huge gold knob, at the head of his noble squad of drummers.

The history of the drum, if written, might be not only entertaining but instructive. The instrument is supposed to be of oriental invention and is said to have been introduced into Western Europe by either the Moors or the Arabians. Of drums there were three kinds: the bass or Turkish drum, the largest, consisting of a hollow cylinder of oak, covered at each end with vellum fastened to the rim, so that it might be tightened or slackened by small cords or braces acted upon by leather runners; the double or kettle drum was nearly hemispherical, covered with a strong head of calf-skin, and standing upon three iron legs; they are always in pairs and are tuned by screws, one to the keynote of the piece accompanied, the other to a fourth below; the third is the side drum, constructed like the first, with a brass cylinder, but much smaller. Students of Shakespeare will recall the constant reference he makes to drums. Possibly General Farre may have been reading the "Divine Williams" when he decreed the disestablishment of that blatant instrument, and said with Parolles, "I'll no more drumming: a plague of all drums."

The drum, however, is renowned in modern French history. The deep roll of the tambours drowned the voice of ill-starred Louis XVI when he attempted to address the crowd beneath the guillotine, and the drums which beat at Marengo, Jena, Eylau, and Austerlitz proclaimed the victories of the French forces. It is not difficult to see why the French welcomed back the *grosse caisse*, but incomprehensible to understand why they banished it for four years from their regiments. Nor is it matter for surprise that Belgium and Italy have again followed French fashion, and that to all three, in Benedick's words, "There is no music to them but the drum and fife."—*U. S. Gazette*.

An ex-Drill Instructor on the Arms and Equipment of the British Army.

AFTER all the discussion about the new rifle called the Enfield-Martini, I shall esteem it a favor if you can find space for my simple views as to a new rifle for our infantry, and on the infantry equipment in general. Before I commence I must point out that I served fourteen years in the infantry, and used the muzzle-loader, the Snider, the Martini-Henry rifles, and was also "harnessed" with both the knapsack and the valise. This is my excuse for offering my opinion to the public at large. It is all very fine for officers (who know better) with thirty or forty years' service to suggest this, that, or the other, but the "proof of the pudding is in the eating of it." Let these officers be "harnessed" as "Tommy" would be, and stand under arms for an hour or so, and I am certain they would quite change their ideas. It is all very well for officers to talk who have nought to carry but a sword weighing a few pounds.

The Martini-Henry, I must admit, was the best weapon I had put in my hands for accurate shooting. As regards any other question connected with it, I cannot speak in its favor; for instance, there's the recoil, which is something cruel at the longer ranges. Many a time have I experienced a bruised shoulder and a swollen cheek at my annual course in musketry—the cause of my inferior shooting at the longer ranges. Again, when twenty rounds have been fired out of the Martini-Henry, the barrel becomes so hot that it is impossible to come to the "order" without burning the hands. Here's a circumstance that occurred to my battalion on our way home from India. When we arrived at Aden we got the order to prepare for war in the Soudan (i. e. in 1884), and I was actually surprised to find that each man of the battalion (who had a rifle) was served out with hemp cord to be tied round the barrel between the back sight and trigger guard. So much for the Martini-Henry and its faults. Now for a new rifle, which I would name revolving rifle, to be

made as regards weight, etc., the same as the Martini-Henry with its few defects corrected; to have a revolving block with ten chambers, and to be used as a breech-loader in all ordinary cases, but in cases of emergency, as in war—such, for instance, as the sudden approach of cavalry, or overwhelming numbers, etc., to be used as a revolver, firing ten rounds rapidly, these chambers not to be placed at the side of the rifle, so that the equilibrium be destroyed, but to be placed as in a revolver. The weight of this new revolving rifle will be (about) as follows: Assume that it is the Martini-Henry type for weight, etc., (with slight alterations as above-mentioned), i. e., 9 lb. plus, 1 lb. 4 oz. for revolving chambers, equals 10 lb. 4 oz., without the bayonet, which is equal to the German Mauser in weight, and with the bayonet fixed to 11 lb. 2 oz., which is lighter than the German Mauser with its bayonet fixed, and with a greater advantage owing to its being lighter than the German arm with the bayonet. Not until the British infantry are armed with some such rifle as this will they feel themselves on equal terms with the infantry of foreign armies.

The Enfield-Martini, I believe, is condemned, experiencing the same fate as the whistles the sergeants of my battalion were served out with, which we had to carry on parade to blow the field-calls. After being in possession of these whistles for about three months, they were one day suddenly collected and returned to the arsenal in Bombay—no one knew why nor wherefore, and to me it is a mystery to this day.

I shall now turn my attention to the infantry equipment, otherwise termed "harness." I can't at all perceive the utility of the valise. It is never taken on a soldier's back to an engagement, and what valve is attached to it, it is difficult to conceive, except that one looks grand with it at a show parade in Hyde Park and elsewhere. It is very difficult to sling arms for escalating in "marching order" with the valise, and the slings are too short. As regards the havresack, I am of opinion that if it was worn on the left shoulder, and the havresack hung by the right side, and the water-bottle on the right shoulder hanging by the left side (behind the frog), it would greatly facilitate fixing and unfixing the bayonet. The present system of wearing the havresack is a great annoyance when feeling for the bayonet when fixing, and more so when feeling for the scabbard when unfixing. It is all very well in times of peace, when the havresack is nicely washed and neatly folded and placed under the waist belt, to prevent it from shifting; but I allude to active service, when it is overstocked with the soldier's present requirements, and also with ammunition. At the battles of El Teb and Tamaniéb our pouches were not large enough to contain the 100 rounds we were served out with prior to these engagements. As for the two small pouches that are worn in front, they are utterly useless for ammunition pouches in war time; they hold twenty rounds of ammunition each, packed in packages of ten rounds, which fit the compartments so tightly that one has to pull and tug away to get one of these packages out—a pretty look-out when a man has fired off the forty loose rounds in the suspension pouch, and is perhaps pressed by the enemy. As regards the suspension pouch, I must state that it is the only useful ammunition receptacle connected with the present equipment, but then there is this fault attached to it: the strap to which it is suspended is too thin when the suspension pouch has forty rounds in it. This strap cuts the shoulder something cruel, especially if you have to march a few miles, which is very often the case in the field. I should certainly like to witness "Tommy Atkins" in marching order with the present equipment, with 100 rounds of ammunition, skirmishing before an enemy, especially when there is a little extra doubling to do. For instance, when the "assembly" sounds after about one hour's hard skirmishing, and he gets the order to reinforce skirmishers. A few minutes after, he would be more fit for an ambulance wagon than reinforcing. In my opinion, therefore, viewing all the iotas from a military point of view, I am of opinion that the British infantry soldier is too tightly packed, and he has far too much weight to carry if in "marching order." On the other hand, if he had something loose about him, so as he could act more freely, with two good pouches to contain 100 rounds of loose ammunition, the folded coat on his back, the mess tin in the waist belt in rear, the frog, waterbottle, and havresack ought to complete his equipment, which will not be so heavy. I am certain he would be much more free. The present equipment is certainly more for show than for fighting.—*V. S. Review*.

The number of men killed or wounded in proportion to the number of shots fired in action is given by the author of the "Rifle and how to use it," as follows: At the battle of Vittoria, one in 800. During the Caffre war at the Cape of Good Hope in 1851, about one in 3,200. At Chernbusco, during the war between the United States and Mexico, the United States soldiers killed or wounded one every 125 shots; whilst on the side of the Mexicans the hits were only about one in 800.

Seventy of the new pattern Enfield-Martini rifles have, by order of the war office authorities, been issued to the principal rifle clubs in the United Kingdom for experimental purposes. The rifles will be placed in the hands of practical shots, who have been requested to furnish reports.—*U. S. G.*

Queries and Replies.

We have received the following anonymous communication in reference to the query in our issue of the 13th asking the authority for the promotion of certain graduates of the R.M.C.:

"If the editor MILITIA GAZETTE will look at G. O. Feb. 5th, '80, he will there find provision made for promotion of officers (graduates R. M. College), so that the promotions of the assistant instructors in mathematics and surveying was not by his Excellency's pleasure solely, but in accordance with militia regulations."

G. O.

We accordingly looked up the general orders and find the following, dated 6th February, 1880:—No. 3, part 2, par. 3. "Promotions to higher grade of rank will be made from this list after a specified period of service in each rank. The period to be hereafter fixed." Now as no period has since been fixed we still think that we were right and G. O. wrong. As G. O. posted his letter in Ottawa why did he not come in and see us, and argue the thing out amicably.—ED.

Correspondence.

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

PAID DRILL INSTRUCTORS.

To the Editor of the Canadian Militia Gazette.

SIR,—That an instructor of musketry is wanted on the permanent staff of our militia battalions is made evident whenever a visit is paid to the butts during class firing. That the adjutant could carry out these duties, provided he earned sufficient pay, is also manifest; but, that graduates straight from our military college could undertake these duties I do not for a moment deem possible. A man must have a deal of knowledge of regimental routine, interior economy of corps, and have confidence in himself,—accomplishments never or seldom acquired, unless one has served a year or so with a regular regiment. You say: "If these young men were offered commissions as lieutenants, with some prospect of promotion after a reasonable length of satisfactory service, probably sufficient of them to meet all requirements would prefer the appointment to an Imperial commission." Very good, but what is to become of the regiments while these young officers are learning the work of nursing a regiment?—for that is what it practically comes to. I would suggest that those young cadet officers desiring to become ultimately adjutants of our militia regiments be made to join one of the military schools on passing out of the college. There he should go through a (12) twelve months' course, during which he will be able to handle "men," learn the various rudiments and further branches of drill, and also, be put through, practically, a course of musketry instruction. Then, on being appointed, he should be able to thoroughly instruct the regiment from the colonel downwards; take a squad of non-coms. and put them through the (3) practices of musketry instruction prior to the regimental preliminary drills; and thus, by the date of the first annual regimental parade, so smarten up the company, officers and non-commissioned officers in their squad drill, rifle exercises and company drill, that we would hear less empty shouting, more lucid and correct explanations, and better work done all round by the instructors than at present is the case, a change that could hardly fail to result satisfactorily to all concerned. At present, let any one casually stroll into a parade ground where the various companies are being instructed(?) by the officers or color-sergeants. Unless it happens that the instructor is an old soldier, this is the sort of thing one sees and hears: "Comp'ny, attention!" (instead of a smart 'tion!) "Quick-march, left wheel, left wheel,—forward; right turn (given on the wrong foot), right wheel—front form squad" (no preliminary cautions given, consequently a general mix up.) Then again, ten or a dozen squads will be kept marching about, no two keeping the same step. Some are doing 80 to 90 paces to the minute, others dragging, and marching under the correct time. Why is it that a company drummer is not under orders to parade with companies? Then, when half battalions are drilling, broken up in squads, the regular beat—by verbal direction, or by pace machine—can be tapped by the lad on the drum, so that all the squads can keep to a regular pace and in time. Likewise, at battalion parades, when companies are being marched about by company officers, two drummers, standing in the middle of the parade ground, or if in a hall, on an elevated stand, can give the time to all the companies when marching about. But, if there is a man in the regiment qualified to take the position of adjutant and musketry instructor, how then? There is a very excellent rule in most of our crack Canadian regiments, as for instance, in Montreal, the G. A., the Vics., and the Royal Scots, that the officers rise from the ranks. These should be the men to receive the first consideration at the hands of their commanding officer. Let their officers have the first chance, and then the non-commissioned officers. Failing them, then go to the R.M.C. The officer or non-com. officer should be sent to a school, and, on passing the required examination, be posted to the adjutancy, in the ordinary way. "Many men can hardly afford to keep their positions as officers," say some. Good! Make the sergeant-major's post worth having, and let his position be sergeant-major and drill instructor. He is then a warrant officer, and escapes the expenses of the officers, and, if a gentleman, will have sufficient tact to be able to keep his juniors in their places, and at the same time treat his seniors in rank, but equals in the social scale, with proper deference. The officers will not object to being put through their facings by him, on the contrary, they would like it and enter into their work with pleasure. The present adjutants will be asking "What's to become of us?" If they are smart drills, and the colonel is satisfied as to their qualifications for keeping up the standard of efficiency of the regiment, why let them stay, if they have not served 10 years in their present post. Ten years should be the limit to each officer holding the position—unless specially recommended for a further period of 5 years, on completion of which he should be allowed to retire with the rank of major, or as lieutenant-colonel if he has served 21 years (in the militia force) by the date of his compulsory retirement. One thing more. The adjutant must be a good horseman. If he cannot prove to the satisfaction of the D.A.G. that he can ride, he should be compelled to obtain a certificate in equitation from some military school teaching that branch. Now I have accepted, Mr. Editor, your invitation to "discuss the question at length"—at too great a length I fear. However, I am an interested party, so have written what I think on the matter. If my suggestion about combining the sergeant-major's post with instructor is poo-pooed, I answer—make him a grant and let him be sergeant-majors and assistant drill instructor, and you will get better men than you have now. At present our sergeant-major's are in good positions, and we cannot afford to lose them to attend to regimental work. As you rightly say, the expense and extra pay to adjutants would be not much, while the improvement in efficiency of corps would be well worth the money.

A SCOT'S GUARDSMAN.

Montreal 17th, 1887.

To the Editor of the Canadian Militia Gazette.

SIR,—The remarks in your issue of 13th inst. in regard to the desirability of having paid adjutants attached to the city corps, appear to me to be very much to the point. Although not a member of a city corps, I have had some experience of the benefit such an appointment would confer in the rural battalion of which I am a member. The 42nd battalion, to which I have the honor to belong, was fortunate enough to have the services of Lieut. J. B. Cochrane, of the Royal Military College staff, as acting adjutant during four successive brigade camps, at three of which I was present. The benefit which the battalion reaped through having such a competent officer as adjutant cannot be over-estimated, and it was largely owing to his untiring efforts that the regiment reached the state of efficiency which it aimed at, through all ranks. The regiment owes a debt of gratitude to Capt. Cochrane for the energy and unsparring pains which he devoted to the instruction of everybody in the smallest details of military drill and duty. The lightening of the labor and care devolving on the commanding officer was very apparent, and must be much more so in the case of a city battalion, who are, as it were, always on duty. Although not directly interested, I should be delighted if some such arrangement as you advocate was carried out.

G. GORDON HUTCHESON,
Lieut. No. 2 Co., 42nd Batt.

HONOR TO WHOM HONOR IS DUE.

To the Editor of the Canadian Militia Gazette.

SIR,—I see by the public press that several Canadian officers are to be honored by being decorated with the new "order of merit" for distinguished services, the names of Gen. Strange, Lieut.-Col. Otter, and of all officers who commanded regiments in the late North-West campaign being specified.

I certainly hope for the reputation of the "order of merit" that the said report is very much exaggerated.

Certain officers who commanded brigades, also certain officers of militia headquarters staff, and possibly a few others who were mentioned in despatches, certainly deserve some recognition of their meritorious services which has so far been withheld, and it is a shame that their claims have not been rewarded sooner, as was said to have been intended, but dropped for fear of offending a few undeserving friends; but to say that all officers commanding regiments in the late campaign should be so decorated would make the order of merit decidedly cheap, and would, instead of being a well earned reward, be quite the reverse.

I do not know whether you are aware of the fact, but I presume you are, that there were some officers commanding regiments in the late campaign who were openly reproved by their superior officers. These did not reach the scene of action, and their regiments were rendered efficient through painstaking and efficient subordinate officers on whom the responsibility devolved. That such should be ranked with such men as Gen. Strange, Cols. Powell, Otter and others, is enough to bring a blush to the many admirers of the ability of those named.

Other commanding officers who, having the necessary ability, were denied opportunities of displaying it, would, I am sure, not feel hurt at the named gentlemen, and any recommended by the major-general commanding, receiving that reward which all ambitious officers look forward to obtain when opportunity offers.

FIELD OFFICER.

LONG SERVICE MEDAL AND JUBILEE YEAR.

To the Editor of the Canadian Militia Gazette.

SIR,—The practical and valuable suggestion I noticed in your paper of the 13th deserves the thanks of all our militiamen. I feel sure that, if a memorandum were drawn up, signed by the various C.O.'s of regiments and countersigned by the various D.A.G.'s, the matter would meet with the approval of our Minister. The impetus that the granting of a medal would give to recruiting cannot be for a moment anticipated. It would show that we are not only militia in name, but a force recognized as soldiers in reality.

The North-West campaign proved of what stuff Canadian soldiers are made, as did the Egyptian contingent. The granting of a medal and good conduct stripes would be another incentive for the prompt attendance of Canadians, when next our services are in request.

Then, should we be brigaded with regulars, the militiamen of the Dominion would be more firmly associated with their companions in arms, and feel a greater pride when wearing their uniform.

RIFLEMAN.

Mess Room Yarns.

ROUGH ON THE MAJOR.

The major commanding one of our field batteries is a smart officer, but a comparatively small man, while his surgeon is six feet high, and weighs three hundred-weight. At a parade last year the major was moving the guns about in a lively way, when the following dialogue was overheard between a couple of unwashed spectators: "Say, Bill, which of them fellers is the boss gunner?" "Why! the big chap, in course, don't you see he keeps the little un to do the shouting for him."

ONE REASON FOR CURVING A SABRE.

Sergeant instructor to trooper—"Why is the blade of the sabre curved instead of straight?" Trooper—"It is curved in order to give more force to a blow." Sergeant instructor—"Humb! the sabre is curved so that it will fit the scabbard. If it were straight how would it get into the crooked scabbard, blockhead?"

AN IRISH RIDING-MASTER.

An Irish riding-master was in the riding-school putting a class of recruits through various evolutions. One awkward youngster tumbled off his charger and alighted on the tan. "What is up wid yez?" yelled the officer. "Since ye're so fond ov lyin' on yer back, just get on to yer saddle wid yez, and I'll whip yer old horse round the school, and make yez fall off a dozen times for every time yez mount!"

Regimental Notes.

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

Montreal.—In the *cause celebre* of Major Dugas, 65th Batt., against Mr. Sheppard of the Toronto *News*, the major applied to the court here on the 20th for a *contrainte par corps* on the ground that since the judgment condemning Mr. Sheppard to pay \$1,000 damages, the bailiff entrusted with the execution had made a return of "no effects," and personal incarceration seemed to be the only way of having the judgment executed. The writ has since been granted.

Quebec.—A verdict was rendered on Friday in the libel suit brought by Col. Amyot against Mr. Tarte. Judgment for the plaintiff without damages, three-quarters of the costs to be paid by Mr. Tarte and the remainder by Mr. Demers, a co-defendant.

Toronto.—Mr. John Keith, 92 King street East, has been asked by officers in charge of remounts for the Imperial army, to state to Canadian horse breeders that an agent will be in Canada very shortly to purchase a large number of horses suitable for cavalry and artillery purposes.

St. John, N.B.—The annual meeting of the officers of the 62nd St. John Fusiliers was held in the club rooms on the 20th, with every officer present. Encouraging reports were received from the committees on the band, battalion fund and regimental club, and committees for the ensuing year were appointed as follows: band, Major E. T. Sturdee, Capt. Frederick H. Hart and Lieut. Henry H. Goddard; battalion fund, Surg. Thomas Walker, Capt. Hart, Lieut. Goddard; regimental club, Capt. Hart, Capt. W. C. Magee, Lieut. Goddard. The affairs of the battalion were never in better condition, and St. John's crack regiment proposes to show its friends, on the occasion of the Queen's jubilee celebration, the effects of a prosperous year.

The sergeants of the Fusiliers were to hold a dance at the club room on the 24th.

Halifax.—The annual meeting of the officers of the 63rd battalion, Halifax Rifles, was held on Wednesday evening in the orderly room. Col. Mackintosh presided. Very satisfactory reports of the different regimental committees were read, discussed and adopted, and the new committees for the coming season were elected. The meeting was well attended. Considerable interest was manifested in the proceedings, and several measures were adopted and will be put in force calculated to further improve the efficiency of the battalion. The proposal that the militia take part in the Queen's jubilee demonstration in England was discussed, and an offer will be made to the adjutant-general which will insure the 63rd being represented if any troops are taken from Halifax. A more rigid examination of the qualifications of the non-commissioned officers is to be instituted; also some changes in regard to the medical examination of the corporals at an early date, as the colonel and officers are determined to make the Rifles live up to their motto, "*Cede Nullis*," and yield to none. The following are the committees: battalion committee, Col. Mackintosh, Major Walsh and Paymaster Mitchell; band committee, Capt. Crane, Capt. Twining and Lieut. James; auditing committee, Lieuts. Gunning and Sircom.—*Evening Mail*.

Winnipeg.—"C" company of the 90th proposed giving a concert on the 25th in Trinity Hall, in aid of Pte. Whitelaw, a member of the company and an incurable patient in the General Hospital. This most worthy object will doubtless be heartily supported by the citizens.

Ottawa.—The regular weekly lecture was delivered in the room of the officers of the Governor-General's Foot Guards, by Capt. Hodgins, the adjutant of the regiment, the subject being "courts martial." The paper was most valuable and instructive, beginning with an interesting review of the early history of military law, and the origin of courts martial; the lecturer went on to describe the various kinds of courts martial, their composition and powers, by whom convened, the rank of president, disqualification; etc.; the procedure at trial, the order in which members were seated, the uniform worn, the duties of judge advocate; the taking of evidence, the consideration of the finding and sentence, the confirmation and revision, imprisonment, &c. Each point was fully and carefully explained. The lecture was listened to with great attention, and at its conclusion Lieut.-Col. Macpherson expressed his high appreciation of the industry, research, and careful compilation of which it bore evidence. Next Monday evening will be taken up by three of the subalterns, Lieuts. Thompson, Hodgins and Winter, who will read papers on "drill and parades," "the regulations referring to officers' mess and sergeants' mess," and "orderly duties," respectively.

Gleanings.

It seems the probable raising of the question of expense in bringing over the colonial troops to attend the jubilee review has already been anticipated by Canada at least, for we learn from the CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE that more than one corps is prepared to come over at its own expense sooner than not take part in the great military festival. As our contemporary observes it is hard to see what objection can be raised under these conditions. It certainly looks as if business was meant.

The same smart little paper wants to know why officers in other towns should not emulate the example of General Sir Frederick Middleton, who recently delivered a lecture on outpost duties to all the officers in the Ottawa garrison. These lectures should be delivered in winter to commissioned officers, non-coms., and the rank and file as well, "beginning with musketry instructions and ending with minor tactics." We quite agree with the placing of the two branches of instructions for most assuredly all the tactics, major, minor and minimum will never avail an army if the men can't shoot.

In another column of the same issue a correspondent is mildly chaffed for wishing to get some sets of entrenching tools in order to go in for some shelter trench and field firing practice, whereby it seems that a relative or two of General Red Tape is still to be found in our pushing colonies.—*Vol. Record*.

"Subaltern," in "Our Battalion," (1st V. B. Essex regiment,) has some excellent remarks on "Infantry Fire," in the course of which he says: "In the Greek and Roman armies the foot soldier always did the bulk of the fighting, and the lapse of a couple of thousand years does not seem to have made much difference in this respect. During the middle ages we must admit that a sort of mounted ironclad tried to do the work. We read, however, of a battle of that period where the armies belabored each other for several days, and the only casualties reported were two men missing—sunk

in a bog, owing to the weight of their armour. It is, perhaps, unnecessary to add that this was not one of the 'seven decisive battles of the world.' Infantry must, of necessity, owing to its extreme mobility, play the most important part in every expedition, and modern improvements in fire-arms have tended in the direction of making this branch still more formidable. Cavalry are now obliged to keep at a respectful distance, and the artillery are even fain to seek the back seats, where their view of the performance is considerably curtailed. It is not intended in any way to minimise the value of the latter arms, but merely to point out that infantry alone of the three is able, as it were, to stand on its own bottom, and form by itself a complete force. Both artillery and cavalry require supports, and also certain favorable circumstances, such as roads, open country, and the like for their efficient action—they could not have scaled the heights of Abraham, for example. In one of the battles of the Franco-German war, the German infantry, attacked by the French in front and rear, simply turned about the rear rank, and not only held their ground, but compelled the French to retire. What would have been the fate of cavalry or artillery under such circumstances?"—*V.S. Gazette*.

"In a previous article on 'The Attack,' attention was drawn to the want of control exercisable by the officers over the fighting line. It will be seen, however, that this evil has been to a certain extent remedied by an order of the Commander-in-Chief, that in all stages of the attack the firing shall, in future, be by volleys. No doubt, in actual fighting, this system had been previously adopted, as according to accounts given of the recent battles in the Soudan, volley firing appears to have been nearly always used. In the first stages of the attack, the firing was previously by volleys, and the same is now ordered for the last and final stage. Why independent firing was ever adopted for this, the most important and critical period, heaven only knows—but the same might be said of a good many other things 'published by authority.' To stop independent firing, the bugle must of necessity be used, and notice given to all the world that a charge is about to be made. Let us be thankful, however, that at least one anomaly has been removed. We may now live in hope as to the rest. Very early in his career of conquest, Napoleon was struck with the murderous effect of *massed* artillery fire. The destruction of one of his divisions made him painfully alive to the value of this formation. Volley firing seems to be somewhat analogous. It is not that more men are killed by *massed* artillery fire or by volley fire, but the moral effect produced on the survivors is out of all proportion to the damage inflicted. *Massed* artillery fire and, to a lesser extent, concentrated infantry fire, has the effect of making a gap, and so affording an opportunity for operations in rear."—*V.S. Gazette*.

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.

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