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Topics of the Week.

The National Defence Committee recently appointed held a meeting on Monday afternoon to discuss the method of procedure to be adopted. The meeting was held in Lieut.-General Middleton's office, in the Militia Department, and besides him there were present Major-General Cameron, of the Royal Military College, Kingston; Col. Walker Powell, Adjutant-General, and Lieut. Col. Irwin, Inspector of Artillery. Lieut. Lang, R.E., a graduate of the Royal Military College, who has been in the employ of the Imperial Government for some time past at Esquimalt, B.C., in connection with the work on the fortifications there, has been designated by the Imperial authorities as the secretary of the committee. He is expected to arrive in Ottawa very shortly, and the regular meetings will then be proceeded with.

The following from the *United Service Gazette* explains itself: "Anent a paragraph which appeared in these columns on the 3rd ult. regarding the probable vacation of the command of the Canadian militia by Lieut.-Gen. Sir F. D. Middleton, we are informed by Sir Frederick that his term of service has been extended to November 1892. We offer our congratulations both to the Canadian Government and to Sir Frederick, and are very glad to hear that there is no truth in the rumour that any difficulty has ever been experienced by the General in working with the Dominion authorities. The mere fact of their extending his period of service is sufficient contradiction of the *canard.*"

A manual of information concerning Guards of Honour, Guards, Sentries, Reliefs, Rounds and Patrols, and the diverse duties connected therewith, has just been issued by Sergt.-Major J. B. Munroe, of D Co. of the Infantry School Corps. It contains in handy form all necessary instruction concerning these duties, and will well repay reading up. One scarcely realizes all there is to be learned on the subject until he sees it compiled, as in this little book. A handy recapitulation of the rank badges of officers is appended. This is the second pocket manual Sergt.-Major Munroe has issued, and it speaks well for the success of the first—"Squad Drill Elucidated"—that a new edition, corrected according to the latest emendations in squad drill, is shortly to be published.

"Her Majesty's Army; a descriptive account of the various regiments now comprising the Queen's forces, from their first establishment to the present time," is the title of an exceedingly attractive work now

passing through the printing press. It is to be in 15 quarto parts, and the first two have now been issued. The work gives an exceedingly favourable impression, both at first appearance and upon critical examination and perusal of the contents. It is a work of art as regards the large and delightfully clear typography, and the series of coloured plates forming part of the publication. The matter is written in most interesting style, and is read all the more eagerly from the fact that the army being taken regiment by regiment, one has constantly brought before him the daring feats of present day interest side by side with the stirring military events of the long ago which have been perpetuated in history. The histories are brought down to very recent date, Wolseley's Egyptian campaign, for instance, coming in for liberal attention in the two parts issued, which deal with the cavalry. "Her Majesty's Army" is being canvassed in Canada by the well known subscription company of which Capt. John Hood of Montreal, is manager.

Shooting men will be interested in learning that the location of the "New Wimbledon" is about decided at last. The Committee of the Council of the N. R. A. have discovered that certain ground near Brookwood, close to the Guards' ranges at Pirbright, which belongs to the Government, will answer well for the purpose of the great prize meetings, if it is supplemented by a comparatively small tract of land, which will have to be purchased. The Secretary of War proposes to give the Association the free right of firing over the ground belonging to the Government. At the last meeting the Council resolved to adopt the report of the Committee in favour of the Brookwood site, subject to the land being acquirable at a reasonable price and the use of a certain common being obtainable. Brookwood lies at a considerable distance from London, but is on the main line of the South-Western Railway, and the shooting ground will be close to the railway station.

Major Mayne, R.E., of the Royal Military College Staff, is reported to have made some singularly indiscreet remarks at a meeting of the Queen's Alma Mater Society held at Kingston the other evening. According to the press reports, he "advocated the maintenance by the Canadian Government of a small permanent force of 4,000 or 5,000 men and the *entire abolition of the militia system*, which he characterized as *inefficient, incapable, and wholly inadequate in its present shape.* A small standing army would be adequate only for the preservation of peace and the maintenance of order within the Dominion. For any conflict with a foreign foe we would be dependent upon the Mother Land. Canada might have a few ships-of-war, sufficient to defend her own coast line, and thus lend England a helping hand in case the whole maternal fleet were needed in other parts of the world. Col. Cotton and Major Wilson, of "B" Battery, favoured a small standing army, but were not depreciatory in their terms towards the militia." The italics are ours. It is hard to believe that an officer holding Major Mayne's position would make use of such language, which is wholly unwarranted by the facts, and calculated to give an exceedingly bad impression abroad. That there are weaknesses in the militia is indisputable, but the weak points exist not because the system is wrong, but because

Canada has not up to the present felt disposed to expend the money necessary for the full development of this or any other system for providing adequate defence.

A rural battalion of infantry is to be established in the Province of Manitoba, consequent on the disbandment of the 91st Battalion, of Winnipeg City. Mr. S. L. Bedson, Warden of the Stoney Mountain Penitentiary, who was junior Major of the disbanded corps, will be Lieut.-Colonel commanding the new corps, which will also be styled the 91st. There is considerable military ardour in the province, and with an enthusiastic and capable officer such as Mr. Bedson would be at its head, the new battalion should have a successful career.

Major Bedson is naturally a soldier, having, we believe, first seen the light of day with the 16th (Imperial) Regiment of Foot, in which his father was a colour-sergeant. A recent act of kindness on his part has set all the newspapers going about his early career. He passed through Eastern Canada last week on his way to Ireland, whither he is escorting Morris Blake, who for twenty years has been locked up for killing a comrade in the 16th Foot when that regiment was stationed at Montreal in 1868. The occurrence took place in the Victoria Barracks, on St. Paul Street. Blake was a Private, and had had some trouble with a Sergeant Bourne. Entering the sleeping room of the barracks, he slipped a cartridge into his rifle and hastily fired at another sergeant, whom he supposed at a hasty glance to be his enemy, Bourne. He missed his mark, but the bullet struck three men who were romping on one of the cots. It passed through the arm of one man named Winters, then through the body of another, named English, and finally wounded in the leg a third, named Jamieson. English died immediately. Blake was tried by court martial and sentenced to be shot, but the decision of the court was overruled by the higher military authorities, it being ordered that he should be handed over to the Civil Government for trial. He was then sentenced to imprisonment for life, and sent to Kingston Penitentiary. Young Bedson was then a colour-sergeant in Blake's company. When he left the service he obtained the post of Warden of the Manitoba Penitentiary. He had Blake removed there from Kingston a few years ago, and lately secured a reprieve, and in order that the unfortunate man should not get into bad hands on his re-entry into the world after twenty years' exile, he volunteered to escort him home to his boyhood friends in Ireland. He has, indeed, been a friend in need to his unfortunate fellow-soldier, who was a mere boy when he committed the terrible offence for which he has suffered.

The New Wimbledon.

(Volunteer Service Gazette.)

It is, at any rate, now very likely that a site for the future prize meetings of the National Rifle Association has been found at Brookwood near the Pirbright ground which was so much talked about some years ago as the best substitute for Wimbledon. There are some questions, chiefly connected with financial considerations, to be determined, but subject to these the Council has definitely adopted the report of its Committee in favour of Brookwood. And we cannot say that any better site appears to be available. The Secretary for War is prepared to grant rights to the National Rifle Association of shooting over Government ground, which will undoubtedly help to facilitate operations, and although the journey from London is a long one, yet the proximity of the shooting ground to the railway station will to a certain extent neutralize the length of the railway journey. From the excellent sketch map which, by the kindness of the editor of the *Daily Telegraph*, we are enabled to reproduce to-day, it will be seen that the amount of ground which the association will necessarily have to acquire, that enclosed by the thick black line, is of no great extent, and ought not to be very costly. The ground on which the targets will be placed belong to the Government. There is another tract to the south west of the firing-points which is marked on the plan as "ground to be acquired," but it does not seem to us that its acquisition is absolutely essential. Even if it were built over it appears almost-impossible to believe that its inhabitants could main-

tain that any danger to their lives or property could possibly be incurred by the firing at the N.R.A. ranges as laid down on the plan. Mr. Hoey, the Clerk of the Works to the National Rifle Association, is of opinion, we believe, that only a very small amount of drainage operations will have to be undertaken in order to make the ground all that can be desired. Whether the *mirage* of which we have heard so much will make itself severely obnoxious remains of course to be proved. But it must be remembered that we shall never get an ideal site, and that it is a great deal to secure a place for the N.R.A. meetings which is not extravagantly costly, which is practicably nearly as accessible from London as Wimbledon, and which will be what has been called "neutral" as regards the ranges, and which is, so far as we understand, absolutely safe and likely to remain so. Whether it may or may not be practicable at Brookwood to set out other ranges for general use, which would not interfere with those for the N.R.A. meetings, we do not know. If it should prove practicable the association might make its Brookwood site a profitable investment; but the first thing is to provide for a sufficiency of perfectly fair "neutral" ranges for its own meetings.

The London daily papers of Thursday almost all commented on the decision of the N.R.A. council on the previous day. On the whole, the comments were harmless, though perhaps not in all cases very germane to the matter in question. In particular there seems to be a very general impression that the immediate neighbourhood of Pirbright, where the Guards shoot, and even the more distant Aldershot, will by some unexplained "Wirkung in die Ferne" impress a more military character upon the meetings at Brookwood than those at Wimbledon could boast of possessing. Of course this is a mere delusion. The Brookwood meetings will be just as much and as little military as the Wimbledon meetings are; and as for that matter, the prize meetings of the Regular army at Aldershot are. It is certainly possible to imagine a "Musketry Camp," where soldiers, regulars or auxiliaries, might be put through certain exercises in field firing and the like—for which prizes might be given; while, at the same time, all camp duties might be performed by the assembled officers and men. But no "Rifle Association," whether it is the N.R.A. or the Army Rifle Association, can attempt to carry out a programme of the sort. Such a body must mainly depend upon the attractions it offers to individual shots, and those individual shots—whether they are regulars or volunteers—will not enter for competitions if they think that they are unfairly handicapped. And those of them who are obliged to perform camp duties will consider themselves unfairly handicapped if they have to compete with men who can afford to come from London (or Birmingham or Reading—for the argument is applicable to any site)—every morning. A rifle prize meeting can never be conducted on the same lines as a prize meeting for great guns, or on the lines of an ordinary camp where drill manoeuvres and camp duties must take the first place.

It is undoubtedly very much to be regretted that the public should have been so much misled as to the requirements and objects of the National Rifle Association. The association is, as we and others have said over and over again, not a teaching body directly, but an examining body; and in order to conduct its examinations fairly, the element of chance must be as much as possible eliminated. It will always exist to some extent, otherwise the N. R. A. would have but few entries, but it is not desirable to foster it by the introduction of many competitions in which luck has the principal share. Some people who do not understand the nature of those great prize meetings which the National Rifle Association has conducted so successfully for twenty-nine years, are naturally inclined to think that if they were entrusted with the management of affairs they could evolve something much more satisfactory, at least to themselves. Of such a class, Sir Edward Sullivan, who wrote a long letter, which was honoured with leaded type in the *Morning Post* last Thursday, is a notable example. But we still incline to believe that more reasonable people will retain their faith in the good sense of the experienced men who form the Council of the National Rifle Association and that the future meetings of that body, whether they are held at Brookwood, Churn or Cannock Chase, will be as successful as those which have taken place ever since 1860 on Wimbledon Common.

A New York paper's correspondent thus cables from London: A tremendous big thing in the way of a monster gun is being made. It is to be a 200-tonner, and is being made at the Woolwich arsenal. The special machinery required to lift it upon its carriage will cost quite \$110,000. Its projectile is to weigh two tons, and when it is mounted on some point of the English coast it is expected to drop into the sea 4,000 pounds of shrapnel every five minutes to a distance of fifteen miles. This will make an invasion more than ever a thing of the future, when the English channel can be swept from the shores nearly all the way to France. If things go on at this rate there seems to be no particular reason why London and Paris should not bombard each other direct by tilting the noses of their guns sufficiently into the air.

The Naval and Military Resources of the Colonies.—V.

By Robert O'Byrne, F.R.C.S., in A. & H. G. Gazette.

Very shortly after the men were first recruited for regular service, these companies were formed into five battalions, one of which was afterwards disbanded, and the other four are now known as the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th regiments of Madras Native Infantry. Other battalions were raised within the next six or seven years, and in 1765 the establishment stood at a total of ten regiments. Six more were raised in 1767, and the number was thus raised to sixteen; 5,000 of these troops, disciplined, trained and led by English officers, and brigaded with a thousand Europeans, met and defeated the combined forces of the Nizam and Hyder Ali—more than 70,000 strong—at Trincomalee in 1767. They also took part in the memorable battle of Wandewash in 1760, when Coote's force of 1,500 Europeans and 3,500 natives defeated Lally's, consisting of 2,500 Frenchmen and 9,000 natives. The soldiers who followed Lawrence, Clive and Eyre Coote, and who put an end to French rivalry and the pretensions of Hyder Ali, belonged mainly to the Madras establishment, and formed the nucleus of the present army. The Madras native army was from time to time augmented till there were fifty-two regiments. Subsequent reductions effected since the Mutiny in 1857 have, however, brought the number down to thirty-two, at which strength the Native Madras Infantry now stands.

No Native Cavalry was raised by the East India Company in Madras until 1780; prior to that, bodies of horsemen had been hired at various times from the Nawab of the Carnatic, and European officers had been placed over them; but, owing to a want of anything like organization and discipline and to their always being in a chronic state of arrears of pay, they could never be said to have attained any high degree of efficiency. In 1780 the Madras Government took over four regiments of Cavalry belonging to the Nawab, and proceeded to officer them and bring them into order. They were soon turned into useful and serviceable troops. By 1784 the Government saw the advisability of taking these regiments permanently into their service. One of these was subsequently disbanded, and the others are now the 1st and 2nd Madras Lancers and the 3rd Madras Light Cavalry. In 1785 a fourth was raised, and this regiment received the high honour of being called the Prince of Wales' Own Regiment of Madras Light Cavalry, after His Royal Highness's visit to Madras in 1875. The four Madras Cavalry regiments are, then, a little more than a century old. In 1786 the establishment of a regiment consisted of one commandant, one captain-lieutenant, three lieutenants, three cornets, six European sergeants, six subadars, eighteen jemadars, twenty-four havildars, twenty-four naiques, one trumpet-major, six trumpeters, one head farrier, six farriers, 408 privates, six line men, one adjutant, one quartermaster, one sergeant-major, one quartermaster-sergeant, one drill havildar, one drill major, one assistant-sergeant, one black doctor.

In the year 1784 a battalion of native artillery was formed in Madras. Prior to that native gun Lascars had been attached to the European Artillery. The battalion then formed consisted of ten companies, and its strength was—one captain, one captain-lieutenant, three lieutenants, six lieutenant-fireworkers, ten sergeants, ten subadars, twenty jemadars, fifty havildars, fifty majors, ten drummers, ten fifers, ten packallies, ten water-carriers, ten bullock boys, 650 golundanze or gunners. This battalion was, however, reduced very shortly afterwards, and the native gunners were amalgamated with the European Artillery.

In 1796 a general regeneration of the Madras army took place. The officer's position was greatly ameliorated, and the composition of the Army was as follows:—The European Infantry was formed into two regiments of ten companies each, and had one colonel, two lieutenant-colonels, two majors, seven captains, one captain-lieutenant, twenty-one lieutenants, eight ensigns, forty sergeants, fifty corporals, twenty-two drums and fifes, 950 privates, and twenty packallies.

The establishment of native cavalry is now fixed at four regiments of six troops each. Each regiment consists of one field officer, two captains, one captain-lieutenant, six lieutenants, three cornets, one assistant-surgeon, one native doctor, two sergeants, six subadars, twelve jemadars, twenty-four naiques, six trumpeters, 402 troopers, six farriers, and six packallies.

The artillery was composed of two battalions of five companies each, with fifteen companies of Lascars attached to each. The composition of each battalion was as follows:—One colonel, one lieutenant-colonel, one major, five captains, five captain-lieutenants, ten lieutenants, five lieutenant-fireworkers, one surgeon, one assistant-surgeon, twenty-five sergeants, twenty-five corporals, fifty gunners, ten drummers and fifers, 310 matrosses, seventy-five tondels, and 840 lascars.

The establishment of Native Infantry was fixed at eleven regiments, each composed of two battalions of eight companies, and constituted:—One colonel, two lieutenant-colonels, two majors, seven captains, one captain-lieutenant, twenty-two lieutenants, ten ensigns, twenty subadars,

twenty jemadars, 100 havildars, 100 naiques, forty drummers and fifers, 1,800 privates; 160 recruit boys, and twenty packallies. The staff consists of two adjutants, one paymaster, one surgeon, two assistant-surgeons, two sergeant-majors, two quartermaster sergeants, two native adjutants, and two native doctors.

Having thus shown the growth of the Madras army during the first fifty years of its existence, a statement will now be made of its strength after another half century, which brings us to Her Majesty's jubilee year, and the present strength of the Madras native army is:—Four regiments of light cavalry, of which two are lancers, the Queen's Own sappers and miners, thirty-two regiments of native infantry, of which two are designated "pioneers," and three "light infantry."

There are no regiments in the Madras army raised entirely from one caste or nationality, such as in the Bengal army. The cavalry is mainly composed of Mussulmans, but there is a considerable mixture of other creeds. We think in this respect Madras should follow the excellent example set by Bengal.

We now come to the Bombay native army, and the practical remarks made on this subject by Major-Gen. W. E. MacLeod, of the Bombay Army.

The Bombay army, between June, 1838 and 1878, sent across the seas to Scinde, Afghanistan, Aden, Burmah, China, Persia and Abyssinia, on foreign service, without murmur, let or hindrance, many regiments of native infantry, in addition to three regiments of cavalry and the native artillery (golundanze), and native sappers and miners. Of these regiments several served beyond the Bolan Pass, and others held all the positions from Kurrachee and Tatta upwards, across, and on the desert to the foot of Bolan, and here they remained under trying circumstances incidental to sickness, heat, cold and isolation.

In 1838 the Bombay native artillery, consisting of golundanze, recruited similarly to the native infantry but of superior standard. These men well maintained the character of Bombay artillery, and their good services are still remembered and testified to by some of their old officers who knew them well.

The same remarks apply to the Bombay sappers and miners as to their constitution and good service; but owing to the generally small number of engineer officers available, their regimental and field duties, under the commandant (an engineer officer), are often carried out by British officers from the native infantry of the service.

The regular cavalry was represented by three regiments. Their dress—light grey—and their equipment generally kept pace with those of the light cavalry of the British service. They were enlisted in all parts of the Bombay and Bengal limits. Their interior economy and discipline were excellent; and wherever they served they gained, deservedly, the good opinion of all arms of the service. We do not believe that in any army, home or Indian, were ever seen finer specimens of British cavalry officers—taken as a whole—than the officers of the three old regiments of Bombay Cavalry, either as gentlemen, sportsmen, or soldiers. The men were all faithful to their salt.

In addition to the regular cavalry regiments, the Poonah Irregular Horse formed then, as well as now, part of the Bombay Army, its colours and records bearing "Kooregaun" in 1818, and later on the additional honours of Afghanistan, Ghuznee, Scinde and Persia. It was officered from time to time from each branch of the Bombay Army.

The Bombay native infantry consisted in 1838 of twenty-six regiments of "Regulars," one marine battalion, and some local irregular corps, such as "Guzerat Provincial," "Bheel," Corps, &c.

The strength of the Bombay army was increased in 1849 by the formation of the Scinde (or Jacob's) Irregular Horse, two Belooch battalions, and the Scinde Camel Corps, all of which corps were officered from the different branches of the Bombay Army.

In 1846 the Bombay native infantry was increased by the 27th, 28th, and 29th Regiments, which were formed by proportionate contributions from the other corps, and by drafts from the two general recruit depots formed, under experienced British officers at Poona and Mhow.

The general equipment and dress of the Bombay native army, under the old organization, were almost similar to those of their British comrades, and keep pace with the periodical and subsequent changes therein. In due course the "flint" was superseded by the "percussion" musket, which later on was replaced by the rifle; change in equipment, etc., naturally followed. In the present day each regiment, instead of helmets, wears a puggaree of prescribed regimental pattern.

"Apropos of their equality among themselves," a correspondednt of the *Admiralty and Horse Guards Gazette*, writes: "A British naval officer, engaged by the Chinese to get their fleet into something like discipline, found no sentry at the gangway of a man-of-war, and going in to point this out to the Chinese Admiral, found him in the Admiral's cabin playing dominoes. 'The fact is,' said the Admiral, 'I find it so dull alone here aft, that I asked the sentry to come in and have a game.'"

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 NAME OF THE PERMANENT CORPS.

EDITOR MILITIA GAZETTE,—Permit me to add my voice as a civilian to "Foresight's" suggestion in your late issue—for anything more misleading and confusing than the present title of the permanent corps, as a corps of soldiery, could not, I think, be found. Why not call them as suggested by "Foresight," or as suggested by the writer of an article in your paper some few weeks ago, viz., Canadian Staff Corps, with Cavalry, Artillery and Infantry Branches. This would at least put a stop to ignorant reporters writing of the "boys" (sic) of "A School," etc., though I never yet heard the Batteries called "A, B or C School." However, any name would be better than their present title, and might moreover prevent such mistakes and erroneous ideas as some of your correspondents have mentioned.

"CIVILIAN."

Dec. 10th, 1888.

THE SPECIAL LIST FOR GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES.

EDITOR MILITIA GAZETTE,—Do you not think it very ill advised on the part of the Government to make special rules to favour the Civil Service at Ottawa? Such, in my opinion, has been done in the matter of the "special list" upon which the officers of the Governor General's Foot Guards and the 43rd Battalion who recently retired were placed. Why should they retain the privileges of active militiamen without any of the duties? And if they are to have such privileges, why not extend a like favour to deserving men in all parts of the country? Perhaps I do not fully understand the case, but it seems to me that an injustice has been permitted.

FAIR PLAY.

Winnipeg, 15th December, 1888.

THE TORONTO CAVALRY SCHOOL.

EDITOR MILITIA GAZETTE,—I notice that in your issue of the 13th inst. you call upon the officers of the militia throughout the country to prime the members of Parliament about the needs of the militia. I think the idea is a good one, and wish to say, through your columns, that I hope the Toronto officers will not forget to remind the representatives of this city to ask about that cavalry school we were to have had. Nothing appears to have been done lately in connection with the matter.

HOTSPUR.

Toronto, 18th December, 1888.

THE INFANTRY SCHOOL FOR QUEBEC.

EDITOR MILITIA GAZETTE,—My attention having been drawn to the declaration of the *St. John's News*, which you recently noticed, to the effect that, outside of a few half-fledged officers in Montreal, there was no desire that the School of Infantry should be removed from St. Johns to Montreal, I desire to state my conviction that the great majority of officers in this city and district would infinitely rather take a course at a city like Montreal than at a secluded place like St. Johns, out of the way for everything. It does not matter how good the rail communication with the outside world may be so long as time will not permit of your taking advantage of it, and the argument that St. Johns is close to Montreal should, in my opinion, count for nothing. I have been told that the infantry companies could not be changed about from station to station because no company recruited elsewhere would stay at St. Johns. If this is the case it ought to be a strong argument in favour of removal.

THREE-QUARTER FLEDGED.

Quebec, 17th December, 1888.

THE MILITARY COLLEGE AND PERMANENT CORPS.

EDITOR MILITIA GAZETTE,—I noticed an article in the *Mail* of the 4th inst., headed "The Military College," and based on a letter to the MILITIA GAZETTE, signed "Pater Families." The surprising and apparently unfounded statements made in the article should not go unanswered.

After reading the article referred to, I just looked up the regulations to see what qualifications are required and then proceeded to ascertain what qualifications the officials in question possessed.

The Regulations read: "Long course certificates must be held, except under exceptional circumstances by all subaltern officers appointed to permanent corps before such appointments can be confirmed." I see not one word in the regulations about the commandant and captains, but these latter appear to have been legally qualified at the time they

were appointed, though neither the commandants nor captains have long course certificates.

Among the commandants I find the names of men who are undoubtedly among the ablest officers in the militia. Passing from the commandants to the captains I find that all have had long service in the volunteer militia, and have with one exception all seen active service in the field. I am also informed that on receiving their appointment they were called upon to go through a Garrison course under the supervision of the Imperial Military authorities at Halifax, and to pass an examination to the satisfaction of those authorities before their appointments were confirmed. I am also informed that the examination passed by the captains, one of whom has since been appointed to the position of commandant, was of a very high order, such as would have qualified them for the highest positions in the Imperial Army, and that they obtained within a fraction, the highest number of marks in the subjects on which they were examined. So much then for the qualifications of these officers.

Let us see what constitutes a long course. As far as I can ascertain, a long course certificate is granted to a candidate who has spent six months at a school of the arm of the service to which he belongs, and subsequently three months at the R.M.C., and passed the required examinations there. This long course certificate has been taken by young second-lieutenants of a few months' service, yet according to the ideas of "Pater Families" such young second-lieutenants are more fitted for and have a better right to any position in the permanent force than men who have frozen grey in the service of the country, than men who have had a separate brigade command in the field as in the case of one commandant, or acted as chief of the staff under similar circumstances as in the case of one of the captains, since promoted. The writer agrees with Pater Families as regards appointing a proportion of graduates of the R.M.C. to junior positions as they fall vacant, but of these positions one half at least should be reserved for militia officers.

It is also a matter of gratification to me as a Canadian to learn that many of the R. M. C. alumni have passed into service in the army at home, more than seventy I believe, and any of these will no doubt return in time to Canada with practical experience and ably fill appointments in our militia corps and military schools. The so-called permanent corps are maintained for the benefit of the volunteer militia, and should, in the writer's opinion, contain a large number of officers, as at present who have served in the militia, know its wants and the difficulties its officers have to contend with, and are in sympathy with them.

7th Dec., 1888.

SUBALTERN.

Regimental Notes.

The adjutancy of the 43rd Battalion Ottawa and Carleton Rifles, vacant since the withdrawal of Capt. Evans to join the Infantry School Corps, has been temporarily filled by the appointment of Capt. A. P. Sherwood, from No. 1 Company. He will shortly, however, be appointed to one of the vacant majorities. The command of No. 1 has been conferred upon 2nd Lieut. S. M. Rogers, Lieut. S. J. Bradbury having resigned.

It is reported that Lieut.-Col. J. P. Macpherson, of Ottawa, and Major Prevost, 65th Battalion, Montreal, are to be appointed extra A.D.C.'s to the Governor-General.

The following information concerning the career of Lieut. Laurie, recently appointed to D Company of the Infantry School Corps, will be read with interest:—"This officer, after completing three terms at the Royal Military College, Kingston, was compelled by temporary ill-health to obtain a year's leave of absence, which he spent on the Continent of Europe studying French and continental military systems. He was then recommended by the Commandant for a commission in H. M. regular army, and has since served for more than three years with his regiment at Aldershot and Dublin. He was selected this last season to act as assistant adjutant at the annual embodiment of an Irish militia regiment, and was highly commended in the report of the inspecting officer as well as of the colonel of the regiment. He has also lately gone through a course of instruction at the School of Musketry, Hythe, and obtained a first-class certificate; and has also attended a course of signalling. During his cadetship at Kingston Lieut. Laurie gave up part of his vacations to attend two annual camp trainings with the 78th Highlanders, to which regiment he was attached under authority from headquarters, and was much praised for his zeal by his colonel.

The "Esercito Italiano (War Office organ), in an article on the relations between France and Italy, signed by the editor, a high authority in military matters, says: "Both France and Italy with perfect good faith, protest that they do not intend to make an attack. Nevertheless, war is inevitable on the first occasion. France must sooner or later endeavour to burst the iron circle in which the unity of Germany and Italy has bound her."

The North-West Mounted Police.

(By the Special Commissioner of the Toronto Empire.)

Next in importance to the Lieutenant-Governor of the Territories and the Minister of the Interior, in the influence exercised on the North-west, comes the North-West Mounted Police; and, indeed, in some respects the influence of this organization is even more direct than that of the higher functionaries. The force at present consists of a thousand effectives, officers and men, and about one hundred supernumeraries—teamsters, guides, etc.; and it would be no easy matter, anywhere or under any circumstances, to bring together a thousand finer or more soldierly-looking men than have been enlisted and assembled here for service on the prairies. Though their legal status is that of civil police, they partake far more of the character and appearance of soldiers than of civilians; their dress, equipment, drill, discipline, and, in short, everything about them is military. Moreover, they regard themselves and their officers as soldiers, and they are generally so regarded by the people.

In their headquarters, too, at Regina the same general military appearance may be seen in the buildings and in all the details of their arrangement. Though no attempt has been made to fortify the place or protect it by bastions, barricades and batteries, it being rightly considered that it would have a much greater moral effect on the natives to let them feel that the force was strong enough for all practical purposes without the aid of such defences, nevertheless the appearance of the whole collection of buildings is rather that of a military barracks than of the rendezvous of a civic force. Everything is kept in apple-pie order, rooms and accoutrements scrupulously clean, horses thoroughly groomed and carefully attended, and the stables and every article about them as neat and well arranged as could be desired by the most martinet colonel of a crack cavalry regiment. Commissioner Herchmer and all the other officers are very proud of the efficiency of the men, and well they may be; while the men fully reciprocate the feeling, so that the utmost good feeling prevails, and the *esprit de corps* is excellent. Major Cotton, the officer in command, kindly arranged matters to let me have an opportunity of seeing the men go through some evolutions on the parade ground, and though several of them were young recruits, the quickness and precision with which the various manoeuvres were executed would have done no discredit to a company of veterans. They have an excellent band, too, in which it would be hard to say whether the officers or men take the greater pride; they play wonderfully well, and often contribute to the entertainment of citizens at Government receptions and on other occasions. Besides the headquarters of the force at Regina there are nine or ten other chief posts, which serve as headquarters for the various districts into which the country is divided for police supervision; but the men are comparatively seldom lodged at these central points, being generally scattered all over the immense area embraced within the Territories. As a rule, they much prefer the free, wild life on the plains, in spite of its apparent hardships and discomfort; and, except when suffering from illness, they are seldom rejoiced to hear the summons which calls them back to their turn of routine duties in the barracks.

As to their general duties, their name is legion. It would, in fact, be impossible to enumerate them all in detail. In a general way they are expected to afford police protection to the settlers and to keep a vigilant watch on the native population; but in these general duties are included many that the outside world knows or thinks nothing about. For instance, they collect revenue, prevent smuggling of all kinds, guard against the stealing of horses, cattle, timber, coal, hay, etc.; recover lost, stolen or strayed animals; shoot diseased animals to prevent the spread of contagion; prevent or extinguish prairie fires; arrest and take temporary charge of lunatics or imbeciles; ferret out and arrest murderers and other criminals—and, in short, act at once as soldiers, police, detectives, revenue officers, veterinary surgeons and philanthropists for the whole community. No one will, I think, be willing to assert that these men are likely to have a very idle time of it if they discharge their duties even moderately well. But I have the strongest reasons for believing that they discharge them not only moderately well, but in the most thorough and effective manner; throughout the whole North-West Territories I never heard a man, whose opinion could be considered of any weight, who did not speak in the highest possible terms of the immense services rendered by those men to the community. "The country never could have done without them" was a common way of winding up an opinion on the question of their value, and perhaps it would be impossible to pronounce a stronger encomium on any body of men or a more conclusive reason for their organization. Sir John Macdonald has devised many wise, prudent and far-reaching measures for the good of the Dominion; but I do not think he ever conceived a happier idea than that of the organization of the North-West Mounted Police.

I have dwelt at considerable length on this topic partly because of its vast importance to the North-West, and partly because I have heard

people object to the cost of maintaining the corps, without having taken into consideration the value of the services performed and the absolute necessity of either keeping up the present organization or establishing an equally efficient one in its stead. In my next letter we shall take leave of the North-West capital and get further west into the Territories.

The Massachusetts Rifle Team for England.

(Volunteer Service Gazette.)

It would seem that there is a strong feeling in Massachusetts that another international rifle match should be inaugurated next year, and that the American riflemen might get back that championship at military team shooting Great Britain now holds, and the following letter, appearing in a recent issue of *Forest & Stream* may be the first chapter in the story of the international rifle match of 1889. Major J. P. Frost writes as follows to Major-Gen. Dalton: "The gratifying success of the Massachusetts riflemen at Creedmoor and Chicago during the past three years is a matter of record in the army and National Guard from the Atlantic to the Pacific, and the honest, faithful and uniformly successful results of these competitions seem worthy of a fitting recognition at the hands of the citizens of this Commonwealth. I therefore have the honour to request permission to open official correspondence with the National Rifle Association of Great Britain and kindred organizations of the English Volunteers, with the view of arranging a series of competitions between the volunteer riflemen of England and the marksmen of the Massachusetts volunteer militia. Should such correspondence indicate that a Massachusetts militia team would meet with welcome, and that competitions with the service rifle of each nation be endorsed by the proper authorities, I further ask that permission be given me to form a rifle team, to be composed, so far as practicable, of the members of the State teams of 1887 and 1888, with the view of visiting England the coming July, to participate in the annual meeting of the National Rifle Association of Great Britain; the expense of such a trip to be borne by private subscription, and I earnestly ask your co-operation and that of the Inspector-General of rifle practice in the undertaking."

To the above the following reply was received from the Brigadier-General: "I heartily approve the request of Major Frost, and believe that the idea is one which cannot fail to receive the hearty endorsement and support of every friend of the Massachusetts volunteer militia. The record of our militia riflemen is most brilliant, and I believe that the benefits of such a trip would prove of inestimable advantage to our expert shots. In Major Frost I have the utmost confidence. His well-known reputation as an experienced rifleman, his enthusiasm and love of the reputation of the militia, especially fit him for this important undertaking, and I feel confident that every endeavour which human ingenuity can devise will be brought forth by him to sustain the reputation of the State." Subsequently the Inspector-General of Rifle Practice writes as follows on this matter: "I should disapprove of any such project as outlined, unless the party making the excursion is composed of representative men, capable of maintaining the record made by Massachusetts in late years. But if a party can be made up, and can go abroad with the expectation of meeting the volunteers of England on equal terms, I should approve of authorizing the necessary preliminaries. I think the request of Major Frost for permission to open correspondence should be granted. This will develop any obstacle in the way, and determine whether the suggested plan can be carried out, with a fair promise of maintaining abroad the prestige which our State troops have established at home."

In reference to the above correspondence, the *New York Army & Navy Journal* says: "In response to a request addressed to the A. G. of Massachusetts, Major J. P. Frost, A.I.G.R.P., 2nd Brig. M. V. M., has been authorized to open official correspondence with the N.R.A. of Great Britain and kindred organizations of the English volunteers, with a view of arranging a series of competitions between the volunteer riflemen of England and the marksmen of the Massachusetts volunteer militia. Should such correspondence indicate that a Massachusetts militia team would meet with welcome, he is authorized to form a rifle team, to be composed, so far as practicable, of the members of the State teams of 1887 and 1888, with the view of visiting England the coming July to participate in the annual meeting of the N.R.A. of Great Britain, the expense of such trip to be borne by private subscription—the Adjutant-General writing, 'Major J. P. Frost, assistant inspector-general of rifle practice, 2nd Brigade, is authorized to open correspondence on the subject matter contained within, it being understood that the team will not be formed or any expense incurred without the approval of the Adjutant-General's office.' We admire the pluck of the Massachusetts riflemen, and there is certainly no team that can better uphold the honour of the United States than this team. They have been victors over the best teams in the United States, both in the Army and the State troops, and have a most enviable record."

Gleanings.

On the Continent of Europe the soldiers of Germany have the longest legs. At any rate, their pace on the march is longer than that of the soldiers of any other Continental army. It is 80 centimetres; the pace of the soldiers of France, Austria, Belgium, Switzerland and Sweden being 75 centimetres; while that of the Russian soldier is only 71 centimetres. Taking 30 centimetres to equal a foot, it makes the German step to be fully 2 3-5 feet; the French, etc., to be 2 1/2, and the Russian to be only about 2 3-10. The German Ministry of War, having gathered information on the subject, has just made it public.

The annual returns relating to the British army have been issued from the War Office, and show that the average strength of the fighting service last year was 209,574. Of this number 19,358 were cavalrymen, 34,734 artillerymen, 6,508 engineers, and 148,974 infantry. Something like one-half of the men are retained for home duties, 4,738 are still in Egypt, 25,848 are in the Colonies, and 72,345 are in India. The reserve and auxiliary forces include 55,000 men from the regular army, 121,411 militiamen, 11,267 yeomanry, and 223,038 volunteers. Taking the ages of our citizen soldiers, it is seen that the men between 20 and 21 are the most numerous, and that by far the larger number are under 30. There are, however, over 20,000 men between 30 and 35, 13,000 between 35 and 40, 8,340 between 40 and 45, 5,590 between 45 and 50, and 2,558 who are above 50.

In the December number of the *Illustrated Naval and Military Magazine* Lieut. Low's "Historical Sketch of the Russian Navy," interesting in itself, is rendered much more so by the valour shown by the English, Scotch and Irish officers who crowded into the Russian Service in the latter half of the last century. "Naval and Military Notes and Queries" contains a good summary of the Engineering Departments of France, Germany, Austria, Italy and Russia. Mr. Irving Montague gives us a continuation of his experiences in the Carlist war in Spain. Colonel Spalding, in concluding his memoir of Suvoroff, claims for him a share of the credit of having broken through the "theory of the age," or "cordon system," which ruled so many military minds up to the end of the last century. "The Story of a British Occupation," a short paper by Lieut. the Hon. H. N. Shore, R.N., gives a graphic account of the results of our occupation of Tientsin in the Chinese war.

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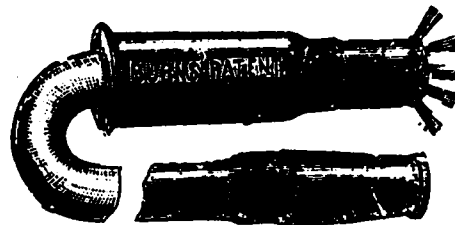
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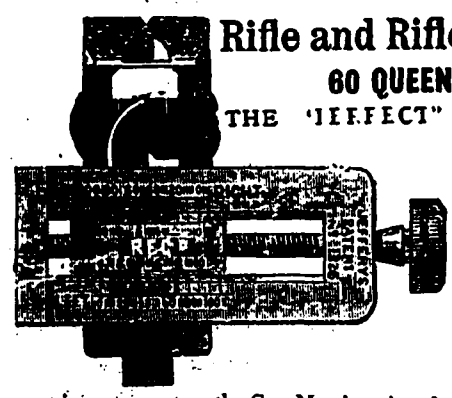
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