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CONTENTS OF THIS NUMBER.

TOPICS OF THE WEEK.

The Military Rifle League.
Messenger pigeon stations.
A Canadian Hythe.
Searching for Bremner's furs.
The North-West riflemen.

NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION.

Proceedings at the annual business meeting.

REGIMENTAL AND OTHER NEWS.

A budget from the military centres.

THE RIFLE.

The Canadian team.
The new Military League.

A QUEEN'S OWN REMINISCENCE.

MISCELLANEOUS

Topics of the Week.

Attention is drawn to the notice from the Secretary of the Canadian Military Rifle League, appearing in our advertising columns, calling for the fees of those teams it is proposed to enter. There should be a prompt response, for no definite arrangements as to prizes can be made until the management have a fair idea of the funds to be placed at their disposal.

It is announced in the daily press this week that the Commandant of the Royal Military College, Kingston, will be glad to hear from any officer of the Canadian forces interested in initiating and establishing an organized system of messenger pigeon stations throughout the country. Officers of any of the undernoted towns are especially appealed to for co-operation: Windsor, London, Goderich, St. Catharines, Toronto, Peterboro, Ottawa, Montreal, Sherbrooke, Quebec, Kamouraska, Rimouski, Colebrook, Fredericton, St. John, Chatham, St. Anne's, Gaspé, Pictou, Halifax.

There is a marked tendency on the part of the permanent force to devote more attention to rifle shooting, which most important branch of instruction has received very insignificant attention from them in the past. In his last annual report, General Middleton advocated the establishment in Canada of a school of musketry instruction; and perhaps inspired by that recommendation two young officers of the Infantry School Corps have applied for leave to go to England, it is understood with the intention of taking a course of instruction at Hythe. These officers are Lieut. Evans, of C company, Toronto; and Lieut. Denison of D company, London. The establishment of a separate institution would be a source of expense which perhaps could well be avoided; but it will be an unmistakable advantage to have in connection with the present schools officers available for thorough practical instruction in the use of the rifle.

Annually since 1885 the newspapers of England and America have been furnished by industrious Ottawa correspondents with sensational stories of the disappearance from the fort at Battleford of a fabulous

quantity of furs of rich and rare quality, the property of Charles Bremner, a Bressaylor trader, who placed his furs in the fort for safe-keeping when he was arrested for supposed complicity in the rebellion. He was acquitted of the charge, but during his imprisonment the furs disappeared. Bremner has been seeking ever since to recover them or their value. He is in a fair way now to receive from the Government the ascertained value of the lost property, probably about \$3,500; and a parliamentary committee has been appointed to sift the charge made on Bremner's behalf that the furs were appropriated by Gen. Middleton, Lieut.-Col. Bedson, Warden of the Manitoba Penitentiary, and Mr. Hayter Reed, Indian Commissioner. The story is that the furs left Battleford in three packages addressed to these officers respectively. The charge that they appropriated and divided the spoil finds little credence in Parliament or with the public, but when this session a Member was found to champion Bremner's cause and to demand a commission of inquiry, General Middleton intimated to the Government his anxiety that the fullest investigation possible should be made, and the committee has accordingly been named. It consists of Messrs. McNeill, Tisdale, Girouard, Wood of Westmoreland, Weldon of St. John, Casgrain and Holton; together with Mr. Lister, on behalf of Mr. Bremner; and Mr. Kirkpatrick on behalf of the officers concerned in the charge.

A subject which the council of the Dominion Rifle Association might with propriety consider is the extension of the right to participate in all its matches to the members of rifle associations in the North-West, where there are no militia, and also to members of the North-West Mounted Police. The distance is so great that probably very few competitors would come to the Ottawa meeting from the far North-West, but the fact that all the matches here were open to such as chose to come, and that they would be allowed to take the places they could win on the Wimbledon team, would be a great encouragement to the North-West riflemen to keep up the practice they have so zealously commenced. In order to give the D. R. A. council something definite to work upon, we suggest to the officers of the rifle associations and of the Police that they make formal application for admission to the privileges allowed the militia in old Canada. We much mistake the sentiments of the council if they would refuse such an application.

The National Rifle Association.

The annual general meeting of the National Rifle Association was held at the Royal United Service Institution, London, on Thursday, the 27th February, Brigadier General Lord Wantage, V.C., K.C.B., Chairman of the Council, presiding in the absence abroad of the President, H. R. H. the Duke of Cambridge. The meeting proved to be one of more than usual interest, on account of the change of shooting headquarters of the association being made this year from Wimbledon to Bisley. No specific changes in the shooting conditions were announced, though Lord Wantage intimated that orthoptics would probably not be allowed

after this year, and that the council would shortly re-open the question of allowing the back position, the exceptionally high scoring thus made by the Massachusetts team in England last summer being given as the reason. Quartermaster Gratwicke, it will be noted, made the very sensible proposition with regard to the extra series competitions, that the present matches should be replaced by daily competitions for smaller prizes and entrance fees. The following report of the proceedings is condensed from the *Volunteer Service Gazette*:—

The CHAIRMAN, in opening the proceedings, said: Exactly a year has elapsed since we announced in this room the adoption by the council of Bisley Common for the future meetings of the National Rifle Association. It is now my privilege to be able to report that great progress has been made in the preparations of Bisley Common for the next annual meeting in July. Those who bear in mind the nature of the deliberations which took place prior to the final selection of Bisley, will remember that the fact of its being in close proximity to the great military camp of Aldershot greatly influenced the selection made in its favour; and after a year's experience, I have every reason to consider that the selection made was in this and other respects a wise one. The report which is in your hand states the number of ranges which will be available. They amount to 158 in all—of which a considerable portion will be available up to 1,100 yards. Further ranges up to 2,000 yards can at any future time be laid out. Besides which there are ranges for sporting rifles and for revolvers. The work necessary for the construction of the butts required for these ranges, and of the railway embankment which runs from Brookwood Station into our ground at Bisley, has been entirely done by the troops from Aldershot, and by a company of the Royal Engineers under Major J. F. Brown, who has been the engineer of all our works on the Common. The aid thus given to the National Rifle Association by the Regular troops of Her Majesty, who have worked at Bisley sometimes at the rate of over a thousand men per day, forms a tribute of good feeling on the part of the Army towards the Volunteer Force at large which calls for hearty recognition on our part. While saying this, I may incidentally bear testimony to the beneficial effect produced on the young soldiers thus employed, by the performance of their daily task of spade work, accompanied as it was by an increase of rations consequent upon the increased demands on their time and strength. The sick rate among the men is reported to have been considerably below the normal.

The removal from Wimbledon constitutes a new departure in the history of the National Rifle Association. The large extent of open heath-land at our disposal at Bisley, the magnitude and permanent character of the works in course of erection there, the construction of a branch railway into the very heart of the camp, the vicinity to the military centre at Aldershot, all these things point conclusively to the fact that Bisley is destined to become the great centre rendezvous for the Volunteer Force, more especially for the purpose of practising throughout the year the most important of all military exercise—namely, rifle shooting. Field practice forms part of the course of the Regular troops, but it is not included in that of Volunteers, because their private rifle ranges are not fitted for it. Volunteer colonels, however, are now introducing this competition, and consider it of the greatest importance. The ground at Bisley affords every facility for such practice, and this year the council offer a prize for competition in attack practice for company teams of the Regular Army. Speaking generally with regard to Bisley and the influence which it is likely to possess in the future, I would say that military exercises and rifle shooting have not hitherto, by any means, reached the full development which they are destined to attain. Many people not necessarily connected with the army, recognize the advantage of securing for the youth of the country in general, some form of military organization by which they may acquire habits of discipline and develop their bodily powers, strengthen their muscles, and improve their eyesight. Leaders of various denominations, especially those of the Presbyterian churches in England and Scotland, recognizing the excellent effects resulting from the good-fellowship and sympathy which prevail among members of the Volunteer forces, have adopted a military organization for their schools and classes, and have formed into companies and regiments no less than 17,000 boys. The head masters of our great public schools—many of them clergymen, are doing the same thing. The most popular day of the Wimbledon meeting is that on which the public schools of England and of Scotland are represented by their teams. The universities also compete for the prizes given by their respective chancellors. I desire also to allude to a corps called the Southwark Cadet Corps, for working lads between the ages of twelve and eighteen; and I will quote a paragraph from a report upon these boys which is signed by Miss Octavia Hill, the Duke of Westminster, Lord Wolmer, and others: "The effect of order and discipline on the lads has been surprising—rough, unruly, and unmanage-

able boys have become orderly, obedient, and well-behaved; and employers of labour testify to the benefit these lads derive from habits of discipline. The majority of the lads are employed in the city; some have been made non-commissioned officers, and there is a great emulation to qualify for promotion. The War Office has granted them an establishment, and furnished them with arms on loan. They have no capitation grant. The corps has been established less than a year. They have a drill ground but no shooting ground. The success of the corps has exceeded expectation. Lads crowd to join. In alliance with our religious leaders, and moved by philanthropic motives, come many of our prominent medical men, who see the necessity of more physical training for the youth of the country, and who would wish to see it introduced into our national schools." I have said enough to support my statement that there is a growing demand for military training which ought to be encouraged for the benefit of the youth of the country, and that, although the country is not prepared for universal military service, it is prepared and anxious to see military training. Open spaces, such as Bisley Common, will yearly become of greater utility and importance, and the council recognizing this, will be guided in all they do by a desire to facilitate and promote this object.

Certain changes and modifications have been made in the rules of the association, which appear in the report and elsewhere. Time does not permit me to enter into these changes more than in a very general manner, but I will briefly remark that it has always been the policy of the association to encourage young shots, as may be seen by a reference to the prize lists. The council are further developing this principle by giving bronze medals to recruits. An unreasonable delay in individual firing is met by a regulation which I hope will generally commend itself. The use of "orthoptics" in military competitions now stands in this way. They will be allowed this year but are condemned for future meetings. But with regard to this question and others which greatly affect the accuracy of shooting I should like to see them submitted for full discussion and investigation, to such a body, for instance, as I am glad to see is likely to be instituted—namely, the Musketry Instructors throughout the Volunteer force who propose to meet from time to time in conference upon matters connected with musketry instruction. Another point that might, with advantage, be submitted to such a conference is the use of what is known as the "back position," which has undoubtedly great advantages, but which is excluded from military competition. It has been one of the advantages of Wimbledon that preconceived notions, adopted sometimes by our military leaders, are shaken by incidents which occur on the Common. We gather wisdom from all parts of the world and we welcome it from wherever it comes. I wish to allude especially to the phenomenal skirmishing practice of the Massachusetts militia rifle team, which took place at Wimbledon on the 17th July. The team were armed with the Springfield rifles; they wore bandolier belts containing sixty cartridges. The skirmishing was done between 200 yards and 600 yards from the targets. A squad of ten men advanced and retired over the ground. The men worked by bugle sound, and during their advance and their retirement they were halted ten times—five advancing, five retiring—each halt was for fifteen seconds, making in all two and a half minutes allowed for firing. (I leave out the time taken for moving at the double over the ground.) During the two and a half minutes the best man fired fifty shots, being at the rate of 20 shots per minute, hitting the target forty-seven times. Out of the 47 hits on the target, 24 were in the bull's-eye. The next man's score was nearly as good, with more hits but fewer bulls. Now I desire to draw attention to one thing in this remarkable performance of the American militia. It is this, that the men who fired quickest and best fired from the back position, and exceeded by 50 per cent. the score of those who shot lying forward. The "back position," though generally used for match rifles at Wimbledon, is forbidden in military competition. It is not the province of the National Rifle Association to diverge from the army with reference to regulations and rules laid down for military competitions, but is the business of the association to insist as far as they can in having questions which relate to the best modes of aiming and of holding the rifle, and, in short, the best way of getting the utmost out of the weapon placed in the man's hand, fought out and argued till all the daylight possible has been brought to bear on the question at issue. I will venture to say on behalf of the association that it will be our endeavour to act up to our past traditions, showing to the public and respectfully pointing out to the military leaders of the country such improvements and advancement in the art of rifle shooting as are brought to our notice by individual riflemen and affiliated associations, both from our colonies and from foreign nations. The new era on which the association is entering at Bisley opens under the most favourable auspices. It remains to be seen whether those who will guide its fortune in the future will meet with that support from the country which is necessary to carry on the work, and to convert the heath land at Bisley into a "Champ de

Mars," suited to the purposes of a national military training ground and shooting ranges. He concluded by moving the adoption of the report, which was taken as read. The motion was seconded by Sir Henry Fletcher, Vice-Chairman of the council.

Captain BARNETT (22nd Middlesex R.V.) expressed the opinion that it would be necessary to increase the attractiveness of the meetings of the association. The new recruit prizes were admirable, but he thought the council should go further, and appeal to a larger constituency. He advocated the opening of the present "Volunteer competitions" to the members of all Her Majesty's armed forces. The proposal had been negatived formerly on account of the want of accommodation at Wimbledon, but this objection would not now hold good, and he was quite sure that the Volunteers would welcome their comrades of the regular services as competitors with them for the Queen's and other similar prizes.

Quartermaster GRATWICKE, who was received with applause, said he was sure all would feel grateful to the council for the devotion with which they had applied themselves to the interests of the association in connection with the change from its old home at Wimbledon to its new home at Bisley. As greater accommodation would be at their disposal, it seemed to him that the time had arrived when the council might make the meeting more attractive and less expensive, because less lengthy, to the great body of the competitors. Careful examination should be made of the various competitions, and those which did not pay should be dealt with accordingly. The match-rifle contests, in which a purely fancy weapon was employed, had long entailed an annual loss on the association. Instead of contributing, as did the general contributions, a large surplus to the fund of the association, these small-bore competitions always showed a balance on the wrong side. He did not think this condition of things should be continued. The match-rifle was rapidly becoming the relic of a bygone age, and should be laid up as a curiosity for the admiration of future generations. His first suggestion would be the relegation of the match-rifle to the second week of the meeting, and the greater encouragement during the first week of shooting with the Martini-Henry at 700 and 800 yards. The small-bore riflemen were few in number—about 70—and occasionally, when watching their performances, he had been reminded of the "old man of the sea," who had brought down to the present time the weaknesses of his youth, crystallized with the crotchets of advancing age. The match-rifle shootists no doubt used a fearful and a wonderful gun. The appendages were so numerous that an attendant must be employed to bring them to the firing point. When the match-rifle had had attached to it a multitude of devices, and when the owner was finally ready to place the cartridge in his weapon, yet then a variety of performances had to be gone through, and an enormous amount of time devoted to winding up the gun for business, the result not unfrequently being that a wind allowance was screwed on from the right when the performer intended it should be from the left; or, if other things were satisfactorily arranged, the shot was, perhaps, sent into target No 6, when in reality it should have gone to No. 1 or No. 12, a long distance away. He did not think this merely pretty play should be continued at a loss to the association. His second suggestion would be the abolition of the bi-diurnal competitions, which were now open throughout the whole meeting, and their replacement by competitions which should be opened and closed on the same day, and which should be shot at the same distance as that at which the great general competition of the day was being fired. Such daily competitions for £50 worth of prizes at a 5s. entrance fee, would command popularity, and give much greater satisfaction to the competitors, and greater profit to the association than now resulted from the present bi-diurnals, which simply provided prizes for the man with the longest pocket, who could make the greatest number of entries. The third proposal would be the inclusion of all the Grand Aggregate and general Volunteer competitions, including the final stage of the Queen's, and the great Volunteer team contests in the first week of the meeting. He thought this proposition would commend itself to all. It must be remembered that with the majority of volunteers their time was not their own, and to many time meant money. The only other point to which he wished to allude was the proposal to admit veterans who had attained the age of 50, and who had served 21 years in the force. He strongly supported this proposal. If the veterans could hold their own against the younger men so much the more would it be to their honour, and there was not a single effective volunteer who would grudge the veteran all the distinction his courage and pluck might bring him.

Mr. C. F. LOWE (Queen's Westminster) was rejoiced to find that the chairman, from what he had said about the "back position," agreed that the true policy of the association should be to lead military opinion and not to follow it. He found that paper targets would not do with the new rifle. The bullet hole made was so small that it might be often unperceived by the marker. He would, therefore, draw the serious attention of the council to the desirability of reverting to the use of iron

targets as Bisley. After some remarks in favour of the permission to use orthoptics, which, he said, did not really differ from spectacles, he went on to say that he could not agree with Mr. Gratwicke in wishing to see the match rifle disused at the N. R. A. meetings. It had done good service in the past; and the science and skill brought to bear upon it had resulted in the production of the new military rifle, and he thought they all owed a debt of gratitude to those who had brought the match rifle and its use to such perfection. Of course the competitor it should be so arranged as not to involve pecuniary loss to the association; but subject to this, he would be glad to see room made at Bisley for all kinds of rifles and revolvers, and he hoped that no narrow or "parochial" view would ever be taken of the functions of the association.

Sir HENRY HALFORD said that the orthoptic sight was not convenient for military use, because the shooter, when looking through it, could see nothing but the mark he aimed at.

Sergeant FULTON, G.M. (Queen's Westminster), went at some length into the defence of the use of orthoptics as adjuncts to military rifles. He said that it was a mistake to suppose that these sights were chiefly used by elderly men. On the contrary, they were used mainly by young men with long sight, who found that the back sight was always "blurred," and who were, from the very fact of their having long sight, the most useful soldiers. If the orthoptics were used in the form of spectacles, the left eye should never be blocked up, as was sometimes done. The shooter soon learned to take aim with both eyes open, and even if he did not, he (Sergt. Fulton) had proved by actual experiment that, looking through an orthoptic sight of the ordinary size of aperture, he could command a front of vision of about 30 or 35 yards when aiming at 200 yards, and of about 100 yards when aiming at 600 yards. And the orthoptic sight, if used in the form of an eye-glass fixed to the cap, could be adjusted with the greatest rapidity, and was most useful in field-firing. In fact there was much more to be said for orthoptics from the military point of view than for verniers, barrel-coolers, &c., which were now permitted, and the use of which, indeed he should be sorry to see prohibited.

Major BIRD (South Middlesex) said that the second week in July, in which the N.R.A. meetings were held, was a very inconvenient time for many business men in London, and asked whether the date could not be changed to the third or fourth week, or better still, to the first week in July.

Sir H. HALFORD proposed, and Colonel Burt seconded the re-election of H.R.H. the Duke of Cambridge as President of the association. The motion having been carried, Lord WEMYSS moved the re-election of the Vice-Presidents and the confirmation of the election which had been made by the council of Col. Stanley Bird and Capt. E. St. John Mildmay. In doing so he paid a high tribute to Capt. Mildmay for the very great services he had rendered to the association as its Secretary for thirty years. No man could have worked harder or more indefatigably than he (Capt. Mildmay) had done, and it should be remembered that the selection of Wimbledon Common as the site of the meetings had been entirely due to him. Capt. Mellish (4th V.B. Sherwood Foresters) proposed, and Col. Despard (3rd V.B. Royal West Kent) seconded the re-election of the nine out-going members of council, viz., Brigadier General the Right Hon. J. H. A. Macdonald, Col. Marsden, Col. Viscount Bury, Brig-Gen. Lord Wantage, Col. Wilson, Col. Sir. M. M'Murdo, the Earl of Lathom, Major-Gen. Philip Smith, and Major Earl Waldegrave, and the confirmation of the election by the council of Lieut.-Gen. Sir Evelyn Wood and Mr. J. A. Doyle. Colonel Haddan (4th V.B. Royal West Surrey) proposed the re-election of Mr. John Gane as auditor of the association.

The following petition was laid on the table and was signed after the meeting by most, if not all, of the members present:—

"To the Right Honourable the Lord Mayor of London: The members of the National Rifle Association, in view of the great expense connected with the preparation of their new ground, beg leave respectfully to petition your Lordship to preside at a public meeting to provide funds for efficiently carrying out the objects of the association, viz: 'To give permanence to Volunteer corps and to encourage rifle shooting throughout the Queen's Dominions.'

That the Right Honourable J. H. A. Macdonald, Colonel commandant of the Queen's Edinburgh Rifles, Brigadier of the Fourth Volunteer Infantry Brigade, and Lord Justice Clerk of Scotland, is a many-sided man is pretty well known. He now, however, appears in a character altogether outside the spheres of either his military or judicial attributes. The high compliment has been paid to his polyhedral capabilities by the International Rugby Football Board, of appointing him arbitrator in the dispute in connection with the game, recently stirring to its deepest depths the hearts and souls of its votaries in the United Kingdom.

Regimental and Other News.

Capt. W. H. Merritt, adjutant of the Governor-General's Body Guard, contemplates proceeding to England shortly to take a course of instruction there.

The Montreal *Herald* of the 11th says: "The volunteers who are in the habit of practising with the Morris tube have had to stop for want of ammunition. It appears that the agents here thought they had a sufficient quantity on hand, but this mode of shooting is becoming very popular and consequently more has been used than was anticipated, with the result that there is none left in the country. Meantime operations have been suspended pending the arrival of a fresh stock from England."

The Toronto Army and Navy Veteran Society will hold a concert on Thursday evening, March 20th, in Shaftesbury hall in aid of the band fund. The new band will make its first public appearance. By kind permission of Lieut.-Col. Otter the band of "C" Company, I.S.C., will also be in attendance. The pupils of Gladstone avenue school, under direction of Principal Muir, will sing "Canada the Land of the Maple Tree," and "The Old Union Jack." "Present indications point to a very successful concert," so say President Nunn and Secretary Wilton.

The annual meeting of "A" Co. Royal Grenadiers was held at the Bay Horse Hotel, Toronto, Monday evening, 10th inst. Capt. John I. Davidson introduced his successor in command, Capt. John D. Hay, to the company. Capt. Hay was warmly received. He promises to be as popular a captain as his predecessor. The constitution and by-laws were adopted. Capt. Davidson was elected an honorary member of the company, and a committee was appointed to arrange for the presentation to him of some suitable testimonial in recognition of his services to the company. At the conclusion of the meeting, Mr. Manell, host of the Bay Horse, invited the company to an oyster supper.

The regular monthly smoking concert of the Dufferin Rifles was held on the 3rd inst. and was a great success, the attendance being unusually large. The programme was a very enjoyable one. Lt. Killmaster puzzled all with his exhibition of legerdemain; Lt. Robertson read a paper of which Lord Wolseley was the author; Mr. Hastings played a couple of enjoyable violin solos and the Orpheus club gave several selections with great taste. Quite one of the features of the evening was the singing by Capt. H. Morton of Hamilton, formerly of the Dufferin Rifles. He gave "Big Ben" and "Drinking" most effectively. Mr. Lee made an admirable accompanist. A fencing bout between Lieut. Robertson and Mr. A. Grant served to exhibit some excellent skill, and Mr. Turnbull appeared to the usual advantage in a solo. Lieut. Killmaster, the eminent artist, exhibited his well known painting illustrating Dickens' "Tale of two cities." Among the visitors was Mr. Turner of Toronto, formerly of Winnipeg, who was with Capt. Wilkes' company at the front. Everyone was glad to see Lt.-Col. Jones looking so much improved in health.

The 25th Battalion of Elgin.

The annual meeting of the officers of the 25th Battalion of Infantry was held in the parlours of the Grand Central Hotel, St. Thomas, Friday afternoon, March 7th. Every officer was present, with the exception of two or three who were unavoidably absent owing to illness. All were very enthusiastic and evinced the deepest interest in the welfare and advancement of the corps. Reports of Committees were received and adopted, and the following committees appointed for the ensuing year: Regimental and mess—Capt. and Paymaster Moore, Capts. Jones and Boyd. Band—Surgeon Kains, Capt. Wright and Lieut. Hale. Rifle—Major Bradley, Capt. Moore, Surgeon Kains and Lieut. Ponsford. A unanimous resolution was passed, conveying the thanks of the officers to the city and county councils for the grant received in 1889, and the secretary was instructed to forward copies of such resolution to the mayor of St. Thomas and to the warden of the county of Elgin. The D. A. G. and Brigade Major were present, and expressed themselves as much pleased with the *esprit de corps* that animates the officers of the battalion.

THE MESS.

At half-past eight o'clock, the officers and their guests sat down to an excellent dinner. Lieut.-Col. Lindsay occupied the seat of honour, and Surgeon Kains filled the vice-chair. On the chairman's right were seated Lieut.-Col. Smith, D.A.G., Judge Ermatinger and Mr. C. Macdougall, Q.C.; on his left, Judge Hughes, M. A. Gilbert, Esq., and Rev. A. H. Munro. The vice-chairman was supported on the right by Lieut.-Col. Aylmer, Brigade Major, and on the left by Mr. James H. Coyne, Registrar of Elgin. After the good things of the menu had disappeared, the toast list was taken in hand by Lieut.-Col. Lindsay, who expressed regret that the D. A. G. and the Brigade Major had found it necessary to return to London on the night train, thus being prevented from participating in the intellectual part of the evening's enjoyment.

When the toast of "The Queen" had been duly honoured, Judge Hughes arose in response to the toast of "The Governor-General," which was also responded to by Judge Ermatinger. Both of these gentlemen expressed their hearty sympathy with the officers of the 25th in their efforts to advance the cause in Elgin. "The Dominion and Local Legislatures" was coupled with the names of Mr. C. Macdougall and A. B. Ingram, M.P.P., each of whom made a very interesting speech. Next on the programme were "The Army and Navy and the Militia of Canada." In proposing this toast, the chairman stated that about \$1,300,000 was voted annually by the Government for military purposes, but that less than \$300,000 of this amount went to the members of the volunteer force. It was the aim of the officers of the 25th to make the regiment a creditable one, and he bespoke a bright future for the battalion. Mr. J. H. Jones sang "The Gallant Defence," which was heartily applauded. The learned professions were ably spoken for by Rev. A. H. Munro, Mr. J. H. Coyne and Dr. Penwarden. Capt. Reynolds sang "O Brave Hearts," and, in response to an encore, "The Soldier's Dream."

At this point, Surgeon Kains, vice-chairman, took charge of the toast list, and proposed "Municipal Corporations," coupled with the names of Ald. J. P. Martin, Ald. Gilbert, Ald. Ferguson, Ald. McCully, Mr. K. W. McKay, County Clerk, and Mr. J. Andrews, Reeve of Southwold, all of whom responded in a very suitable style. The speeches of these gentlemen were interspersed with songs from Mr. Robt. Arkell, who sang "Six o'clock in the Morning" with good effect, and Mr. Jones with another well rendered song. "Ex-officers of the 25th Batt." was responded to by Lieut.-Col. Caswell, Capt. Burns and Lieut. Travers. "The Ladies" found a champion in Capt. Van Buskirk, of the 22nd Oxford Rifles, and "The Press" in representatives of the *Times* and *Journal*. Judge Ermatinger, in a few pleasant remarks, proposed "The 25th Battalion," which was ably responded to by Lieut.-Col. Lindsay.

The speakers were unanimous in expressing regret that further provision was not made by the Government for military purposes, and that the volunteer forces received so little support and encouragement, not only from the legislators, but from the public at large. One and all pledged their hearty support to the officers of the 25th, and after spending a most enjoyable evening, the party broke up at a seasonable hour, after having duly honoured "Our Host."

Halifax.

The officers of the 66th Princess Louise Fusiliers held an "at home" at Masonic Hall, Saturday evening, 1st March, which was an "at home" in every sense of the word, the greatest sociability being displayed, while the hosts left nothing undone so that all the guests might enjoy themselves. The guests were received by Lieut.-Col. Humphrey and Majors Weston and Menger. The gathering, which numbered about 200, was a most representative one, including Colonel Ryan, and officers of the Royal Artillery and Royal Engineers, Colonel Fenn, and officers of the West Riding Regiment, Capt. Maxwell, and staff Royal Navy, Capt. DeLisle, Commissariat Dept., Surgeons Weston and Greer, U.S. Consul Frye, officers of Halifax Garrison Artillery, 63rd H.B.V.R., 66th P.L.F., and many prominent citizens.

The band of the regiment was stationed on the platform, which had been made most attractive, with stands of rifles and hundreds of plants, while on the wall were a number of swords, prettily arranged, with a Nova Scotia flag for a background. These attractive decorations, with the red coats of the band, and the great many handsome mess uniforms of the various officers present, made a pretty scene, and one which would be a great novelty in many cities. The atmosphere, however, became cloudy shortly after the affair commenced, all present being engaged in enjoying the fragrant weed. Tables were placed about the room, on which were tobacco, pipes and cigarettes in profusion. Attentive waiters were in attendance the entire evening passing around refreshments and seeing that the guests did not want for anything.

While all present were enjoying themselves in this easy manner, a splendid musical entertainment was given. The instrumental music was furnished by the band, which played the following programme:

March—Sonnambula.....Gernon.
Overture—Zampa.....Herold.
Polka—See Me Dance.....Solomon.
Selections—Airs of all Nations.....Godfrey.
Valse—Christmas Roses.....Waldteufel.
Valse—Bee im's Z'haus.....Strauss.
Galop—Vivat.....Zikoff

The band, which has steadily improved under Mr. Carlton's guidance, performed this programme in such excellent style that it was a subject of general comment among the audience, who showed their appreciation of their efforts by great applause. The Sonnambula march and the "Airs of all Nations" were especially taking, and delighted all present.

The vocal portion of the entertainment was opened by Philip Vaughan, who gave a topical song, "I cannot see where that comes in," and which was liberally applauded. A quartette, "Day slowly declining," by Messrs. D. C. Gillis, E. J. McDonald, Geo. E. Boak and H. M. Ward, was beautifully rendered, and accorded rapturous applause, but they did not respond to the demand for its repetition. Late in the evening they gave the "Huntsman's Farewell." The solos were "Evening Song," by E. J. McDonald; "The Red Scarf," by H. M. Ward; "The Jailer," by Geo. E. Boak; "Star of My Heart," by D. C. Gillis, and "In Old Madrid," by Mr. Sobilski, all of which were of a high order, and rewarded with great expressions of approval, which they richly deserved. Mr. Sobilski is a new singer to Halifax audiences, and he will become a great favourite. He has a powerful and pleasing voice, and his solo was greeted with deafening applause, and although he declined his encore, his auditors would not desist, and to pacify them, he was obliged to sing again. He and Mr. Gillis gave a duet, "Excelsior," which was very pretty, and rendered in exquisite style. The accompaniments were performed by J. T. Payne in his usual masterly manner. An addition to the programme was an imitation of a steam calliope by Messrs. Bissett and Green, two commercial travellers from Montreal, which was a pleasing innovation, and so delighted everyone that they were obliged to repeat their imitations.

The affair terminated before midnight, and Surgeon Tobin, Capts. Chipman and Black, the mess committee, with the other officers, are to be congratulated on the success of a most enjoyable evening, and which should be repeated, as such entertainments promote sociability among the various regiments (both regulars and militia) and casual acquaintances, while bringing closer together those who are known to each other only by occasional business dealings.

"Doesticks," a contributor to the *Recorder*, writes: I had the pleasure of attending the 66th "at home" Saturday evening last, and never before have I seen a gathering that so thoroughly agreed upon the success of an affair. A more easy and a more pleasant way of entertaining a large crowd can hardly be imagined. The perfect freedom allowed to roam about at will, indulging in the fragrant weed at pleasure, the passing around of the refreshments without ceremony, and the social manner in which the guests met each other, make these gatherings of a most delightful nature. The music on this occasion, both by the band and vocalists, was excellent, while the audience included many prominent military personages and citizens, resembling in this respect a reception by some public dignitary. The handsome uniforms of the military made a pretty sight, and the 66th deserve all the congratulations on their success. The regiment has also shown its thorough "soldierliness" by turning out in large numbers on the opening of the Legislature, despite the worst storm in years.

Hamilton.

The following paragraph is taken from the *Chicago Canadian American*: "Our respects to Col. Gibson of the famous 13th Battalion of Hamilton, Canada. He will scarcely be able to take his men to New York to see the World's Fair. That famous letter of his which the *New York Sun* used to prove that Canada favoured the eastern metropolis is remembered here. But Col. Gibson can rest assured that Chicagoans will not lose sight of his famous band. They have made it known far and wide in this country."

G Company, 13th Batt., had a march out last Wednesday evening headed by the bugle band of the regiment, and the available portion of E Company, altogether about fifty strong. They marched up James st. to the mountain, made a reconnaissance in force, and after considerable trouble captured the Mountain View hotel. They bivouacked in the ball room for about an hour and a half, had some singing and refreshment to show there was no ill-feeling between themselves and Mr. Clarke, and then marched back by John street, serenading Major McLaren and Adj. Stuart on their way. The officers were Capt. Mewburn and 2nd Lieut. Labatt.

The monthly parade of the 13th took place on Friday evening. There was a pretty good turn out considering the numerous attractions going on in the city. Major McLaren was in command with Captain Stuart, Adjutant. After the rolls were called and the companies proved and inspected, Major McLaren took the battalion for a march out which was much enjoyed. Headed by the bugle band playing in its finest style away they went up James street, along King to Victoria avenue, thence by Barton and James to the hall.

The Canadian militia is likely to be represented in the battalion team matches at Wimbledon, the 13th having five eligible men this year, viz.: Captains Zealand and Ross, Staff-Sergt. Goodwin, and Sergts. Maris and Mitchell. The last time a battalion team went over was in 1882, when the 13th had the honour of supplying the members as well as the commandant, Col. Gibson.

Smoking concerts are all the go in the 13th just now. H Company gave a very quiet one on Monday evening. The idea originated with

Capt. Moore of that Company and G Company followed suit on Saturday evening with a much more pretentious one. The list of invitations was large, and included all the officers and non-commissioned officers in the battalion as well as a very large number of civilians. Pipes and bread and cheese and beer were the order of the evening and everything went off without a hitch. The programme was varied, and included club swinging by Prof. Clarke of Boston, who also sparred with his pupils, Messrs. Ross and Robbins. As luck would have it, Charles McDole of Toronto unexpectedly dropped in, and his old friend Frank Cormack being present they had a set-to for luck. Then there was lots of singing and music, Profs. O'Brien and W. E. Brown, and Ptes. McDonald, Logie and Morley, and Bandsman Robinson each contributing in their best style. Captain Mewburn and his officers are to be congratulated on the result of the entertainment in particular, and the status of G Company in general. Col. Gibson, Majors Moore and McLaren, and Captains Zealand, Moore and Ross were on hand, together with a large number of non-coms.

Ottawa.

The Highland Cadet Corps of Montreal, neatly uniformed in gray, with brown leather belts and leggings, visited Ottawa on Saturday last, and gave two entertainments in the Drill Hall. The corps were one hundred strong, in two companies of fifty each, the larger boys being in one and the smaller in the other. Capt. Lydon (Adjutant 5th Royal Scots), the instructor of the corps, was in command, and the Scots band came with them. The boys excited great attention and no little admiration whilst in Ottawa. Their fine physique was generally commented upon, and the excellent manner in which they performed the drill was a surprise to all. Their entertainments were well attended, that in the evening especially drawing to the drill hall a large number of the best people of the city. General Sir Fred Middleton was received with a general salute upon entering the hall with Lady Middleton and party. Amongst others who occupied the seats of honour at the south end of the hall were Sir James and Lady Grant; Col. Powell, Adjutant-General, and other officers of the Headquarters Staff; and the officers of the various local corps, many of whom complimented Capt. Lydon on the valuable auxiliary he has trained for the Fifth Royal Scots. The entertainment consisted of battalion drill, with a number of the most complicated movements; bayonet exercise and physical drill with and without arms; dancing the Highland fling and sword dance (by the Masters Milne); and a reading by Mr. F. Thompson. At the close of the entertainment General Middleton made a brief address complimenting the boys upon the manner in which they had acquitted themselves. The Brunswick Hotel was the headquarters of the cadets whilst in Ottawa. They arrived early on Saturday morning, and left by the Sault train on Sunday afternoon. On Sunday morning the corps attended service in a body at St. Andrew's Church. They have been cordially invited to repeat their visit to Ottawa.

Montreal.

The Victoria Rifles are to have an early inspection this year, and the annual drills have already commenced. Saturday, 10th May, has been decided upon by Col. Henshaw for the inspection, which will take place on Fletcher's field so as to permit of the battalion performing the attack drill properly. With this object in view the Colonel has ordered a parade for Saturday afternoon, 3rd May, for attack drill especially.

Recruiting is going on actively and No. 6 Company boasts of a "waiting list."

A battalion march out is ordered for Tuesday, 18th March, and it is to be hoped that the streets will be in a passable condition.

Very keen is the interest taken in the Morris tube matches, and several likely young riflemen will appear at the butts when the time comes, as a result. The Vics are quite decided that the Morris tube can train a greenhorn into a good shot, and offer all the encouragement possible to beginners to learn how to bring up the white disc.

Belleville.

The various companies of the Fifteenth Battalion are, I believe, going to commence drilling at once.

Lieut.-Col. E. Ketcheson, the veteran of the war of 1812 whom I wrote about a few weeks ago, has been dangerously ill, but I believe is convalescent again.

Capt. Farley, B. Battery, R.C.A., Quebec, is in the city renewing old acquaintances. He is looking as well and hearty as ever, and it is quite evident that "soldiering" does not disagree with him.

A non-commissioned officers class in connection with the 15th Battalion was formed a couple of weeks ago, and is conducted under the supervision and instruction of the Adjutant and Sergeant-Major. It meets Monday and Friday evenings, and drills one hour each evening. The class will be kept up until our annual battalion parades commence. The attendance is not as large as we would like to see, or should have, still the evident interest taken by those who do attend is sufficient to

encourage the instructors in their endeavours to raise the efficiency of the non commissioned officers to a higher standard. Already favourable results are quite apparent.

The finishing touch is being put on our new drill shed. It is being ceiled up inside with matched lumber and this when completed will add greatly to its appearance and comfort.

Our fife and drum band, only organized last year, are progressing very favourably with their practice under the able leadership of Mr. Brooker. They have a full band practice twice a week, the other evenings being taken up with teaching the "recruits," so to speak, the preliminary practice. There are already 23 members in the band, and it will shortly be increased to 25, which will complete the number required. The instructor says he is going to turn out a fine band this summer, indeed I have heard him remark "that he won't take a back seat from any of them." He also instructs the buglers; in fact he is quite an adept in the art musical, and many and various are the instruments he can play. He is *par excellence* a saxophone soloist.

By the way, I had almost forgotten to mention that Mr. Brooker (the leader of the fife and drum band) is an old soldier, having served in Her Majesty's army over 21 years. He entered the 9th Lancers as a trumpeter and served with them in India during the mutiny, his regiment playing no unimportant part at the relief of Lucknow. On the return to England of the 9th he volunteered in the 5th Lancers to return to India in 1863, where he remained with his regiment until 1874, when they returned home. He received his discharge in 1876. In 1883 he volunteered for active service in Egypt and joined his old corps, the 5th Lancers, again. While there he was employed principally on the armour clad train on the Suakim-Berber railway and was wounded at Handoub. He has the honour of wearing the medal and clasp (Suakim) for Egypt; a good conduct medal; also the Khedive's cross and a decoration from the Czar of Russia for skill in swordsmanship. He receives a staff-sergeant's pension.

We have but three now in the 15th Battalion who are "charter members" of the corps, having joined it at its organization in 1863. They are Lieut.-Col. Lazier, Col. Sergt. Russell, and Sergt. Alex. Morton. They are getting to be veterans in the militia service. They were with the battalion on active service during the Fenian raid in '66, and were stationed at Prescott during that exciting period.

"ARGYLE."

The Rifle.

CANADIAN MILITARY RIFLE LEAGUE.

The League has progressed as far as is possible without the entrance fees. Already many silverware companies have their artists busy drawing designs for the first prize trophy, and each firm seem determined that theirs shall be the design chosen, not for what they will make out of it, but more to show what can be manufactured in Canada. The manager of one company told the secretary that "if it cost him double what he is to receive for it he is determined to receive the order"; so we may expect something handsome. One design has already been received by the secretary, and it would make one of the handsomest trophies in Canada, standing fully 43 inches high. The executive are counting on at least 100 teams (there is to be a trophy for every five teams entered), and if the funds will permit, it is proposed to offer also a series of individual prizes. It is proposed to offer a number of badges as follows: A handsome gold badge to the highest individual aggregate score of the whole League, the winner to be known as the "League champion" for 1890. Then there will be ten gold badges to go to the team winning the first prize trophy, and also a small gold badge to each team entering to be worn by the highest individual aggregate score on each team. This latter badge prize will be an inducement to teams who may not do very well at the outset, to persevere in the contests. All the prizes offered when once won become the property of the winners. It is hoped that many corps, now known as "non-shooting corps," will take advantage of the best opportunity ever offered to boom rifle practice.

THE CANADIAN TEAM.

Fifteen of the first twenty on the Wimbledon list for 1890, have signified their acceptance of the places offered them, and the next in order have been notified of the five vacancies created, by four refusals and the disqualification of one man for "inefficiency" in the militia, he not having put in his drill as required. The refusals have been by the Governor-General's prizeman of last year, Pte. C. T. Burns of the Victoria Rifles, and three of the famous brothers: Staff-Sergt. Coulson N. Mitchell, of the 90th; Staff-Sergt. Thos. Mitchell, 10th R. G.; and Staff-Sergt. D. Mitchell, 13th Bn. These are the fifteen who have accepted, in the order of their places: Corpl. H. Marris, 13th Bn.; Sergt. D. M. Loggie, Newcastle Field Battery; Sergt. C. M. Hall, 79th Bn.; Pte. J. E. Hutcheson, 43rd Bn.; Sergt. W. M. Goodwin, 13th

Bn.; Capt. E. G. Zealand, 13th Bn.; Capt. F. B. Ross, 13th Bn.; Pte. J. H. Simpson, 10th Royal Grenadiers; Lieut. E. Desbarats, 3rd Vics.; Lieut. D. L. Hooper, 82nd Bn.; Capt. H. St. C. Silver, 63rd Bn.; Col.-Sergt. M. B. Henderson, 62nd Bn.; Pte. C. A. Windatt, 45th Bn.; Lieut. W. Hora, 14th Bn.; Sergt. J. Horsey, 45th Bn. Eight of these have already represented Canada in England: Marris on three occasions, Loggie twice, and Goodwin, Zealand, Ross, Hooper, Hora and Horsey once each. The five next on the list, and now called upon to say whether or not they will go are Capt. J. A. Longworth, P.E.I.G.A.; Pte. J. Davis, 10th R.G.; Major W. A. Garrison, Halifax Garrison Artillery; Staff-Sergt. A. Pink, 43rd Bn.; and Lieut. E. A. Smith, St. John Rifles.

A QUEEN'S OWN SHOOTING REMINISCENCE.

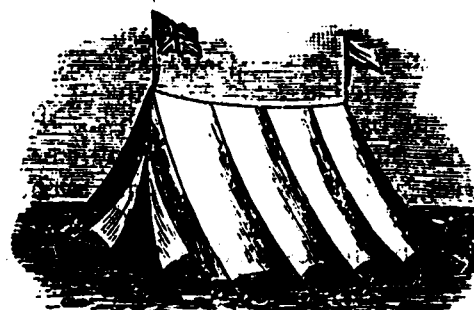
An old timer sends from Toronto a clipping from a daily newspaper of the 6th November, 1866, giving the account of a Queen's Own shooting match in which there figure the names of some riflemen well known to the present generation. This is the clipping:—

"ANNUAL RIFLE MATCH—No. 6 Company Queen's Own held their annual rifle match yesterday afternoon, at the Garrison Butts. The score was very fair, notwithstanding the unfavourable state of the weather and the few opportunities which the company have had for practice. The competitors also rested under the misfortune of darkness setting in before the shooting was over. We append the list of prizes, which were presented at the drill shed last evening, by Lieut.-Col. Gillmor. The ranges were 200, 300 and 400 yards, five rounds at each. The company's prize, a silver vase, valued at \$20, was the first competed for. It was presented by the officers and won by Sergt. Bacon, with a score of 45 points: 1st prize, \$10, presented by Lieut. Campbell—Sergt. W. W. Bacon, 45 points; 2nd prize, a book value \$10, presented by Capt. Adam—Pte. G. Donnelly, 35 points; 3rd prize, a silver cup, presented by Ensign Chadwick—Pte. Clark, 22 points; 4th prize, meerschaum pipe, presented by Ensign Chadwick—Pte. W. Henderson, 19 points; 5th prize, field glass, presented by Capt. McLean, late Ensign of the company—Pte. Branton, 19 points; 6th prize, \$2, presented by Capt. Adam—Bugler Arthurs, 14 points."

The date originally set for the match was the 2nd June, but No. 6, with the rest of the Queen's Own, were at that time in the field holding their end up against the moving targets furnished by the Fenian raid troubles. It may be interesting to some of the young shots to note what has become of the prize marksmen of No. 6 of twenty-four years ago. Sergt. W. W. Bacon severed his connection with the regiment shortly after Limeridge, and is now engaged in the Water Works Department of Toronto. Bugler Wm. Arthurs served a long term of service in the regiment, only retiring some four years ago. He is also in the employ of the city, being Inspector Awde's right-hand man. Pte. Clarke moved to Hamilton some 8 years ago, where he joined the 13th Bn., and still wears the red coat, being orderly room sergeant. Pte. W. Henderson retired a few years after Ridgeway, being afflicted with rheumatism in one leg. Pte. Branton also retired soon after the troubles and has since gone into business for himself as a grocer. Pte. G. M. Donnelly is still in the regiment, and although a little disfigured by age, still holds his end up. He is now staff-sergt. and probably one of the most popular in his corps.

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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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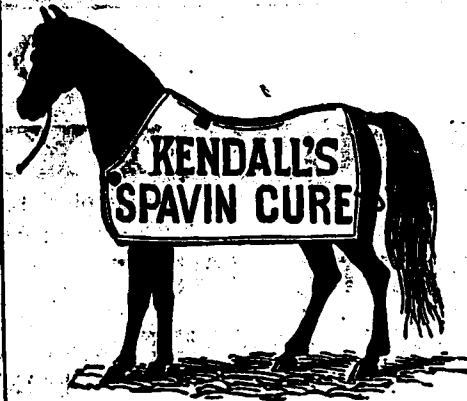
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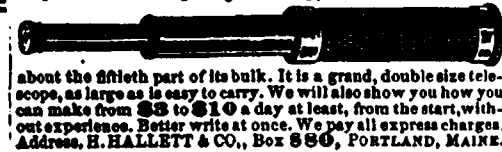
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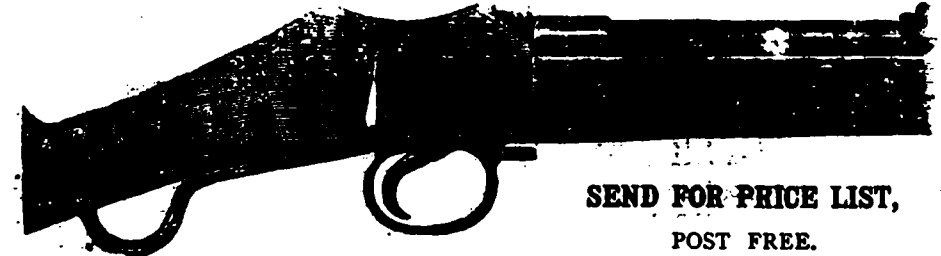
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BATTALIONS intending to take part in above competitions are respectfully requested to forward their entrance fees to the Treasurer without delay. Remit either by Registered Letter or P. O. order (made payable to Capt. John Bruce) and addressed to Capt. J. Bruce, Court House, Toronto. Entrance fees for the season 1890 \$10 for (regimental) team, or when more than one team is entered, \$10 for the first and \$5 for each additional team of ten men.

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