

# THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE

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No. 18, of 29th November, 1889.

## Topics of the Week.

A couple of weeks ago, we stated in these columns our conviction that political influence is bound for all time to determine appointments to commissions in the permanent force (in common with other branches of the public service). This statement is the subject of an interesting letter appearing in our Correspondence columns this issue. The writer is shocked because it looks as if we "considered this a normal condition of affairs," and notes that in England the appointment of an unqualified man to an army commission would almost suffice to turn out a ministry. Now, we published a statement of supposed fact, not an endorsement of the same; and while on principle we would like to see such appointments made without any regard to political influence, we hold that its predominance need not necessarily be productive of serious evil. This condition of affairs cannot properly be said to exist because "the Canadian public appear more or less apathetic," for it is to the Canadian public that the blame very largely attaches. When an appointment is to be made, the friends of every eligible young man besiege the local politicians and parliamentary representatives for their influence to secure the appointment for this particular favourite, and the politicians appear in swarms in the Militia Department to execute their commissions. The minister who would be quite proof against this pressure has not yet made his appearance. On the list of applicants there are probably many in every way fitted for the position, and also as many quite unfitted. Occasionally a gentleman of the latter class may slip in, but we could name several officers who admittedly would be a credit to the military service of any country, whom political influence has placed in ours.

The Minister who, for whatever cause, gives an appointment to a person unfitted for it, sows the seed of a good deal of future trouble for himself or his successors in office. In time, it will come to the appointee's turn for promotion, and then what is to be done? It will not do to make a public confession of his unfitness, and so he gets his first step up. His turn comes again, and again, and the higher he gets the more obvious his weak points appear. A crisis will be reached at last, when it is impossible to further jeopardise the efficiency of the service, and the political favourite has to be passed over. Then what unpleasantness results! A safe rule to be followed would be to appoint to the lowest commission in the force, no man who could not be confidently expected to become by age and experience well qualified for the highest.

Our correspondent speaks of the present condition of affairs as "an abnormal one that can only last at most a few decades until the permanent force is fairly started." We opine that if the force is indeed to be permanent, or to last even a few decades, there will have to be a radical change in its surroundings. This must be worked out mainly by its own officers as the result of their experience, for which the people of Canada have ungrudgingly paid in the hope that it may be productive of results beyond those so far achieved. The main advantage of the permanent force consists of the schools based upon it. These have so far failed to reduce to the expected minimum the number of unqualified officers in the Canadian militia, and it would be well if the cause of this failure were ascertained and an attempt made at remedy.

An interesting article in the *New York Times* on the rates of officers pay in the British army, concludes as follows: "It must stand to the credit side of a soldier's career that if he is forced to many expenses he also gets a pleasant and even luxurious daily life more cheaply and easily than it can be got in any other profession. He travels, he entertains, he goes on horseback, he has a good house and servants, all in the natural course of existence; and these are, after all, the signs by which men estimate worldly success."

## The United States Army.

The regular army cost the United States for the fiscal year 1888-89, upwards of thirty million dollars, as shown by the report of the Secretary of War, just issued. In this he notes that the ratio of one man out of every 1,105, or one-eleventh of one per cent., which the army bore to the population in 1870, is now reduced to one in every 2,569, or one twenty-fifth of one per cent. The Secretary advises the adoption of the three battalion organization, which, he says, all other powers have adopted, except Persia and China. "The necessity for this formation in the infantry is even greater than in the cavalry and artillery, where it has long been the rule. The reason for the change, always strong, has now, in view of the greater deployment necessary because of the improvements in small-arms, become imperative."

Attention is called to Gen. Schofield's views as to lineal promotion through lower grades without recommendation. Gen. Sherman's adverse opinion is also referred to. A system of examination for promotion is, however, proposed, which will, in the opinion of the Secretary, remove a principal objection to the system. Gen. Schofield proposes: "A system of non-competitive examinations with well-defined limitations is founded on good sense and supported by our own experience, as well as that of those countries where the efficiency of a standing army is held in the highest possible estimation. I would call especial attention to the remarks of my predecessor upon this subject in his report for 1888. The examination should be so broad in its application as to require the officer to show affirmatively that he is qualified for the promotion he seeks. It should not, of course, be a mere book examination, but should give full credit to an officer's record for practical efficiency and usefulness in the service, thus avoiding danger of injustice to those who may have come in from the volunteers or from the ranks."

Having noticed certain grievances of the army Secretary Proctor remarks:—"The distance between the highest grade of non-commissioned officer and the commissioned officer is great, far too great in my judgment. It would be wisdom to decrease that distance. In so far as the question is an administrative one, the department must continue to meet it experimentally, correcting abuses where found to exist, and instituting innovations if necessary. It is but just for me to say that the commissioned officers are in earnest in their desire to correct this evil, and are giving to its solution their hearty efforts. To a considerable extent, however, the remedies lie with Congress; and I submit the following recommendations:

"(1). Make the pay of non-commissioned officers, of infantry cavalry, and artillery, the same as now established by law for like grades in the engineers. More bright and ambitious young men might be thus induced to enter the service.

"(2). Give the soldier an opportunity to so improve himself that when he leaves the service he may be better fitted for civil life than when he entered it. Post schools should be established where not only instruction by lessons and lectures should be given in matters pertaining to military service, but also in the elementary branches of mathematics, science, mechanics, surveying, engineering, drawing, etc. All officers are qualified to supervise or do this work. It would have no tendency to relax discipline, but would establish a new relation between the company officers, especially the subalterns, and enlisted men, that would be beneficial to both, and help to remedy some of the evils of the present military administration. Something has already been done in this direction, and several schools have been established.

"(3). Authorize re-enlistments for one or more years at posts where a soldier is discharged. A man will sometimes re-enlist for a short time when he will not for the full term. If the Government is not subjected to the cost of transportation and instruction, the great objection to short terms of service is removed. Men re-enlisted for a short term would not desert.

"(4). Make a code of punishment suited to times of peace, which is less arbitrary but more certain. The variableness of courts-martial and the great disparity of punishments prevailing in the different military departments, destroy one of the most essential elements in the proper administration of any code of law, and its fickleness and instability are well calculated to and do invite petitions for clemency. I recommend the revision of the Articles of War; and that provisions be made for the punishment of certain minor offences, under well defined restrictions, without the intervention of a court-martial, and oftentimes long precedent confinement in a guardhouse.

"Other points which are strongly recommended by many prominent officers, and have much to commend them, are: Authorize enlistments for three years only, give the soldier in time of peace the privilege of purchasing his discharge under well-defined regulations, and retain some part of the soldier's pay, which he forfeits by desertion. The attention of Congress is invited to the recommendations of the Acting Judge-Advocate-General for permitting and directing the arrest of deserters by civil officers and otherwise rendering their capture more certain and speedy."

Arrangements are being made to organize a second mounted infantry regiment in the British Army.

A Berlin correspondent writes that Bismarck looks with foreboding upon his death as the probable signal for preparations for war. A young Emperor, says the writer, who thinks of nothing but machine guns and smokeless powder, is on the throne. The jingle of spurs and the rattle of musketry are in this young man's ears all day long and echo in his dreams at night. He cultivates the habit of shortened hours of sleep in imitation of Frederick the Great, and in his bluff camaraderie with his soldiers, his efforts at philosophical epigrams with the peasantry, and his attitudes toward his courtiers he shows at every step how bitten through and through he is with the idea of modelling himself upon that founder of Prussia's power.

There are few names better known in the British Navy than Admiral Colomb's. The greatest authority on marine signalling in the world, the inventor of a code of night signals worked on the Moore alphabet system of signs, which is now used in all the navies of the world, and the inventor of the peculiar lamps used in the interior of all war ships, he willingly sacrificed the prospects of a brilliant naval career to gain the time for working out his signal system. Yet he has never benefitted in the least by his labours, and, although advanced in honorary retired rank, still draws only that pecuniary allowance which was his by right at the time of retirement. Several service members of the House of Commons have determined to urge upon the Government that some special reward is due to an officer who has done such good work, and it is generally hoped that the appeal will be met in no ungrudging spirit.

### Sights and Laying.

(United Services Gazette.)

Every officer both of Infantry, Artillery and Cavalry, must often have experienced the great difficulty of teaching men to lay the gun or aim the rifle with the same amount of foresight. We are all of us familiar with "full-sights," "half sights" and "fine-sights," and, if left to himself, every Tommy Atkins would have his own theory and his own sight. And this tendency has done more to vitiate results than almost any other error. Even after a definite elevation has been given by the officer, he can never feel sure that the man directing either the gun or the rifle has not entirely altered it by his method of looking over the sights, and has not thus introduced a fresh variable element which should not have existed at all. Thanks, however, to the ingenuity of Major G. A. Lewes of the Northamptonshire Regiment, we are for the future to be able to reduce the chances of such mistakes to a minimum, and there is no longer to be any ambiguity as to the nature of the sight. There is only to be one sight with the new rifle, and that is to be the correct one; and moreover, the one which it will require something like wilful carelessness not to adopt. The Government have, we are glad to say, willingly accepted the new method, and the latest pattern magazines are all fitted with it. In the system of which we speak the foresight consists of a rectangular block of metal, which, in place of being brought to a point or edge, is split down the middle. This aperture is not intended to be looked through, but the line formed by the light through it; is more clearly defined, and less liable to injury than if it were formed of any white metal or enamel. The metal round the split being particularly strong, there is no danger of its shape being altered by the fixing or unfixing of bayonets, or by any rough usage. This block is sufficiently high to enable the bayonet to be fixed without the accuracy of the aim being interfered with. The back-sight, which is to be used in combination with it, is formed of a hinged flap and sliding bar. This bar has the upper edge bevelled and a square notch cut in the middle, from the centre of which there runs vertically downwards a fine white line. The notch is constructed of such a size that, when accurate aim is taken, the block on the muzzle which forms the foresight exactly fills it. When this is the case, it follows that the split we have alluded to forms a continuous white line with the line at the bottom of the notch. The man who is aiming the rifle has, therefore, only to look over a single point, namely, the top of the line which the two sights form. He has not to bring two points in line with the object, for, when the aim is good, the fore-sight and back-sight present only the appearance of a single sight to the eye behind them. The sights are so arranged that, when the flap is lying flat and the bar is down, they are correct for 200 yards, or, in other words, that the rifle shoots point blank at that distance. With a low trajectory a man would not be safe from fire thus delivered anywhere within 300 yards of the marksman. It will be much more difficult to make an error as regards elevation with this sight than with our present one, because, if the aim is good, the block of the foresight will either appear as a black mass *above* the general line of the bar, or there will be a *gap* in the edge presented to the eye. The former effect will be particularly noticeable, and therefore the tendency to fire high—which is the most common failing—will be obviated more especially. As a general rule the object to be fired at would be a wide one, such as a line or mass of men, and therefore it is very important that in volley firing the elevation, at any rate, should be correct and uniform. However great the excitement, every man should be able to see that his block fore-sight comes in line with the edge of the bar, while, if he can see nothing but a black mass through the notch, he knows his direction must be approximately right. It should be easier to keep to the same elevation, and in volley firing that will be a great matter, even if each rifle be not accurately aligned on any point or individual in the opposing force. The element of uncertainty which varying light causes in all shooting should likewise be reduced to a minimum, for the amount of foresight seen will be always the same. The construction of the foresight will also protect it from injury. The slit has a large mass of metal on each side to preserve it, and there is no edge or point to be broken, or knocked, or blunted. Furthermore, in firing at long ranges, all intervening ground will be hidden from the marksman's eye, and there will be less liability of his attention being diverted from the object. It is impossible in a short article to do full justice to this admirable invention, which is as simple as it is efficient, and as accurate as it is serviceable; but we think we have said enough to show how valuable is the service which Major Lewes has done in bringing it forward, and how thoroughly it is adapted to meet the requirements of the soldier. It is not, we believe, an exaggeration to say that, fitted with these sights, our new arm will be equal to the delicately-sighted match rifle, while, as regards strength and durability, it will be far superior to that which is at present in the hands of our men.

Higher praise than this it is impossible to give. If it were not so we should willingly give it.

## 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.]

### POLITICS AND APPOINTMENTS.

**EDITOR MILITIA GAZETTE.**—I am more than shocked to hear, in your "Topics of the Week," that until the Millenium comes about, political appointments are bound to rule in the Canadian permanent militia. This is terrible, for the Millenium has disappointed us so often, and it looks as if your paper (representing, as I am sure it does, a very large share of the militia opinion of the country) considered this as a normal condition of affairs, instead of an abnormal one that can only last at most a few decades, until the permanent force is fairly started.

We all know that political appointments do rule in the militia service and probably will do so for some time, as the Canadian public appear more or less apathetic on the subject, and the only thing private individuals can do is to criticize anything very obvious, so as to prevent at least the actual survival of the unfittest, which unqualified appointments seem admirably adapted to bring about.

A certain Nobleman in England, not a hundred years ago, who was in possession of a family seat in the Commons as well as his own in the Lords, declared, on receiving some offence from the party in power, that he would place at the next election his black cook in the House of Commons, and was with difficulty restrained by his friends from doing so. This was an extreme abuse of patronage. What is to prevent some future Minister or other gentleman in power from appointing, under political pressure, some successor of the unqualified black man to the position of the Canadian officer and gentleman, and this long before the Millenium arrives?

In England, (and in what our American cousins call the effete Monarchies of Europe, generally), the Millenium spoken of has long since arrived, and the appointment of an unqualified man to an army commission would raise such a storm in every paper that it would be almost enough to turn out a ministry. We do not seem to have yet arrived at this stage of moral civilization, but we should all have great hopes of in the not far distant future bringing about a state of things which will enable the Canadian officer to be at least the equal of his English brother in arms, and we know what the young Canadian can do from the records of Kingston College.

The last Political Army in Europe was that of Napoleon III, who with some of the best and bravest of troops was totally out-maneuvred and destroyed, thanks (almost entirely) to the superior fitness and education of the Prussian officers.

### MILITAIRE.

## Regimental and Other News.

### The Royal School of Mounted Infantry.

(By "Ajax" in Winnipeg Siftings.)

Life in Fort Osborne is not the really pleasant time that a great many of the uninitiated suppose. There is work every day, work which comes and is performed with almost prison-like regularity. Having an idle day some time ago, I took a walk with the intention of crossing the Osborne street bridge, and having a stroll around Fort Rouge. Passing the barrack gate on Osborne street, I was attracted by a bugler blowing some call, what the call might be was a mystery to your correspondent. A manly looking fellow, who wore what I supposed was his undress uniform, informed me that it was the first dinner bugle. After a few minutes of conversation he told me there would be no objection to my entry, and he very willingly consented to be my guide. I was delighted with what I saw. I was first taken to the stables; such stables and such bronchos are a delight to lovers of horse-flesh; everything seemed complete, and the grooming perfect. After walking through the stables, I asked to be allowed to see the barrack rooms. They seemed to be in perfect order, about sixteen or seventeen men in each room, which appears rather crowded to civilian ideas, each man having an iron bedcot with his bed tightly rolled up, blankets and sheets neatly folded and bound with a strap, boots and valise hanging on pegs above his head, clothing on the shelf above the belts, arranged with precise regularity. It is only this regularity which makes so many men to live together in comfort.

I then visited the recreation room and was given an introduction to the sergeant in charge, a genial looking young man who gave me much interesting information. The recreation room seemed to be well patronized, some men playing draughts and others billiards, some reading, and all seemed to be enjoying themselves. The sergeant told me that tobacco, cigars and temperance drinks were sold there, and that a great many of the young fellows preferred spending their money and enjoying themselves in the recreation room, to going over to the canteen where

drink of a more ardent nature were sold. The canteen he told me was a necessity in all barracks, as the young fellows who indulged in the stronger fluids would often go the canteen and get liquors without any fear of their being adulterated. The profit on the articles sold there goes into a fund, from which was purchased many articles for the comfort of the whole corps.

I was taken from there to the sergeants' rooms and there was introduced to as fine a lot of fellows as you would see on a day's journey. There is a good billiard table in one room for use of the members of the sergeants' mess; there was another room cosily furnished in which some of the men were playing cards, and others reading and talking; all seemed happy. My guide informed me that although the men played cards, gambling even for the smallest amount was strictly prohibited. After enjoying the hospitality of the sergeants for a while, I took leave of my guide thanking him for his kindness, and receiving a warm invitation to call on him again, which I promised to do.

### The Thirteenth Drill Competition.

A drill competition between the companies of the Thirteenth Battalion has just taken place at their Armoury. Although no special invitations were issued the galleries were well filled by the friends of the competing soldiers, and those present witnessed a good exhibition of drill. There were four prizes awarded, being \$40, \$30, \$20, and \$10 purses. The competition did not merely end with the drill, but included attendance at authorized drills, target practice, and the state of the armories and accoutrements. Capt McDougall, I.S.C., and Capt. Mutton, Q.O.R., acted as judges. "E" and "G" Companies did not enter for the competition, but the other companies were all present. From the first it was evident that the race was between "B," "C," "D," and "F" Companies, and the result when the totals were scored showed "D" Company to the front. Capt. Ross was warmly congratulated on the success he has scored. Lieut. Tidswell handled "F" Company in splendid shape, and his men did good work, but lost some points in a rear formation movement, that spoiled their chances. "F" Armoury is a model of neatness, and had many visitors during the evening. "A," "B," and "C" Companies had many recruits in their ranks, and this, of course, diminished their chances considerably. The result of the competition is as follows:—

	A.	B.	C.	D.	E.	F.	G.	H.
Armouries, arms and accoutrements. Full marks (100).....	75	82	80	85	50	90	60	65
Attendance at class firing. (150).....	105	87	100	108	69	75	59	72
Attendance at authorized drill. (250).....	120	140	134	129	106	149	81	104
Company drill competition. (500).....	342	388	381	413	—	408	—	299
Total (full marks 1,000).....	642	687	695	735	225	722	200	540

### PRIZE WINNERS.

1st D Company, 735 marks, prize... \$40 3rd C Company, 695 marks, prize... \$20  
2nd F " 722 " " 30 4th B " 687 " " ... 10

I was dining the other night at the officers' mess at the Tower, and was privileged to witness a scene not included in the programme of an ordinary visit to the Tower. It was the dramatic and picturesque business of the sentry on guard challenging the Chief Warder who was carrying the keys of the tower to the Governor. This happens every night as the clock strikes eleven, and has happened every night at the same hour back to the days of the Plantagenets. The scene takes place before the gate of the Bloody Tower, immediately facing the Traitor's Gate, through which Sir Thomas More marched on his way back to the condemned cell, the reversed axe carried before him being the sign of his sentence. From a little portico on the right hand side of the Bloody Tower the sentry turns out, and stands on guard. From the Traitor's Gate there presently appear two or three men, one dressed in a scarlet robe and carrying a lighted lantern. The sentry, bringing his rifle with a sharp click to his shoulder, calls out "Halt! Who goes there?" The man in the scarlet gown answers "The keys." "Whose keys?" says the stern sentry. "Queen Victoria's keys." "Pass Queen Victoria's keys," says the mollified sentry, and the warder moves on a pace, then halts, and, holding up the lantern, cries aloud "God bless Queen Victoria!" The sentry presents arms, the men with the Chief Warder chant "Amen" three times, and the warder resumes his journey, carrying the keys to the Governor of the Tower. About this time all the theatres in London are reaching, or have passed, the climax of their dramatic pieces. But there is nothing in London, probably nothing in the world, so finely dramatic as this relic of old English history, played here night after night, with only the grim walls of the Tower looking on. Centuries ago this very gateway heard the same challenge, "Whose keys?" Only the answer was, "King Stephen's keys," or "Henry the Third's keys," or "Edward the Second's keys," down to Elizabeth, and through the dreary mediocrity of the Georges.—Exchange.

### In the Mother Country.

Lord Harris gave a capital address at Maidstone the other day on the subject of "Athletics and the Nation," in the course of which he spoke as follows: "The great Duke of Wellington is supposed to have said that the battle of Waterloo was won on the playing fields of Eton. If he did say it, I should suppose that he meant that the officers who led his army owed much of their capacity for leading men to the athletic sports of their youth; and if one result of taking part in them is to instill self-confidence, quickness of eye to see a possible opportunity and despatch in seizing it, then there are many walks in life, besides a military career, in which a man will be the better that he has encouraged these qualities, whilst eye and limb, muscle and sinew were plastic, and readily trained.... As men grow older, life becomes more earnest, and the race for it a hard struggle; but still I think we can find that it is good for the nation that even these can find some time for enjoying athletic exercises, either as lookers-on or actively. I am a firm believer in the sound common sense of the working classes, but I am satisfied that it would be a national misfortune, and I believe they hold the same view, if the wealthier classes did not take a commanding lead in our amusements. You cannot find a better example than in the British Army. Tommy Atkins, as brave a soldier as serves in any country—and what country has he not served in?—has the greatest respect and admiration for his officers, because he knows they have never failed him, that where the fire is hottest, the breach the deadliest, they can be trusted to lead him; and so, in our mimic battles, the gentlemen of England are expected to take the lead. It will be a bad day for England, when, if ever, they as a class become lackadaisical and fear a knock or two."

"But," continued his lordship, "there is another athletic pursuit open to all, which must not be lost sight of; that is service in our Volunteer Army. There are some 220,000 Volunteers in the country, the great majority of whom serve their four years and retire. Think what that is doing for young England, putting aside the great military advantage that most young men should understand the handling of a rifle; and if not carrying as many lives in their pouches as there are ball cartridges, as could be said of our English bowmen and their arrows of old, still many of them are fair, some of them very good shots. Putting aside that advantage, consider what the men themselves gain in character by being habituated to discipline, in bodily strength by drill. There is, too, a paramount advantage in Volunteer service over most athletic pursuits, that to some extent the advantages derivable from it are not dependent on daylight and fine weather. Drill halls, notwithstanding the expense of erecting them, are increasing year by year, and resound every evening, after the working day is over, with words of command and the clink of arms. It all means work, and hard work too, but it is a change from the business of the day; it brings relaxation to the mind, and braces nerve and muscle. The Volunteer service is perhaps the finest school in the country for the workingman, looking to the advantages I have named, and also to the insight into military life, coupled with the health and strength gained from the marches and camps at Easter, Whitsuntide, and other holiday times."

The annual competition of the Volunteer Medical Staff Corps for the Challenge Shield took place on Saturday, 23rd November, at Westminster Hall. Three companies competed, viz.: No. 1, Surgeon V. Matthews; No. 4, Surgeon-Major J. A. Watson; No. 5, Surgeon F. E. Squire, M.D. Surgeon J. Falvey, M.S., Assist.-Instructor to the Medical Staff Department, Aldershot, kindly acted as judge. The companies were put through various movements in bearer, company and stretcher drill, and examined in bandaging and first aid to the injured. After a spirited competition the shield was awarded to No. 1 Company, the contest, however, having been very close. Surgeon Falvey having addressed the officers and men of the corps and complimented them on their work, Surgeon-Major Platt, V.M.S.C., in the absence of Surgeon-Commandant Norton, thanked Surgeon Falvey, in the name of the corps, for his kind services, bringing a most interesting afternoon's work to an end.

"A Progressivist" has written to the *Volunteer Service Gazette* an interesting letter on "The Supply of Officers," in which he says:

"Volunteering is recognized generally by all ranks as a sport and amusement, as well as a duty to our country. This being conceded, it rests with the officer commanding to make his battalion work as interesting as possible, the power to do so being in his hands. In how many corps in the metropolitan area do we find this considered? A com-

mission is in itself of no more value in one corps than in another; no difficulty exists in obtaining efficient officers in the few *elite* corps, and as we know that the men who fill the ranks of these battalions do so not only because they are select, but because they offer a constant variety of military work and amusement throughout the year, it is only natural to suppose that the same inducements prevail in attracting gentlemen to take up a commission in these corps. I do not believe the expenses of an officer in a first rate corps are any greater than in one less known. The difference consists only in the spirit with which the work of the corps is carried out.

"The energetic and interesting military training of the corps that takes part in all manoeuvres organized with the permission of the War Office at Easter, in the autumn, and on special occasions; and at its inspection shows the inspecting officer that the previous training has been directed to obtain results beyond mere barrack-yard drill, and that the company officers are capable of fulfilling the duties of field rank, and have had opportunities of practising those duties, is surely more attractive than one in which year after year, at stated periods, the same orders and drills are repeated with unvarying monotony. I submit that if an officer belonging to what I should describe as a progressive corps were not occupied on special occasions by his attendance with his corps, he would surely be engaged in equally expensive recreation of some other kind, and it is not just to add these incidental personal expenses to the yearly cost of holding a commission.

"I wish to draw attention to the fact that it is not alone the difficulty of finding gentlemen willing to take commissions that requires consideration, but also how to prevent the large number of resignations that occur every month, many of which I feel sure are occasioned through officers being disappointed in, and finding no interest in, the proceedings of their corps, a state of things which can and ought to be improved, and for which commanding officers themselves are primarily responsible."

A very successful bazaar has recently been held at Selkirk towards paying off the debt in connection with the Volunteer drill hall. On the first day, the proceedings were opened by Lord Polwarth, prior to which Captain D. C. Alexander made a statement of the objects of the bazaar. On the following day, the proceedings were opened by Lady Napier and Ettrick, who made a very graceful address, in which she said: "I avow that I cordially share that predilection for the Army and Navy with which my sex is commonly credited. My heart warms to the blue, the red, and the tartan, and to every cloth and every colour that covers the breast of a volunteer on land or sea. This sentiment is not unshared by the mothers and daughters who stand before me, if I properly interpret their looks and smiles. The love which we bear to the profession of arms in all its branches, springs from the recognition so natural to our weaker nature that the man who, in any shape, spontaneously courts, embraces, and accepts labour, danger, self-sacrifice for the defence of his sovereign and his country, and for our defence, is the man who, in reason and justice, we are bound most to honour and regard. And we owe this debt peculiarly to the volunteers, for they receive no other pay, and we trust that the manifestation of our esteem is more welcome to them than much fine gold. Consider for a moment the deep, well-founded claims that the volunteers possess on the favour and support of our sex. Are we not their mothers and sisters, identified with them by all the ties of blood, of love, and tender offices? We do not, it is true, bear arms, but we have done a better service, we have borne the volunteers in our arms. We have nursed them, we have trained them, we have taught them to walk straight, we have planted in their hearts the first seeds of truth and faith and stoutness and manly virtue; and then we have sent them forth, still unspotted, to the changes and chances, the strife, the perplexities, the trials, the temptations of the troubled world by which we were encompassed, to float or to founder, as good or evil destiny may ordain. Are we not deeply concerned in the efficacy of every instrument and agency by which our sons may be bound together in good aspirations and in common exercise of practical duty? for self-respect and exertion are the safe-guards of rectitude and good conduct in all the affairs of life. Such an instrument, and a most powerful one, is supplied by the volunteer service.

Badges for "Skill at Arms" are in future to be competed for biennially. The best man (non-commissioned officer or gunner) in each battery will wear "a badge of crossed guns with laurel leaf worked in silver," the second best "a badge of crossed guns worked in silver," and the third best "a badge of crossed guns worked in worsted." The badges are, it is needless to say, to be provided at the expense of the corps, and will remain its property. Each badge will have to be fought for and won at least every two years. The competitions are to be conducted as nearly as possible in conformity with the instructions laid

down for the analogous competitions in the Royal Artillery—the instruction for Garrison Artillery R. A., being followed in the case of volunteer garrison batteries, and those for Field Artillery R. A., in the case of volunteer position batteries. Modifications of the rules may, however, be made by the officers commanding Royal Artillery, but there must be uniformity in each district, and alterations should be limited to what appears necessary. "Too much value should not be given to written examinations." A certain quantity of extra ammunition will be given to garrison batteries, but not to position batteries, for these competitions.

In accordance with the request of Col. Howard Vincent, a most useful and interesting scheme for a competition in "time marching" was prepared by Captain and Adjutant Brodie, for the Queen's Westminster R.V., and was carried out on Saturday, 16th November. The object was "to test the knowledge of officers commanding companies in the very important subject of calculating with exactitude the time occupied by infantry in marching, so as to arrive at a given spot with actual punctuality to a given minute." Six detachments of infantry were formed, all of which were ordered to parade at headquarters (the Queen's Hall). No. 1, consisting of A and B Companies, was under the command of Major Probyn, and was to march to Dulwich Station, returning to Queen's Hall by 8.30 p.m. No. 2 detachment, (K and L), under Major Twisady, was to march to Highgate Road Station, and was also to be back to Queen's Hall at 8.30 p.m. No. 3 (F and M), Captain Rose, had to march to the south corner of Clapham Common, and to be at Queen's Hall at 8.35. The destination of No. 4 (H and I), Captain Lambert, was Wormwood Scrubs, and it also was due at Queen's Hall by 8.35. No. 5 (D and E), Captain Canning, had to march to Barnes Station, and to be back at Queen's Hall at 8.40, and No. 6 (C and G), Captain Bone, was to go to Finchley Road Station, also being due at headquarters at 8.40. The Cyclist Section, under Sergeant Woodward, was sent to Hampton Court Station, and the Mounted Infantry (under Troop-Sergeant Mellings) to Pinner Station, and both had to be back by 8.33. The following important instructions were given to the detachment commanders: "Each officer will calculate exactly what time he must parade at headquarters so as to return exactly at the hour named. No stepping out, stepping short, marking time, or doubling to be allowed. With cyclists and mounted infantry fair riding according to state of roads, etc. Each officer must halt his men for five minutes on both the going and return march, but not within one mile of headquarters, and for ten minutes at the distant point to be marched to." In every case, as far as the infantry detachments were concerned, the route chosen for returning was different from that for the outward march. Captain Brodie had framed his scheme so skilfully that the times of parade, so far as the infantry detachments were concerned, did not vary to any great extent. Thus No. 5 proceeded at 4.45, Nos. 1, 2 and 4 at 5, No. 6 at 5.20, and No. 3 at 5.40. The results of the competition were as follows:

	Ord'd to Arrive.	Arrived.	
No. 1 Det. (A and B)	....	8.30	8.35      5 min. late.
No. 2 Det. (K and L)	....	8.30	8.25      5 min. early.
No. 3 Det. (F and M)	....	8.35	8.37      2 min. late.
No. 4 Det. (H and I)	....	8.35	8.35      exact.
No. 5 Det. (D and E)	....	8.40	8.40      exact.
No. 6 Det. (C and G)	....	8.40	8.30      10 min. early.
Mounted Infantry	....	8.30	8.30      exact.
Cyclists	....	8.30	9.50      { 1 hour and 20 min. late.

It will be observed that Nos. 4 and 5 of the infantry detachments, Captain Lambert's and Captain Canning's, which went to Wormwood Scrubs and Barnes respectively, got back to Queen's Hall at the prescribed time exactly. So did the mounted infantry, under Sergeant Mellings, which had gone to Pinner. No of the other detachments, except that of the cyclists, were more than then minutes too late or too early.

Several Japanese naval officers who were under orders to leave for England in order to take over the *Chioday Kan* from her builders, Messrs. Thompson & Co., of Glasgow, left by the French mail July 24. Her dimensions are: Length, 310 feet; beam, 41 feet.

The last issue of the *Dominion Illustrated* is a military number and is sure to be prized by our veteran and volunteer readers. It is mainly devoted to the establishment and progress of the Royal Military College, Kingston, every feature of which institution is finely illustrated. Portraits are also given of the three commandants—Col. Hewett and Major-Generals Oliver and Cameron. Every soldier in Canada should have a copy of this illustrated history of Canada's military training school, which has given so many able and valiant officers to the Imperial Army. A stirring college song by the Rev. Prof. K. L. Jones will be prized by all patriots.

### The Rifle.

Major C. A. Wikoff, U.S.A., Inspector of Small Arms Target Practice, Dept. Columbia, in his exhaustive report of practice for 1889, recommends—That in addition to present allowance of ammunition, there be issued yearly to each troop, battery and company, 1,000 shells of good quality. That increased practice in file firing be made compulsory. That greater attention be paid to estimating distances. Notwithstanding the proficiency of the soldier in the use of his arm, in battle, his effectiveness in firing will be greatly lessened, by inability to accurately estimate distance. That firing at movable targets be made an element of classification, as in action the enemy is generally a movable target, and the ability to hit such a target the end for which the system of target was devised.

Gen. Sir Evelyn Wood, of the British army, has issued the report of some experiments in long range volley firing at unknown distances by regular troops at Aldershot, Eng., last month. The object consisted of two dummy guns with eight gunners, and each regiment used 120 marksmen to fire, in four sections of 15 files, five volleys each. The 2nd Royal Scots, elevating at from 1,100 to 1,125 yards, the actual distance being 1,265, made only two hits on guns and seven on gunners, or 1.77 per cent. of shots fired; and ten shots were found on dummies 150 yards in front of guns. The 1st Devon, elevating for 1,000 yards (the distance being 1,070), made no hits on the guns, but 11 on the gunners, or 1.83 per cent.; 22 hits being made on dummies 150 yards in front. The elevation used by the 1st King's Rifles for an object 830 yards distant was from 600 to 690, the result being one hit on a gun and three on gunners, or 0.66 per cent.; and no fewer than 62 hits were found on the dummies in front. Sir Evelyn Wood considers the result—1.40 per cent. of hits for the rounds fired by the three regiments—points to the necessity of more careful and frequent practice in range finding. The direction of the fire was good, as proved by the hits on the dummies in front of the guns. The General remarks that the light was bad, and possibly many of the men when aiming lost sight of the mark; but this difficulty might have been overcome if sectional commanders had selected intermediate points for the men to aim at. Very good results were obtained by this means last year, when the target, 2,000 yards off, was hidden by fog.

### MARTINI-HENRY V. THE NEW MAGAZINE RIFLE.

Two important rifle matches were fired at Hythe last month, the details of which will doubtless prove of much interest at the present time, affording some comparison between the shooting capabilities of the old and new arms at the fixed distances of 200, 500 and 600 yards. The teams consisted of eight on each side, all belonging to the School of Musketry Staff, and the conditions were that every man should fire with the Martini-Henry rifle and also with the Magazine rifle, seven shots at each of three ranges, with Wimbledon targets, positions and scoring.

In the first match Major Harley's team fired first with the Martini-Henry rifle, and then with the Magazine at each distance, Lieut. Dutton-Hunt's team commencing with the Magazine; but, in the second match, the order was reversed, this arrangement being made so as to make the conditions of light, &c., as fair as possible for both rifles. The swords on the Magazine rifles were fixed at 200 yards to enable the men to use the lowest or "fixed" sight, which is true for 300 yards when the swords are *not* fixed, and about true for 200 yards when they are fixed. In considering the results it must be borne in mind that the competitors had had, comparatively speaking, very little previous experience in shooting with the new rifle, and that the new "Lewes" sights, without doubt, require a considerable amount of practice before one becomes quite accustomed to using them correctly; further the Magazine rifle is sighted to shoot a "Nitro" powder, but, as this particular powder has not yet been finally adopted, a compressed black powder is being used as a temporary measure, and this does not give such good results, more elevation being required at the longer ranges. The light failed on both days during the shooting at 600 yards, but, notwithstanding this, the shooting was very good. The highest individual scores were two 98's made in the second match by Captain Bagnall and Lieut. Dutton-Hunt, made up by the former with 33, 35 and 30, and, by the latter, with 32, 34 and 32 at the three distances; both these scores were made with the Martini-Henry rifle, and it may be noticed that 98 has never been beaten in a School of Musketry match on the Hythe ranges. The highest score with the Magazine rifle was 97 made by Q.-M.-S.-I. Hills, also in the second match, with 31, 33 and 33. It may be mentioned that all the officers and non-commissioned officers who belong to corps forming part of the First Army Corps, and who are undergoing the present course at Hythe, are armed with the new rifle, as also are all the officers at the temporary Musketry School at Aldershot. These were the scores in the first match.

Major Harley's side, Martini rifle:—665 : Magazine rifle, 671 ; total 1,336. Lieut.-Dutton-Hunt's side, Martini rifle, 690. Magazine rifle, 646 ; total, 1,336. The result of the match was thus a tie, with 38 points in favour of the Martini. In the second match the scores stood:—Major Harley's side—Martini, 692 ; Magazine, 689 ; total, 1,381. Lieut. Dutton-Hunt's side:—Martini, 724 ; Magazine, 649 ; total, 1,373. Major Harley's side thus won by 8 points, with 78 points in favour of the Martini rifle.

### Militia General Orders (No. 18) of 20th November, 1889.

#### No. 1.—ACTIVE MILITIA.

**Reg. Can. Art.**—To be Lieutenant, prov., from 29th October, 1889, Henry Edward Burstall, vice Brevet Captain C. W. Drury, promoted. Lieut. Burstall has been detailed for duty with "C" Battery, until further orders.

Lieut. F. M. Gaudet has been transferred from "C" to "A" Battery.

**Infantry School Corps.**—**BREVET.**—Lieut. Robert Cartwright to have the rank of Captain in the Militia, from 29th October, 1889.

The confirmation of rank of Lieutenants S. J. A. Denison and T. D. B. Evans, notified in General Orders (14) 2nd August, 1889, is to date from 7th June, 1888.

**8th Regt. Cav.**—To be Assistant Surgeon, Robert McLearn, M.D., vice W. J. Norfolk, resigned.

**Quebec Field Bat.**—2nd Lieut. E. L. Caron resigns.

**Gaspe Bat. Gar. Art.**—To be Captain, Lieut. A. T. Carter, G.S., vice Brevet Major John Slous, who retires retaining brevet rank.

**New Brunswick Brig. Gar. Art.**—No. 1 Bat.—To be Lieut., 2nd Lieut. W. W. White, R.S.A., from No. 2 Battery, vice R. R. Ritchie, who resigns.

No. 3 Bat.—To be Lieut., 2nd Lieut. C. F. Harrison, R.S.A., vice G. K. McLeod, promoted.

No. 5 Bat.—To be Captain, Lieut. J. A. E. Steeves, R.S.A., vice E. J. Scamell, retired.

**Quebec Gar. Art.**—No. 3 Bat.—**Memo.**—The appointment of 2nd Lieut. P. P. Boulanger was caused by the resignation of A. C. de L. Panet, and not as stated in General Orders (17) 31st October, 1889.

**Gov. Gen.'s Foot Guards.**—Lieut.-Col. John Tilton resigns the command, and is placed on the "Special List" of officers retaining Active Militia rank under the provisions of No. 2 of General Orders (7) 13th May, 1887.

7th Bn.—To be Captain, prov., John Studley Ashplant.

12th Bn.—Paymaster J. M. Stevenson is granted the honorary rank of Major.

23rd Bn.—Surgeon Tancrède Fortier resigns.

26th Bn.—To be Quartermaster, Ethelwolf Scatcherd, vice J. H. Marshall, appointed Major (prov.) 7th Battalion.

32nd Bn.—No. 2 Co.—To be Lieutenant, prov., Horace Alexander McIntosh, vice R. Vanstone, transferred to No. 2 Co., 33rd Bn.

38th Bn.—To be Captains, Lieut. C. M. Nelles, R.S.I., vice A. E. Christie, who resigns.

Lieut. and Capt. W. D. Jones, M.S.; vice George Kidney, who retires retaining rank.

To be Lieutenants, prov., Robert Wilson Robertson, vice W. D. Jones, promoted.

David Watson, vice E. R. Bishop, appointed Assistant Surgeon.

Alexander Leith Bown, vice C. M. Nelles, promoted.

To be 2nd Lieutenants, prov., Staff-Sergeant Edmund Mawbey Fowler, vice J. W. Haworth, who resigns.

John Vernon Jenkins, vice H. H. Rowley, transferred to 90th Battalion.

49th Bn.—No. 6 Co.—To be 2nd Lieutenant, Robert David Meyers, G.S. 3rd, vice A. H. Smith, promoted.

57th En.—Promotions in this battalion, being a City Corps, will in future be made according to seniority in the battalion.

58th Bn.—To be Lieutenant-Colonel, Major Malcolm McAuley, V.B., vice F. M. Pope, appointed a Brigade Major.

To be Adjutant, Capt. E. S. Baker, M.S. (formerly Lieutenant in H. M. 22nd Regt.), from No. 10 Co., vice John H. Cook, who having served the qualifying period for the rank of Captain, is placed on the Retired List retaining rank.

Major James D. Ramage is placed on the Retired List retaining rank.

72nd Bn.—To be Major, Capt. and Brevet Major Charles Jacques, V.B., from No. 1 Co., vice S. Spurr, promoted.

No. 1 Co.—To be Captain, Lieut. Ambrose Dodge, M.S., vice C. Jacques, promoted.

2nd Lieut. H. S. Jacques, R.S.I., No. 5 Co., 72nd Bn., is confirmed in his rank from 14th October, 1889.

85th Bn.—No. 6 Co.—To be 2nd Lieutenant, prov., Ernest Bélanger, vice J. R. Forest.

88th Bn.—No. 3 Co.—To be Lieut., prov., Joseph F. X. Bossé, vice L. C. Bégin, appointed Quartermaster.

To be 2nd Lieut., prov., Arthur Pelletier, vice L. A. Gagné, promoted.

90th Bn.—To be Captains, Lieut. J. H. Howden, S.M.I., vice F. C. Campbell, who retires retaining rank.

Lieut. L. W. G. Broughall, S.M.I., vice G. F. Brophy, who retires retaining rank.

To be Lieutenants, 2nd Lieut. Thos. Smith, S.M.I., 1st B., vice J. H. Howden, promoted.

2nd Lieut. John McLaren, R.S.M.I., vice L. W. G. Broughall, promoted.

To be 2nd Lieutenant, prov., Alexander Thomas Ogilvie, vice T. Smith, promoted.

Major C. F. Forrest retires retaining rank.

**MEMO.**—The appointment of 2nd Lieut. W. F. Godson was caused by the promotion of L. W. G. Broughall, and not as stated in General Orders (17), 31st October, 1889.

#### No. 2.—CERTIFICATES GRANTED.

##### Rank, Name and Corps.

Class.	Course.	Grade.	Written.	Practical.	Aggregate Percentage
<i>Royal Schools of Artillery.</i>					
1	S	B	90	87	88
2	S	B	72	62	66
2	S	B	66	70	68
<i>Royal Schools of Infantry.</i>					
1	Sp	A	75	75	75
1	Sp	A	82	77	79
2	Sp	A	69	69	69

A special certificate for Equitation has been granted by the Commandant Royal School of Cavalry to Brevet Major W. E. Hodgins, Adjutant Governor General's Foot Guards, with 79 as the aggregate percentage of marks obtained.

#### No. 3.—ASSOCIATIONS FOR DRILL IN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS.

**Mount Forest High School Drill Co.**—To act as Lieutenant, Acting Sergeant W. Ernest Stevenson, vice C. A. Jones, left the institution.

To act as 2nd Lieutenant, Acting Sergeant James Gardiner, vice J. H. Tanner, left the institution.

**St. Mary's College 2nd Drill Co.**—To act as Captain, Honoré Mercier, junior, vice E. Hurtubise.

To act as Lieutenant, J. Hudon, vice P. Lacoste.

To act as 2nd Lieutenant, Léon Hurtubise, vice H. Larocque.

The "Saint John School Drill Company" and the "University of New Brunswick Drill Association" having been reported non-efficient, they are removed from the list of Associations for Drill in Educational Institutions.

The colonel of a prominent National Guard regiment is quoted as saying: "The majority of commissioned and non-commissioned officers in the National Guard seemingly do not comprehend the great importance of making finished soldiers in the recruit squad. Experience has taught me this fact, that unless the recruit leaves the squad a perfect soldier in all particulars, he rarely, if ever, amounts to a great deal afterwards. It is all important that the recruit should be well instructed when first enlisted." This, it seems to us, equally applies to the regular army.

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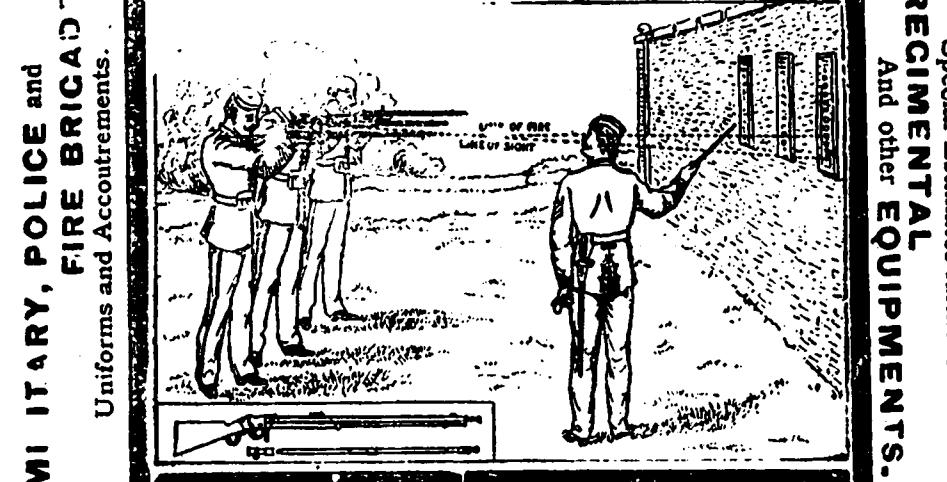
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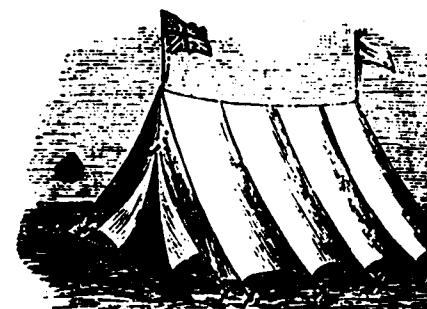
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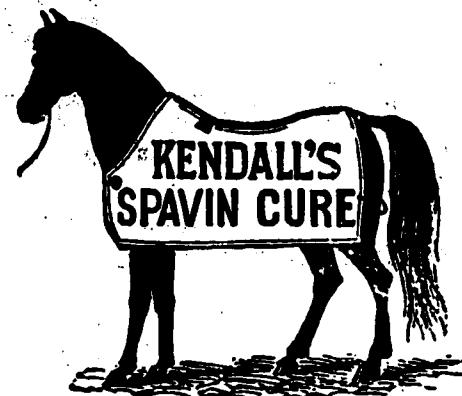
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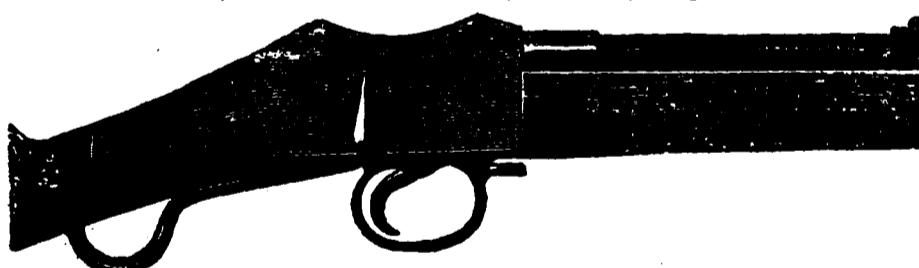


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