

# THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE

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## Current Topics.

REFERENCE was made last week to the rapid decrease this year in the strength of the volunteer garrison artillery in Ontario our remarks being called for by the report that the Toronto battery was to be the next victim. But the state of affairs in the other provinces is as bad as in Ontario, and the disbandments this year are only the latest of a long series tending in the same direction—the extinction of this branch of the militia force. During the past fifteen years the extinguishing process has been going on, in all the provinces, and the condition in which several batteries are allowed to remain at present shows that the end is not yet. If it is thought that the country cannot afford to properly maintain the present nominal strength, would it not be better to dispense altogether with some really useless corps of infantry, which do not know any drill and have no idea how to effectively use their arms, than to make all the reductions in the artillery branch?

PUBLICATION of a valuable series of papers on "Modern Tactics" is commenced in this week's issue. It will take several months to complete the series. The author, Capt. H. R. Gall, is at the present time delivering this series of lectures before classes of volunteer officers in England, and they have received warm praise from the most competent critics.

"Since," says Capt. Gall in his introductory remarks, "the Franco-German war of 1870-71 practically demonstrated the superiority of the education and training afforded in the German military schools, the study of tactics has become a prominent feature in our own military course. The following lectures furnish a concise and simple exposition of the principles and theory of modern tactics in war, in an elementary and connected form. They are addressed especially to officers of the auxiliary forces, and are meant to enable them to acquire a sound and practical knowledge of the subject, in a way that will, perhaps, be more interesting and less superficial than by a system of set questions and answers."

A STEP of rank has been conferred on Sir Fred. Middleton, consequent on his retirement from active service in the British army, and he is now Lieutenant-General. Sir Fred. has received a letter from the Duke of Cambridge, expressing regret that the rule of compulsory retirement should cause the loss of so valuable an officer. From Col. Cameron's appointment as official secretary to the Canadian representative on the fisheries commission, our readers will also be interested in learning that a step of rank has been conferred on him, consequent also

upon retirement, and he now goes on the retired list as Major-General. Col. Cameron had not quite reached the age limit, but he forms one of a number who have voluntarily retired in order to attain the step in rank, granting of which in such cases will cease with the year. Several daily papers have gravely informed their readers that Col. Cameron's advancement to Major-General is indicative of an intention to appoint him to the command of the Canadian militia!

THE Minister of Militia is at last paying the long expected visit to British Columbia. Sir Adolphe left last week, accompanied by Lady Caron and daughter, and Col. Walker Powell, adjutant-general. Lieut.-Gen. Middleton will join the minister at Winnipeg, on his return trip, and they will inspect the military properties there.

IT seems likely that the remnants of the colours of the Hundredth Regiment will be stored with the other curiosities in the military museum in this city. That is, we consider, the most fitting place for them, and it was there that we advocated placing them when the subject was first discussed. This little museum does not receive nearly the amount of attention it deserves. Probably nine-tenths of the residents of Ottawa are unaware of its existence, and a visitor never hears of it unless he happens to fall in with a military man who will show him the sights. Yet the place is very well worth a visit. The collection is in a small room on the east side of the drill hall, and is accessible at all reasonable hours of day light. In a short time better accommodation, in a more convenient place, will probably be provided for the museum curiosities.

BAKER PASHA is dead. He breathed his last at Tel-el-Kebir, on the 16th inst, succumbing to a fever contracted at Port Said, while on his way to Cairo. Valentine Baker, son of Mr. Samuel Baker and brother of Sir Samuel, was born in 1825. He entered the British army in 1848, served through the Kaffir war of 1852-3, and in the Crimea during the campaign of 1855. In 1860 he took command of the 10th Hussars, resigning in 1873. After extensive travels through Persia and on the borders of Afghanistan, he returned to England and published "Clouds in the East." In 1874 he was appointed assistant quartermaster-general at Aldershot. In the August of the following year he was tried for assaulting Miss Dickenson in a railway carriage, fined £500, sentenced to twelve months' imprisonment, and dismissed the army. In many minds there have always existed doubts as to the extent of his blameworthiness in this matter, but he bore his punishment bravely, and upon his release at once set out to live down the disgrace which had overtaken him. His record since has been brilliant and honourable. In 1877 he began a new military career in the Turkish Empire. He was employed in organizing the gendarmerie, and held the position of major-general in the Turkish army. In the August of that year he went to Shumla as staff military advise to the Turkish commander, and was conspicuous throughout the campaign on the Lom, and shortly afterwards he was given the rank of Pasha. The Prince of Wales was a staunch friend of the banished Colonel, and he and other friends made

repeated but unsuccessful attempts to secure his reinstatement in the British army. He was considered one of the most brilliant cavalry officers in the service.

### Possibilities of Artillery Fire.

THE possibilities of improvement in artillery fire are shown by the comparison drawn by Prince Hohenlohe between the Prussian artillery of 1866 and 1870. In the former period, as he tells us, the artillery soldier arrived on the field in time, and when it got there was useless because of its bad shooting. Of the same arm in the Franco-Prussian war he says: "At Spicheren it began by making the enemy's guns abandon their post on the Rotherberg; it next repulsed the frequent counter attacks of the enemy against its position on the heights of Folst; and finally secured possession of the Rotherberg. At Vionville, our artillery commenced by harassing all the enemy's camps; it then maintained the fight in the centre until the infantry of the 3rd corps had arrived in sufficient numbers. On this occasion it had to defend itself against the enemy's infantry. Later it contributed, in conjunction with the infantry, to repulse the repeated counter attacks of the enemy. Finally it pushed forward with the infantry, when it was already dark, and assisted the latter to make certain of the victory which had been so hard to win."

At Sedan: "At one time a battery appeared here; at another a body of troops appeared there; and on these we fired. With elevation for a little more than four thousand paces we appeared to hit. I considered that the range was too great for the fire to have any effect, and I was about to order it to cease when an evident disturbance in the ranks of the enemy proved that our projectiles had reached him. On the following day an aide-de-camp passed by this spot and found, on a narrow crest which ran between very steep ravines, an entire French battery which had been abandoned there. The team of the leading gun had been blown to pieces by our shells, and the other guns could not pass it. Thus the whole battery fell into our hands, a trophy of the accuracy of our fire."

Thirty guns opened a rapid fire at 1,900 yards upon French infantry advancing in Quarter column from Amivillers. The enemy were enveloped in the thick smoke which the shells made as they burst. "But after a very short time we saw the red trousers of the masses which were approaching us appear through the cloud. I stopped the fire. A trial shot was fired at 1,700 paces range. This was to show us the point up to which we should let them advance before re-opening the rapid fire; we did the same for the ranges of 1,500, 1,300, 1,100 and 900 paces. In spite of the horrible devastation which the shells caused in their ranks, these brave troops continued to advance. But at 900 paces the first effect of our fire was too deadly for them; they turned short round and fled; we hurled shells after them as long as we could see them. Here was an infantry attack which was repulsed purely and simply by the fire of artillery."

The Russians have fairly established themselves on one of the plateaus of the Pamir, that greatest protuberance of the world, which the Chinese said a thousand years ago was midway between heaven and earth, and which the natives call "the roof of the world." Twenty years ago, says a writer in the *New York Sun*, about all we knew of the Pamir was contained in a single chapter of Marco Polo's travels. Polo said that the herdsmen on the Pamir made fences of the enormous horns of wild mountain sheep to enclose their cattle at night. The Russians have found these horns nearly five feet in length, and a man could not lift a pair of them. Polo asserted that on these lofty table lands he could not make his fire burn brightly or give out much heat, and the same phenomenon, due to the rarefaction in the air, has been observed by all recent Pamir travellers. He said these plains afforded the finest pasture in the world, and that a lean beast would fatten there in ten days. A recent writer says: "The grass of the Pamir is so rich that a sorry horse is here brought into good condition in less than twenty days. These plains are diversified by low ridges and here and there a lofty mountain with snow-capped tops, rivalling the great summits of the Himalayas. But from the plain where the traveller sees them they do not appear to be higher than our Mount Washington, for they rest upon plateaus that are from 10,000 to 16,000 feet high, and whose mean elevation above the sea is more than twice that of the top of Mount Washington. This is the reason that the mountains of the Pamir and of its eastern extension that walls in Tibet on the north are not particularly impressive in appearance, though they are among the loftiest of the world. It is just below the loftiest of these Pamir plateaus, near Lake Sarakul, that the Russians are building cantonments for their troops and feeding their horses on the succulent grasses that Polo described. Why they have invaded these forbidden heights, where no crops can ripen and no vegetation except grass flourishes, is a mystery that time will doubtless make clear. We only know that they are within 150 miles of the Indian frontier, and that almost at their feet is the Afghan state of Badakhshan, which is more nearly allied in sympathy and interest to the Russian dependency of Bokhara than to England's protegee, the ameer.

It is estimated by the Surgeon-General that the new U. S. Hospital Corps when fully organized in accordance with the General Order on the subject, will consist of 875 men of the several grades, as follows: Hospital Stewards, 160; Acting Hospital Stewards, 100; and 615 privates. The importance and size of the corps will be understood when it is considered that an appropriation of \$230,000 will be asked for this winter to support it.

### Men Who Win.

FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS THROWN AWAY—HIS AIM WAS SUCCESS.

A GOOD healthy body is almost sure to be found associated with a good conscience.

A close student of human nature is rarely willing to place large matters of trust in the hands of another, until he has seen the one whom he is to trust. He looks for the fresh health and vigor, the honest, frank countenance and manly form, and in fact all that is attractive in men. He doubts the dyspeptic with sallow skin, drawn out features, the evident weak and irritable nature. He feels as Shakespeare makes Julius Caesar say:

"Let me have men about me that are fat;  
Sleek headed men, and such as sleep o' nights;  
Yon Cassius hath a lean and hungry look;  
He thinks too much; such men are dangerous!"

He does not doubt the honesty of the poor unfortunate, but he fears disease of the body will affect the mind, bring misfortune upon the individual, and loss to himself.

It may be injustice to the weak, but if the man has not the mental strength, or if he is wrapped up in his misery, he cannot take in the situation of the world, does not see that ideas are broadening, and that isms and teachings are advancing! How can an employer hope for success from such a man? The dyspeptic look, the wax-like complexion and sallow features show disease. The far seeing man notes all these signs, and knows that the great light of man, the brain, is affected, or will be, at no distant day.

He discards the poor victim of disease who goes wearily out into the world. Discouraged at last he takes to his sick bed. He seeks medical aid. Lacking the broad ideas of the successful man of the world, he tries the same medical treatment that he has tried many times before. The same bigoted counsel is sought, the same drugs are administered by the same old family friend that treated him months and years before, and his parents before him, and in such a way he drags out his miserable, unsuccessful existence.

Is he to blame? Why not? When he sees daily, and hears from every side, proclamations of a remedy known as Warner's safe cure, which is becoming more popular daily, hourly, while he is becoming weaker.

J. A. Gettys, insurance agent of Chillicothe, Ohio, suffered for nearly three years with dyspepsia in its worst forms, having periodical spells of vertigo, fainting and chills. He wrote over his own signature: "I spent about \$500, had the best medical attendance, tried all the remedies recommended without success, until I was induced to try Warner's safe cure. I used three bottles, have gained twenty pounds and feel like a new man."

Such a man as we have described, nine times out of ten, unconsciously to himself or to his physician, has a kidney disorder, which is fast wasting his body and life. He sees the merits of Warner's safe cure at every turn, and hears it proclaimed from the house tops, and yet he does not use it, because it is said by his illiberal physician that it is not professional, and not admitted by the code. Meanwhile the man of the world presses forward, cares not a fig for this or that school; his aim in life is success, and he looks hopefully forward to the world beyond, believing and trusting in man in this world, and to his faith for the world beyond.

### Correspondence.

To the Editor of the Canadian Militia Gazette:

THE DISBANDMENT OF THE COLLINGWOOD GARRISON BATTERY.

To the Editor of the Canadian Militia Gazette:

SIR,—I notice in your editorial in the last issue of the GAZETTE a reference to the Collingwood Battery of Garrison Artillery, which was lately gazetted out on the ground of "inefficiency." The last word is a very handy phrase, but in our case totally unwarranted. At the time we were reported inefficient we had one of the best instructors in the Dominion to drill the battery, a gentleman who afterwards was engaged by the Guards in Ottawa, to fill a like position, and I have no hesitation in saying that the men did credit to their instructor, the last inspecting officer telling me that I had as smart, intelligent non-commissioned officers as he had ever met with, and well up in their work. Yet in the face of this we were gazetted out as being inefficient, advantage being taken of the absence of the two junior officers, who were unfortunately out of town at the inspection.

For some years back an attempt has been made to freeze us out, but we having always complied with the militia law, it was found very awkward until last year, when the unavoidable absence of the two officers mentioned gave the desired opportunity and no time was lost in availing of it.

I may mention, sir, that we had two smooth bore guns, 18 and 32 pounders, one with three wheels, and these falling to pieces with dry rot, and the other with the carriage so decayed it could not be used; and so efficient were these relics of the past that one of the inspecting officers said he knew nothing about them, and at the practice could not tell whether the gun would carry one mile or ten, or whether the fuses should be bored at one-tenth or ten to cause the shell to burst at the required distance. And yet this officer had the temerity to report the battery as not well up in their drill.

You can thus see, Mr. Editor, that inefficiency was not the cause of the Collingwood battery being disbanded, but that there were other reasons which those in authority found most convenient not to mention, in order to carry out their wishes.

Collingwood is a very important lake port, a government harbor of refuge, on which they have expended nearly \$200,000, and yet the militia authorities find it too expensive to keep up a small force in the town—one garrison battery of three officers and 42 men.

Collingwood, 19th Nov., 1887.

J. HOGG, LIEUT.-COL.,  
Retired List.

Under the new marriage regulations of the Austrian army, the following are required to obtain permission to marry: 1. Officers, non-commissioned officers and men serving in the active army. 2. Retired officers employed in local service. 3. Pensioners of the invalides. 4. Men dismissed on leave who do not yet belong to the reserve. 5. Recruits who have not yet joined their corps. Permission to marry will be granted to officers only in the following proportion: The staff, one-half; infantry, rifles, cavalry, engineers, artillery, telegraph, and auxiliary troops, one fourth; remount officers, one-half. Officers who wish to marry are further required to possess the following incomes: Captains on the staff, 1,200 florins; field officers on the staff, 1,000 florins; subaltern officers, 1,000 florins; field officers, 800 florins; paymasters, 600 florins.

## Modern Tactics.

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

### Chapter I.—Part I.

#### THE CAVALRY WHICH PRECEDES AN ARMY IN THE FIELD.

THE general arrangements of the cavalry divisions or brigades preceding an army marching must be determined by their commander, who is entrusted with a three-fold mission:—

I. To screen from observation the different columns of the army marching behind on parallel roads.

II. To break through the enemy's cavalry to try and discover the positions, numbers, and movements of his troops in rear of it.

III. To ascertain the resources of the country, and the nature and amount of supplies and accommodation procurable.

In an open country—for instance, the plains of India—the formation best adapted to meet these three requirements would be that of outposts moving; an unbroken line of videttes in communication with each other, furnished by picquets, with supports and reserves following in rear. In an open country the security against surprise afforded to the army it is covering by such a screen is absolute so long as the fan-shaped formation is not broken through.

It is obvious that a concentrated force of the enemy's cavalry might attempt to break through such a formation, and to meet this danger the picquets, supports and reserves must be in direct communication to enable them to reinforce each other rapidly, or gather strength as they fall back; each section of the screen (*i.e.* each brigade or regiment) falling back in conformity with the portion assailed, until the opportunity occurs of making a simultaneous counter-attack from two or more points on the advancing squadrons of the assailants.

On the first appearance of the enemy's troops advancing in force, information should be sent back to the commander of the column immediately in rear, to warn him that that portion of the screen in front of his advanced guard is attacked and is manœuvring against the assailants. The other generals commanding columns on the right or left should also be warned to be on the alert to meet any emergency, and will understand that until they hear further they are wholly dependent on their own immediate advanced guards when marching, or outposts if halted, for protection against surprise.

The above example shows how vulnerable a cavalry screen must always be, especially in an open country, and how necessary it is, at all times, for troops on the march to be protected, in addition to the cavalry reconnoitring in front of them, by their own immediate advanced guards or outposts.

The first mission of a cavalry screen is to prevent the enemy's cavalry getting near enough to reconnoitre and discover the movements of the columns it is covering. Its second mission is to endeavour, if strong enough, to break through the enemy's light troops and discover what is taking place behind them. How this may be accomplished has been shown; also what resistance may be expected.

The front of a single command in cavalry-screening work should never exceed twenty miles. The reason for this is similar to that which limits the front of an infantry picquet to 800 yards.

If a commander has a front of twenty miles to superintend, supposing him to be in rear of its centre, an orderly would have to ride twenty miles to carry a message to the flank and return with an answer.

If an infantry picquet, no matter how open the country may be, has a front of more than 800 yards in foggy weather, and at night, the visiting patrols going round every hour, and including the nearest sentry of the next picquet on the left, would march about twenty-five miles.

The commanders in each case have to guard against breaking down their troops, and rendering them unfit to take their place on the field of battle—the issue to which all military operations tend, a fact which must never be lost sight of.

All through the study of tactics a few simple principles will be found to regulate each movement, and what makes the subject especially interesting is that there is a distinct reason for every minor detail bearing on one or other of these simple principles.

The maximum extent of front of a single cavalry command is twenty miles, but as ten or more picquets are combined to furnish a continuous cordon of sentries on outpost duty in front of an army halted, so two or more cavalry commands may be combined to form one large screen when reconnoitring a country in front of an army marching.

When the country is enclosed—such, for instance, as most parts of England—the cavalry screen is less effective in one way, though more so in another. In an enclosed country cavalry could not guard against small bodies of infantry creeping through between the roads and gaining information. On the other hand, if their movements, owing to the nature of the country, are restricted to the roads, so must those of the enemy be, and by guarding the main avenues of approach the columns in rear are fully protected from surprise, though not to the same extent from espionage.

Here, again, the similarity between cavalry-screening duties and outposts is apparent. At night the cordon system of outposts is replaced by the patrol system, which does not guard against individuals creeping through, but, by guarding the main avenues of approach by which alone the enemy in any force can advance in the dark, protects the army from surprise.

In an enclosed country the screening fan-shaped formation of cavalry still holds good, but it is a skeleton fan.

In such a country lateral communication between the different screening squadrons

must be established whenever the cross roads admit of it; and localities where the roads are more or less favourable for establishing connection should be indicated to the troops engaged, with orders not to advance beyond named places until lateral communication has been established between certain points, if not throughout the entire line.

As cavalry are powerless to manœuvre on a road which they cannot leave, a single squadron (the tactical unit of cavalry) is as good as a regiment. In a village, for instance, a squadron might be handled with more or less effect, while a regiment or a brigade would be very unwieldy.

The distance at which the cavalry screen ought to precede the army it is covering depends on three things: 1st, the nature of the country; 2nd, the strength of the cavalry force available; 3rd, the resistance it is likely to meet with.

To fulfil its mission a cavalry screen should never be less than fifteen miles in front of the nearest advanced guard, but may, under favourable conditions, be as much as from 60 to 100 miles, *i.e.* from four to five days' march.

Cavalry screens are furnished from the cavalry divisions or brigades of an army in contradistinction to what is known as divisional cavalry. A division in the English army is composed as follows:—

Two brigades of infantry of three battalions each.

One battalion called the "divisional battalion."

One regiment of cavalry.

Three batteries of field artillery.

One company of engineers.

One infantry and artillery reserve ammunition column.

The tactical unit of infantry is a battalion of 1,000 strong divided into eight companies.

The tactical unit of cavalry is a squadron. Four squadrons of 96 sabres form a regiment, and there are two troops to each squadron.

The tactical unit of artillery is a battery, which consists of six guns and six waggons, sub-divided into half batteries, divisions and sub-divisions. A sub-division consists of one gun with its waggon.

The cavalry regiment attached to a division is part and parcel of that division, and its duties may be briefly indicated as follows: It furnishes the leading portion of the advanced guard on the march, and, when the division is halted in an open country the advanced outposts by day. It furnishes the reconnoitring parties for its own division when the country is of a nature to admit of cavalry being used. It furnishes escorts of all descriptions, and should be freely utilized to protect convoys, especially of prisoners of war. The squadrons not with the advance guard follow in rear of the main column on the march, and in the absence of mounted police a troop is told off to the rear-guard, which marches behind the baggage and authorized camp followers.

On the battle-field the divisional cavalry regiments may be taken from their respective divisions and formed into brigades; but if a division is acting alone its cavalry regiment would guard its exposed flank, furnish an escort for its guns, and be prepared in case of emergency to protect the infantry if repulsed, and give them an opportunity of rallying. The cavalry brigades or divisions are distinct bodies of cavalry under their own general, who is in direct communication with the commander-in-chief of the army.

These troops furnish the cavalry screen, and when, owing to the proximity of the enemy's advanced infantry, they are withdrawn, they become what are called the cavalry reserves. Their duties in this capacity will be described later on, when the employment of the three arms in conjunction is dealt with. In a mountainous, wooded, or much intersected country, cavalry cannot work, as they are at the mercy of a few of the enemy's riflemen if skilfully handled. When the country is of a nature to preclude the employment of cavalry, or in the absence of this arm, the screening duties must be performed by infantry in skirmishing order, sent out from advanced guards which must be strengthened to provide for these troops being detached.

(To be Continued.)

Col. Hope's gun, intended to revolutionize artillery construction, burst on being tested at the first round.

It is reported at Berlin that the recent mobilization experiment in France showed that the troops were unable to bear the strain of long marches.

A 20-pounder field gun has recently been designed at Woolwich, which will probably be the most powerful field piece yet constructed. The gun, which will only weigh 12 cwt., is designed to fire a 6 lb. charge of powder, giving an estimated velocity at the muzzle of 1,650 feet per second.

One of the smallest manuscripts in the world is for sale, says the London *Times*. It is a grain of rice, with the whole first chapter of the Koran written on it; given to an English officer in 1812 by an American gentleman, who received it from an Arab sheikh, whom he had cured of a dangerous fever in the desert.

Francis Joseph, Emperor of Austria and King of Hungary, has more titles than any other European sovereign. He is King of seven countries or provinces, Grand Prince of one, Prince or Margrave of several others, and Archduke, Grand Duke, and Duke of half a dozen more. He is considered the richest monarch of Europe, with the possible exception of Queen Victoria.

The recent Austrian manœuvres were very successful. Over 100,000 men were assembled, just about the strength of the Austrian Army that would have to descend into Roumania in the event of the latter demanding protection against the Russians who would come from Bessarabia. The manœuvres are considered by military men as a sort of actual rehearsal of the first operations of the next Eastern war in Europe.

## GOSSIP OF THE MILITIA.

### Occurrences of the Week in Some of the Live Corps.

**A crack garrison battery in Nova Scotia—The Vics' Armoury Association—The Sixth Fusiliers exchanging compliments—The O. & C. Rifles have a Thanksgiving feast—Prizes and plumage for the Guards—London heard from on the no-range grievance -- The Ninetieth lose their Chaplain.**

THE Canadian militia costs 26c. per capita of the population. This includes the total expenditure for the maintenance of the force of about 38,000 of all ranks, the pay of the permanent staff, equipment, military college, schools of military instruction and all. It is a good investment. There is not one of us who does not feel safer to the amount of 26c. per year for having these 38,000 men at the country's call. The government might make it 50c. a head and even then we would not grumble. —*Star*.

No. 3 battery, H. G. A. which has the honor of holding the jubilee cup awarded for shifting ordnance, has for years been recognized as the best rifle shooting company in this district. A claim for this distinction was made last year by one of the infantry companies, whereupon No. 3 promptly called them to the range. The challenge was accepted and 20 men from each company tried conclusions, with the result that No. 3 won a decided victory, defeating their opponents by 178 points. In big gun shooting they are always well up. In shifting ordnance they are one of the very few batteries in the Dominion who have made themselves efficient. When men were required to aid the civil power at Lingan, on two hours' notice No. 3 paraded a large share of the contingent. Of the artillerymen who served in the Northwest with the composite battalion, one-third were from No. 3 battery. In competitions at Bedford, Ottawa, Quebec, Moose Jaw, Wimbledon and Sheeburness they brought credit to the H.G.A. and to Halifax. As the result of the Quebec meeting of 1884 has never been published we give below the positions of the leading teams from the D. A. A. report. It will be seen that out of four competitions, No. 3 topped two and was one of the four teams in No. 3 shift that almost made a dead heat of it: First—Halifax, England, England, Quebec, Montreal. Second—England, P. E. Island, Montreal, Levis. Third—P. E. Island, Quebec, Halifax, England. Fourth—Halifax, New Brunswick, Montreal. —*Halifax Mail*.

"B" Co., of the Royal Grenadiers dined at the Clifton house, Toronto, on the 16th inst. Color-Sergt. Hewitt occupied the chair. After the tables had been cleared, toasts and speeches were made, in which the stirring events of Batoche were again recited. Capt. Howard and Lieut. Cameron replied to the toast of the evening, "Our Officers." A strong patriotic sentiment tinged the utterances of all the speakers.

#### Montreal.

ON the occasion of a parade held last week for the purpose of the presentation of prizes won at the regimental matches, Lieut.-Col. Massey complimented the members of the Sixth Fusiliers on their many victories with the rifle in this year's competitions. He recalled the fact that by again winning the team aggregate cup of the Province of Quebec Rifle Association, which now becomes the property of the corps, the regiment secured for three years in succession the team championship of the Province of Quebec. In addition they had won five team prizes at the P. Q. R. A. meeting, and more cash prizes than any other corps which competed. By winning the \$500 Corporation of Montreal Jubilee Trophy the regiment would be the first to get its name inscribed on the handsomest trophy ever put up for competition among the Canadian militia. At the Dominion matches at Ottawa, the regiment had also done its share towards maintaining the reputation of the Montreal Brigade. The Colonel concluded by announcing that he expected next year to see the number of crack shots in the regiment greatly increased. Lieut.-Col. Gardner, the late commanding officer, assisted Lieut.-Col. Massey in the distribution of the prizes. Lieut. Chambers, on behalf of the winning team, presented to Col. Massey, in acknowledgment of the interest he has always taken in rifle shooting, the P. Q. R. A. cup.

It was now again the Colonel's turn, and he, on behalf of the shooting men of the regiment, presented to Lieut. Chambers, the captain of the team, a handsome gold chain and locket, the latter bearing the regimental crest and a suitable inscription, the presentation being made in recognition of Lieut. Chambers' services to the team during the seasons of 1886-'87.

The annual supper and presentation of prizes, E. Co., 5th Royal Scots, took place on the 14th inst. In the absence of Capt. Gault, Pte. Sutherland, president of the committee, occupied the chair. A pleasant evening was spent, some capital songs and recitations being given. The statement presented showed the company to be in a flourishing condition.

#### THE VICTORIA RIFLES.

The annual general meeting of the Victoria Rifles Armory Association was held on the 14th inst. in the new armory. Lieut.-Col. Henshaw occupied the chair, and amongst those present were Hon. Judge Davidson (late Lieut.-Col. commanding), Lieut.-Col. Crawford, Major Radiger, Captains Bacon, Stark, A. H. Sims, Becket, Mr. J. W. Mills and a large number of members. The annual report showed the finances to be in a satisfactory position. The Victoria Rifles pay \$3,000 rent per annum, and each of the six companies contribute \$60 per annum each. The rent for officers and sergeants' mess and the library room go to swell the rent fund, but the principal source of income is the rent of the hall, and since August \$500 has been obtained from that source. The association has \$1,000 worth of stock still to dispose of, and it was decided to endeavor to get the members of the regiment to take up a portion of this stock. Mr. Prince is getting up an entertainment to be held at the Academy of Music on January 6th, the proceeds to go to the armory fund. The Garrison Artillery have also offered and will give a dramatic entertainment for the benefit of the armory. The question of paying the tax on the building was brought up. The building having been constructed for the defence of the city, it was contended that they should not have to pay any tax on it, and a committee was appointed to wait upon the Council to ask a remission. Directors were re-elected as follows: Lieut.-Col.

Henshaw, Major Radiger, Captain Busted, Capt. A. Burnett, Color-Sergt. Rodden, Lieut.-Col. Crawford, Messrs. J. W. Mills, E. B. Greenshields, A. A. Anderson. A committee was appointed to revise the by-laws of the association, and other routine business being done a vote of thanks was passed to the chairman and the meeting adjourned.

A turkey match was the feature of absorbing interest at the Vics' shooting gallery last week. It was fired at ranges representing 200, 400 and 500 yards, five shots at each. The winners, with their scores, were: 200 yds., Lieut. Busted, 21; 400 yds., Lieut. Desbarats, 19; 500 yds., Staff-Sergt. Brocklesby, 22.

#### Ottawa.

THANKSGIVING DAY was availed of by the Ottawa companies of the 43rd Battalion to hold a reunion at Aylmer, a distance of about 10 miles from the drill hall. The march out was made in the creditable time of two hours and a half, though the roads were very bad, the mud being literally ankle deep in some places. The staff officers present were Major Walsh, Capt. and Adjutant Evans, and Assistant Surgeon Scott. Lieuts. Bradbury and Rogers accompanied No. 1 Co., Capt. B. Bell and Lieut. B. T. A. Bell No. 6, and Capt. Wright and Lieut. Nesbitt, with a squad from No. 2, joined the other companies at Hull. The band, under Bandmaster Greenfield, played its merriest tunes while passing through the streets of Ottawa and Hull; and the musicians having been provided with a 'bus to convey them from Hull to Aylmer, again took their place in front a short distance from the village and played a lively march as the Rifles entered. The whole turnout numbered upwards of a hundred. There were present as guests Lieut. Bliss, of the Ottawa Field Battery; Lieut. Taylor, of the G.G.F.G.; and Mr. J. D. Taylor, of the MILITIA GAZETTE. At Aylmer Mrs. Acres' hotel was made the headquarters and there a very substantial dinner was served. The usual toasts and speeches followed, the speech of the evening being the reply of the Adjutant to the toast of the officers, in which he outlined the work and entertainment to be expected by the corps during the coming winter, and tendered some excellent advice as to the methods which should be adopted as best calculated to maintain or exalt the already high standard of the regiment. The return trip to Hull and Ottawa was made by special train, the party arriving home shortly after ten o'clock.

Lieut. B. T. A. Bell announces that he is about to resign from No. 6 Company, on account of lack of time to attend to his duties. The announcement has given rise to speculation concerning his probable successor, and the name of Colour Sergeant Henderson is very favourably mentioned. He has made an excellent non-commissioned officer.

#### SOME ACTIVITY IN THE GUARDS.

A parade of the Guards was called for last Friday evening, but only a small number of the members attended, not much more than one-fourth the total strength. Col. Macpherson announced that valuable company prizes in cups and money were to be offered for attendance at and proficiency in next season's drill. The first will be a handsome challenge cup, value \$150, together with \$60, and will be awarded to the company obtaining the highest number of marks. The system of marking is not yet decided. The name of the winner will each year be engraved on the cup, and it will become the final property of any company winning it thrice in succession.

Several other prizes will also be offered, those heard of so far being from the Paymaster, Capt. Berkeley Powell, for regimental competition, and from Capt. Bate, of No. 4, for competition in that company.

It has been left to the men of the regiment to say whether or not the drill will be commenced at once and partly performed before the severe weather sets in, or whether it will be postponed to the spring. The answer is expected to be returned at a parade called for Friday evening of this week.

New uniforms will be served out to the Guards early next year, and the companies have been asked to hand in the measurements of their men, in order that good fits may be secured.

A number of fine looking recruits have lately joined No. 3 company, and these are now being drilled by Colour-Sergeant Davis, who has been instrumental in greatly improving the company since he was promoted to his present responsible position.

No. 5, the newly-formed New Edinburgh company, is the most enthusiastic in the regiment at present. It has been drilling regularly for several weeks past, and is bound to be a formidable competitor for the company prizes mentioned above. Capt. White, whose duties as Comptroller of the Mounted Police have called him away to the North-West, has been granted leave of absence for a few weeks, and in the meantime the company is under command of Lieut. Taylor.

The subject of the annual march to Aylmer, and dinner there, was a live topic of conversation amongst the members of Nos. 1 and 2 companies for several weeks, but time speeds, and "the powers" are dumb concerning the date of the annual reunion. Rumour says that one company's funds are low, that the Kingston trip cost more than anticipated. However that may be, it is quite likely that the men would rather pay the trifling expense than forego the trip, which latter would decidedly be taking a backward step.

#### Winnipeg.

THERE was hardly standing room at Knox church at both services on the 13th inst. It was Rev. D. M. Gordon's last Sabbath, before translation to Halifax, and the people turned out in force to hear the farewell words of a minister who had endeared himself to the hearts of so many. The morning service was particularly impressive, as the 90th Rifles, two hundred strong, under the command of Lieut.-Col. Boswell, were present to show their appreciation of their chaplain, and to hear his last words. Rev. Mr. Gordon wore, outside his robe, the medal he had earned in the Saskatchewan campaign. He preached from 2nd Timothy, 2nd chapter and 3rd verse, "Thou therefore endure hardship as a good soldier of Christ." He first described Paul, who uttered the words of the text, as a good soldier, showing how he had fought the good fight, and the patience he had exhibited throughout. He next went on to point out and elucidate the attributes which should characterize a good soldier—courage, self-sacrifice and devotion to his leader. Turning to the 90th he entreated them in his last words to be good soldiers. Continuing, he said: "Being privileged to be with you through the scenes of trial at Batoche, to minister to the wounded, to join in the burial of the dead, to share with you the joy of triumph; being with you on the march and in the camp, permitted to preach to you the gospel of Christ on many a peaceful Sabbath, I may say I can never forget the courage, devotion and self-sacrifice shown by you throughout the campaign. We recognize the gratitude and appreciation of services shown by our fellow citizens in the monument they erected; we look with tenderest regret on the burial lot in the quiet cemetery of St. John, where some of our dead are laid. We recall the faces of those who have been taken from us forever, prominent among them, Lieut.-Col. Mackeand, who was the last to leave us; and now we look at the whole campaign as a thing of the far past, willing to bury the misunderstanding and strife that led to it, and anxious to live in charity and righteousness towards all

classes of our fellow countrymen, hoping that never again shall an appeal to arms be required to maintain law and order within the land we love so well."

London.

THE class of instruction for the 7th Batt. officers, under the able supervision of Col. Williams and his two Majors, still continues to be well attended. Next month there will be commenced a course of lectures on military law, outpost duties, musketry instruction, etc., several officers of the district well up in those matters having kindly volunteered their services.

The thanks of the 7th Batt. are due to the members of the Victoria Rifle Club for kindly placing their range at its disposal, there being no militia rifle range in London; even the Club range is considered unsafe by the D.A.G., the corps assembled in camp last summer not being permitted to use it. How is that for high!

Pte. R. W. Travers, D Co. 7th, amongst his other duties has assumed that of a "Benedict," having joined hands with Miss E. A. Smith, sister of Major A. M. Smith.

The gallant captain alluded to by "Linch-pin" now thinks that he should get another clasp for well and truly doing his duty at the target on a cold, windy day; and after all perhaps the clasp was conferred on him for the masterly manner in which he navigated an oat-laden barge down the Saskatchewan.

### The Colour Bearer's Report.

[The assault on Port Hudson was pending. In this assault colored troops were to receive their first "baptism of blood." It was a race's test of their fitness for freedom. The white colonel of a colored regiment, himself in arrest, and hence unable to command them in battle, called the colored standard-bearer to him and implored him not to dishonor the flag and bring reproach upon his race by proving recreant to duty. Hero and patriot that he was, this lowly representative of a lowly and despised race replied: "I'll bring these colors back with honor, or report to God the reason why!" He reported to God.]

THERE, like ebon statues in the starlight, stood the "Black brigade,"  
As adown the ranks the colonel strode, and walking, silent prayed:  
Prayed that God might fill with patriot zeal each darkened soul, and light  
In each lowly breast a bright pathway to Freedom's new birthright;  
That these new-born sons of freedom, in whose swelling hearts and breasts  
Burned the memories of centuries of bondage and of wrong,  
In the morrow's dreadful slaughter, might, as heroes bear the tests—  
In their race's vindication might be brave and true and strong.

Over yonder in the moonlight floated out the "Stars and Bars";  
Here the "Black Brigade" in silence stood beneath the Stripes and Stars  
Over there were trained artillerymen asleep by silent guns;  
Here were loyal hearts in swelling breasts of Freedom's new-born sons,  
Raised from chattelhood to manhood by the stroke of patriot pen,  
Wond'ringly, and sometimes doubting, loyal hearts looked on to see  
If these slaves, and serfs, and chattels, lifted to the plane of men,  
In the shock of strife and battle won their right to liberty.

'Twas the morning of the battle, and the colonel's heart was sore;  
Knowing well that with the rise of sun the cannon's awful roar  
Would reverberate from hill to plain, and death in blood arrayed,  
Striking grim in smoke of conflict would assail his "Black Brigade."  
Would they prove by deeds of valor in the carnage of war's stage,  
That their race, despite its bondage, was entitled to be free?  
Would they write in bloody characters on history's living page?  
Write a race's right to freedom—write a race's destiny.

Grimly stood these erstwhile chattels—freemen now, of dusky hue—  
Bay'nets gleaming in the starlight; what there thoughts—ah, no one knew—  
Would they stand the test of freemen? Would they craven prove and quail?  
Would they stain of slavery wipe out in the battle's leaden hail?  
Had the iron rust of bondage entered deeply in the soul?  
Had the cruelty of centuries the springs of manhood dried?  
Would they in the blood of conflict and the battle's awful roll,  
Prove, despite the years of bondage, patriots, heroes, true and tried?

Said he to the color-bearer, and his voice was earnest, low:  
"Ere the coming day is ended patriot blood will freely flow;  
In the wild assault on frowning guns, think only of the years  
Of your race's cruel bondage, of its groans, and cries and tears.  
'Tis the starry flag of freedom that you bear aloft to-day;  
Bear it bravely in the conflict, and your race is ever free;  
Do not falter; bear it proudly in the thickest of the fray;  
Let this day in blood inaugurate your race's jubilee."

Then up spoke the color-bearer, and his face in starlight's gleam  
Glow'd with patriot fire and ardor, as the past—a horrid dream—  
Drifted by with all its cruelty, its bondage, and its wrong,  
And his voice showed in its earnest tones that his heart was true and strong,  
"Though my race has been in serfdom, yet we're freemen here to-night,  
And the 'Stars and Stripes' our beacon light that gleams athwart the sky.  
Yes, I'll bring it back in honor, bear it bravely in the right,  
Or beyond the mystic river tell to God the reason why."

'Twas a horrid day of slaughter, and the crash of shot and shell  
Told that men were bravely battling for the cause they loved so well,  
A shout, a cheer, a wild assault—and then the "Stripes and Stars"  
Floated proudly from the ramparts where had waved the "Stars and Bars."  
Bravely fought the dusky Black Brigade; in blood had rent the chains—  
Chains of slavery from a fetter'd race; and where, in blood, they'd trod,  
Lay, in death, the color-bearer—his life's blood the banner stains—  
Ah, beyond the silent river, he's reporting now to God!

J. P. PRICKETT, in *Chicago Ledger*.

The British Secretary for war has notified that in future rewards of £200 each (instead of £100, as previously decided) will be granted to a limited number of officers in the English army who render themselves proficient and qualify for interpreters in either Arabic, Russian or Turkish. Officers who apply for examination will have to obtain four-fifths of the possible number of marks in order to pass.

The *Rappel* tells a story of the late Marshal Pellissier. The Marshall, who was a peppery warrior, one day flew into a rage and boxed the ears of one of his officers. The recipient seized his revolver and aimed at his superior, but the pistol declined to go off, and the officer was seized. "Fifteen days imprisonment," said Pellissier piously, "I'll teach you to keep your arms in that condition."

Detailed estimates for a bridge over the English Channel have recently been laid before the French Minister for Public Works by Vice Admiral Cloué, of the French navy, in the hope of obtaining a government subvention for the project. It is expected by the sanguine promoters that this scheme will meet with less opposition from English military men than the tunnel project, as the former would always be accessible from the sea. The cost of the bridge is estimated at \$220,000,000, on which a net profit of \$20,000,000 per annum is expected.

### Chaos in the Orders.

A CRITICISM OF THE REGULATIONS AND ORDERS FOR THE MILITIA, CANADA, 1887—SOME CURIOUSLY CONFLICTING PASSAGES.

AS times are dull in Toronto and everything quiet on the Potomac, I will devote myself this week entirely to the new Militia Regulations.

Paragraph 59 informs us that the relative rank and authority of militia officers shall be the same as the relative rank, etc., of officers in H. M. Imperial army. We shall see how this is carried out. Paragraph 95, defining the relative rank of non-combatant officers, is entirely different, we may say, to that in the Imperial service. For instance, an Imperial Quartermaster commences by ranking with a Lieutenant; after ten years' service he ranks with a Captain. Our man starts his militia life as a Captain, and after ten years ends as a Major. A Surgeon joins H. M. army on probation as a Lieutenant; one Medical Officer, as a Major, receiving after twenty years' service the relative rank of Lieutenant-Colonel.

Now the question of relative rank may seem a mere nothing or it may not, but there are other questions at the back of it than a merely social one. I will take the case of a Surgeon and Lieutenant, start them at the same time in a corps, suppose them to have been on service—wounded, thereby receiving bodily injury equivalent to the loss of a limb.

The Surgeon joins his corps with his promotion assured—with pay of \$3.65 per diem—attends, if in a city corps, as a rule very few parades; if in a country corps ten annual drills during his twenty years, at the end of which period he has the relative rank of a Lieutenant-Colonel. It is at this time that he goes on service, is wounded, as above, applies for and receives a pension of \$1,200 per annum.

The Lieutenant, after attending a school of instruction as 2nd Lieutenant, during which time he suffers financial loss, attends, if in a country corps, the same number of camps as his friend the Surgeon—if in a city one, perhaps thrice as many parades—becomes Captain, has the trouble of keeping a company up, etc., and after twenty years' service may be promoted a Major; he also goes into action, is wounded, etc., and instead of drawing a pension of \$1,200 as the Surgeon, he has to content himself with \$800. Had promotion been slow, had he been a Captain instead of a Major, his grateful country would have given him for twenty years' service, for all his trouble and care in keeping his company together, in keeping himself proficient in his work, in wasting his money on what the country ought to be doing for him—he receives, I say, don't tell it abroad—he receives actually \$400 per annum! What a Private would receive under similar circumstances, Lord only knows.

I will give you a case taken from the militia list. The names you won't find, so don't look—the dates are accurate and the officers are still in the service. Galusher Pennypacker, Gentleman, joins a corps as 2nd Lieutenant; after a certain number of years he is promoted to Lieutenant, dated 17 June, 1874. Length of service as Lieutenant alone, 13 years. Karl Albert Wordstrom, Esq., M.D., F.R.C.S.L., F.R.C.S., etc., etc., etc., joins the same corps as Surgeon (with relative rank of Major) on 16 July, 1884. Length of service, three years. Had these two officers been in the North-West, had they both been wounded *as laid down in Regulations* (!) how would their pensions have stood? The Surgeon, \$800; the Lieutenant, \$280 per annum.

Now this works with still greater injustice in a permanent corps—but just look up a case for yourself.

Look at paragraph 59 again and then read paragraph 67. Compare paragraph 67 with imperial regulations on the same subject. You find that while our regulations say that if the brigade major holds field officer's rank he takes precedence according to the date of his commission; if he is a lieutenant-colonel he remains a lieutenant-colonel. Now, the imperial regulations are very decided on this point, an officer above the rank of major not being eligible for that appointment. This is also clearly another case of where paragraph 59 is inconsistent. Were Canadian and Imperial troops to meet how would our brigade majors rank then?

I must, for the information of coming brigade majors, tell them that when the Canadian Militia Regulations were copied *hokus hokus*, applicable or inapplicable, from the Queen's Regulations, a very important detail of their duties was omitted from ours. That omission may be the exception to my rule, and considered by the authorities not applicable. It is: "He issues to the brigade the orders of the officer commanding it." In Militia Regulations, 1890, I expect to see this inserted.

This reminds me of another "crib" from the Imperial regulations. After reading it over you will probably come to the same conclusion as I do. I refer to paragraph 171, which says that it is expected that every officer who has been two years (mark the time mentioned) in the service will be capable of commanding and exercising a troop, battery or company in every situation, etc., etc. There's the sentiments contained in your regulations, and the Imperial authorities expect the same thing in the same time. Poor Imperial officers! Here is our militia drilling once in two years, or twelve days of three hours a year in a shed, and we are thought so highly of—or the Imperial officer is thought so little of—that we are put on the same footing as regards time in attaining a certain state of efficiency. But wait and read paragraph 344, which tells us (I was wavering in my allegiance towards these regulations, but this paragraph nearly brings me back) that the opportunity afforded by the annual training for acquiring proficiency in drill being limited—decidedly so, I should say—only such movements are to be practised, etc., etc., as are indispensable. I should say that a thorough course of musketry was indispensable, but then doctors differ; so do the authorities and Linch-pin.

Paragraph 32 (2) defines the strength of a troop of cavalry, battery of garrison artillery, infantry and engineer companies, and it says respecting the number of sergeants that there shall be three. I think I am right when I say that every company of infantry boasts of a colour-sergeant, every troop of a troop sergt.-major, every battery (gar.) of a battery sergt.-major, and, like the regulations, I omit the engineers. Where is the authority for having these n.c.o. in a corps? They are not sergeants. They are a rank separate and at the same time a rank higher.

Paragraph 167 is another funny one in its own way. It is a case of—well it isn't hard to name it, but it is a sample like the rest. Each troop, battery and company in the cavalry, field artillery and infantry is to be distinguished by letters—in garrison artillery and engineers by consecutive numbers. This is what we find carried out and printed *officially*:—1st Regiment of Cavalry, No. 1 Troop, etc.; Regiment of Canadian Artillery, "A," "B" and "C" Batteries—they are Garrison Artillery; 1st Brigade Field Artillery, No. 1 Battery, etc.; 7th Battalion "Fusiliers," No. 1 Company, etc. I regret that I can't bring in the Engineers. The Regulations and Linch-pin seem to take a delight in omitting them on every possible occasion.

I will just take a fresh purchase and then scotch up. I read in the GAZETTE of 22nd September, 1887, of the Dominion Artillery Association meeting at Quebec. The names and rank of competitors are given. The point I refer to is— notwithstanding paragraph 32 (2)—the number of non-commissioned officers in No. 2 Battery, Lewis: 1 Battery Sergt.-Major and 3 Sergeants; No. 1 Battery, Lewis: 4 Sergeants; No. 3 Battery, M.B.G.A.: 4 Sergeants, 1 Sergt.-Major. I always had an idea that they did queer things in Quebec province.

LINCH-PIN.

**The Target.**

A contest took place between the members of No. 7 Co., 27th battalion, Sarnia, on Thanksgiving Day, for a medal presented by the officers for the best shot in the company. The firing was at 200 and 400 yards, seven shots at each. Pte. Clarke was the winner, with 28 and 16 points, a total of 44. Lieut. Kittermaster made 50—22 and 28, but he was not competing for the medal.

**ANNUAL MATCHES OF THE SEVENTH FUSILIERS.**

The 7th Fusiliers' annual rifle matches came off on Thanksgiving Day, and although the day was cold and windy, there was a large turnout, upwards of a hundred and forty n.c. officers and men keenly contesting each event. The firing for the regimental cup, presented by W. J. Reid (late Capt. E Co.), valued at \$200, resulted in a numerical tie between B Co., Capt. Butler's, and D Co., Capt. Tracy's, but D Co. scoring most at the long range, will hold the trophy for another year.

Major Gartshore efficiently and satisfactorily carried out the duties of range officer. Amongst the numerous visitors at the range were Lieut.-Col. Jackson, D.A.G., Lieut.-Col. Smith, D School of Infantry, and Lieut.-Col. Fisher, 27th Batt.

All the matches were fired simultaneously.

1st Match—Open to eight previously named officers, non-commissioned officers and privates from each company who have been sworn in prior to Oct. 31st, 1887. 200, 400 and 500 yards; 5 shots.

1st prize, cup, (valued at \$200) presented by W. J. Reid, and \$20 cash. Won by D Company.

Capt Tracey	21	19	13	53
Lieut Payne	3	9	17	29
Corpl W C Hiscott	19	14	4	37
Pte Noble	18	18	15	51
Pte Smith	18	16	9	43
Pte Crawford	19	16	4	39
Pte Pitt	7	11	15	33
Pte MacCrimmon	12	7	3	22
Total				307

2nd prize, cash \$16. Won by B Company.

Capt Butler	7	4	2	13
Bandmaster Hiscott	21	19	11	51
Corpl Watson	20	18	0	38
Pte Hayes	18	17	16	51
Pte Thos Hiscott	21	20	11	52
Pte A Hiscott	18	14	20	52
Pte Berlow	17	9	0	26
Pte Bayley	13	4	7	24
Total				307

3rd prize, \$12 cash. Won by A Company.

Col.-Sergt Jackson	15	6	21	42
Sergt Beacroft	11	0	0	11
Corpl Barnes	14	18	6	38
Corpl Galbraith	9	13	0	27
Pte Vines	18	8	13	39
Pte Greenslade	14	6	5	25
Pte Nicholl	10	4	7	21
Pte Higham	13	3	5	21
Total				224

4th prize, \$8 cash. Won by G Company.

Capt McKenzie	20	22	2	44
Staff-Sergt Conroy	19	18	0	37
Col.-Sergt Borland	4	5	4	13
Sergt Borland	5	6	0	11
Sergt Parkinson	10	4	2	16
Pte Farrell	18	15	14	47
Pte Smith	16	3	6	25
Pte Hood	9	12	8	29
Total				222

No. 2, NURSERY MATCH—Open to any member of the battalion who had never won a prize at association or military matches. 200 and 400 yards; 5 shots.

Corpl Watson, B Co	20	18	38
Pte Crawford, D	19	16	35
Pte Farrell, G	18	15	33
Corpl Barnes, A	14	18	32
Pte A Hiscott, B	18	14	32
Pte Crowe, E	16	12	28
Corpl Galbraith, A	9	18	27
Pte Pontey, A	8	18	26
Pte Cahill, C	16	10	26
Pte Vines, A	18	8	26
Sergt Jacobs, E	9	15	24
Pte Driscoll, D	11	13	24
Pte Downing, A	9	14	23
Corpl Wilson, G	12	11	23
Pte Hood, G	9	12	21
Pte Shoebottom, A	11	10	21
Sergt Ironside, D	13	8	21
Pte Greenslade, A	14	6	20
Pte MacCosh, G	10	9	19

Pte MacCrimmon, D	12	7	19
Pte Smith, G	16	3	19
Corpl Butler, C	5	13	18
Pte Bailey, B	13	4	17
Corpl Miers, B	6	10	16
Pte Higham, A	13	3	16
Sergt O'Brien, F	12	3	15
Pte Macdonald, D	5	9	14
Pte Keenan, C	7	7	14
Pte Nicholl, A	10	4	14
Sergt Parkinson, G	10	4	14
Pte Coughlin, G	6	7	13
Pte Leadbeater, E	6	7	13
Pte Bayley, A	12	0	12
Pte Garside, A	5	6	11
Corpl Grey, B	6	5	11
Pte Bentley, G	9	2	11
Sergt Beacroft, A	11	0	11

MATCH No. 3—Open to any member of battalion. Five shots; 200, 400 and 500 yards.

Capt Tracey, D Co	21	19	13	53
Pte A Hiscott, B	18	14	20	52
Pte T Hiscott, B	21	20	11	52
Pte G Hayes, B	18	17	16	51
Pte W Noble, D	18	18	15	51
Bandmaster Hiscott, B	21	19	11	51
Pte Farrell, G	18	15	14	47
Capt Mackenzie, G	20	22	2	44
Pte Geo Smith, D	18	16	9	43
Col.-Sergt Jackson, A	15	6	21	42
Pte Vines, A	18	8	13	39
Pte Crawford, D	19	16	4	39
Corpl Barnes, A	14	18	6	38
Corpl Watson, B	20	18	0	38
Corpl W C Hiscott, D	19	14	4	37
Staff-Sergt Conroy, G	19	18	0	37
Pte G W Pitt, D	7	11	15	33
Pte M Cahill, C	16	10	6	32
Pte M Driscoll, D	11	13	7	31

Pte Crowe, E	16	12	3	31
Pte MacCosh, G	10	9	11	30
Co p Wilson, G	12	11	7	30
Pte Pontey, A	8	18	4	30
Pte Hood, G	9	12	8	29
Pte Downing, A	9	14	6	29
Col-Sergt Jacobs, E	9	15	4	28
Corp Galbraith, A	9	18	0	27
Pte Barlow, B	17	9	0	26
Pte Smith, G	16	3	6	25
Pte Greenslade, A	14	6	5	25
Pte Garside, A	5	6	13	24
Pte Bailey, B	13	4	7	24
Pte Shoebottom, A	11	10	2	23
Sergt Ironside, D	13	8	2	23
Pte Leadbeater, E	6	7	9	22
Corp Butler, C	5	13	4	22
Pte MacCrimmon, D	12	7	3	22

Match No. 4, AGGREGATE—Open to competitors in any match. 200, 400 and 500 yards; 5 shots.

Capt Tracy, D Co	21	19	13	53
Pte A Hiscott, B	18	14	20	52
Pte Thos Hiscott, B	21	20	11	52
Pte G Hayes, B	18	17	16	51
Pte W Noble, D	18	18	15	51

Bandmaster Hiscott, B	21	19	11	51
Pte Farrell, G	18	15	14	47
Ed Hutchinson, ex-member	18	12	16	46
Capt Mackenzie, G	20	22	2	44
Pte Geo Smith, D	18	16	9	43

Match No. 5, EX-MEMBERS—200, 400 and 500 yards; 5 shots.

Pte Hutchinson	46
Sergt Neilson	40
Lieut Pope	33

Pte Johnstone	25
Pte Rowland	13

Extra company match for B Company.

\$6 00 and gold medal, Pte A Hiscott	52
4 00 Corp Watson	38
3 00 Pte Barlow	26

\$2 00 Pte Bayley	24
2 00 Bandsman C J Miers	16
2 00 Corp Grey	14

Pte. Archie Hiscott wins prize given for the highest score made by any bandsman, \$4.00 cash. Pte. Hiscott is 15 years old and this was the first time he ever shot a rifle. The prizes will be distributed by Lieut.-Col. Williams, in the drill shed, on Friday evening next.

**Admiral Commerell on the C. P. R. Route.**

(Correspondence London Times.)

SIR,— \* \* I have always been opposed to trusting in war time to hired steamers, fitted as cruisers, protecting our commerce and harassing that of the enemy. In conflict with a maritime nation our merchant steamers over 16-knot speed, and there are none too many, would have their work cut out to carry our mails and keep up our food supply anywhere near the mark, but on the breaking out of war if they are to be of use anywhere it would be in the Pacific.

I do not think people quite recognize the value of the port of Halifax. The general opinion is that it is a port closed half the year by ice and fogs. On the contrary the harbor is open all the year, it is easy of access by night as well as by day, and there is deep water alongside any of the jetties, and cargo for transmission across the continent could be hoisted into through cars and not touched until alongside the corresponding steamer at Vancouver. No doubt that at certain seasons of the year there are fogs, but they are common to all parts of the coast alike, and yet the enormous traffic is not interfered with. Regularity of soundings, the proper use of Thompson's sounding machines, and the invention of steam sirens have greatly minimized the danger of navigating in foggy weather. Halifax is nearly two days nearer England than New York; it has no bar and can be entered at any time in stormy weather. Your correspondent in his table of times draws a comparison between the Canadian Pacific and the Suez routes, but we must deal with eventualities in the time of war; and does any one believe that we could ever use the Canal for war purposes? By the Cape route the difficulty of coaling would be very great, and the delay an unknown quantity. Simon's Bay is a small open anchorage open to the south-east, and in the south-east season there are days and days when no coal could be shipped. At Cape Town there is a breakwater, but not very well placed, and northwesterly winds blow home. Besides this you have to get the coal there—a hazardous and uncertain undertaking in the height of a war. Fancy the arrival of a dozen transports with reinforcements for India and no coal to be had for love or money!

Such a state of things can never happen by the Canadian Pacific route, for there is an ample supply of native coal both at Halifax and Vancouver, and the steamers would be coaled before a passenger or soldier embarked. In these days when our markets are falling short, and competition with foreigners is getting so acute, we cannot afford to let slip any opportunity of opening up fresh outlets for our manufactures. I have no hesitation in saying that, with a fortnightly service, in addition to the through goods a local traffic with China and Japan would be opened up with our North American colonies. Trade means emigration and an outlet to our colonial population. No legislation, either by imperial or colonial parliaments, will keep off the dangers of a commercial reciprocity treaty with the United States as a knowledge that commercially as well as politically we row in the same boat. A commercial treaty between the States and Canada means the exclusion of English goods from nearly five millions of people with now English tastes and habits. With our looms and manufactories at half time, and thousands, tens of thousands, of our operatives asking for bread, is it a time for the imperial government to pursue a selfish policy of exclusion? Nay, rather let us draw tighter the bonds which unite us with our great colonial Empire.

J. E. COMMEREILL,  
Admiral.

Tunbridge-wells, October 5.

It is reported, says a London despatch, that a Russian engineer has discovered a new explosive which is destined to drive all existing ammunition out of use, being equal in strength to pyroxylin. It is said that the Russian war office will build a special factory for the manufacture of the explosive.

A Danish officer is pictured making observations in regard to the deviation of rifle bullets. One day, when walking on the ramparts at Düppel, he saw a Prussian sharpshooter taking aim at him. While the soldier placed himself against a tree, in order to take a steadier aim, the officer raised his glass to watch his movements. "This is all right," said he; "the musket is just on a line with my breast—we shall see." The trigger was pulled, and the Danish officer quietly wrote down: "At a distance of about 500 yards the deviation of a ball from a rifled musket is about one metre."



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For further information see OFFICIAL POSTA GUIDE.

Post Office Department, Ottawa,  
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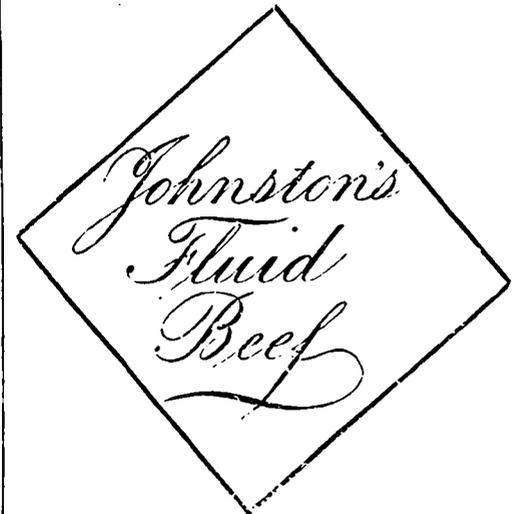
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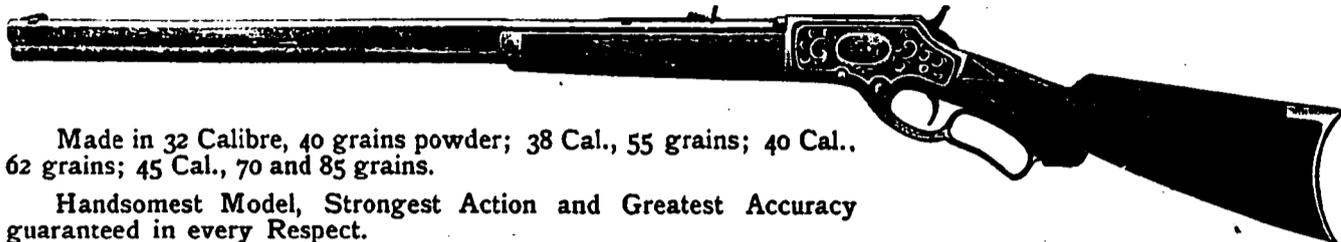
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