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REGIMENTAL NEWS.

THE RIFLE—

Notice to Subscribers.

We would remind our subscribers, a large proportion of whom are in arrears—many we are sorry to say for two or three years, that the paper cannot be carried on without money, and that the subscription fees are its main source of income. It is hard to understand why men who pay their landlords or their tradesmen promptly, as a matter of course, should equally as a matter of course leave their newspaper bills unpaid year after year. We have an abiding faith that the intentions of our subscribers, most of whom are officers, are honourable, and that they would be sorry to unwittingly embarrass the paper, but we would prefer not to have our credulity put to a test much more severe than it has withstood up to the present. Send along your fees, gentlemen, please!

Topics of the Week.

The comparative efficiency returns for field and garrison batteries, published last week, were only for those affiliating with the Dominion Rifle Association. Some of our readers have been under the impression that the comparison was intended to cover all the batteries of the Dominion, but unfortunately it does not, as several refuse to affiliate.

In this issue there will be found the prize scores of matches recently held by the Argenteuil Rifle Association—the second series for the year. We are glad to welcome the association on this their first appearance in the columns of the MILITIA GAZETTE. It is a pity that with so many good shots as the scores show amongst them the Argenteuil men have not of late years been represented at the Dominion or Quebec Provincial meetings.

It seems to be really so that the Imperial War Office have adopted the Martini magazine attachment invented by Capt. Greville Harston, of the 10th Royal Grenadiers, Toronto. There has as yet been no official notification, but the statement is semi-officially made in the *United Service Gazette* and other papers. Capt. Harston's invention has been subjected to the severest tests, and has satisfactorily passed in every instance. His Canadian friends will we are sure, be glad to hear of his success in securing its adoption by the War Office, a circumstance not only creditable to him but to the Canadian militia, concerning the interests of which he yields to none in enthusiasm. It is reversing the usual order for Great Britain to be taking pattern from Canada.

In Manitoba the militia has had to be put under arms in readiness to protect a corporation, which has offended the local government, from damage to its property by employees of that government backed by an excited, unreasoning mob. That was the position the company of Mounted Infantry found themselves in last week, and the 90th battalion were warned that they also might be expected to turn out at any moment. Fortunately the Provincial Government has at length decided to let the courts decide upon the matter, and the likelihood of a brawl has passed.

Many other reasons than those stated by "Eyes-Right," in his letter in another column, might be given for the non-attendance of non-commissioned officers or privates at the military schools for instruction there. It is undeniable that these institutions are to a very large extent made use of to supply a few months' keep to men out of work, and who find it cheaper to take a course—being meantime fed and housed by the government—than to keep themselves. These are not the class who make the best soldiers; they are not the class who are found or are wanted as non-commissioned officers in the militia. We would like to see the whole subject of the work of the schools opened up in our correspondence columns by men who have had experience there. We know that we voice the sentiment of many of these in saying that the present system is not a satisfactory one, either for officers or non-coms. desiring to qualify. It is undeniable, however, that the militia has been vastly improved by the instruction the few of its members who have attended have received at the schools, and they have given a good return for the money expended upon them. But we believe better value might be had for the expenditure.

Our old friend "Linch-pin," concerning whose long silence we have had innumerable inquiries, comes to the front once more this week, in a letter to the Editor. He criticises ably and at length the communication, appearing a few weeks ago, in which was roughly formulated a scheme for the formation of a Canadian Staff Corps. Another correspondent also contributes an interesting letter on the subject. We are sure that the author of the communicated article giving rise to this criticism will appreciate the attention it has received, and will take an early opportunity of again presenting his scheme, remodelled in accordance with the suggestions and criticisms called forth. It can at least do no harm to formulate a feasible scheme of that nature.

Statements such as that of the Ottawa Rifle Club's season's shooting are invited from such other organizations in the Dominion as would care to see them in this paper. We know the riflemen at the Capital look eagerly for this annual statement, which the club's secretary, Mr. E. D. Sutherland, goes to the trouble of preparing for us. And we suppose the riflemen of other cities take a like interest in their local club's records. If so, let the secretaries send them along.

How the British Soldier Is Taught to Shoot.

(Continued from page 547.)

(By a Military Correspondent of the "Times.")

The advance was conducted with great steadiness, the firing being by half-company volleys, the commander giving the elevation and also the object or part of the line to be aimed at. The men having been purposely served out with ammunition in unequal quantities—half having twenty rounds, one-quarter fifteen rounds, one-eighth ten rounds and one-eighth five rounds per man—every man was ordered when he had fired away all his cartridges to lie down and remain on the spot. Thus the gradually increasing number of killed and wounded were represented, and gaps, as on active service, were created, which gaps were filled by reinforcing from the rear. Towards the end of the advance fresh ammunition was served out to the firing line by men carrying packets of cartridges in haversacks. The fire discipline was admirable, and the fire was directed, now on one part, now on another, of the enemy's line, according to the judgment of the commanders, as readily as if they individually held the rifles. Great importance is to be attached to giving a suitable direction to the fire of companies, half companies, and sections, for in action soldiers are not apt to fire straight to their front, whereas by firing in an oblique direction they might do more execution. It is equally desirable sometimes to concentrate the fire of a large portion of your own front on a small portion of the enemy's front, for the moral effect produced by killing in two minutes—say twenty men along a front of thirty yards—is much greater than that of killing, say, fifty men in five minutes along a front of 100 yards. Men with range-finders followed in rear, and from time to time took the distances, but I do not believe that in an advance after getting within 1,000 yards much practical good will in action result from range-finding. After the Hythe force had advanced some distance a counter attack on its left flank was made by the enemy. This counter attack was represented by sixteen dummies, representing men showing only their heads and shoulders above a shelter trench for five seconds, and then disappearing for eight seconds by alternate fours. About sixteen or twenty men were told off to deal with this counter attack, and advancing by a series of short rushes from about 300 yards distance fired some five or six rounds each. Eight survivors were supposed to retire to a butt behind which they took shelter, but two or three more rounds and a bayonet charge disposed of them. On counting the hits there were found to be 34, which was astonishingly good shooting. Another episode occurred soon after on the extreme right of the attacking force. All of a sudden nine dummies representing Cavalry advanced by means of a tramway at about six or seven miles an hour—had not the wind been against them they would have accomplished nine miles an hour—and were fired at by about twenty men, who opened fire at about 300 yards, and kept it up till the range had been reduced to 100 yards. The horsemen were not fully visible the whole time, as there were some intervening swells of the ground. Every now and again a horse was seen to fall till at last only one dragoon remained alive. An innocent spectator might have thought that the horsemen were knocked over by the bullets, but as a matter of fact they were prostrated by ingenious trips which threw them down at stated intervals. What injury would have been inflicted on real dragoons, even had they been charging at the rate of sixteen miles an hour, can be imagined when I mention that the number of hits was 101; in fact nearly every shot told.

When the Hythe force had reached to 300 yards of the enemy's position the last reinforcements were brought up into the firing line, and a series of heavy volleys were fired. Then "cease firing" was sounded and the enemy's firing line was removed from the shelter trench which it occupied to one about 100 yards to the rear. This change having been accomplished, the Hythe force advanced to within 120 yards of the new position by rushes of half battalions, one half battalion rushing forward the instant the other half battalion fired. At 120 yards a succession of rapid volleys were delivered and bayonets were fixed by half battalions. As soon as the bayonets were fixed a round or two was fired and then, officers in front, the whole line charged. The enemy on this were supposed to betake themselves to their boats, represented by two rafts with head and shoulder dummies moored about 100 yards from the edge of the water, which was 150 yards from the captured position. The Hythe men halting here, poured a rapid independent fire on the boats for a couple of minutes, and would certainly have riddled them and slain all their occupants, provided they had not themselves been unsteadied by fire from the enemy's gunboats. Indeed, under any circumstances, few of the enemy could have escaped. This concluded the first portion of the day's performance. As to the effects of the firing the total number of rounds fired was 4,126, producing a percentage of hits of 20.21. In these hits are not included the hits on the boats. It is interesting to note that the fire from the marksmen on the hill and the party attacking in flank inflicted twenty-eight hits on a section of head and shoulders dummies, twelve on the two guns, and fourteen on the

gunners working the latter. The most noteworthy circumstance in the whole performance was the fire discipline, as an instance of which I may observe that I on several occasions saw a section, after receiving the word "present," obey the order to "unload." This seems to me the very crowning excellence of fire discipline. It is true that there were no bullets being rained into them, no shells bursting among them, that the troops consisted for the most part of officers and sergeants, and that all had gone through an eight-weeks' special training. Still, I was shown that good British soldiers could be brought to a high state of fire discipline—not to be surpassed, I am sure, in the best of foreign armies—under disturbing conditions, if sufficient care were taken in their training and more practice in field firing than is now afforded given. If it be remembered that one hundred such men as I saw are equal in destructive power to many times their number of equally brave but less skilled, less trained, and worse disciplined troops, it surely will be admitted that neither money nor pains should be spared to increase the practical value of our numerically small army.

The second portion of the day's performance consisted in executing certain portions of the field practice. Among these were the following: Individual practice at moving target. In this two butts are separated by a 4-foot wide screen, so as to give two runs of twenty-five feet in length each. Passing along a rail are two figures of men—one to each interval—which stop at the end of each run for a second or two and then return. The distance was 150 yards, and though the figures represented very small men the practice by a section of sergeants was very good. The pace at which the men moved seemed to me to be that of a very quick walk. Then there was the vanishing target which I have described above. Another exercise was an extremely practical one, consisting of a section formed up at 600 yards distance opposite to targets with figures of men painted on them—hits off the figures not to count. The party, not exceeding ten in number—on this occasion there were nine—was formed up at the "order" at 600 yards from the targets. They were then brought to the "ready," and on the word "commence" two rounds were fired. The men then ran up to 500 yards and fired two rounds, ran up to 400 yards and fired two rounds, then ran back to 500 yards and fired four more rounds, making ten in all. The time allowed is five minutes, but on this occasion the performance only took 4.1 minutes, the number of hits being 38. There was also "independent rapid firing," there being eight men firing each ten rounds at 6ft. targets with figures of men marked on them at 200 yards distance. The number of targets was ten but two were not fired at and were not struck. The numbers of hits were 10, 5, 8, 9, 2, 7, 5, 5. These results it must be remembered, were obtained by men who had been running and firing the whole afternoon.

I will now proceed to give a brief abstract of what soldiers do at their regiments. The Cavalry, Infantry, and Engineer recruit having become sufficiently advanced in his drill is put through six days of preliminary drill and practice, including lessons on the care of arms and ammunition, fourteen lessons on the principles of musketry, aiming drill, firing 20 rounds with miniature cartridges and Morris's tubes at miniature targets on a miniature range, and 20 rounds with blank cartridges. Then follows ten days' target and judging-distance practice. During the first three days they fire ten rounds each at 100, 150, and 200 yards each, the target being 6 ft. by 4 ft., with a bull's-eye 12 inches in diameter and a centre 3 feet in diameter. On the fourth day the same—third class—target, but without bull's-eye, is fired at with two rounds at 100, 150, 200, 250, and 300 yards. On the fifth day, on a 6 ft. by 4 ft. target with a head-and-shoulder figure marked on it. At this target four rounds are fired at 150 yards and two rounds at 200, 250, and 265 yards respectively. On the sixth day a second-class target is used, and the distance is increased to 300 yards. The target is 6 ft. square with a bull's-eye 2 ft., and a centre 4 ft. in diameter. Ten rounds are fired. On the seventh day the range is increased to 500 yards, but the target and the number of rounds are the same. On the eighth day ten rounds are fired at a distance of 500 yards at a first class target, which is 6 ft. by 8 ft., with figures, bull's-eyes, and centres. Hitherto each man has fired individually. He now fires as one of a squad. On the ninth day he fires in independent firing five rounds at 300 yards at a 6 ft. by 12 ft. target, and five rounds in volleys at the same distance. On the tenth day he fires at 400 yards five rounds in volleys at the same target lying down in extended order and five rounds at 500 yards in the same position at a 6 ft. by 16 ft. target. During this time also, judging-distance practice has been going on. Thus 100 rounds are fired before the soldier is allowed to quit the recruit class. In addition to this recruit training, every soldier goes through an annual course with his troop or company. This may be divided into judging distance, range practice, and field practice. The range practice is for first class shots up to 800 yards at targets at the rate of ten rounds a day, or at the discretion of the commanding officers, as many as 20 rounds a day. Fifty rounds are expended annually in individual and sectional field practice, which includes firing at figures, either full length or head and shoulders, marked

on targets, the distance being known; volleys at vanishing targets, at moving targets, running as described by me above, long range volleys in which the distances are ascertained as they would be on service, and field firing, which is carried out as a tactical operation. As fifty rounds per man would not admit of all the practices mentioned being carried out, and as at few places is suitable ground available, the Commanding Officer is directed to make a selection. Here, evidently is room for improvement. Every consideration should give way to giving the troops an opportunity of carrying out the whole of the field practice, an increased number of rounds being allowed, say at least another 100 per man, and regiments and battalions being moved into camp where no suitable range is available near barracks. It is true that 40 rounds per trained soldier is allowed in addition to the 150 above mentioned, to be expended under the direction of the General of the District in improving the shooting of the men, and especially in field firing; but that, making up a total of 190 rounds per trained soldier, is not enough, 1,300 rounds should be allowed. In addition, ammunition at a merely nominal price should be sold to soldiers, and rifle galleries 200 yards long should be constructed for private practice in fine shooting, for in action, especially in a wooded country, the object fired at will often be at very short ranges and not larger than half a man's head. This private practice should be permitted to take place with as few restrictions as possible. A man should be able to go into the gallery smoking and in his shirt sleeves, and to have his glass of beer to shoot for and consume on the spot. At present there are only a certain number of miniature ranges, and the price of the ammunition is practically prohibitive. Consequently soldiers prefer a game of skittles to shooting, and seldom enter the gallery.

These changes would involve a certain amount of additional expense, but the return in the shape of better shooting would be great. Moreover, a little saving might be effected by reducing the number of rounds fired by the Engineers and Garrison Artillery. These corps go through a modified course, it is true, the engineers firing 70 rounds up to 500 yards, and the garrison artillery 40 rounds up to 300 yards. Neither of these corps requires greater skill than will enable them to fire with fair accuracy up to 200 yards; their shooting powers, moreover, would seldom be called into requisition, and thus time would be better spent in their own special work. The recruit course of the engineers is the same as that of the infantry, which with thirty rounds of annual practice, instead of seventy, ought to suffice. The garrison artillery fire as recruits 20 rounds, and a similar number every year, instead of forty, would be ample.

As regards revolver practice, every soldier who is armed with that weapon is required to fire twelve rounds annually, but as regards officers there is no such obligation, and the weapon is not required to be worn. Surely every officer should be a proficient in the use of the weapon he carries. I am glad to be able to make the gratifying statement, founded on reliable information, that greater interest in musketry is being taken every year by both officers and men, and that the shooting of the army, as judged by the percentage of third class shots, has improved during the last year. Such being the case, it is to be regretted that, to judge from the newspaper accounts and private accounts and experience, many general officers, from the highest to the lowest, do not give musketry at their inspections the place which it deserves. The excellence of a regiment should surely be tested rather by the manner in which it performs field firing than by the precision of its march-past, the steadiness with which it executes battalion movements, or even by the intelligence with which it performs a sham fight with blank cartridges. Such, however, does not appear to be the opinion of inspecting officers.

Converted Martini Rifles.

(London Daily News, 13th October.)

Many months ago allusion was made in the *Daily News* to an invention then under trial by War Office authority for the conversion of Martini-Henry breechloaders into magazine rifles. Since then nothing has been heard of the subject, but weapons so converted have undergone repeated tests at Enfield, and the Committee on Small Arms has sent in a report which is on all essential points strongly in favour of the adoption of this ingenious device for utilising all the thousands of Martini-Henry rifles now in store. The method by which results of great practical value are likely to be obtained is described by the committee in its report as the invention of Major Harston, of the Canadian army. It consists of a simple attachment to the breech, which serves a double purpose as hopper for the reception of five cartridges and mechanical loader, whereby the ordinary Martini-Henry is converted into a rapid repeater. This attachment forms only a slight projection that cannot be described as an excrescence on the left side of the breech-block; but within it there is room, not only for

spare cartridges, but also for a set of three simple levers, whereby the whole repeating action is kept in motion. These are actuated by the ordinary breech-lever, which is a little elongated and double hinged, so that it impinges on a projecting spindle attached to one of the minor levers.

The motion is begun exactly as in the act of extracting an exploded cartridge from the Martini-Henry. When the extraction is complete the elongated lever comes in contact with the spindle, a cartridge is lifted simultaneously from its place in the hopper, gripped as between a finger and thumb by a bent lever, and by an eccentric motion pressed with irresistible force into the cartridge chamber. The breech is then closed in the ordinary way, and by the simple operation of moving the lever to and fro and pulling the trigger the shot can be discharged in rapid succession until the hopper is depleted. Then the rifle can be used as a single loader, with the great advantage that its attached levers serve the purpose of an apparatus for quick loading. All that has to be done is to throw a cartridge on to the fallen block and close the breech, when the bent lever with its peculiar grip faultlessly performs the duty that, in the use of the ordinary Martini-Henry rifles, has to be done by the finger and thumb—sometimes in rather bungling fashion. Thus one motion which involves considerable loss of time and frequent mishaps is superseded by a simple mechanical contrivance which moves with much more rapidity and with absolute precision. As a matter of fact, this lever attachment enables the marksman using his weapon as a single loader to fire twenty-four shots in exactly the same time it would take him to get off sixteen with the unconverted Martini-Henry.

When all the repeating action is put in motion much greater rapidity is of course attained. Then the improved Martini can more than hold its own even with the greatest and most improved pattern of Government magazine rifle. It is not, however, intended to supersede the latter, but only to serve the economic purpose of turning to good account all the old weapons now in store and to provide our troops with a serviceable repeater, while the best form of weapon for modern tactics is being developed. To arm all our troops with an absolutely new rifle, "lock, stock and barrel," would furnish employment for all our small arms factories during the next ten years. The conversion of half a million Martinis into repeaters might be completed in a single year without interfering with ordinary work at Enfield, and the cost of all those weapons would not amount to more than 250,000/. When converted they would form a reserve of inestimable value for our second line of defence and for native troops in India. By the substitution of a small-bore for the present Henry barrel absolute uniformity of calibre would be secured in case of the new magazine rifle being finally adopted, and this would involve an expenditure of only 1/ on each weapon.

As to the practical importance of this invention, the committee on Small Arms does not seem to entertain any doubt. Converted Martini-Henrys have been subjected to severe trials and every conceivable test since June, and with the most satisfactory results. Rifles with the lever attachment have been buried in fine sand, placed in boxes into which sand and dust have been blown as from blast furnaces; left out for nights together in the rain, and through every ordeal, and they have passed without showing any weakness in the mechanism. Only when the hopper was opened and sand poured into every crevice the levers worked a little stiffly but that was all; and though over 3,000 rounds were fired in various trials, often under the most adverse conditions, not a single cartridge jammed. All the rifles were fitted with improved extracting levers, and the cartridges were solid drawn, but even with similar advantages other magazine rifles have not passed through such severe trials with equal credit. The weak point of the new Enfield magazine rifle, as proved in recent experiments at Aldershot, was occasional failure of the spring extractor to withdraw an empty cartridge case after explosion, and consequent liability to serious derangement. While defects of this kind are being remedied we might have to wait a considerable time for a perfect weapon wherewith to arm our infantry, and it is a point of great importance therefore, to have ready at hand the means of converting our vast surplus stores of Martinis into efficient repeaters within a single year and by an expenditure comparatively insignificant. On these grounds the Small Arms Committee have, we understand, based a report strongly in favor of the immediate conversion of weapons now lying useless in store.

The recent act of the U. S. Congress, providing for an increase of pension on account of total or partial deafness, having been approved by the President, the Commissioner of Pensions gives notice to all those not pensioned for total or partial deafness, that no formal application will be required to secure said increase. It will only be necessary for such pensioners to write to the commissioner, giving name, certificate, number and service, and such cases will be settled at the earliest practicable moment.

The Ottawa Rifle Club's Season's Record.

There is probably no rifle association in the country which puts in more faithful practice or for its size turns out more crack shots than does the Ottawa Rifle Club, a review of whose scores for the competition of 1888 is given below. The season just closed has been one of the most successful in the history of the club.

NAMES.	CLASS.	SNIDER COMPETITIONS.										Snider Aggregate.	Order of Merit.	MARTINI COMPETITIONS.							Martini Aggregate.	Order of Merit.	Grand Aggregate.	Order of Merit.	Number of Spoons Won.										
		200, 400 and 500 yards. 7 Shots.			400 and 500 yards. 10 Shots.			200, 500 & 600 yds. 7 Shots.						200, 500 and 600 yds. 7 Shots.			500 and 600 yards. 10 Shots.			800 & 900 yds. 7 Shots.					Dessert, Sr.	Tea, Senior.	Tea, Junior.								
Date of Competition		5 May	2 June	22 Sept	6 Oct	19 May	16 June	20 Oct	30 June	14 July			12 May	9 June	29 Sept	26 May	23 June	21 July	13 Oct	7 July	28 July														
W. P. Anderson	Senior	86	91	92	89	78	64	78	59	.....	398	4	68	74	81	.....	70	.....	82	32	.....	339	5	737	4	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
B. Bell	Senior	73	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
R. N. Bishop	Junior	45	.....	.....	.....	42	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	33	.....	.....	.....	38	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
T. C. Boville	Jr. to 14 July.	64	61	83	79	.....	71	61	52	64	358	16	.....	66	77	66	61	56	57	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
R. H. Brown	Jr. to 2 June.	69	84	.....	87	73	.....	80	46	67	391	5	71	.....	.....	.....	71	.....	33	29	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
T. Carroll	Senior	82	76	82	85	.....	59	79	60	49	365	15	.....	75	82	74	71	74	65	41	40	356	3	721	5	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
W. E. Cooke	Junior	.....	49	76	.....	47	47	78	.....	46	297	20	67	72	50	62	66	50	.....	39	.....	306	10	603	10	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
E. Coste	Junior	55	55	70	69	67	62	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	62	39	.....	47	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
C. F. Cox	Senior	55	73	90	83	81	70	75	.....	55	384	8	73	60	.....	56	65	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
J. H. Ellis	Senior	66	75	83	87	67	72	.....	59	55	368	14	82	77	.....	75	68	73	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
J. H. Fairweather	Senior	73	79	.....	.....	77	63	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	77	71	68	46	57	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
H. H. Gray	Senior	86	85	83	91	78	72	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	83	74	85	88	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
J. D. Holbrook	Jr. to 20 Oct.	.....	.....	76	81	.....	76	81	55	64	378	11	.....	75	62	.....	.....	53	.....	24	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Dr. B. F. W. Hurdman	Junior	.....	40	46	.....	74	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	56	54	.....	28	.....	47	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
J. E. Hutcheson	Senior	72	93	80	83	86	74	.....	.....	64	400	3	.....	70	83	75	.....	83	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Dr. Geo. Hutchison	Senior	79	.....	76	84	73	.....	.....	63	.....	.....	.....	79	.....	60	68	.....	.....	48	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
W. A. Jamieson	Senior	68	72	76	89	69	80	85	59	50	389	7	60	84	81	75	81	69	39	360	2	749	2
R. P. King	Junior	64	60	.....	.....	60	.....	38	47	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	29	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
F. C. Lightfoot	Junior	55	.....	74	.....	53	59	54	.....	60	302	18	66	.....	51	59	.....	45	.....	35	.....	256	12	558	11	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
N. Macfarlane (Montreal)	Senior	.....	.....	.....	.....	71	.....	65	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	75	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
J. P. Macpherson	Senior	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	54	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	70	64	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
J. W. Marks (Montreal)	Senior	.....	.....	.....	.....	77	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	71	83	.....	79	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
J. W. McDonald	Senior	82	.....	.....	.....	58	.....	37	.....	.....	.....	.....	62	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	36	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
T. McJanet	Jr. to 26 May	64	57	79	87	72	75	82	44	52	375	12	61	70	65	76	73	70	73	42	33	326	9	701	8	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
H. McKay	Junior	68	.....	.....	.....	67	57	.....	47	.....	.....	.....	52	.....	.....	43	45	.....	35	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
R. Moodie	Junior	53	62	72	76	51	57	.....	39	295	21	47	56	65	48	51	.....	.....	20	.....	240	13	535	12	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
N. Morrison	Senior	62	.....	80	86	62	83	85	53	56	390	6	59	69	72	.....	71	86	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
J. P. Nutting	Jr. to 19 May	82	74	90	87	75	.....	79	.....	43	374	13	.....	78	58	61	69	79	37	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
H. F. Perley	Senior	78	.....	74	84	61	57	87	.....	73	383	9	69	79	78	74	62	85	.....	47	.....	363	1	746	3	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
A. Pink	Senior	.....	.....	90	90	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	60	78	.....	72	77	.....	38	45	332	8	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
H. O. Pratt	Junior	63	.....	57	72	56	.....	73	35	.....	299	19	39	66	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
S. M. Rogers	Jr. to 29 Sept.	.....	.....	79	82	.....	41	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	95	.....	.....	76	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
M. Rolfe	Senior	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
C. S. Scott	Junior	33	80	84	81	47	40	86	53	44	351	17	42	63	67	40	60	41	73	28	.....	301	11	652	9	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
A. P. Sherwood	Senior	86	96	84	70	87	68	65	421	1	79	82	77	66
T. C. Slade	Junior	49	52	72	55	51
F. W. Smith	Senior	68	66	86	71	64	70	84	68	52	379	10	79	56	65	73	74	71	.....	29	44	335	6	714	6	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
R. Stewart	Junior	43	.....	62	.....	40	.....	57	.....	.....	.....	.....	50	42	75	46	.....	58	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
E. D. Sutherland	Senior	89	76	89	90	74	81	89	.....	68	417	2	86	70	80	76	71	.....	69	30	.....	343	4	760	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
J. D. Taylor	Jr. to 9 June.	75	75	80	92	.....	84	.....	90	50	54	.....	.....	76	.....	.....	69	.....	35	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
E. Waldo	Senior	.....	.....	.....	83	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
T. Waters	Junior	68	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
J. Wright	Senior	76	90	92	89	65	80	83	.....	.....	.....	.....	70	81	87	.....	.....	.....	79	.....	.....	.....										

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.]

THE STAFF CORPS FURTHER EXAMINED.

EDITOR MILITIA GAZETTE,—In reference to an article published in the GAZETTE, advocating the formation of a "Canadian staff corps," everyone will agree that it is desirable that permanent corps officers should be the best in the world, but it cannot be said that it is the evident desire of the government that they should be so. The "communicator" of the article referred to is in error when he says that subalterns in the Imperial army are not required to handle a troop, battery, or company, as by the Queen's Regulations a subaltern who has been two years in the service is expected to be thoroughly conversant with every detail of drill, interior economy and discipline; the same is expected of militia officers.

A staff corps looks well on paper, but what is it? There is no such thing in the army in England. In India a staff corps exists, composed of army officers serving with native regiments, each arm having its own staff corps. Does your correspondent advocate permanent officers serving with militia regiments, or does he desire the establishment of half-breed regiments?

The means he proposes for "manufacturing" these staff (?) officers is rather singular. For instance, it is proposed to have in Toronto 20 cavalry, 25 artillery with *one* gun, and 80 infantry. At the present time there are 100 infantry, an infantry officer being instructed in battalion and brigade drill, having "to imagine" he has a battalion and brigade for "drill purposes." The same applies to the cavalry and artillery schools. As the different schools are for the instruction of militia officers and men of each arm, why then reduce their strength and efficiency in that arm and increase with a few men of the other arms? This might be of benefit to the permanent officers, but of no earthly use to attached militia officers. Fancy an artillery officer, attending for instruction at, say London, manœuvring with one gun. It is ludicrous. All these changes are proposed for the benefit of the permanent corps officers. Why do these officers not take advantage of what is already at their disposal, *i.e.*, a long course at Kingston? They have not heretofore shown any great desire for increased knowledge, some never having qualified in their own schools, and there is reason to suppose some would never qualify in all arms if they were combined in one school; but that, I presume, would never be required of them, but only of the "attached."

Now, if the government desire to give practical instruction in all arms combined, other than that given at the Royal Military College, let it place the cavalry school at Kingston with double its present strength, and make the battery there a field one, as I have already advocated in your paper. There would then be all arms in garrison, *viz.*: Royal Military College cadets, say 100, as infantry, a field battery of 150 with 4 guns, and cavalry 80, together with the few engineers attached at the Royal Military College. By this means both practical and theoretical knowledge could with greater efficiency and at less cost be achieved. No mention is made of engineers. A staff officer without any knowledge of military engineering would certainly be an anomaly only to be found in a "Canadian staff corps" formed on the lines of your correspondent.

I fancy this proposed staff corps will amount to about as much as the medical staff corps advocated to be formed by Surgeon General Bergin three years ago.

FORESIGHT.

THE CANADIAN STAFF CORPS.

EDITOR MILITIA GAZETTE,—Has that article in the GAZETTE no father, no mother? "Communicated"!

The first paragraph of the article there is no question about; everybody agrees or should agree with it; and in the second, the writer says he proposes to show how the present usefulness of the permanent corps, and consequently of the militia generally, could be augmented, and winds up with a table, which promises an inefficiency and an increased expenditure incommensurate with the suggested increase to the number of men.

In paragraph 3 begins the fun. It is there asserted that "subalterns in these corps are expected to handle and command a battery, regiment of cavalry or infantry, and be able to give instructions and details for the same, a thing certainly neither expected, nor obtained in the Imperial service." Never mind the Imperial service. I was not aware that this was required of permanent corps subalterns. Take, to begin with, what qualification certificate is required of a permanent corps officer. That is plain enough: "Long course certificates * * must be obtained by all subaltern officers appointed to permanent corps." (Par. 1076 R. & O. '87.) Look up what constitutes the requirements

of a long course certificate in say the cavalry school. The candidate must be in possession of a short course certificate obtained at the school. He also undergoes three months' instruction at the Royal Military College, and again a second three months at his own school. At Quebec, during his short course he has 30 days dismounted drill and 33 days mounted exercise, of which only five days is devoted to troop and squadron movements, these including escort duty, both state and baggage, etc. You will easily perceive, then, that so far as our cavalry is concerned, a permanent corps—but I was forgetting, we have not been up for our "long course" at the R. M. C. yet. There we have surveying, tactics, elementary reconnaissance—that, I have a hazy idea, I should have learnt during my "short course." Thank goodness, we are through with Kingston, and we return to Quebec, where our last three months are put in supervising shovelling snow, etc., the weather being too bad to admit of drills, etc., being carried on. I am now qualified to be a permanent corps officer. But you will say, what about handling a regiment of cavalry? A handful of horses poses for a regiment, and imagination carried your friend away about handling a regiment of cavalry.

About paragraph 4. As I remarked before, every permanent corps officer being possessed of a long course certificate, he has learned all about handling and working the three arms (some authorities say there are four) combined, on paper, at the R. M. C. The attendance at the R. M. C. is compulsory for long course officers. Is there, then, any occasion for multiplying half starved schools through the Dominion?

Paragraph 5 comes next, and with it I must take the table referred to. Why, except on the ground of expense, propose a four gun field battery at Kingston as a school, and a *one* gun battery at London. Did the writer honestly think that if an artillery officer desired to qualify he would, from free choice, attend a one gun school in preference to a four gun school? If he chose the latter, the transport would still have to be paid, the saving of which the writer places importance in, and unless these small schools are to serve as "toys for children," they would be of no advantage to the militia. On the contrary, the money wasted on them would be better devoted to augmenting the present cavalry school, not at Quebec, nor at Toronto, but at *Kingston*, as recommended by the General, others to the contrary notwithstanding.

The permanent corps also exist, a fact overlooked by the author of the "C. S. C.," for the care and protection of forts, magazines, etc. Why, then, did he not suggest the fourth arm? Engineers.

One reason why these schools could not exist is because, according to the table, at Fredericton, let us say, for sake of argument, there would be 1 commandant, 1 cavalry officer, 1 artillery officer and 2 infantry officers; 4 duties officers of three different arms. Would the infantry orderly officer visit the cavalry and artillery stables? The father of the letter complains now of the work expected of permanent corps officers, and still he virtually advocates more. He wants "not the three arms combined," but a combined mongrel instructional school staff corps.

Another point not considered by the writer is that of land to exercise his troops, including the one gun. As the schools would be occupied the greater part of the time at instructional duties, when would the permanent corps officers have an opportunity of working the three arms combined?

LINCH-PIN.

WHY THE N.C.O.'S AVOID THE SCHOOLS.

EDITOR MILITIA GAZETTE,—In reading Volunteer Officer's communication in last week's GAZETTE I notice an argument he uses in favour of the transfer of the Infantry School from St. John to Montreal, about which I will endeavour to give him some information. This, however, I do not put as an objection to the removal, which would doubtless be of quite as much benefit to the Montreal corps as he contends, but simply to state the experience of Toronto on one point, and that is the advantage (?) to the non-commissioned officers and the way they have availed themselves of it.

Since the organization of "C" School here this is the record for the n.c.o.'s:—

2nd Queen's Own Rifles qualified 1—one.
 " " " " now attending 1—one.
 10th Royal Grenadiers qualified 0—none.
 " " " " now attending 0—none.

The above figures are for n.c.o.'s. I am not counting some men who may have been attached to the "School" because they were out of employment and their charitably disposed captains or commissioned officers used their position to recommend their application to enter the school, and thereby give them three months' board at the expense of the Government. Some of these men might possibly become good and efficient n.c.o.'s, but at present I know there are none wearing the stripes in the Queen's Own, nor do I know of any in the Royal Grenadiers. The n.c.o. in the Queen's Own qualified for a special-reason, he being at

the time a colour-sergeant. The one who is now attending the school has also a special object; he also holds the rank of colour-sergeant, both men being qualified to hold that rank in their regiment, and both being considered efficient. Now, Mr. Editor, with these facts I will give my humble opinion of the reason why the n.c.o.'s of two efficient city corps do not take advantage of the chance to qualify. In the first place, the smarter and better your n.c.o. is, compared with his comrades, he will be correspondingly so in the workshop, office or store; therefore his time is more or less valuable. He has to work for his living, and however enthusiastic he may be in soldiering, and however anxious he may be to take a course at the "School," the facts stare him in the face that in the first place he has to attend for at least three months; at the end of that time he may be only able to qualify for a 2nd class, or at best a 1st, and that will be of no particular benefit to him in his regiment. He argues to himself, and quite rightly, that it is better to wait, and when he gets his commission, as we all hope to some day, he can then take a special course of three or four weeks, take a 2nd class grade "A," which will qualify him to rank as high as a captain, or if he can spare the time to take a "short course," he might by hard work take a 1st class, which would qualify him to take command of his regiment if he ever got the chance. On the other hand, if he goes in as a n.c.o. he has to work hard to take his 1st class "B," which is very little easier than a 1st class "A," and when he does get it and eventually gets a commission he can only rank as high as lieutenant, and has to attend the school again to take a 2nd class "A"—which is child's play compared with a 1st class "B"—if he aspires to ever take command of his company. If the St. John School is ever transferred to Montreal Volunteer Officer will find that the n.c.o.'s will not be any more anxious to waste their time than are their comrades in Toronto.

It is an actual fact that the greater part of the n.c.o.'s and men who attend and have attended "C" School have other reason than that for which the schools of instruction have been organized. Men have gone in and have been eventually "given the gate" that could not read or write; a great many are sadly deficient in the three R's, and the majority of them are too young for n.c.o.'s, and if careful enquiry is made it would be found that a great many are merely putting in the dull season. I refer to this time of the year and the rest of the winter season. It is a great pity that the gentlemen of ability who comprise the staff, with their very efficient drill instructors, should waste their talents and time on such poor material. Far better to do away with the grades A and B, and if a man has the ability, be he private or colonel, let him win the certificate he merits.

"EYES RIGHT."

Regimental News.

6th Fusiliers' Annual Inspection.

The inspection of the 6th took place on the Champ de Mars, Montreal, on Saturday, October 20th, at 2.30 p. m. The inspecting officer, was Lt.-Col. Houghton, D. A. G., who was accompanied by Lt.-Col. Mattice, B.M. The battalion was on the ground punctually, and when drawn up in line presented a fine appearance, having 308 of all ranks on parade, including brass drum, and five bands, Pioneers, signalling and ambulance corps. The salute having been fired, the inspecting officer made a close examination of every individual, and was satisfied with the appearance and the manner in which the accoutrements were put on. The inspection over the march past was performed, then the manual and firing exercises, under Major Mooney, and the bayonet under Major Burland, several battalion movements under Lt.-Col. Massey and the adjutant (Capt. Petigrew) were then gone through, all being well done, one of the advances in line being simply perfect. The attack drill wound up the movements, two companies extended by half companies forming their own supports, advanced and commanded volley-firing; the fighting line was reinforced and a blank line to the right thrown out, the company movements having seemingly disposed of the enemy. The battalion was reformed and the roll called, rather an unnecessary proceeding considering that there were over thirty on parade for whom no pay could be drawn.

The officers dined at the Metropolitan Club in the evening. Lt.-Cols. Houghton and Mattice and Capt. Freer being guests, also several veteran officers of the battalion. Though the 6th is now composed mainly of young soldiers, there's an amount of the old leaven still there sufficient, as the Montreal Gazette puts it, to keep up the traditions of the old corps, and that means one of the leading in the Dominion.

Brantford.

The city has adopted a by-law providing for the purchase of a site for the drill shed which the government is expected to build there shortly. The rifles worked hard to carry the by-law.

The Dufferin Rifles held their second church parade of the season on the 21st October, when they attended a 4 o'clock service in Grace

Church. There was an excellent turnout of men, the parade statement showing a total of nearly 250, with "D" Company again in the van.

The best drill of the season, with the largest attendance of men, took place last Thursday night. "D" Company was ahead with "F" a close second. The officer of the day, Capt. W. D. Jones, in the last clause of his report says, "I visited all the polling subdivisions on Monday 22nd October, and had sufficient votes polled on the Drill Shed by-law to secure the passage of the same." Non-commissioned officers' certificates were awarded as follows:—Ptes. Hart and Challen, "B" Co.; J. D. Ritchie, "D," Short and Saunders, "C," Barrager, Dorland, Hoskins, Corey and Miller, "F" Company. Sergt. J. Wood was given a nine years' good service badge.

The Field Battery Firing Contests.

List of Prize Winners in the competition of the Dominion Artillery Association.

Below will be found a complete list of the battery and individual prize winners in the 9 p.r. R. M. L. firing competitions taking place this year under the auspices of the Dominion Artillery Association. In addition to the money prizes appearing in the list, the Winnipeg battery have carried off the Oswald cup, they having the handsome lead of 36 points over the field. The Montizambert cup goes to the Gananoque battery, the third on the whole list.

AGGREGATE SCORES.				
Prize.	Battery.	Preliminary.	Final.	Total.
Cup and \$30—	Winnipeg.....	252	178	430
"	20—Montreal.....	225	169	394
"	15—Gananoque.....	211	167	378
	10—No. 1 Battery, 1st Brigade..	231	131	362

INDIVIDUAL SCORES.				
Prize.	Rank and Name.	Battery.	Time.	Score.
\$15 Bomb.	Berube.....	Quebec.....	4.57	34
10 Q.-M.-Sergt.	Thatcher.....	No. 2 Bat., 1st Brigade..	4.21	32
10 Corpl.	Stewart.....	Winnipeg.....	4.45	32
8 Q.-M.-Sergt.	Mowat.....	Montreal.....	4.15	31
8 Gr.	Kennedy.....	No. 2 Bat., 1st Brigade..	5.02	31
8 Sergt.	Johnson.....	Winnipeg.....	4.35	28
5 Sergt.	Armstrong.....	No. 1 Batt., 1st Brigade.	4.54	28
5 Sergt.	Richardson... ..	Welland.....	4.25	27
5 Gr.	Bonnell.....	Ottawa.....	4.25	27
5 Bomb.	Ness.....	Welland.....	6.00	27
4 B.-Sergt.-Major	Bertrand... ..	Quebec.....	4.50	26
4 Gr. E.	Brown.....	Montreal.....	5.05	26
4 Bomb.	Kethro.....	Newcastle.....	5.31	26
4 Gr.	Watson.....	Toronto.....	3.20	25
4 Corpl.	Braely.....	Winnipeg.....	4.55	25
3 Corpl.	Sallows.....	No. 1 Bat., 1st Brigade..	5.16	25
3 Bomb.	Hay.....	Woodstock.....	7.18½	25
3 Gr.	Johnson.....	Gananoque.....	5.00	24
3 Sergt.	Trickey.....	Gananoque.....	4.34	23
3 Sergt.	Fearnside.....	Hamilton.....	4.35	23
2 Gr.	Hayes.....	Montreal.....	4.45	23
2 Gr.	Stark.....	Montreal.....	4.10	22
2 Gr.	Gray.....	Ottawa.....	5.05	22
2 Gr.	Taylor.....	Winnipeg.....	5.10	22
2 Sergt.	McCullam.....	Newcastle.. ..	5.20	22
2 Sergt.	Campbell.....	Woodstock.....	6.00*	22
2 Gr.	Wood.....	Gananoque.....	6.00*	22
2 Q.-M.-Sergt.	Maltby.....	Newcastle.....	6.12	22
2 Gr.	Somerville.. ..	Gananoque.....	3.33	21
2 Sergt.	Capes.....	Gananoque.....	4.16†	21

* Decided by points for direction.

† Tied by Sergt.-Major Lloyd in number of points, time, direction and common shell score—tie decided by points made in preliminary practice.

The American Magazine.

In the October *American Magazine* the series of illustrated articles on "American Crack Regiments" was begun with a history of the famous Seventh of New York. In November it is the turn of the Twenty-third of Brooklyn. This regiment is said to be the pet and pride of the City of Churches, and an account of the organization should make interesting reading. The regiment has a proud war record, and the article naturally devotes much space to that period when it in no sense simply played at soldiering. Mr. John Gilmer Speed has become the editor of the *American Magazine*, which, under its new ownership, has already shown many evidences of vigour and enterprise. Mr. Speed has passed through all the grades of journalism, and was for several years managing editor of the *New York World*, before it was purchased by its present proprietor. Since then he has spent much time in foreign travel, and has also been a frequent contributor to the magazines and newspaper press. In conducting the magazine it is Mr. Speed's purpose to make it all that its name implies—an illustrated monthly, representative of American thought and life. He will have the hearty co-operation of competent and resourceful colleagues, and he therefore starts out with a bright prospect of making the magazine worthy of the success which usually follows well-directed effort.



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For further information see OFFICIAL POSTAL GUIDE.

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3rd "	50	10	—	60	"
4th "	50	15	—	65	"
5th "	50	20	—	70	"

Extra pay is allowed to a limited number of blacksmiths, carpenters and other artisans.

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

Applicants may be engaged at the office of the Comptroller of the Force, Ottawa; at the Immigration office, Winnipeg, Manitoba; or at the Headquarters of the Force, Regina, N.W.T.

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GALOPS DIVISION.

Notice to Contractors.

SEALED TENDERS addressed to the undersigned and endorsed "Tender for St. Lawrence Canals," will be received at this office until the arrival of the eastern and western mails on Tuesday, the 30th day of October instant, for the construction of two locks and the deepening and enlargement of the upper entrance of the Galops Canal.

A map of the locality, together with plans and specifications, will be ready for examination at this office and at the Lock-Keepers house Galops, on and after Tuesday, the 16th day of October instant where forms of tender may be obtained by Contractors on personal application.

In the case of firms there must be attached the actual signatures of the full name, the nature of the occupation and residence of each member of the same, and further, a bank deposit receipt for the sum of \$6,000 must accompany the tender for the works.

The respective deposit receipts—chaques will not be accepted—must be endorsed over to the Minister of Railways and Canals, and will be forfeited if the party tendering declines entering into contract for the works at the rates and on the terms stated in the offer submitted. The deposit receipts thus sent in will be returned to the respective parties whose tenders are not accepted.

This Department does not, however, bind itself to accept the lowest or any tender.

By order,
A. P. BRADLEY,
Secretary.

Department of Railways and Canals,
Ottawa, 11th October, 1888.

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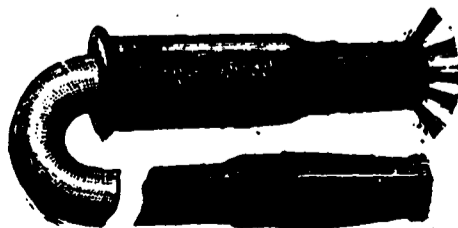
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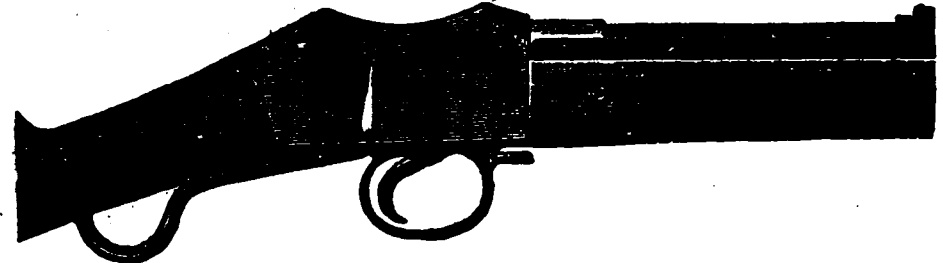
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