

THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE

A Weekly Journal devoted to the Interests of the Active Force of the Dominion.

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THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE, P. O. Box 316, Ottawa, Ont.

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Topics of the Week.

Our advocacy of a general efficiency competition for the infantry has elicited a hearty letter of endorsement—printed elsewhere in the issue—from Captain C. Greville Harston, of the 10th Royal Grenadiers, Toronto. From officers of several other regiments we have heard expressions of approval of the idea, but all seem alike bashful about taking the initiative in establishing the competition. We invite correspondence from all those who may have opinions or advice to offer on the subject. Such an interchange of views would facilitate the preparation of a generally acceptable scheme.

More than once in the past we have had occasion to quote the 21st Essex Fusiliers as a sample of a truly live rural corps, who could put to the blush many a city battalion more advantageously situated. The live manner in which the affairs of the 21st are looked after, is instanced by the circular notice just issued by the officer commanding, summoning his fellow officers to the annual meeting, to be held at Windsor on the 29th inst. Officers are requested to be present in full dress uniform. This is the business to be disposed of:—1, Reception of band and regimental committees' reports; 2, the appointing of band, regimental and mess committees for 1890-91; 3, clothing and articles of equipment for the regiment and band; 4, course of squad and company drill for the coming season, preparatory to going to camp, and the best plan to induce the constant attendance of n.c.o. and men; 5, officers' studies and discipline; 6, the formation of a League rifle team for 1890-91; 7, re-organization of rifle association; 8, the officers are all especially requested to assemble in Windsor on the day of meeting in time to proceed to Sandwich to wait on the County Council at 10.30 a.m., to solicit a grant in aid of equipment, etc. Other friends of the regiment will accompany the delegation. If Col. Wilkinson does not keep the 21st up to the very highest possible point of efficiency, it certainly will not be for any lack of well-directed endeavour on his part.

For an officer to have served half a lifetime in a corps, and maintain such a degree of popularity as to call for a complimentary banquet in his honour, must be a source of no little gratification to the individual.

Such an honour has been done Lieut.-Col. T. Bog, commanding the 16th Prince Edward Battalion of Infantry, whose officers entertained him at Picton, Ont., last week. A detailed account of the affair appears in our regimental news columns. Col. Bog organized the first company of the 16th Battalion in 1862.

What They Say of Us.

A few weeks ago we published a long list of complimentary notices received from our friends in all parts of the country. They came entirely unsolicited, mainly in letters enclosing renewal subscriptions, and were a source of no little gratification to the publisher, who has found great difficulty in cultivating the field open for a military publication in this country. Those notices were but samples of what we constantly receive, and since their publication these have come to hand:

Lieut.-Colonel, Chatham, N.B.—"The militia force is indebted to your spicy journal for many interesting items, as well as a fund of useful information upon subjects connected with the various branches of the service; and is deserving of a very generous support."

Lieutenant, St. John, N.B.—"I find in it very useful information, and wish you every success with your paper."

Lieutenant, Hamilton, Ont.—"I am very glad to see that you have received so many letters of encouragement from all over the country. I have taken the GAZETTE for over two years now and always look for it eagerly. I have friends and acquaintances all over the country, and if it were not for your paper I would probably never hear of their movements. Your records of shooting competitions, both Infantry and Artillery, I take a great interest in."

Staff-Sergeant, London, Ont.—"I wish you every success with your publication, which is very valuable to the militia generally. I hope they will recognize its worth and learn to appreciate it as a medium of military information."

Captain, London, Ont.—"I must congratulate you on the manner in which you appear to have surmounted difficulties which must at times often have appeared insurmountable."

Captain, Toronto.—"Your energy and pluck deserve generous recognition on the part of the militia. It is in their own interest to support the GAZETTE. Every man in the force ought to read it."

Captain, Quebec.—"I will take this opportunity of telling you how useful I found the GAZETTE in the past, both for reference and for general information on military matters. I wish you every success in the future."

Sergeant-Major, Belleville.—"Enclosed find amount of a year's subscription, and please send the paper from the beginning of the year, as I desire to have the volume bound. I regret exceedingly that I did not long ago become a subscriber to your interesting and valuable journal, but hope to be permanently on your list for the future."

The published certificates as to the useful purpose the paper serves, we trust will carry weight with those members of the force, and particularly the officers, who are not already subscribers, and induce them to contribute their mite to help it along, for the subscription price is only a mite. No one is very desirable as an officer of the force who cannot afford \$1.50 a year for a military paper; and the officer who can afford and will not pay the trifle we venture to say will be found to belong only because he desires an opportunity of parading in a stylish looking uniform.

A Creditable Business Record:

The celebration of the sixtieth anniversary of its establishment, gives us an opportunity of printing some interesting particulars relative to one of the houses long represented in our advertising columns, and in which a popular officer of the 5th Royal Scots, Montreal, is a principal partner. The celebration is thus described in the *Witness* of the 14th inst.:

The sixtieth anniversary of Mr. Henry Lyman's "business birthday" was celebrated last evening in a wonderfully pleasant and enjoyable manner. In the Richelieu hotel Mr. Lyman gathered around him his family, partners and employees, and entertained them in the most handsome manner. The occasion had a double interest—Mr. Lyman's business anniversary and the return of the firm to their old premises, which were burned some time ago. The guests were received by Mr. Henry Lyman, assisted by his sons, Mr. Roswell Lyman and Major H. H. Lyman and his other partner, Mr. Henry Miles, who was accompanied by Mrs. Miles. Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Lyman were also present. After an excellent dinner had been discussed, Mr. Thomas Boyd proposed the toast of the evening—that of Mr. Henry Lyman, whom he had served for thirty years past.

In responding, Mr. Lyman traced the history of the firm back into the early years of the century. His uncle, Mr. Louis Lyman, started business as a druggist in St. Paul street, under the name of Wadsworth & Lyman, as early as 1802. Messrs. Wadsworth & Lyman dissolved partnership in 1805, forming two firms, Wadsworth Brothers and Louis Lyman & Co. In 1816 the firm of Hedge & Lyman was formed by Mr. William Hedge and Mr. William Lyman, his (the speaker's) eldest brother, who had been a clerk with L. Lyman & Co. Mr. Hedge might also be called a Lyman, being connected with the family by marriage. Soon after this Louis Lyman & Co. disposed of their stock to Messrs. Day & Gelston, Mr. Day being the father of the late Mr. Justice Day. In 1827 Messrs. Day and Gelston retired, disposing of their stock to Messrs. Hedge & Lyman, thus preserving the continuity of the Lyman name. In 1836 Mr. William Lyman retired, and Messrs. Benjamin, Henry and W. Lyman formed the firm of William Lyman & Co. The Toronto house was then organized under the name of J. W. Brent & Co., by his brothers William and Benjamin, and the late Mr. Brent. The two firms have since continued to the present time with the added assistance of Messrs. Alfred Savage, W. H. Clare, D. B. Macpherson, D. A. Lyman, Alex. Manson, Charles Lyman and his sons, and Mr. Henry Miles. Mr. W. Lyman retired in 1855, and Mr. Savage in 1860. The speaker then gave an interesting history of the two firms—Lyman Bros & Co., Toronto, and Lyman, Sons & Co., Montreal. His personal reminiscences were vividly told. He was born in Northampton, Massachusetts. In 1815 his family removed to Montreal, where they remained for 12 years, returning in 1827 to a farm near Northampton. In 1829 the speaker returned and entered the house of Hedge & Lyman as apprentice. He referred to the long hours, the lack of holidays, and the drinking habits of those early days. Temperance was, in his judgment, the best policy. The essentials to success were fair dealing, probity, purity of goods, paying one hundred cents on the dollar, and paying it when due.

The holding of a series of tournaments in which volunteers will be invited to take part, is in contemplation in connection with the military exhibition, to be held at Chelsea, England, in May next.

The oldest ex-volunteer living is, without doubt, William Balmer, who was born at Hawick in 1798 or 1799. He enlisted in the 92nd Regiment in 1817, and after seeing a good deal of foreign service was discharged on a pension of a shilling a day in 1838. On the formation of the 4th Roxburgh Rifle Corps in 1860, Balmer, whose age must then have been about 61, joined the corps as bugler. The veteran continued to serve in that capacity for twenty years, and it is mentioned as an example of his sturdiness, that whenever the Border battalion was assembled he generally chose to act as orderly bugler. As might be expected, the old soldier's 90 years are telling their inevitable tale, and he has for some time had to rest on his arms.

It is officially announced that the Queen has signified her approval of the Soudan medal, with a clasp inscribed "Gemaizah, 1888," being awarded to all troops who were landed at Suakim before the action of Gemaizah, on December 20, 1888, and were there on that day, the same medal to be granted to all troops who were employed on the Nile, at and south of Korosko on August 3, 1889. A clasp inscribed "Toski, 1889," is to be given to all who were present at that action on August 3 last. Those officers and men who are already in possession of the Soudan medal will receive the clasps only.

Lord Napier of Magdala.

Lord Robert Cornelius Napier died at London, last week, of the influenza. Lord Napier, of Magdala, G.C.B., G.C.S.I., was at the time of his death one of the five field marshals of the British forces, ranking next to the Prince of Wales; Colonel Commandant Royal (Bengal) Engineers, and Constable of the Tower of London. He was also a member of the House of Lords. Lord Napier was one of the most famous of English soldiers. Born in Ceylon in 1810, his father was Major C. F. Napier, Royal Artillery. His mother was a daughter of Codrington Carrington, of Blackmans, Barbados. He was educated at the military college, Addiscombe, entered the corps of Bengal Engineers in 1836, and served with distinction in the Sutlej campaign, at the conclusion of which, having attained the rank of major, he was selected by the late Sir Henry Lawrence for the responsible post of engineer to the Durbar of Lahore. He was, by this position, enabled to acquire that special knowledge of the Punjab and its resources, so essential to a judicious development of the latter, should the tide of events necessitate the undertaking of such a task by the Indian government. He was constantly referred to, when Moolraj rebelled, on all questions connected with the reduction of Mooltan, at the siege of which he was present as senior engineer, and at its fall accompanied Gen. Wish's force to the fords of the Chenaub, where, after the juncture with the main army under Lord Gough, he served as one of Sir John Cheape's "right hand men" at the battle of Goojerat. He was promoted to the rank of colonel, and named chief engineer under the new Punjab administration, when Col. Napier was enabled to carry out his long cherished plans for covering that almost trackless country with arteries of military and commercial highways, after constructing magnificent canals destined to fertilize the arid Doab, and eventually to cause the construction of numerous public buildings, barracks, etc., requisite to the efficient administration of the province. He was engaged in the discharge of these onerous duties for some years, until summoned to Calcutta to assume the post of chief engineer of Bengal. During the mutiny of 1857, he served in the capacity of chief engineer with the army of Sir Colin Campbell, and the part he played in the suppression of the rebellion greatly enhanced his previous high reputation. It was Lord Napier who, at the siege of Lucknow, planned that bridging of the Goomtee river which exercised so great an influence on the operations for the overthrow of the enemy, and he was afterwards appointed to the command of the force employed to destroy the rebels re-united under Tantia Topee; but on Sir Hugh Rose claiming the execution of this task, Col. Napier acted as his second in command. For his services in China as second in command under Sir Hope Grant he was rewarded by being made major general, a K.C.B., and successor to Sir J. Outram as military member of the Council of India. This post he resigned in January, 1865, when he was nominated to succeed Sir W. Mansfield as commander-in-chief at Bombay, with the local rank of lieutenant-general. In 1867 he received the appointment to command the expedition intended to rescue the Abyssinian captives, and was made a knight commander of the star of India. He achieved brilliant success: King Theodore was thoroughly defeated in an engagement on the heights of Islangie, April 10, 1868, and soon afterwards released his prisoners. The English commander followed up his victory by the storming of Magdala on the 13th, when Theodore, in despair, committed suicide. On Sir Robert Napier's return to England, in July, he received the thanks of Parliament; the sum of £2,000 per annum was settled on him and his next heir, in consideration of his services; he was elevated to the peerage by the title of Baron Napier of Magdala; was presented with the freedom of the city of London and a sword of the value of 200 guineas; and received other marks of honour. He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society, Dec 16, 1869. In January, 1870, he was appointed to succeed Sir William Mansfield as commander-in-chief of the forces in India, with the local rank of general; and in May following he was nominated fifth ordinary member of the council of the governor-general of India. He was appointed governor of Gibraltar in June, 1876. In February, 1878, he was selected by the government to be the commander-in-chief of the English expeditionary force in the event of England at that time declaring war against Russia—a contingency which was averted by the treaty of Berlin.

The successor to the title is his son, Hon. Robert William Napier, who is forty-five years old.

It is by attending to details that the army of one nation becomes superior to that of another, and is enabled to win victories with a minimum expenditure of blood and money.—*Sir F. Roberts.*

In the present state of the science of war, no army, be its numbers ever so great, can bring any offensive operation of magnitude to a successful termination, if destitute of any of the three branches constituting the strength of armies.—*Mitchell.*

The Countersign.

Alas! the weary hours pass slow,
The night is dark and still,
And in the marshes far below,
I hear the bearded whippoorwill;
I scarce can see a yard ahead,
My ears are strained to catch each sound;
I hear the leaves about me shed,
And the springs bubbling through the ground.

Along the beaten path I pace,
Where white rays mark my sentry's track;
In formless shrubs I seem to trace
The foeman's form with bended back,
I think I see him crouching low,
I stop and listen—I stoop and peer,
Until the neighbouring hillocks grow
To groups of soldiers far and near.

With ready piece, I wait and watch,
Until my eyes, familiar grown,
Detect each harmless earthen notch,
And turn guerillas into stone,
And then amid the lonely gloom,
Beneath the weird old tulip trees
My silent marching I resume,
And think on other times than these.

So comes the dream—so fleets the night,
When distant in the darkness glen,
Approaching up the sombre height,
I hear the solid march of men;
Till over stubble, over sward,
And fields where gleam the golden sheaf
I see the lantern of the guard
Advancing with the night relief.

"Halt! Who goes there?" My challenge cry;
It rings along the watchful line.
"Relief!" I hear a voice reply;
"Advance one, and give the Countersign!"
With bayonet at the charge, I wait,
The Corporal gives the mystic spell;
With arms at port, I charge my mate,
And onward pass, and all is well.

But in the tent that night awake,
I think, if in the fray I fall
Can I the mystic answer make
When the angelic sentries call?
And pray that Heaven may, so ordain,
Where'er I go, what fate be mine,
Whether in pleasure or in pain
I yet may have the Countersign.

[The American Volunteer.]

Major E. G. Selby-Smyth, Royal Irish Rifles, has been selected for the adjutancy of the 4th Battalion, at Belfast, vice Captain F. J. Tobin, whose five years in the appointment will expire in April. Major Selby-Smyth was A.D.C. to the General Officer commanding the troops at the Cape of Good Hope from November, 1873 to October, 1875, and to the Commander of the Militia of Canada from November 1875 to July 1879; he was adjutant from July 1883 to July 1888, and he obtained his majority twelve months ago.

The German Emperor has not forgotten the naval display he witnessed at Portsmouth. Admiral Sir Edmund Commerell, who conducted His Majesty over the fleet, has received a state sword, accompanied by a letter from the Emperor, which is described as a souvenir of an occasion which His Majesty was not likely to forget. At the Royal review at Aldershot, on August 7th last, the Emperor spoke to Sir Evelyn Wood in terms of high praise of the working of the troops he saw on that occasion. Sir Evelyn has now received from His Imperial Majesty a sword of honour, the hilt of which is richly studded with diamonds. On one side is the monogram, "W. R.," and on the reverse the Imperial crown.

A second test of the Polymath bullet-proof armour took place Jan. 14 at Waseington barracks, under the supervision of Gen. Gibson and Capt. Chester. A bag filled with oats was placed at one end of the range and a small target, made of the thin material which its inventor claims is bullet-proof, was fastened to the bag. It was decided to shoot from the 500-yard line. Lieut. Geo. Bennett did the shooting and did some very clever work, as the target was so small as to be scarcely visible at the end of the range. The first target was pierced the first time it was hit, and a second, which was said to be a stronger one, was substituted, but suffered a like fate. The test was complete, and showed that an undergarment made of the proposed material would not be the slightest protection against a modern bullet. President Lincoln's method of dealing with the inventor of such a contrivance was to ask him to put it on and let him fire at him.

Regimental and Other News.

A large and enthusiastic meeting of the members of the Battleford column of the Northwest Field Force was held in Toronto last week, when it was decided that a reunion of the force should be held on the 28th of March next. A large number of letters were received from members living out of the city signifying their intention of being present at the reunion. It is expected that members of the old brigade now living in the United States and the Northwest Territories will be represented. Judging from the enthusiasm of the men, and the strength of the Provisional Committee, this reunion will be a great success. The following are the names of those on the Provisional Committee:—Capt. MacDonald, Capt. Brock, Lieut. George, Col. Sergt. McKell, Col. Sergt. World, Sergts. Langtry, Eddis, Laidlaw, Ham, N. B. Sanson, A. McKenzie, and Messrs. J. F. Edgar, W. Wallace, N. Ham, and Alex. Boyd. The meeting adjourned to meet at a time and place due notice of which will be given, for the purpose of appointing a permanent committee, and deciding upon the nature of the reunion.

COMPLIMENT TO LIEUT.-COL. BOG.

About two dozen prominent citizens accepted of invitations to be present at a dinner tendered to Col. T. Bog by Major McDonnell, on Tuesday evening, 14th inst., at the Tecumseth House, Picton, Ont. The universal grippe prevented a number of invitations from being accepted, and some of those present claimed to be victims of the malady; but it was a cheerful and brilliant gathering and will long be remembered. Among those who sat down to the table were: Lt.-Col. Bog, Major McDonnell, Dr. Platt, M.P., surgeon; Capt. John A. Sprague, M.P.P.; Major Donald Ross, quartermaster; Major W. T. Ross, paymaster; Capt. Horrigan, Capt. Lighthall, Lieut. Horrigan, Lieut. Wilson, Capt. Arnott, 40th Batt., Hastings; Sheriff Gillespie, Registrar Mackenzie, R. B. Crombie, Manager Bank of Montreal; John A. Wright, John Caven, C. J. Bongard, W. Boulter, E. M. Young, R. A. Foster, W. Kerchausen, C. A. McDonnell, Mark Burlingham, and representatives of the local press. The 16th Battalion band was in attendance. The cuisine was carefully attended to and the tables were loaded with a lavish profusion of the choicest edibles. The dining room was decorated with flags and bunting and presented a festive appearance. A list of toasts was drunk with enthusiasm and speeches were made containing many complimentary allusions to the guest of the evening and his great services to the battalion since its organization.

MEETING OF VETERANS.

The half-yearly meeting of the Toronto Army and Navy Veterans' Society, which was largely attended, took place in Temperance Hall on the 14th inst., Mr. John Nunn in the chair. The following new members were proposed: Honorary—Major Vidal, late 4th King's Own, and Lieut. Alexander Leith, Ancaster; ordinary—Robert Fernley, late 14th Hussars; Edward Hance, late 38th Staffordshire Regiment; William Whiter and William Stevens, late 1st Battalion 60th Rifles; and William Cole, late Royal Horse Artillery. A communication was read from the Secretary of State for War stating that in answer to the prayer of the society's petition immediate action would be taken as to the payment of pensioners by post-office order. A pattern of the new band uniform was exhibited on Private Walker and approved by the meeting. The cap resembles that worn by the staff-sergeants of the Grenadier Guards, and the tunic the patrol jacket of an officer of the Rifles. A chart, representing the uniforms of various divisions of the service, was presented to the society by Sergt. Brown, late of the Royal Artillery. The receipts for the evening were \$35.25.

THE DUFFERIN RIFLES.

The regular annual meeting of the officers of the 38th Battalion Dufferin Rifles of Canada was held in the officers' rooms, on the 13th inst. Present—Lieut.-Col. C. S. Jones, Major B. H. Rothwell, Surgeon Wm. T. Harris, Capt. and Adj. W. A. Wilkes, Paymaster, Capt. J. S. Hamilton, Quartermaster, Capt. Harris, Asst.-Surgeon H. Minchen, Capt. H. J. McGlashan, H. F. Leonard, W. D. Jones, C. M. Nelles, Lieuts. J. Ruddy, W. G. Kilmaster, Robertson, H. D. Curtis and A. J. Bown. The regular annual reports were presented, showing the battalion to be in a most satisfactory condition. The Standing Committees for the year were appointed as follows: Regimental Committee—Major T. Harry Jones, Capt. Stratford and Capt. Hamilton; Band Committee—Capt. McLean, Capt. Jones and Lieut. Curtis; Mess Committee—Major Rothwell, Capt. Leonard and Capt. Nelles; Rifle Committee—Lieut.-Col. Jones, Surgeon Harris, Capt. McGlashan, Leonard, Nelles and Harris; Entertainment Committee—Major Jones, Capt. Wilkes and Nelles, and Lieuts. Kilmaster, Robertson and Bown; Armoury Committee—This is a new committee to look after the new drill shed generally, and is composed of the captains of each company with Capt. and Adj. Wilkes; Auditors—Major Jones and Capt. McGlashan.

A circular was read to the officers from the Canadian Military Rifle League requesting the battalion to join and enter a team to take part in the matches. The matter was approved by the officers, but as the annual meeting of the D. R. R. A. was to take place on Tuesday, the 21st inst., it was thought best to defer action on the matter until the opinion of the Association was received.

THE SEVENTY THIRD BATTALION BAND.

The Band of the 73rd Batt. was entertained by Lt. Col. McCulley, the officer commanding, at a dinner on New Year's eve. The spread was given at the Lorne House and was gotten up in the good style which is customary at that long established hotel.

After full justice had been done to the various courses and the Bandsmen were engaged on the cigars and light refreshments the Colonel made his appearance accompanied by Lieuts. Mackenzie and Snowball and Adj. Templeton. A few toasts were then in order, and after the usual loyal sentiments were duly honoured, Bandmaster Kaine rose and proposed the health of Lt. Col. McCulley, which was received in the usual way and drunk with all the honours. In responding to the toast, the Colonel referred to the pleasure it gave him to see them enjoying the feast of good things, and observed that it appeared only justice to give a little enjoyment to those who contributed so largely to the pleasure of others; referred to the progress the Band was making; and said that a great deal was due to the exertions of Lieut. Mackenzie who took such a lively interest in the Band. He wished them all a very Happy New Year.

The health of Lieut. Mackenzie was then proposed and received with a great enthusiasm. Mr. Mackenzie in reply said it afforded him a great deal of satisfaction to be present at this social gathering, and that it was a labour of love to advance their interests in every way possible, referred to the marked improvement in the performances of the Band, and hoped that a discerning public would accord a fair patronage to the Band when they launched the concert programme. Lieut. Snowball was then honoured by having his health drunk, and responded in his usual happy, bright and intelligent way. Adj. Templeton was also remembered and gave the company one of his favourite songs, which was well received.

Bandmaster Kaine was presented by the members of the Band with a handsome meerschaum pipe. The presentation took him completely by surprise and he responded in a very feeling manner.

This Band is a credit to the 73rd Batt. and from the progress already made under Mr. Kaine's instruction bids fair to become one of the first musical associations in the Province. We bespeak good patronage from the public both in the way of engagements and in attendance at the concerts which are now being prepared. It is the intention of the Band Committee to have playing on the square during the coming spring and summer, and to that end we would urge the building of a band stand as soon as practicable.—*Chatham World*.

THE VICTORIA RIFLES.

The Vic's paraded at their armoury in the Montreal drill hall on Monday evening, 20th January, for company drill.

There was a fair muster, considering the weather, and had all the companies been provided with fur wedges there would probably have been a much larger parade.

A steady drill followed amid the choking clouds of dust from the cinder floor of the hall, and the battalion was dismissed until the 3rd February.

Major Radiger was in command of the battalion in the absence of Col. Henshaw, who is travelling in Europe at present.

Sergeant Goodfellow, late of B Company, I.S.C., St. John's, has joined the Vic's, and has been appointed sergeant drill instructor. He has entered upon his duties already, having taken charge of the n.c.o. class of 1889-90, and is making great progress with the candidates for stripes.

OVERHEARD.—A corporal was overheard to say to a private during a "stand easy": "This dust reminds me of our church parade in Toronto." "Yes," said the private, "I was not there, but I heard of it."

Hamilton.

The long talked of military ball given by the non-commissioned officers and men of the 13th Battalion has come and is over, and the unanimous verdict is that it was a grand success in every way. Between 400 and 500 people were present, but there should have been about 1,000 to make it a thorough financial success. However, better luck next time. The hall looked like a fairy scene, with the hundreds of flags, the various uniforms and the pretty dresses of the ladies. The four guns kindly lent by the Hamilton Field Battery were placed at the four corners of the dancing platform, muzzles to the centre. At each post there was a pile of rifles with fixed bayonets, and at different places in the hall bayonet stars reflected the brilliant light of the electric lamps placed there

for the occasion. Dancing commenced at 9.30, the music being supplied by the splendid band of the regiment, under the able leadership of Bandmaster Robinson. The following took part in the first set of Lancers:

Major Moore and Miss B. Moore,	Captain Stuart and Miss Mercer,
Mr. F. E. Kilvert and Mrs. Billings,	Mr. H. A. Mackelcan and Miss Walker,
Mr. J. D. Lansby and Mrs. Oliver,	Mr. H. Zealand and Miss Billings,
Lieut. Tidswell and Mrs. Tidswell,	Mr. Smart and Miss Mabel Young.

The programme consisted of twenty-six dances, and it was a very early hour on Saturday morning before it was finished. The supper, which was served at one end of the main hall—tastefully screened off with a hedge of evergreens,—commenced at about 11:30, and was entirely satisfactory. All the armouries were opened, and they made remarkably good sitting out rooms. The members took great pride in showing the armouries to their friends, and well they might, for it is entirely owing to their own exertions and money that they are in the condition they are now. There are, of course, two or three that might lay claim to being called the show armouries, but it is unnecessary to particularize; suffice it to say that they are all a source of credit to themselves and to the battalion. The ball was very enjoyable, and the floor was large enough to afford the most perfect facilities for waltzing.

The 13th officers present were: Major Moore, Major Barnard, Major Mason, Capt. Stoneman, Stuart, Moore, Zealand and Mewburn, Lieuts. Tidswell, Bowman, Domville, Osborne and Witton; 2nd Lieuts. Labatt, Fearman, Bruce, Powis, Laidlaw and Hobson.

The stewards were: Lieuts. Tidswell, Witton, Fearman, Laidlaw and Bruce; Corporals Cleaves, Richmond and Henderson; Privates Kidner, Dixon and Low; the president was Sgt.-Major Athawes; the treasurer was Sergeant Bismarck; and the secretary was Corporal Henderson.

Lieut.-Colonel the Hon. J. M. Gibson, Q. C., M. P. P., was unable to be present, through illness, but is about again now.

Lieut.-Colonel Villiers, D. A. G., was to have been present, but at the last moment was unable to attend.

Lieut. A. B. Rastrick's (37th) many friends were glad to see him. He is a Hamiltonian, and makes a smart looking soldier.

Corporal Henderson, the secretary, was the hardest worked man of the whole battalion, and he deserves a great deal of credit for his exertions.

The object of the ball was to do away with company suppers and bring the whole regiment together. The boys did not take it up as they might have done, but it was not so bad for the first one.

Lieut. Domville says gold stripes are a great improvement, don't you know.

The genial face of the veteran rifle shot and musketry instructor, Captain Adam, was missed from the merry throng, but, like a great many more, he was suffering from that fashionable complaint, la grippe.

The "I'll do all I can for you, boys" of Captain Reid was also not forthcoming. La grippe was to blame again.

Major Mason was on deck, and didn't he enjoy himself? He is a good man at a party.

The committees in charge were as follows: Music Committee—Sergts. Healey and Martin and Pte. Murray; Printing Committee—Corp. Cleaves, Sergt. Claringbowl, Ptes. Moore, Kidner, Povey, Overholt, Armstrong and Creen; Refreshment Committee—Sergt. Harvey, Ptes. Wray, Upstill, Kilgour, Bruce and Wood, Colour-Sergts. Blake and Skedden. Sergt.-Major Athawes was chairman of the executive.

Hasty Intrenchments.

In an excellent paper upon the subject of Hasty Intrenchments for Infantry, by Lieutenant W. A. Shunk, U.S.A., in a recent issue of the *Journal of Military Service Institution*, he says: "The importance of hasty intrenchments is now so universally recognised that every civilised nation provides its troops with intrenching tools. The Linneman spade, weighing one and one-half pounds, and carried in a pouch weighing one-half pound, is now adopted by most European nations and issued to Infantry soldiers as part of their equipment to be carried on the person. With it the soldier can obtain cover in ordinary soil in eight minutes, and can make a very good shelter trench in thirty minutes. But it is too small for rapidity in heavier work; a body of troops that could build an ordinary redoubt with the Linneman spade in three and three-quarters hours, could do the same work with the ordinary spade in two and one-half hours. For such cases spades and long-handled shovels are carried in the company's waggons; axes and picks, &c., are also provided. The Germans issue one Linneman spade to every four men, the Russians and Austrians twice as many. The number of large spades is in most cases equal to one-fourth of the number of small ones; picks and axes in sufficient numbers are provided also. All the above nations require their Cavalry to carry intrenching tools in their company waggons, and

the Russians have in each Cavalry division mounted pioneers and sappers whose business it is to clear (or destroy) roads; to hastily fortify important advanced points, that they may be held until the arrival of Infantry, and to discharge other duties of the same kind.

"Hasty intrenchments originated in the absolute necessity of cover from the fire of rifled arms; their use increased with every improvement of those arms; and their importance is now universally recognised and provision made for their prompt and skilful construction at need in the armies of all civilised nations. In conclusion we may say that hasty intrenchments will doubtless be used for the same purposes and under the same circumstances in the future as in the past. And as all armies will henceforth march to battle prepared to intrench, we may expect that in the next war the party on the defensive will, in the presence of the enemy (or in his vicinity) always intrench his entire position so that it may be held by as few men as possible, thus holding a stronger force in reserve to reinforce points severely pressed, to oppose turning movements, or to take the offensive should opportunity offer. And we may expect the party on the offensive to thus particularly strengthen the defensive parts of his line against counter attack, in that way providing a stronger force for the main attack. It can hardly be expected that hasty intrenchments will ever be used more skilfully or more freely than in the American campaigns of 1864-65, and in the Turco-Russian War. But, as every man is now provided with the means of intrenching himself, and as the importance of such works is now generally understood, it is to be expected that their use will be generally greater in the future than in the past."

Correspondence.

AN EFFICIENCY COMPETITION FOR THE INFANTRY.

EDITOR MILITIA GAZETTE,—I have been very much struck by the useful proposition you have of late been urging of having an "Infantry Efficiency Competition," and expected to see in each number since you started this capital idea letters from more experienced (although hardly more enthusiastic) militiamen than myself, applauding the proposition and taking some steps towards making it *un fait accompli*. But as there seems an unwonted bashfulness as to who shall begin (I cannot believe it to be lack of interest), I venture to ask you to accept a few words upon the subject from a humble "mud crusher."

All must agree that every friendly rivalry and competition between the different battalions of our infantry that is carried out in a right spirit, must tend to raise the *esprit de corps*, and do a power of good to each and every battalion competing.

It is for this reason that our enthusiastic volunteers have received the new military rifle league so strongly into favour. In the old service we used to say that "the man who did not believe his own regiment to be the best was not worth his salt." Surely the same holds good here. I have often preached the doctrine, less petty jealousy, more healthy rivalry, more true *esprit de corps*. The Canadian militia as a body "first"; our own district militia as a body "second"; our whole city militia as a body "third"; our whole regiment "fourth," and then our own company as the best and smartest in our best and smartest regiment, the Royal Grenadiers, in our best and smartest district in Canada, in our best and smartest colonial militia. We have in our regiment an annual competition called the "Cumberland cup," for the best drilled company in the regiment, and although I may say in passing that I do not think our system of competition is satisfactory or accomplishes the end intended, yet see what it has done for us. Of the four companies competing this year, out of 600 points they were all within two or three of one another, and the men worked like horses to win, and although it is decided for the year, each company still believes itself to be "the best," and will work still harder another year. So each reaches a higher degree of excellence. Is not this a healthy sign? What would an indolent man be worth who did not believe the Royal Grenadiers to be "the" best regiment in Canada. Or what the value of a Q.O.R. man who did not look upon themselves as "the best," or a G.G.F.G., or a "Vic." or a 5th R.S., or a 90th man, or any other. If I were an officer in either of the above regiments or any other, and any of my men showed a disposition to think others better than "ours," I would give him the G.B. like a shot.

We shoot for the position of "best" for the year, why not compete in such an all important matter as "general efficiency"? The artillery have set us a good example by instituting such a competition, and by getting hold of the rules which govern the volunteer infantry competition in England, it should not be a hard task to devise an acceptable scheme.

Retired Capt. Fred. Cumberland started our regimental drill competition; cannot you induce some still enthusiastic retired officer of experience residing in the capital to take this matter in hand.

C. GREVILLE-HARSTON,
Captain, R. G.

The Rifle.

THE CANADIAN MILITARY LEAGUE.

These are the dates upon which it is proposed to hold the matches of the League, and those who have any objections to urge against them are invited to do so without delay: May 17th and 31st; June 14th and 28th; July 12th and 26th; August 9th. Thus, it will be noticed, a competition is fixed to take place on every alternate Saturday from the 17th May to the 9th August, inclusive.

IN SOUTH AFRICA.

The results of the competitions held by the various arms of volunteer forces at the Cape for the Government prizes, 1889, are as follows: For corps armed with the M.-H. carbine, at the usual three ranges, first prize, £45, Cape Mounted Rifles; second prize, £30, Frontier Mounted Rifles. For cadet corps, 100, 200 and 300 yards—Snider carbine.—first prize, £30, Graham's Town Public School; second prize, £20, St. Andrew's College. For corps armed with the M.-H. rifle, 200, 500, 600, 800, 900—first prize, £45, Duke of Edinburgh's Own Volunteer Rifles; second prize, £30, City (Graham's Town) Rifles. Eight corps competed in the first-named series, seven in the second, and twelve in the third.

THE VOLUNTEER COURSE AT HYTHE.

The third week has seen a good part performed of the very necessary musketry practices known as "field" practices, wherein a man is taught to fire by command of his section leader as much as possible under conditions obtaining in actual warfare. Attack and defence, and at disappearing and moving targets, not only moving across, but diagonally to the line of fire, were some of these very interesting practices, varied with examinations in the Maxim, Gardner, and Nordenfelt guns, their parts, actions, and how to remedy jams from whatever cause arising. Capt. Murphy, the adjutant of the school, who is one of the best living authorities on these forms of guns, on Saturday went to the ranges to make some experiments with a new sight, and, finding some "early birds" athirst for information, kindly afforded several of the volunteers a chance of seeing the deadliest of them all, the Maxim, firing ball; and these same lucky ones had subsequently a chance of putting a few shots on the target, laying the gun for themselves as in action.

The week has also comprised examination in the stadiometer, and fitting of Morris tubes, together with the usual lectures on musketry subjects generally. Christmas Day was of course a *dies non*, but a very pleasant evening was spent in the ante-room after mess, some excellent songs and recitations being given, a born genius in the person of Captain Mead—whose breast is adorned with the Khedive's star and war medal—keeping the whole party in a constant roar of laughter.

Boxing Day, after the previous day's relaxation, was spent in hard work, the afternoon being devoted to volley firing on an enemy's position, which was to be attacked at night, and which operations were consequently carried out at 9.30 the same night, luminous tape being attached to the sights, though, owing to the night not being so dark as wished, these same sights were rather a failure on this occasion, and consequently the enemy's working parties repairing the damages we had done in the daylight would not have been very seriously interfered with in their labours. The practice, however, was of great interest and utility, and everyone was glad of the opportunity afforded of getting some insight into night fitting.

On Saturday the Commandant, finding that the officers were not taking advantage of the day's leave which had been granted, gave them a personal instruction on the ranges in section firing on Artillery, advancing Cavalry, and Infantry in extended and close formation, which is a new subject lately introduced at Aldershot on Colonel Tongue's suggestion, and will doubtless before long become a recognised part of the musketry course. The men are trained to be very handy, under their own section leaders, who are practically responsible for everything, and the practice was altogether a success, seeing it was quite a novelty.

One of the officers attending the course Colonel Haddan, of the 4th West Surrey, has just received the ;asing intelligence of his success in the (c) and (d) examination for promotion for field officers, with the additional advantage of distinction in military law. It is to be hoped that the authorities will see their way to allow officers of Volunteers who are also business men to take up the subjects singly, in which case there is little doubt many will go in for the subjects required. No orders have yet been issued whether any mark or letter of the alphabet is to be granted in the *Army List* for these examinations. It is also to be hoped that all the officers passing here in musketry will earn a grant of 30s. for their corps, as in signalling and other matters.—*United Service Gazette*, 4th January.

NEW SOUTH WALES RIFLE ASSOCIATION.

The twenty-ninth annual prize meeting was held at the Paddington rifle range, near Sydney, from the 21st to 26th October, 1889, when an unprecedentedly large number of competitors took part in the match. Some idea of the increase may be gathered from the following: In 1888 the entries for nine individual matches were 1,841, while this year the entries for ten individual competitions reached 4,068. Much of this increase arises from the establishment of reserve rifle companies all over the colony; many of them have not been formed more than six to ten months, no less than forty-eight sent representatives to the prize meeting, while many were successful. The range is far too small for the requirements of such a meeting, there ordinarily being only room for twenty-five targets all told; but thanks to the public spirit of Lieutenant M. J. Keating, of the Naval Artillery Volunteers, who formed one of the Australian team to Wimbledon three years ago, and who has invented a most simple and ingenious target with a new system of marking combined, the executive committee were enabled to put through this large number of competitors all in very good time. Lieutenant Keating offered to put up eleven of his new targets free of cost, excepting the necessary earth work for the mounds for markers, etc. This was readily accepted by the Council, and was the means by which the work was got through. The targets were new to the markers, many of whom had not seen one previously, yet excepting some little slowness in the first day or two, there was nothing at all to complain of; the targets worked through the whole six days and did not give the least trouble, and were never out of action. The weather was favourable, and only one day did it rain—when the best shooting was made. The shooting on the whole was not so good as previous years, and it is most remarkable that nearly all the good shots were either very low down or entirely out of the prize list. This is in part attributed to the ammunition which the Government issued for the matches, it being Kynoch's 1885 solid drawn; some of it was very bad, thousands of the cases burst, in some instances causing damage to the competitors, though fortunately no one was seriously injured. The total value of the prizes competed for was about £2,400, the largest winner being Private Kennedy with about £146 while of the 580 individual entries there are about 290 winners, so that the money is widely distributed. It may be well to mention that M.H. rifles are used with windgauges on the sliding bar.

KEEP YOUR EYES OPEN.

Mr. C. F. Lowe writes to an English sporting journal: "There is another experiment which demonstrates the advantage of two eyes over one-eyed shooting, as per red book. Fold a piece of cartridge paper in two and cut a hole in the middle; pass it over the muzzle of a Martini-Henry rifle, so that it rests against the foresight; then point the rifle at a target, and close the left eye, according to regulation. You can see the sights with the right eye, but the view of the target is intercepted by the paper screen. Then open the left eye, and you will see the target and bullseye; bring the images of the sights, conveyed to the brain by the right eye, into line with the image of the bullseye, conveyed to the brain by the left eye, and pull the trigger; if the rifle is loaded you will hit the target. I have often puzzled men on a rifle range with this experiment, and bamboozled them by talking about invisible apertures, etc., and ended by advising them to shoot with both eyes open, as I do myself, along with Mr. Edward Ross and a crowd of well-known marksmen, not forgetting the Boers, who taught us such a bitter lesson in South Africa."

HIGH SCORING.

The *Volunteer Record* publishes this list of scores of 100 points and over, out of 105 possible, made in the mother country during the past season in bona fide competitions: 102—Corpl. Brown, Sussex; 101—Sergt. West, St. Helens; Corpl. Horder, Salisbury; Major Dickenson, Alsten; Capt. Scott, Durham; Pte. Chicken, Wigton; Armr-Sergt. Hill, 5th Lanark; Sergt. Stevens, Bristol; Major Pearse, Devon. 100—Pte. Harcastle, Derwent Club; Corpl. Proctor, Birmingham; Capt. Biddle, Devon; Corpl. Chicken, 1st Lanark; Lieut. Moore, Allendale; Capt. Cowan, N.L.R. Club; Pte. Humphrey, Bristol; Sergt. Bethune, Queen's Edinburgh; Pte. Hodgson, Keswick; Sergt. Trash, 18th Middlesex; Major Ellis, Liverpool; Corpl. Cowen, Hexham; Sergt. Williams, Northern Counties R. C.; Sergt. M'Lardie, Renfrew; Pte. Gilbert, F.A.C.; Lieut. Bumstead, Massachusetts V.M.; Corpl. Frost, 4th West Surrey; Sergt. Dearden, Leeds; Sergt. M'Onie, 3rd Lanark—twice; Pte. Kerr, 1st Lanark; Pte. Fenwick, Auchterarder—twice; and Sergt. Saunders, Bristol.

The *Hartford Courant* says: "Among the victims of the grippe is Joseph Howe, one of the 600 who made the famous charge at Balaklava. Until the Russian influenza got hold of him he had no fear of anything Russian, and still looks back with pleasure upon the day when the 17th Lancers were running their spears through the Russians who worked the guns on the hills, which the 600 afterwards captured."

A Rio Janeiro correspondent of the *New York Times* writing on Brazilian matters says: The file of the army is composed of the very worst, and most worthless element of society—thieves, vagabonds and scoundrels of every description. They are all negroes or mulattoes, and utterly ignorant, without honour, and wholly lacking in patriotism. But such being the material of which the file of the army is composed, it will readily be seen upon what a slender thread the provisional government would depend if the body of intelligent people once became thoroughly aroused and arrayed against it. But the Brazilians are not a fighting people. It would require a great deal to work them up to the point where they would be willing to risk their lives for opinion's sake. They will be content with any decent and fairly-respectable set of rulers.

To Our Subscribers.

The SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT which appeared in our columns some time ago, announcing a special arrangement with Dr. B. J. KENDALL Co., of Enosburgh Falls, Vt., publishers of "A Treatise on the Horse and his Diseases," whereby our subscribers were enabled to obtain a copy of that valuable work FREE by sending their address to B. J. Kendall Co. (and enclosing a two-cent stamp for mailing same), is renewed for a limited period. We trust all will avail themselves of the opportunity of obtaining this valuable work. To every lover of the horse it is indispensable, as it treats in a simple manner all the diseases which afflict this noble animal. Its phenomenal sale throughout the United States and Canada makes it a standard authority. Mention this paper when sending for "Treatise."

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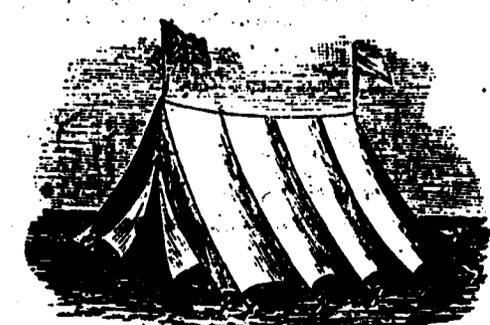
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Notice is hereby given that the fourth annual meeting of the Ontario Artillery Association will be held at the Rossin House, Toronto, on Tuesday, the 11th February, 1890, at 12 o'clock noon.

A meeting of the Executive Committee will be held at the same place on the same day at 11 o'clock a.m.

Notice is hereby given that at the Annual General Meeting it is intended to move a motion to expunge clause eleven of the Constitution.

And "That the Gentlemen Cadets, R.M.C., Co-bourg Garrison Battery and London, Hamilton and Kingston Field Batteries, be allowed to participate in the Prize List, 1889, notwithstanding anything contained in the Constitution.

L. HOMFRAY IRVING,
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Toronto, 20th January, 1890.

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