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THE annual meeting of the Dominion Rifle Association has been called for Wednesday, the 14th March, at 11 o'clock a.m., and that of the Dominion Artillery Association for the following day. Notice has been given of desired change in the constitution of the Rifle association making provision for granting the North-West Territories representation on the council, so soon as rifle associations are formed there corresponding with the provincial associations.

LINCH-PIN inquires this week why it is that the two associations above named do not make the MILITIA GAZETTE their official organ, his query being prompted by the fact that the Ontario Association has already done us the honour to officially recognize the paper in this manner. The matter was brought before the D.R.A. and D.A.A. last year, but passed over without any action being taken. It is, however, about to be brought up again, and judging from the friendly sentiments expressed by leading officers of both associations, we think it quite likely that a few weeks hence we will have authority to style the MILITIA GAZETTE the official organ of these influential institutions.

COMMENTING upon the report started some weeks ago that Hon. Jos. Chamberlain was likely to become Governor-General of Canada, the *Broad Arrow* says:—"The story that Mr. Chamberlain has been offered the Governor-Generalship of Canada is a funny one, and is noticeable notwithstanding that it is totally devoid of foundation. The *Times'* Philadelphia correspondent evidently views Canadian *esprit* through Yankee spectacles. A man of Mr. Chamberlain's 'grit' might assimilate to American political and social caste. He would cause a social revolution in the Dominion, and for political reasons would break up the Parliament—perhaps lead to separation. A duke, who is nothing but a duke, is the proper material in these days for a viceroy." We fancy it would take something more than a "man of Mr. Chamberlain's grit" to affect the mental balance of the Canadian people to an extent sufficient to cause even the semblance of a revolution.

THE important announcement is made that the Minister of Militia, recognizing the desirability of arriving, if possible, at some definite conclusion as to the practicability of a defensive system for Canada consistent with the country's wants and present means, has recommended

the formation of a committee at headquarters to consider the whole subject. The recommendation has been approved, and the committee organized as follows: Lieut.-General Sir Fred. Middleton, commanding the militia of Canada, chairman; Col. Powell, Adjutant-General; Major-General Oliver, commandant R. M. C., Kingston, and Lt.-Col. Irwin, Inspector of Artillery. In each military district the officer commanding will report to the central committee on the state of the defences—if any—in his district, or the force which could be utilized, and on the resources in men, supplies, etc., that could be made available in case of emergency. It is proposed that the officers of the R. M. C. and a certain number of cadets shall be employed during the holidays to make a topographical survey of the country. The central committee will report upon the practicability of schemes for the defence of the Dominion which have already been presented, as well as suggesting modifications or recommending new schemes. It will also consider the question of the formation of torpedo corps and the places where such could be profitably stationed. The committee will report upon the several points which have from time to time been raised in connection with the question of Canada's defences.

GRATIFYING news the above will prove to the multitude of correspondents who have ever since the first publication of this paper been using its columns for the advocacy of immediate action in the matter of strengthening our defensive works. And the outlook becomes much brighter for the garrison artillerymen, for batteries of such will have to be organized and instructed in the duties to be performed by them when occupying these to-be-created strong places in time of emergency. As stated last week, one great reason why the garrison artillery force has been allowed to go down is that the Department had realized the uselessness of attempting to maintain the batteries without the armament.

IN a spirited letter to the *Broad Arrow*, Lieut.-General Middleton protests against the proposition to close the Royal Military College at Sandhurst, and takes occasion to pay the following compliment to our military college: "There may be improvements which might be made in the management and course of instruction at this institution [Sandhurst]—in fact, there is no doubt that there are; and I am not at all sure but that in this matter the mother country might not learn something from her eldest daughter, Canada, who has, in my belief, established one of the best, if not the best military college in the world, which is a big thing to say." The agitation against Sandhurst has fizzled out, as has that recently started here in the case of the Kingston College.

LOOK at the figures quoted in our Toronto correspondence this week, comparing the amounts annually granted by the Dominion government for rifle and artillery competitions respectively: \$17,800 for the riflemen; \$900 for the gunners! Of course the Dominion Artillery Association has received a good deal more than \$900 per annum for several years past, but only in the form of *special grants*, though even adding these the amount is still very small in comparison with that voted to the rifle associations. There seems to be no good

reason why the regular annual grant to the artillery should not be augmented, if the situation were represented to Parliament in the proper light by some members interested in the artillery.

AN official of the balloon department of the Imperial army, Major Templar, has been arrested for selling to a Birmingham firm secrets of the military ballooning system, the most important being the method of inflating and the manner of transporting gas for that service. The offender is a supernumerary major in a militia battalion. He was attached to the Engineers some years ago as a ballooning expert. It is a pity that, if the charge against him be well founded, he has cancelled the value of his services to the government by bartering secrets of the service in response to the temptation of "filthy lucre."

DRILL instruction money, as has often been pointed out, is continually being put to uses it was certainly not intended for when voted by Parliament. It would be interesting though perhaps an impossibility, if a statement were prepared showing just what has been done with the grant paid to each corps last year. We are convinced that such a statement would make it quite plain that some more stringent regulations should be devised governing the disposition to be made of the grant. We invite suggestions on the subject from our readers.

A BRITISH officer of high rank thus expressed himself recently on the subject of the possibility of trouble between Austro-Germany and Russia: "The Czar," he said, "lives in a kind of fool's paradise. He is not a soldier, although he commanded an army in the field. He is all but ignorant of the character of the Imperial forces, notwithstanding that he is Emperor, and their titular head. The Russian Army is without scientific equipment or organization, and it is practically without a general competent to direct its operations in a great war." Proceeding, the gallant critic said, "I do not believe there will be a war of the kind which is frightening the Bourses, and bewildering Lord Salisbury. But if it came we might well rejoice. Russia would be worsted, her armies shattered and her limits strangely converted to her disadvantage. Poland and Bulgaria would be torn from her influence; for the first time for centuries almost there would be no Eastern Question, with the Sultan quaking in his slippers; and finally, and of most interest to us in England, there would come an end, certainly for a generation—perhaps for ever—to the periodical scare over the Afghan frontier and invasion by Russia."

British Columbia Rifle Association.

Transactions at the Annual Business Meeting.—List of Office Bearers.

(From the Victoria Times.)

A LARGE and enthusiastic meeting, composed of members of C Battery, the active militia and civilians, was held at the rooms of the Y.M.C.A. on Monday, 23rd January, the occasion being the adjourned annual meeting of the subscribers to the B. C. Rifle Association. The President, Mr. E. C. Baker, M.P., presided. A brief outline of the affairs and doings of the association for the past year was read by the Secretary, after which the Treasurer submitted the financial statement of the receipts and expenditure for general purposes and on account of the Ottawa team, showing a satisfactory balance on hand with which to begin the operations of the new year.

Several resolutions were adopted by those present, the most important emphasizing the desirability of again sending a team under the auspices of the association, to represent the province at the next meeting of the Dominion of Canada Rifle Association. This resolution was strongly supported, and every effort will be made towards the object in view. The cordial thanks of the association were also directed to be communicated to Lieut. Lang, R.E., for the very satisfactory services rendered by him as range officer at the last annual prize meeting. It was decided to continue the use of the present rifle range at Clover Point for another year, and a committee was appointed to report on range matters generally, as well as to prepare arrangements for the introduction of a new system of targets and marking.

The following council was elected to carry on the affairs of the association for the present year: Mr. E. C. Baker, M.P., Lieut.-Col. Wolfenden, Major Peters, C Battery, Major Prior, M.P., Capt. Jones, District Paymaster, Capts. Fletcher, Dorman, Scoullar, Bole and Woollacott, Lieut. P. Æ. Irving, Sergts. Winsby, Williams and Roper, and Messrs. Beckwith and A. Langley. Major Prior, M.P., and Hon. J. A. Mara, M.P., Kamloops, were elected to represent the association at the Dominion of Canada Rifle Association.

The question of the affiliation of local rifle associations in this military district with the Provincial Association was taken up and will be considered by the new council. The use of the long Snider rifle at the annual prize meetings was also the subject of some discussion, but no definite conclusion was arrived at.

After a few appropriate remarks from the Chairman the meeting adjourned.

A meeting of the newly elected council was then held, when the following office bearers were elected: President, Mr. E. C. Baker, M.P., re-elected; vice-presidents, Lieut.-Col. Wolfenden, re-elected, and Capt. Bole, M.P.P., of New Westminster; secretary, Capt. Fletcher, re-elected; treasurer, Capt. Dorman, re-elected; auditor, Capt. Shears.

It was unanimously resolved that His Honour the Lieut.-Governor be asked to be patron of the association, and the following vice-patrons: Hon. R. Dunsmuir, the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, Lieut.-Col. Baker, Kootenay; the Mayor of Victoria and R. P. Rithet, Esq.

The Revised Infantry Sword Exercise.

IN view of the general order recently issued directing that in future officers of all infantry regiments will carry their swords in the same manner as laid down for cavalry officers, we have been requested to publish the new detail in the MILITIA GAZETTE. It is as follows:—

Draw Swords.—Take hold of the scabbard of the sword, with the left hand below the hilt, which should be raised as high as the hip, then bring the right hand smartly across the body, grasping the hilt, and turning it at the same time to the rear, raise the hand the height of the elbow, the arm being close to the body.

Two.—Draw the sword from the scabbard, the edge being to the rear, and lower the hand until the upper part of the hilt is opposite the mouth, the blade perpendicular, edge to the left, elbow close to the body, which forms the position of "recover swords."

Three.—Bring the hand smartly down until the hand is in front of the elbow and little finger in line with it, the elbow close to the body, blade perpendicular, edge to the front, which forms the position of "carry swords"; the left hand resumes the position of "attention" directly the sword is drawn.

Slope Swords.—Relax the grasp of the last three fingers, and, without disturbing the position of the hand, allow the back of the sword to fall lightly on the shoulder, midway between the neck and point of the shoulder.

Stand at Ease.—Keeping the sword at the "slope" draw back the right foot six inches and bend the left knee.

Return Swords.—Carry the hilt to the hollow of the left shoulder (the left hand as before raising the scabbard) with the blade perpendicular, and the back of the hand to the front, then by a quick turn of the wrist drop the point into the scabbard, turning the edge to the rear until the hand and elbow are in line with each other square across the body.

On the march (except when on the passing line in marching past) or when manœuvring, the sword is to be at the "slope" both on foot and mounted. When the sword is at the "carry" mounted, the position is with the hilt resting on the right thigh, the blade perpendicular, the wrist rounded so as to incline the edge slightly to the left, the grasp of the lower fingers slightly relaxed, the little finger in rear of the hilt.

Military Equipment.

(Admiralty and Horse Guards Gazette.)

IN our recent remarks upon military dress the conclusion at which we arrived was that it was impossible to reconcile the hopelessly conflicting conditions of parade or dress and utility for campaigning. As regards the soldier's equipment, the question is even more difficult and complicated. The old knapsack, with its arm-cutting straps and chest-impeding pressure, has long passed away from us, though it still survives on the Continent. It has given place to the valise, which latter is announced to be far from perfect, and other patterns are proposed, brought forward for trial, and there remain. The fact is that the whole question is in a transition state, and is likely to remain so for some time.

A much broader issue is to be decided than that of merely which form of equipment is the best, and that is whether the soldier will be

required to carry any kit or equipment at all. Two or three things point towards this possibility. What is the one great feature and desideratum of modern war? In one word it is pace. In the early part of this century operations in the field were conducted with the utmost deliberation. Troops laden like pack animals with ponderous muskets, ill-confrived and injurious knapsacks, heavy and spongy great coats, not to mention a blanket and a few other items—these men marched as a rule deliberately, fought deliberately, and, in fact, did everything in a slow, precise, and orthodox manner. When winter arrived the opposing forces retired by mutual consent into what were known as winter quarters, where they remained until warm weather enabled them to emerge and recommence hostilities, after the usual leisurely fashion. Now we have changed all that, and to some purpose too. In 1866 six short weeks sufficed to carry the Prussian troops from Berlin to Vienna, and to prostrate the Austrian Empire. In 1870 the war broke out in July, and, although it lasted six months, the events compressed into that period were such as in the beginning of this century would have required ten years to accomplish. In fact, when war breaks out now the campaign is carried on regardless of summer heat or winter cold until some result is arrived at. Prince Bismarck told his countrymen in a recent speech that the last war would be mere child's play compared to the next one; and as pace was the great characteristic of the last war, we may assume that the pace will be even more severe in the next one. We hold it to be an impossibility for Infantry to perform that which will be expected of them in future if they are to be loaded as they have hitherto been.

Another consideration also presents itself, and one to which we drew attention some time back; that is the increasing quantity of ammunition which is to be carried on the persons of the men. The problem that the next war will present for solution is—How are the Infantry to keep up the pace which is ever increasing, to carry the old marching-order kit, and also the hundred and more rounds of ammunition that are now declared to be absolutely indispensable? The answer is obvious. To do all three is a manifest impossibility. Which, then, must give way? The pace must be kept up at all hazards, and we suppose that it will be ruled that the hundred rounds of ammunition must be carried, although we have taken the liberty in these columns of denying the necessity of it. On these assumptions, then, the kit proper must be discarded, and therefore we hope that our military authorities will await the results of the next war on the Continent before committing themselves and the nation to any expense in the matter.

We cannot see any way out of the difficulty at present. It is useless to propose that the soldiers' kits should be carried for them. No system of transport could cope with the difficulty, for as it is the enormous mass of guns, carriages and vehicles of every description will more than fill every available road, and the experience of war has demonstrated conclusively that when once the soldier and his pack are separated during a campaign, they never meet again. It remains, therefore, to be seen by the light of the next war what the Infantry soldier can carry and what he cannot carry. That the next war will be marked by some new departure in this question there can be hardly a doubt. What direction it will take is hard to say at present. Meanwhile we are in the comfortable position of being able to wait for the experience of others, as we are now doing in the magazine rifle question. In all matters appertaining to naval reform we are expected to lead the way, and we do. In matters military we can afford to wait.

Army Society in San Francisco.

"SAN Francisco Society" is the title of a pamphlet of forty-two pages by Mr. Watson, in which many phases of life are discussed. Under the head of "Army and Navy" he says:

"The Army set is almost as exclusive as the foreign circles, and among themselves the Army people have a great deal of quiet enjoyment, which few outsiders are admitted to. Among Army ladies conspicuous for their hospitality are Mrs. Bingham, Mrs. Cochran, Mrs. Shafter, Mrs. St. John Greble, Mrs. Howard, Mrs. Scott, Mrs. Russell, and Mrs. Best.

"For the Army man what can be said? There is a charm about brass buttons that, were the wearer as thick-headed as a ploughboy or as brainless as the renowned Tin God, would still make him the idol of the maiden and the despair of the ambitious mother.

"We are fortunate in our young soldiers. They are most of them good looking and a well-bred set of fellows, and not half so badly spoiled as they have a right to be. Then it must be remembered that socially they are invaluable. Where would society have men for afternoon teas, for morning walks, for its best german leaders, were it not that a generous Government has supplied these available youths? Of the present set, there are three so popular that were the average society girl asked to play in the old-fashioned game of forfeits, she would bow to the

prettiest (Lieut. Mott), kneel to the wittiest (Lieut. Bean), and kiss the one she loved best (?)—well, that would be a tie between Lieut. Towers and Lieut. Sturgis.

"The courteous and accomplished post commander at Black Point, Major John A. Darling, has a firmly-established position in the regard of society. The commander-in-chief, General O. O. Howard, is so well and so highly known, it seems needless to speak of him, and Colonel Shafter's genial hospitality has made him most popular.

"The Navy men suffer here from lack of opportunities, although one very fascinating representative, the best dancer in the cotillions, flits down from Mare Island now and then. He is tall and he is fair, and as an enthusiastic admirer once said to me, 'Most courteous and gentle of all who sate in hall among dames.' This fortunate gentleman is named Niblack. It must be confessed that society goes rather a mad gait when the booming salute from the fort announces the arrival of a man-of-war. (But I must correct myself—the United States is now too poor to afford the powder, and it is the man-of-war which announces its own arrival). Stern and hard experiences of partings, however, have taught the maid of many seasons to only play at love with these soldiers of the sea; and ships do not nowadays sail away leaving broken hearts behind."

"Remember, Boys, I Led You."

An Incident of the North-West Rebellion of 1885.

BY THOMAS KELLY.

WHERE dark Saskatchewan's rushing tide
By Batoche strand is wildly welling,
Rebellion's flag is fluttering wide,
In rifle pits are rebels dwelling;
But now have come the soldiers true,
To free, to save, protect who need them,
With hearts resolved to die or do,
With gallant men to guide and lead them.

Impatient for the coming charge
Brave French and scouts are ready,
Glitter their weapons bright and large,
Their hands, their hearts are steady.
The order comes—with dashing burst
Rush French's scouts the quickest,
With death-defying daring first
Whery fly the missiles thickest.

Down the ravine, death's open door,
Through bush, through smoke and slippery mire,
Unflinching face the dread outpour,
"Despising danger, death and fire":
Through water, barricade, pitfall,
Through fiery torrent fled them,
While first and foremost of them all
Brave, noble French still led them!

'Mid pealing shouts of victory,
The vanquished rebels quickly fly,
Set now are Riel's captives free,
While death, unyielding, lingers nigh.
The hero falls!—what does he say?
(Canada, tears, hot and bitter, shed you!)
While fast his heart's blood ebbs away,
"Remember, boys, I led you."

While glows a spark of patriot fire,
Long as life's bloom will warm us,
While treason's deeds awake our ire,
While noble actions charm us;
While honour, valour, courage, truth,
Delight the poets and sages,
Thy name, brave French, will bloom as youth,
Undimmed by future ages.

Should ever foes from distant lands,
Dear Canada, thy shores invade,
And ever sons' rebellious hands
Be raised to give unholy aid;
To punish mete such wicked clan,
Which to the dust would tread us,
Oh give us such another man,
Another French to lead us!

The expenditure for the German Army, as estimated in the Budget which has been submitted to the Reichstag, amounts to 362,465,016 marks, including non-recurring items to the amount of 77,267,954 marks, and also a sum of 21,000,000 marks for completing the German strategical railway system.

A statement to the effect that the Mannlicher rifle has been selected for re-arming the Belgian infantry, will be probably received with as much surprise as it has been by the Liege gun trade. The factories and foundries of the Belgian Birmingham have been usually kept going by orders for armaments from foreign states, and notably from Austria-Hungary, upon designs furnished at Liege itself. The known defects of the Mannlicher are to be remedied by the inventor in the weapon intended for the *braves Belges*, but the same calibre of 8 millimetres will be adhered to in the new model.

Prizes have been offered by Gen. Ferron for the best pattern of cavalry saddle, applicable to all the mounted arms of the line. The competitions are to be sent to the inspecting committee at Paris before the 1st January, 1888. Premiums, in five classes to the amount of 10,000 frs. will be granted, severally, of 5,000 frs., 2,000 frs., 1,000 frs., and of 500 frs., for the four best designs in order of merit. The technical section of the French Cavalry Commission has also definitely approved of the cavalry sword or sabre being in future attached to the saddle, in lieu of being slung from the trooper's waist-belt. A V-shaped sling, nearly a foot in drop, is buckled at the two upper ends, beneath the left croup of the saddle, and a swivel at the lower point takes the single ring on the sheath about 3 inches from the hilt. There is less movement of the weapon when at trot or gallop, but the contrivance we have noticed under essay has certainly the disadvantage of singularly distorting the figures of the many under-sized French horsemen in obeying the order to "Draw!"

GOSSIP OF THE MILITIA.

Government Grants to the Artillery and Riflemen Contrasted.

The Cavalry reviewed on paper—A mysterious disease at the St. Johns Infantry School—Banquet to the Minister of Militia—Proposed Holiday making by Montreal Corps—The G. G. F. G. Snow-Shoe Races—Military dinner at Government House.

ON Saturday evening last the Minister of Militia, Sir Adolphe Caron, was entertained at a banquet given in his honour at the Academy of Music, Quebec. The demonstration is said to have been the most imposing of its kind at Quebec since the banquet to Sir John Macdonald in 1878. There were nearly five hundred persons present, including the leaders in political, business and social circles. The Premier was amongst the guests, the other members of the Dominion Cabinet being Sir Hector Langevin, Hon. John Costigan and Hon. Thos White.

Handsome medals are being prepared as prizes for the annual races of the Guards' Snowshoe Club, to take place on Parliament Square, Ottawa, on the 25th inst.

The *Star* says that "there is a very general feeling abroad that the organization of the militia will occupy a good deal of the attention of the House of Commons at the approaching session."

A military concert takes place at Peterborough on Tuesday evening next, under the patronage of Lieut.-Col. J. Z. Rogers and officers of the 57th battalion. A very elaborate and attractive programme has been prepared.

The Fifth Royal Scots of Montreal are reported to contemplate taking a trip to London, Ont., next summer. The Victoria Rifles and Sixth Fusiliers are said to be also likely to take a trip out of the city during the year.

On Monday evening, 13th inst., the annual dinner to the officers of the headquarters and district staff was given at Rideau Hall. The band of the 43rd Rifles furnished music for the occasion, and earned for Bandmaster Greenfield congratulations from His Excellency the Governor-General, as well as from many of the guests.

The first annual ball of D Company, 54th Battalion, was held at the River View Hotel, Windsor Mills, on the 31st January. Thirty-five couples were present, and all enjoyed a delightful evening, thanks to the excellent arrangements of Capt. Stevens, Lt. Healy; and Privates Hebert, Morey and Henderson. Eighteen pieces of the 54th Battalion brass band rendered sweet music at intervals during the evening. The 54th deserve congratulation on their fine appearance and high musical talent.

The officers and men of the Montreal Troop of Cavalry gave an "At Home" on Friday evening last, at the Athletic Club House. The reception committee was in charge of Capt. McArthur, and the floor committee in charge of Quartermaster McBride. Amongst those present were Mr. and Mrs. D. A. Lockerby, Miss Lockerby, Mrs. James and Miss McArthur, Mr. Alex. McArthur, Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Cooper, Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Brodie, Mr. Colquhoun, Cornwall; Mr. Wm. McMaster, Captain and Mrs. C. Clapham, Dr. A. L. Smith, Lieut. Ogilvie, M.G.A., and others.

There is a considerable amount of sickness among the members of B company, I. S. C., at St. Johns. There are at present twelve men in the barrack hospital and as many more are on the sick lists. Four of the cases in hospital are typhoid fever, but most of the sickness is due to dysentery and diarrhoea. These diseases are prevalent throughout the entire district. At first this was ascribed to the water, but people living back from the Richelieu suffer as much as those who draw their supply from the river, and consequently the water cannot be the cause. Dr. F. W. Campbell, Surgeon-Major of B company, is at present investigating the matter, and hopes to be able to obtain some satisfactory explanation for so much sickness. Several of the men in attendance at the military school who have been unwell have been sent home.—*Star*.

Toronto.

THE annual ball of the York Rangers, which was held at Willis' Rooms, Aurora, on the 10th instant, was a great success. The floor was very good; the decorations, consisting of flags, stars made of bayonets, cleaning rods, etc., were excellent; the supper likewise. Col. and Mrs. Wayling received the regiment's guests in the drawing room. The 12th officers were in force. Amongst others present were Col. O'Brien, of the "Simcoe Foresters"; Col. Tyrwhitt, of the 36th; Col. Gray, Brigade-Major; Wm. Mulock, M.P.; Capts. Mutton and Bennett, and Messrs. Lee, McLeod, Johnson and Peuchen, of the "Queen's Own." Thanks are due to the stewards, Messrs. J. K. Leslie, R. W. Hilary, Jas. Wayling, J. A. Wallace and Bentley.

The staff-sergeants and sergeants of the Queen's Own hold their fifth annual dinner at their mess room on Friday, the 17th instant.

FRAGMENTS FROM THE ARTILLERYMEN'S MEETING.

I picked up a few fragments of broken shells at the Artillery Association meeting. One was what sums of money the different provincial rifle associations receive from the federal government. Here they are:—

Ontario Rifle Association.....	\$1,800
Quebec.....	1,700
New Brunswick.....	1,300
Nova Scotia.....	1,500
Manitoba.....	500
British Columbia.....	500
Prince Edward Island.....	500

Total.....\$ 7,800

The Dominion Rifle Association gets..... 10,000

Total grants to Dominion and Provincial Ass'ns.....\$17,800

Grant to Dominion Artillery Association.....\$ 900

Another fragment was, why don't the Dominion and provincial associations make MILITIA GAZETTE their official organ?

Another was that the Dominion and Ontario Artillery Associations seem to be playing hide-and-seek with one another. Both associations have appointed committees to find a central range east of Toronto—but the thing doesn't go further.

Another was, if a rifle association receives \$200 per annum; why shouldn't the Ontario Artillery Association also receive a grant from the Government. I find that the Government grants to rifle associations (names not given): 20 at \$25, 27 at \$50, 48 at \$75, 1 at \$150 and 1 at \$200.

I read the contribution of "Militiaman" with great pleasure. Perhaps he will tell us what sort of a place Louisburg is now—that is from a military point of view.

SOME FACTS ABOUT THE CAVALRY.

The cavalry is the last existing branch remaining to be noticed. On referring to the annual reports you will notice that many remarks which might have been made are conspicuous by their absence. Chiefly, I presume, because the D.A.G's, being infantry men, and not so intimately acquainted with the requirements of that arm, do not bother much about what the cavalry is doing in the way of drill, etc.

However I am not surprised at the D.A.G's, for we are told that the captains do not appear to be well up in their work, and as a rule, the officers and men care very little for their appearance as to smartness, etc."

I am tired of hearing the remark that "the cavalry are the eyes, the ears, the feelers and the feeders of an army." The General depends upon them for his information, the troops for the safe arrival of their provisions, the camp for its security. Our cavalry learn their advanced and rear guard duties, duties of outposts, reconnoitring parties, etc., by nine days' drill at a camp once in every two years and some in six days at their headquarters. They learn the things most essential for active service by cleaning (?) up a gaudy uniform, or by wasting time learning how to march past. Their musketry practice I have omitted purposely for this reason: One corps is reported as "being in good order and very efficient." "Very efficient," like an ulster, will cover any number of holes and patches. During the North-West rebellion, this corps had their Snider carbines exchanged for the Winchester, but they have had no practice since their return, owing to a want of ammunition which has been asked for time and time again. Still this corps, which has not done rifle practice, is returned as being "very efficient."

If cavalry are the ears of an army, our army must have devilish big ones, for they (the cavalry) are distinguishable at a long distance. Cavalry out feeling for information should not be seen; the darker they keep themselves the better; yet, practically, we dress them up to be very conspicuous.

One troop, we are informed, "is a very useful troop," but "sword exercise was not attempted" except by some of the older soldiers; "their drill, however, both mounted and dismounted, was very fair," and I will add for the D.A.G's information that 76 per cent. of the men who fired were third class shots. However, I am glad to read that "outpost duties were intelligently performed." LINCH-PIN.

Correspondence.

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

CANADIAN ARTILLERY EFFICIENCY—HONOUR TO WHOM HONOUR IS DUE.

To the Editor of the Canadian Militia Gazette:

SIR,—It is customary when one is out of harness for one's services to be forgotten by those who have been served. Feeling this to be the case I was somewhat gratified to find that the General commanding, in his article in *Colburn's Magazine* on the efficiency of the Canadian field artillery, did not forget to mention the gallant officer who perhaps has worked the hardest to bring it about.

General Strange during the ten years he was associated with the Gunnery Schools worked unceasingly for the advancement and efficiency of the artillery; his labours on the parade ground during the day and in the lecture room in the evening were repeatedly extended late into the night. The annual drill of the field batteries is due to his recommendation. When the danger arose of sacrificing the efficiency of the force by the penny wise and pound foolish policy which still exists of trying to maintain 40,000 men on a sum not sufficient for 10,000, of two evils he chose the least, preferring that the number of horses should be reduced from the effective to barely sufficient to keep it in motion to having its existence threatened by its drilling every other year.

What would have been the position of the Field Artillery now had they been treated like their brethren of the garrison? They would have travelled the same road—to inefficiency and dismemberment. GUDGEON.

THE APPARENTLY INJURED ARE "IN STATU QUO."

To the Editor of the Canadian Militia Gazette:

SIR,—I notice that you congratulate the Trumpet Majors of the Permanent Corps on their receiving the rank of sergeant and 75 cents a day by the last order. Another Ottawa paper follows in the same strain. If you had looked into the matter more closely you would notice why it is that the future looks blue for the n.c.o., instead of so cheerful as you remark in the GAZETTE. Always since there has been a permanent force the trumpet majors have ranked as staff-sergeants and received \$1.00 per day like others of their rank. Possibly you can tell us why both the pay and standing has been reduced, and suggest some way by which the order can be changed so as to prevent the loss of these valuable men who certainly will not remain under the new system. F. O.

[NOTE—The order in question did not refer to the Permanent Corps. Though an error in the *Canada Gazette* made it appear to do so, this error was discovered before the Militia General Orders were reprinted in the MILITIA GAZETTE, and if our correspondent will look again he will observe that it appears in our paper as having reference to the Active Militia only, and that our comment upon the changed position of the n.c.o. affected was strictly correct.—ED.]

John, aged 4, witnessed a military drill on Boston common. One of the officers rode a horse which was very unruly, and in some of his antics nearly threw his rider, whereupon John exclaimed excitedly, "Mamma, mamma, Mr. Fissell's horse don't fit him."—*Youth's Companion*.

"My dear," says Col. Coates of First Avenue, "I am very fond of pies, but I can never tell your cherry pies from your currant pies without testing them."

"I'll fix that," said Mrs. Coates, "I'll have the cook mark them."

The next day when the dessert came on, Mrs. Coates said in triumph, as she pointed to two pies. "Now you can tell the currant from the cherry; I've had this one marked 'T. C.', 'tis currant, and that one marked 'T.C.', 'tain't currant."

Modern Tactics.

(By Capt. H. R. Gall—From Illustrated Naval and Military Magazine.)

(Continued from Page 245.)

PIQUETS, as a general rule, should not provide sentries for more than 800 yards of front, on account of the fatigue entailed in visiting them.

The distance intervening between sentries must entirely depend upon the nature of the country; but no more sentries should be posted than are required to command a clear view of all approaches.

The sentries posted, the piquets, supports, and reserves take up their respective positions.

Visiting Patrols.—With young or untried troops, and also in bad weather, sentries are visited hourly, and in their rounds the visiting patrols include the right sentry post of the piquet next on the left, thus constantly establishing lateral communication throughout the entire chain of observation. If a piquet has a front of 800 yards, this duty entails about 25 miles walking, which gives about 12 miles walking to each relief.

Reconnoitring Patrols.—In addition to sentries who are stationary, experience directs that reconnoitring patrols are a necessary precaution, and small parties are sent beyond the sentry line for a distance not exceeding three-quarters of a mile to inspect dangerous places such as woods, ravines, farms, &c., which from their vicinity might afford rallying-points for an enemy to collect on, prior to a sudden rush on a portion of the outpost line.

Piquets should not, as a rule, be farther than a quarter of a mile from their sentries, and should be near enough to afford mutual support to each other (*i. e.* when extended they should be able to retire on their supports under cover of each other's rifle-fire).

It sometimes, in fact frequently, happens, that owing to the accidents of ground, the piquet line is the best line of the defence. In this case supports reinforce their piquets when seriously attacked; but under ordinary circumstances piquets, having covered the retirement of their sentries and reconnoitring patrols, retire fighting on their supports, the latter in the meantime having extended.

Piquets must be careful in retiring to clear the flanks of their supports extended, and then the combined piquets and supports extended in one general line retire on the reserves or position, taking care not to expose a flank or close in towards the centre.

They should retire straight back until they cloud the fire from the position, or receive orders to clear the front, when they should make for the flanks with all possible dispatch.

Supports are posted about a mile in the rear of their piquets; their mission is to support them either actively or passively according to instructions received, and the general line of resistance indicated by the commander of the outposts.

Reserves, if deemed necessary at all, usually consist of about one-third of the force employed on outpost duty.

Their mission is (1) to reinforce the supports and piquets if hard pressed, and unable to offer the required amount of resistance; (2) as compact bodies of fresh troops well in hand, to afford rallying-points for those in front, and at all times connect them with the position they are covering. In exceptional circumstances—if, for instance, a flank is exposed, and a portion of the piquets and supports are in imminent danger of being cut off—a portion of the reserves may make a counter attack. Reserves are usually posted in a central position, but may often be divided with advantage.

Guns often find a place in the outpost line, and are posted to command approaches such as bridges and main roads; care must be taken to provide them with ample means and protection from surprise, especially at night.

Some positions, from their nature, do not require outposts at all in their generally accepted form. Such, for instance, was Plevna, a town surrounded on three sides by heights, and on the fourth side by a river. The defenders at Plevna occupied these heights with their fighting line, and thus did away with any necessity for outposts, although they pushed forward their defences down the slopes towards the enemy; these entrenchments were manned by troops composing the main army, and were under the direct control of the commander-in-chief.

In an open country by day, cavalry furnish the outposts; but if liable to be attacked, infantry should be ready to turn out and occupy an inner line on the shortest notice.

If a river line has to be watched by outposts, the piquets should be posted in rear of the bridges with just enough sentries pushed across to give ample warning of the enemy's approach (on the principle that all defiles should be defended in rear unless liable to be turned).

Three kinds of Woods that may come into the Sentry-line.

I. The small wood whose "outer" edge is within from two to three hundred yards of the general line of sentries.

In this case the sentries are either advanced or withdrawn to occupy its outer edge, and their piquets are brought into the wood and posted near them.

So favourable an opportunity as that offered by defending the outside edge of a wood for a certain time, against an enemy advancing over the open, should never be lost, provided the general retirement of the whole of the outpost line is not thrown out by a too prolonged resistance.

II. The wood partly in and partly beyond the general sentry-line.

In this case advantage should be taken of any natural clearing, such as a stream, ravine or path running through it more or less in conformity with the general sentry-line of the outposts; the sentries posted along the near side of it; but they must not be advanced beyond two or three hundred yards to seek such a position, or they become isolated and liable to be out-flanked.

If no natural defensive line exists, a clearing of some sort must be made to conform with the general line of sentries. The sentries posted along the near side, and their piquets, as in No 1, brought close up to them, and the portion of wood stretching beyond constantly searched by reconnoitring patrols.

If the enemy is active, reconnoitring patrol should be sent into the wood from the supports as well as the piquets.

III. The wood whose "inner" edge is more than four hundred yards from the general sentry-line.

Such a wood must either be held by a strong detached party (at all times a dangerous expedient) or the sentry-line advanced and posted about 300 yards from the near side. In this case sentries and piquets are posted together and entrenched, and the near side or inner edge of the wood entangled by cutting down the trees in order to delay the enemy issuing from it under the fire of the piquets entrenched outside it. This kind of wood is very dangerous, and frequent patrols must be sent with it from the piquets and the supports, the former penetrating a considerable distance.

Method of Instructing a Battalion in Outposts.

"MY DEAR GALL.—The regimental training in outpost duty, which I mentioned to you, was carried out somewhat as follows:—

"A scheme were drawn up and a defensive position for a considerable force chosen outside the cantonment. The whereabouts and extent of this position was denoted by flags. The regiment was required to cover its front and flanks with a chain of outposts.

"The ground was reconnoitred a day or two before, and a general line of front which would give the best *line of observation* for the purpose was chosen.

"There were also chosen, one, two, or three successive *lines of resistance*; as continuous as was possible, having due regard to the capabilities for defence afforded by the ground.

"Four companies were detailed to occupy the front line, and four companies were kept in reserve. The defence was divided into sections, and officers commanding companies were made thoroughly acquainted with the general arrangement of the whole scheme: of the extent of front to be watched and defended; of that portion of it especially allotted to them; of the most convenient routes for them to reach their positions; of the nature and whereabouts of the successive *lines of resistance* chosen; and of the position of the reserve.

"The *reserve* was, as a rule, kept in two bodies, rather to the flanks of the general line of defence, and near the roads leading to them sheltered itself; but on ground whence the commander of each double company could watch the action of the outpost line in his front.

"Generally speaking, it was intended that each double company should be the reserve of the two companies in its front.

"*Lines of retreat* up nullahs and deep re-entrants were carefully chosen, so that when resistance on the part of the outposts was no longer required, the front of the main position might be rapidly cleared.

"The detail of placing sentries, piquets, and supports in the front line was left to officers commanding companies.

"The country being generally open, and the *line of observation* a commanding one, but few sentries were, as a rule, required, and the general arrangement was, as far as I remember, that companies were pretty evenly divided—one-half company furnishing the sentries and the piquets, the other half company in support occupying the *first line of resistance* chosen.

"All the arrangements were, of course under the supervision of the officer commanding the outposts, viz. the C. O. of the Regiment, and the way in which this was exercised, and the whole thing tested, was as follows:—

"The four companies for the front line paraded and marched independently to their respective positions, under their own officers. The half battalion, in reserve, parading somewhat later, and being marched to its position in one body. On arrival on the ground, it was sometimes kept together and sometimes as I have before mentioned—divided into double companies, and placed somewhat to the flanks.

"Shortly after daybreak, when the sentries, piquets, &c., had been posted, the C. O. inspected their position, criticising, and ordering any alterations he thought advisable.

"At a fixed time the fight commenced. The enemy was represented by about half a dozen N. C. officers or men previously trained for the work, with white flags, as in working with a marked enemy at Aldershot.

"They were directed by an officer specially selected, who was virtually an umpire, for it was left to him to decide as to the time during which his advance would be checked by the resistance offered. This would, of course, vary, with the falling back of the sentries on the piquets, and these on the supports, &c., with the natural strength, &c., of the successive *lines of resistance*. It was usually from five to ten minutes, but the rule was that, while the flags halted, the outposts held their ground; the advance of the flags was the signal for them to retire.

(To be continued.)

Queries and Replies.

RELATIVE SENIORITY OF PERMANENT CORPS N.C.O.

Q. A dispute has arisen concerning the relative seniority of the n.c. officers of the I. S. Corps. Will you therefore kindly oblige me by stating whether or not the sergeant instructors are senior to the colour-sergeants.
A MILITIAMAN.
Fredericton, N. B., 10th February, 1888.

A. The sergeant instructors in the Infantry School Corps are staff-sergeants, and as such are senior to our so-called colour-sergeants, who rank only as company sergeants. In the Imperial service, however, the colour-sergeants are senior to all sergeant instructors not warrant officers.

APPOINTMENTS TO COMMISSIONS.

Q. (1) What right has the commanding officer of a district to refuse promotion to a man who served faithfully in the ranks for years, and was recommended by his captain, and unanimously chosen by his company as its 1st lieutenant, while a man who had obtained his discharge from a different corps was appointed, the company knowing nothing of it till notice of appointment appeared in the papers?

(2) Do you think there was any justice shewn the first?

(3) If there is no chance of rising above a certain rank, say that of sergeant, what is there to stimulate a large number of the militia to study drill, or to serve at all in the ranks?

VOLUNTEER

A. (1) The officer commanding a district may refuse to recommend the appointment of any person, but he is not supposed to exercise his right in an arbitrary manner. On the other hand, no one may rightfully be appointed lieutenant in a company unless he is recommended by the captain—that is, in the case of a rural or independent company. In a city corps the officer commanding has to recommend all applicants before they can be appointed.

(2) The captain of the company practically had it in his power to see that justice was done to the first, who certainly should have been preferred if he were fitted for the position.

(3) A difficult question to answer, if the volunteer's ambition is that he should rise to the top. "Virtue is its own reward," will perhaps have too often to be his consolation.

Advice to Commanding Officers.

"So Manage as Never to Have the Laugh Against You."

IN illustrating this maxim Col. Rolt relates the following anecdote: "When stationed at Athlone in the year 1823, I one day on parade desired the captain of one of the companies to call to the front four men whose hair I had remarked upon the day before. I observed a sort of titter throughout the companies, which broke into a decided laugh when, on being directed to take off their caps, the four fellows presented four bare skulls. Thinking to have the laugh against me, they had cut their hair almost as close as if their heads had been shaved. The attempt to turn an order into ridicule is almost enough to try a commanding officer's amiability, but with a little effort I kept myself cool, for it occurred to me that if I got angry I should have the laugh against me, so instead of showing that I was annoyed I joined in the laugh, which then became loud and general. After a little I said: "Well, I am sure you are four good humoured fellows to have afforded us all so much amusement; but although I am very glad in this way to have a laugh among ourselves, yet I should not like strangers to laugh at us." I then asked the captain how long he thought it would take before the men's hair would grow sufficiently for them to appear in public. He replied, six weeks. I then said to the men, "I should be quiet distressed if your sweethearts were to see you in so unbecoming a plight, and, therefore, I am forced to order you to be confined to barracks for six weeks." The four fellows looked very silly, and I do not think that they ever again tried to turn any order of mine into ridicule.

If I was a Captain or a Colonel, I would rather be a Drum Major, and have a fur hat like a bar, and a long scepter with a gold nub on the end for to wack the enemies with and to knock their General down and take all his candy away, and his marbles and his top and everything.—*Johnny's composition in the San Francisco Examiner.*

A PRINTER REPORTER.

One day during the encampment the managing editor of the Houston (Tex.) Post found he was short a man to report part of the proceedings on the grounds. Spying the foreman of the composing room, he requested him to take notes of a company drill, and this is the way he did it:

"Promptly at ten o'clock the company marched upon the ground and was received by a burst of applause. Immediately the father of the chapel called time, and the foreman of the company began to call off by slugs. When he called out Slug 1, they unfixed bayonets, and kept on through the manual by numbers. The company was made up of numerous wrong fonts, there being a pica man alongside of a minion one, and a brevier boy alongside of a nonpareil one. In company front the line was very unevenly justified, there being a three-em space between some numbers, while between others there was a three-em quad. In platoon movements the fellow who acted as right hyphen slipped below the line, and all three proof readers commenced to mark errors. In wheeling left in circle one handful got badly squabbled, and when they went to call off a phalanx of four to send to the centre the whole form got pica and the proof-readers and copy-holders again got their work in. In marching in columns of fours another bad company error was made. Some thought they had got a price-and-a-half table off the file, while others evidently thought they had struck four columns of figures and words, and put in a period when they should only have used a comma, in making time around drill ground. When

the assistant foreman was ordered to make up a four-page form, he made a serious error, having only a pica between two pages, while between others there was four-line pica. In marching in double rank the first three lines were solid, while the remainder were leaded and double-leaded, which is not in accordance with tactics. The foreman, assistant foreman, proof-readers and copy-holder all had column rules, which some of them brandished finely. After the United States proof-readers were through marking errors the company passed out amid a storm of applause. Time, 27 minutes, 11.64 seconds."

And he drank nothing but beer, either.

SENATOR EVARTS' HUMOUR.

Hon. William M. Evarts, writes Eli Perkins, is the only man except Chauncey Depew who can be witty and not lose his dignity. Mr. Evarts sat at our table at the States yesterday.

Speaking of Mr. Evarts' farm up at Windsor, I told him I understood that he raised a large quantity of pigs for the express purpose of sending barrels of pig pork to his friends.

"Yes, I am guilty of that," said Mr. Evarts. "I've been sending Bancroft pig pork for years, and if his 'History of America' is successful it will be largely due to my pen.

Evarts says that when the Baptists came to Rhode Island they praised God and fell on their knees. Then they fell on the aborigines.

When I asked the Ex-Secretary about the early settlement of Rhode Island he said:—

"Yes, the Dutch settled Rhode Island and then the Yankees settled the Dutch."
—*Eli Perkins' Syndicate Letter.*



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

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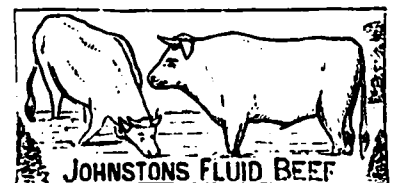
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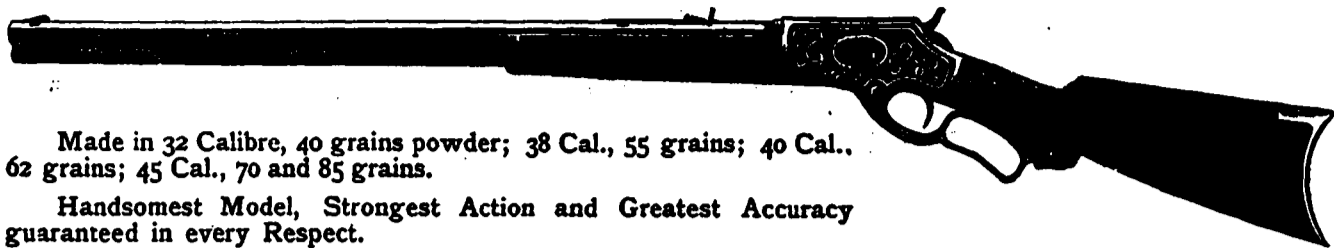


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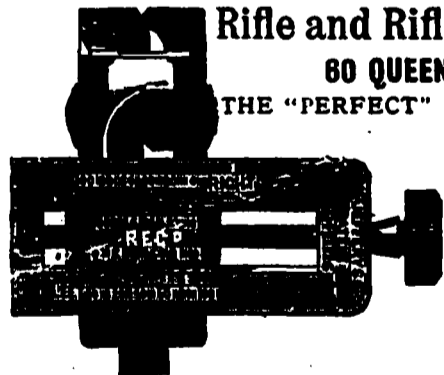
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