

# THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE

A WEEKLY JOURNAL DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF THE ACTIVE FORCE OF THE DOMINION.

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## CORRESPONDENCE.

The MILITIA GAZETTE aims at being the recognized medium of instruction and information for Canadian militiamen and rifle shots. Communications on the subjects to which its pages are devoted are respectfully invited. Anonymous communications will not be regarded. No name will be published, except with the writer's consent. The editors will not be responsible for the views of correspondents.

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## COMMENT AND CRITICISM.

Yesterday Louis Riel was hanged at Regina, in compliance with the sentence of the court of justice which found him guilty of high treason. To those who know the deplorable results of the insurrection, which, without his presence would certainly not have broken out, his fate will seem but a just consequence of his actions, and at least the troops who took part in the suppression of the insurrection will feel it meet that, sane or crank, he is now beyond the possibility of doing any further harm to our promising North-west. A great deal may be forgiven to the man who is incited by patriotism, but when he rises in armed resistance to constituted authority and brings down all the horrors of war on his country he forfeits, no matter how great or how real his provocations may have been, all claim to the sympathy of his fellow citizens.

During the past week the difficulty between British India and Burmah has come to a head, war has been declared, and the advance on Mandalay has already begun under Lieut.-General Dalrymple Prendergast. While we cannot but deplore the necessity that throws another savage war upon the hands of the mother country, and one that seems likely to give little satisfaction and less profit, it seems impossible in this case to have avoided it. The conduct of the Burmese King has

been for years of the most tyrannous and revolting character, and the peace and prosperity of the whole of eastern India urgently demanded a repression of his high-handed and most barbarous actions.

We are glad to hear a good word for the Snider from England. In the volunteer column of the *Weekly Despatch* a correspondent says: "I cannot go along with the Royal Naval Artilleryman who writes under the initials 'T. M.,' and speaks very disparagingly of his 'old Snider blunderbuss.' If I am not very much mistaken the weapon he names in this way is the naval five-grooved Snider, which most shooting men regard as being quite as good a weapon at 500 yards as the Martini-Henry, and many of them would be glad to do their shooting with it." This is also the experience of many Canadian shots, who think its chief fault for service is its comparative slowness in loading, while on the other hand the greater distance apart of the sights and the absence of recoil are decided advantages. For such warfare as Canada is likely to engage in 500 yards is a greater range than is required for effective shooting.

Our reference last week to reloadable shells brought out letters on the subject which show that the question has already attracted attention; but that is not enough. If our paper is to do any good it must incite to action, and what the force wants for next season is cheaper ammunition, reliable ammunition, and more of it, and increased facilities for learning rifle shooting. It is not for the men to decide how the cheaper ammunition is to be obtained; let the authorities attend to that. Our correspondents, Capt. Perley and "Ramrod," show that the coiled shell is in many respects superior to the solid case—all the better, its first cost being also less. By all means let us have a reloader in every armory and try the coiled shell.

In "Misty" we have struck a good, old-fashioned, conservative soldier who would not have a single part of our present uniform changed on any account, if only for the associations connected with it; but we must confess to the awful heterodoxy of considerable sympathy with his misguided friend, and to a feeling that something ought to be done before another active campaign to equip our forces in a good serviceable *working* dress. "Misty's" friend is not speaking theoretically, he is moved by the depth of feeling born of practical experience, and his words should carry weight.

Apropos of uniform, who has a good suggestion to make respecting a uniform headdress for our winter climate? The sealskin wedge is open to objections; it is heavy and somewhat expensive when men have to pay for it out of their annual drill money, and it will not come down well over the head and neck in a blizzard. A long time ago we whispered the word "tuque," and now we feel emboldened to say it a little louder. Our snowshoe clubs, which are eminently practical, invariably use them, and look well in them, and if the colors were well chosen the effect when a number of men were together would not be unbecoming.

"Kew-em's" proposal that a fatigue should accompany the quartermaster to the annual camps a day ahead of the marching in of the troops will receive the hearty endorsement of every commander of a battalion or of a company, for none such have escaped experiencing the annoyances he enumerates from the want of some such arrangement. If each battalion had its own supplies at headquarters the matter would be different and the troops might be allowed to act as if on active service, but with stores issued on the camp ground, with hungry and often untrained men to manage, and with companies arriving sometimes long after dark, the conditions are altogether different, and special preparation is required. It would not cost more than \$6 per battalion to allow the Q.M. a fatigue of six, who could mark the company lines, distribute the tent bags, guard them and the blankets, and pitch the tents of the staff and of companies which would not arrive until night, or of all in case of wet weather.

The Carleton Place *Herald* suggests the formation of a Lanark battalion of active militia, and even goes so far as to nominate the field officers and headquarters of the proposed regiment. We have no doubt that a good battalion could be enlisted here, but it would be at the expense of two existing battalions, which would have to seek fresh recruiting grounds, as the 41st Battalion has a company at Carleton Place, and the 42nd has companies at Almonte, Lanark and Perth. There would certainly be grave difficulties in the way of carrying out the suggestion.

The *Mail* is our authority for stating that several changes are likely to be made in the uniform of the 10th Grenadiers, changes which will doubtless require the issue of a general order. Here is the list:— Col. Grasett has had the cape taken off a private's tunic and, as an experiment, has had it altered and improved so as to be worn alone. A small piece of cloth of the same material has been attached to the collar, and a row of the regulation small brass buttons have been put on, making it a very neat-looking, as well as serviceable, article. Generally speaking, city volunteers seldom require an overcoat, excepting in wet weather; then it is objectionable on account of its weight and warmth. Orders have been given to return all of the last issue of great coats into store. Special permission has been obtained for the non-commissioned officers of the regiment to wear chevrons on both arms. The officers, having received authority to do so, intend providing themselves with a patrol jacket of the same pattern as that worn by the Grenadier Guards, and similar to that worn by Canadian Hussar regiments. It has been decided that the brass letters "R.G." and grenades shall be worn by the non-commissioned officers and men on their tunics.

The notes on the 43rd rifle matches, to which we referred last week, were unavoidably held over at the last moment, while some comment upon them by mistake appeared. This in case any of our readers wondered what we were driving at.

Our readers will be sorry to learn that the Adjutant-General of Militia, Colonel Powell, is again suffering from erysipelas, of which he had a severe attack last year.

A description of the football match between the Dragoon Guards and Rifles in Ottawa on Thanksgiving day is unavoidably held over.

A monument, to cost \$1,500, is being erected over the grave, at Perth, Ont., of Mr. A. W. Kippen, of the surveyors' corps, who was killed at the charge of Batoche. The comrades of the deceased are going to contribute \$800, and the town council of Perth will vote the balance.

### MORE NOTIONS OF THE SAME NOODLE.

My friend has gone on leave, as he writes me, "not in uniform;" but his wanderings on the subject have not abated in the least, for here is the postscript to his last letter:—

"I think before my departure to shoot ducks, I caused a little wavering in your haggard old notions regarding the forage cap; and by the time I finish with my soldier, my hopes are that you will come round to a rational way of looking at this helpless individual, when arrayed in fighting gear.

"I find after leaving the cap and gradually allowing my vision to descend, that nothing objectionable appears, no possible fault lying in the 'cheek,' which is not in any way an imitation of bygone customs; leaving the 'cheek' and 'lip' therefore unmolested for the first growth of hair, we work downwards till the collar of the tunic is reached, which brings us suddenly on one of the greatest afflictions which our soldier boy is forced to bear. One blessing by the mercy of Providence has, however, been granted to the wearer, 'the tunic never fits,' and the less it fits the more comfortable becomes his movements and the more hideous his appearance. If easy going, he is rendered useful, but terrible as a fashion plate. If on the other hand, 'dudishly' inclined, he no doubt looks well (I will acknowledge this for your gratification), but, should his 'pants' be cut in a similar way, his power of ever picking strawberries is entirely removed.

"A tunic is really a most peculiar invention, and is capable of rendering a man more helpless than some of our tightest female 'corsetteers.' It requires a Poole to fit one properly, an ordinary one will choke a man at uncertain points all over. Should the young man be growing, the sympathy of a large circle of friends should be his, for his trials will merit all they can bestow. Dwell for a moment on the attitude of a tunic unbuttoned. No soldier, except when away back in the backest back yard, would peril his standing with the cook, by unbuttoning his tunic. In short, any small liberties that could be taken with other styles of coats, if attempted with a tunic, would convert the finest figure into a scare crow. If you, my dear boy, ever rise to anything above your present obscure position, and reach a point where your influence can sway the destinies of the militia, do, in spite of your prejudices, issue all the tunics of Canada to the reserve, as they are not compatible with the requirements of active militia.

"The tunic has one great advantage, which I am willing to admit is an important one; it is an economical contrivance, and for this reason will be difficult to abolish. Though the first cost is considerable, it lives to a grand old age, for the simple reason that it seldom wears out, where men have any opportunity of securing other covering. We all know how hard it is to get the soldier to take off his coat; this does not apply when he parades in his tunic. A squad will peel off when so dressed, actually, to eat their dinners. The great secret of the usefulness of the British blue jackets, in all their late campaigns, is not due to the sailors, but their jackets, a costume highly suited for any kind of service, and, barring the color, as good a model for active dress, as we could have for our work in Canada. Why, the very freedom of Jack Tar's neck will add five miles a day to his marching, to say nothing of his chances of saving his head. It is a sad fact but a true one, that the first and hardest trial of the young campaigner is to get rid of the clothes, and forget the greater part of all that has been taught him in time of peace. After he has found out by sad experience what is wrong, and picked up those things necessary, but so utterly neglected in his barrack square, he becomes a useful soldier. The remark of a youngster who had emptied all his own pouches, and expended what ammunition he could borrow on a pony at Fish Creek (which by the way he never once struck), gives an idea of what is required. As the alarmed and somewhat disgusted pony trotted off to Batoche his would-be slayer remarked to a comrade as he removed the last empty shell from his Snider: I can 'march past,' 'right turn,' 'dismiss' like Napoleon Bonaparte, but I 'can't shoot one darn'! He might have added that he was dressed like the Duke of Wellington, but he could not lie down.

"We now come to his 'pants.' I know you will correct me in your next letter and say 'trousers,' but I like 'pants,' they take up less room. Well, as far as they are concerned, not much can be done, or at least I am not prepared to suggest anything else for the legs of our militia till I get ample time for thought, and an opportunity to more deeply investigate the freaks of fashion during the past century; they will do as they are for the present. Those issued lately fulfil all the duties required. They go at the knees as easily as the most particular could wish for; but as no good warrior should ever bend his knee, the defect often passes undetected. The question of buttons might, with advantage, attract the careful attention of the obliging and painstaking contractor, for they go also, generally on the last sound of

the bugle, 'Lie down.' As a remedy for this crying evil, let me suggest one of two things: more elastic in the existing government suspender, or an increase of thread in the contractor's button. With his buttons shot off a man is sure to fall, for the simple reason that they won't stay up (I don't mean the man). A civilian in such a position has hope, for his tailor will perhaps cut the garment with some regard for the natural and beautiful curves of the human figure; our makers, alas, cut straight, and no hips in this world will take any reliable hold or arrest the downfall of government 'pants.' As one of Big Bear's squaws said when presented with a pair by your humble servant (in Cree): 'They are good pants, and the white man is good too, but they look as if made for a sand hill crane.'

"I find that naturally having finished the legs of the militia, I come to the feet, a subject I should like much to enlarge upon, as to my mind, it contains material for a big talk, and I look forward to making a strong impression on your mind that my ideas on leather contain grains at least of common sense."

It is evident that the fact of my friend's "notious" appearing in print has not in any way damped his fire, as his letter will prove, and I consider his attack on the tunic quite devoid of reason. MISTY.

**SOME LESSONS FOR RIFLE MATCHES.**

As many new features were introduced in the late matches of the 43rd Battalion Rifle Association, it may prove interesting to give some account of how they succeeded:

One change made was the abolition of sighting shots, and this, I think, gave universal satisfaction. Besides the time saved the competitors had a feeling that they were getting their shooting cheaper, and also were impelled to make greater use of their individual judgment in adjusting their elevation and windage for the first shot. A careful examination of the scores shows that the average of the first two shots throughout the meeting was slightly higher than that of the whole of the shots fired, which would appear to indicate no deterioration in the shooting in consequence of the abolition of sighters. From a financial point of view the loss of revenue was more apparent than real, for the competitors made free use of the extra series match to get their rifles sighted, and consequently entries for this event were nearly three times as numerous as last year.

The time match proved exceedingly interesting. The competitors were given 140 seconds in which to fire 7 shots at 500 yards, prone, the targets not being taken down until the completion of the score. The scores did not seem to suffer much from the absence of information as to where shots were going, three 31's and a 28 with a miss being recorded. The time proved more than sufficient for comfortable firing, and I think a limit of two minutes could be adopted without hurrying the competitors. This style of firing is worth a trial elsewhere.

The running match gives a certain reward for activity, as well as bringing to the front the cool headed men. The men fired as many shots as possible inside of 4 minutes, running 100 yards before each shot. All the shooting was at 200 yards, and competitors not being limited as to position, the prone was chosen by all except one or two who knelt. To prevent the men from shooting each other the ground was arranged for them to run 50 yards back from the butts and return. The greatest number of shots fired was six, several competitors reaching this limit, while one or two were nearly ready to fire a seventh when time was called. Some of the fat and senior members took things easily, contenting themselves with five shots, but their average shooting was better than that of those firing the six rounds. This method of combining running with shooting, while very simple in its arrangement, gives satisfactory results and proved an exciting contest.

In the skirmishing match the two-man targets were used, and each competitor was given a target to himself. As there was no telephone connection it was impossible to raise them for each shot, but the squad commander gave the word "fire," followed after an interval of twenty seconds by the word "advance" or "retire," with a penalty for any firing after the word, which proved unnecessary, as in no one instance was a shot fired after time. In the twenty seconds a man had to load, adjust his sight, aim and fire his shot, as no loading or adjusting was allowed while in motion. The arrangement of having individual prizes in this match proved one of the most satisfactory features of the meeting, as it gave an opportunity for discovering the strong and weak men at this kind of shooting, which no arrangement of team competitions could possibly do.

I do not think the match lost anything in practicality by having the targets left up, as the time limit was strictly adhered to, and every man had an equal chance, which was not the case at the D.R.A. meeting, where some of the flank markers lost the word of command and kept

their targets up too long, while some targets got stuck when up, and others did not appear at their proper times at all, so that there was a general air of scramble and uncertainty about the arrangements that was agreeably absent from our little meeting.

The arrangements for taking the scores and checking the shooting in the time, running and skirmishing matches, were very simple, and I believe original, and might advantageously be adopted for similar matches at other meetings. A double ticket was prepared as follows, being similar for each match:

No. **43rd R. A., 1885.** Target.....

**BUTT TICKET.** .....Match Squad.....

NAME.	SCORE.										TOTAL.	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		

The register keeper holding this ticket is to carefully put down the result of all shots fired, re-examining the target, after it is pulled down, with the marker. If any irregularity was noticed a full explanation is to be written on the back and the certificate below struck out.

We certify that we watched the target carefully and that the above score is correct.

(Signed), ..... Register Keeper.

(Signed), ..... Marker.

No. **43rd R. A., 1885.** Target.....

**FIRING POINT TICKET.** .....Match Squad.....

The competitor holding this ticket is to watch the competitor firing, especially counting the number of shots. If any irregularity was noticed the part following the (\*) is to be struck out and a full explanation written on the back.

I certify that I carefully watched.....firing in this match; that he fired.....shots and no more,\* and in all respects complied with the rules of the match.

..... Competitor at Range.

The competitors were divided into squads of as many men as there were targets, and while the first squad was firing the third squad was watching the firing with the lower half of the ticket in their care, while the register keeper, with the upper half of the ticket, was in the butts, scoring the hits as they were made on the target. To prevent collusion the name was not put on the upper half of the ticket until after the firing, and targets were not allotted till the squad was ready to fire. By the correspondence of the target and squad numbers on the two halves of the tickets the identity of the parties making the scores could be ascertained. As soon as the scores of one squad were completed they were sent up from the butts and the result announced, so that competitors might know at the earliest possible moment what measure of success they had achieved.

WM. P. ANDERSON.

**NOTES FROM NO. 1 DISTRICT CAMP.**

It is to be regretted that no mention has been made in any issue of THE GAZETTE of the camp lately held in district No. 1. Not one line has appeared to flatter or grumble; not a sentence to denote the solemn fact that we were there, kept sober, and returned without a scratch to our household penates. It may be too late to resurrect bygone jokes, to varnish up the old tent poles, or to paint the episodes of a pleasant sojourn in the proverbial vermilion; but a few facts, some blarney, and a little stricture might be in order, now that our experiences have been considerably whetted.

The camp consisted of over two thousand men, made up of six battalions of infantry, a few troops of cavalry and some artillery. It was the largest, the most orderly and pleasant ever held in this district. The weather was simply delightful; the days fine and dry and the nights clear and bracing. The location of the ground is charming, and the field looks as if nature had fashioned it for no other purpose than that of consecration to the deity of war, to be held forever sacred to martial spirits and "spiritdom." The time, though long, passed very pleasantly. The grumblers were few and far between. An occasional depredation among the orchards and gardens and an attack by the colored regiment on "the bower of Lager" were the only incidents that might be said to have enlivened the boys. There were no local jealousies worth mentioning. The 27th Rifles desired a renewal of auld lang syne with the 7th and to have a chat over "the laurels, the glory and the fame" of the late wars, but the 7th wouldn't shake. They always shook when they met, but now they speak not as they go by.

The idiosyncracies of the various battalions were like the heathen Chinese, a bit now and then too peculiar. The 21st had their drum-major frescoed in borrowed plumes from the great American eagle. The red coats suggested a removal, and their little nonsensical prejudice was acceded to. He shook his "stick," however, before an excellent band and a body of men that any commander would feel proud of. The taking ways of the 22nd were a proverb throughout the camp. The "take somethings" administered to their neighbors were exceedingly spontaneous. Blankets were their failing. They even took the sacred person of the 25th Q. M. and locked him in the guardroom because of his sublunar obeisance to some imaginary "faymale." The 24th were remarkable for their lamb-like innocence and large appetites and for the cupids that adorned their culinary department. The 25th had Jumbo, the highest flagpole, an abstemious colonel and K.O.B., meaning in the Celtic antique an Indiana hoosier. The 28th in their eternal "see saw" and placidity were dubbed the "monks of the screw." They had the most venerable and Moody and Sanky-looking surgeon on the field. The menagerie in rear of their marquee was the attraction of all eyes. The war cry of the 30th was "howld the fort for we are coming," and they came, saw, and had lager.

Aside from levity, there were some substantial grounds for severe comment, arising from the preliminary arrangements for the reception of the various battalions, the presence of the quartermasters without a fatigue in accordance with a lately promulgated order, the slovenly appearance of many of the officers, the majority of the non-coms, and the men generally, and a few other points of which I shall speak hereafter. When I speak of the preliminaries I do not wish to be understood as reflecting any censure on the heads of the various departments in this district. I may *en passant* say that the good treatment, urbanity, courtesy and kindness rendered by the staff to every officer in his teens or otherwise was most cheerfully given. The presence of the quartermaster, on the day prior to the marching-in, without a fatigue, seems to me of not much avail. Without assistance to survey the ground, to cut and place tent markers, to receive his camp equipage, and attend to a hundred odds and ends tending to the comfort of the officers and men, and after all may be perfected, to be the recipient of hard swearing encomiums, his existence in the early stages of the camp is not an enviable one. I fortunately brought with me a fatigue, gave them a little over my own allowance and made some preparation. The outside lines, where the quartermasters put off their first day's work till the day of the arrival of the men, were scenes of terrible confusion. If it had rained, the miseries and attendant hardships would have been endless. As it was, the result was that here and there a tent was appropriated by a neighboring squad, or blankets sought fairer forms and pastures new, and other commodities were made away with by the old-time campaigner. A change in this apparent anomalous regulation, as well as in a few others, would bring down a blessing on the head of the reformer from many horny-handed Q M's. Our pay is small enough without disbursing it for outside assistance, and without a little from the unwashed civilian it is impossible to arrive within a long shot of perfection. Let the quartermasters arrive on the day prior to the marching in, accompanied by their fatigues, and be in readiness on the arrival of the battalions. It would smother a good deal of grumbling, would bring untold comfort to the tired-out officers and men, and do away with the chronic grabbing of our next-door neighbors.

As I have trespassed on your allotted space, I will defer a few stronger criticisms on other matters until your next.

Kew-ry.

### RIFLES AND RANGES IN ENGLAND.

A very remarkable article in a service paper is directing some little attention to the long-mysterious Martini-Enfield rifle, which long ago was to be the new arm of the British infantry, then was put on the shelf, and now is trotted forth once more, though I believe this time with more serious intentions than ever. In fact, it is understood at last that the Martini-Enfield is to be regularly adopted, and very soon will be put into the hands of the manufacturers at Enfield, and perhaps elsewhere. It has been generally supposed that the Martini-Henry, now carried by all the British infantry, is a better weapon than is possessed by any other nation; but whether that be so or not, the Martini-Enfield should put us in that satisfactory position. The great principle of the Martini-Henry—the breech action, to which belongs the first half of the weapon's name—remains intact; the alteration is entirely in the barrel and the weight of the projectile. The bore of the new gun is less by .05 of an inch than that of the Henry, being reduced from .45 to .40; and the new bullet weighs 384 grains, as compared with 480; the weight of powder—85 grains—remaining the same. The ratchet system of rifling has been adopted for the new gun, but the number of grooves is increased from seven to nine, and these make a complete turn in 15 in. instead of in 22 in. This combination of reduced weight, more rapid turn in the barrel, and unreduced powder charge sends the bullet out of the muzzle with greatly increased velocity, so that the trajectory is reduced to such an extent that, as it has been tersely put by an expert, while the Martini-Henry bullet in travelling 500 yards rises more than 8½ ft. above the line of sight, the improved projectile will scarcely go over the head of an infantry man if fired from the ground level. It is unnecessary to tell riflemen of the importance of this, or of the reduction of the mean deviation of the bullet by about 50 per cent., or of the reduced recoil. So long as earthly bodies are within the power of gravitation, bullets fired from rifles must sooner or later come down to earth, notwithstanding that our service contemporary appears to regard this primal law of nature as one to be overcome; and meantime the

Martini-Enfield bullet appears the most successful instrument for delaying the inevitable, and so giving riflemen the best chance of hitting the target.

It may be a good while yet, though, before the Martini-Enfield is found in the hands of the British Linesman, and till then he may be very well content with the Martini-Henry, provided he only knew a little better how to use it. The main fear, and it is rather an old one now, is that whatever new gun may be adopted the Militia and Volunteers will go on with the old one for some time after the Regulars have been re-armed. This would not matter were it possible to make one cartridge do for both old and new; but there is no hope of that, and so again there is a prospect of reviving the old state of things which existed so short a time back, when Regulars and Militia carried one arm and Volunteers another. Just suppose an enemy were in the country—and such a possibility is, of course, the Volunteers' reason of existence—and what a splendid opportunity there would be for official ingenuity to devise disaster! The wondrous perversity which can pack a crane at the bottom of a ship's hold, and all the heavy weights it is to lift out on top of it, would revel in the chance of supplying round cartridges for square rifles; and then afterwards there might be an inquiry by a departmental committee, though perhaps a victorious enemy might not think that necessary. I am afraid it is not of much use to say it, but if the Government seriously contemplate putting a new arm into the hands of British soldiers, they are for every reason bound to face the whole expense at once, and make the change simultaneously throughout the whole of the military service. If this would involve too great an expense, better by far stick to the gun we have got until the expense can be afforded.

In saying this I do not by any means wish the world to believe that a new gun is urgently wanted for the Volunteers. It must not be said that they do not deserve a better, for though they have not by any means done all they might have done with the Martini-Henry, the fault is mostly not theirs. At the present moment the two things which volunteers most require in regard to musketry are ranges and better instruction. Last week I stated that the Ilford range had been closed; now I understand that another has gone, or is likely to go—that of the Kingston Company of the 5th Surrey. Two ranges closed within a fortnight, and that a fortnight in the last month of the volunteer year, is serious business indeed, and suggests the thought that in adopting new rifles while the means of practising with them are being reduced is a sort of putting the cart before the horse. Might it not be well to leave the new gun alone for a while, and spend the money on ranges? When they have been obtained, or perhaps even before, a better system of musketry instruction would be very apropos. What is the value of the present system, so far as the army is concerned, was exemplified a few weeks since, when the sergeants of a line battalion, fresh from musketry training, broke down so terribly before a team of Volunteers who really did know something about their weapons. Of the quality of the instruction in some volunteer corps a fine sample was shown recently at a metropolitan range, when, out of two hundred shots fired in classing at 200 yards, only thirty hit the target. All the men firing could not have been purblind or nervous, and, granted proper instruction, it needs the presence of the one or the other disqualification of a soldier to explain the failure. No; ranges and instruction are what volunteers want.—"Four Stars" in *Weekly Dispatch*.

### CORRESPONDENCE.

#### RELOADABLE SHELLS FOR SNIDERS.

To the Editor of the Canadian Militia Gazette:

SIR,—I notice in your last issue a reference to solid shells for the Martini and the Snider, the last of American make; and you stated that a shell which could be re-loaded several times was required to reduce the present cost of Snider ammunition. This is being done by the Department of Militia and Defence, and a shell, known as the "coiled case," has been introduced, which fills the bill. This shell differs from the original shell in that the brown paper on the outside is dispensed with, and a larger width of brass is used in the body, so that greater strength is given at the base of the shell. These shells have been fully tested for wear and tear, and can be re-loaded and fired *twelve* times; and they only fail by the choking process—whereby the bullet is held in place—cutting the end off. I have been told that a bullet plugged and waxed, a cap and anvil, and a charge of 70 grains of powder, can be supplied for eight-tenths of a cent., and that the tools for re-loading will not exceed \$15 in cost. Suppose, then, that a battalion for the use of its members obtains a set of re-loading tools, and a supply of coiled-shell cartridges at \$16 per 1,000, and a supply of bullets, caps, etc., at \$8 per 1,000, it will be in a position to supply say, to an individual member, 100 rounds at \$1.60; and to re-load the 100 shells at a cost not exceeding \$1. We thus have 100 shells doing duty for, say 1,000 rounds, at a greatly reduced cost.

I have seen a sample of the solid shell for the Snider, and do not approve of it. It is well known that the only part of a Snider service cartridge which at the time of loading really fits the breech, is the outer base cup, and that there is quite a difference between the diameter of the case and the cartridge chamber of a rifle.

At the moment of explosion the case expands and completely fills the chamber, thus preventing the escape of gas, and after the bullet has quitted the muzzle, the case contracts and thus permits easy extraction. Now a solid shell must exactly fit the chamber, as it will not admit of being expanded. This causes the shell to be of a larger diameter than the service shell, consequently the powder charge will occupy a less depth, and the length of the cartridge is reduced in proportion. The length of a service cartridge is about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches, and that of the solid shell  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches, being a difference of three-tenths of an inch, or, to be exact, the bullet in a solid shell is not choked as in the service shell, and the difference in length is that part of the service shell from the choke to the end of the case.

If solid shells be used, then the chambers of all Snider rifles will have to be altered to suit them, for as at present made, when the service cartridge is in place, the point of the bullet is ready to engage the rifling, and thus pass straight through the bore; but the solid shell being short, the bullet has to travel say, three-tenths of an inch, or the difference between the lengths of the two shells before engaging the rifling, and there is a chance that it may not do so in a proper manner, and unless a solid shell can exactly fulfil the duties of a service shell, I am of the opinion that the "coiled case" is the better of the two for our use.

At the matches of the D.R.A., in September last, the tools for re-filling "coiled cases" were exhibited, and their practical use exemplified.

13th Nov., 1885.

HENRY F. PERLEY.

To the Editor of the Canadian Militia Gazette:

SIR,—In the last number of THE GAZETTE there are three paragraphs about "solid drawn" and "reloadable" Snider cartridges. A few words on this subject may not be amiss. The solid drawn brass cartridge case is very good and very strong, but the reason why the British Government are loth to adopt it is, that they are not good cartridges for storing for any length of time, because the least dampness they are subjected to causes a chemical action between the saltpetre and brass, thereby deteriorating the powder and rotting the shell. In the "coiled" brass shell this is prevented by the inside lining of tissue paper, which cannot be introduced into the "solid drawn" case.

Cartridges at \$27.50 per thousand are too expensive, even to reload, and rifle shooting is costly enough as it is. Moreover, there are not many rifle shots who would care to be bothered with reloading their cases, for it is quite an undertaking. I would inform those who wish to reload and economise that the Government factory is turning out a very fine "coiled" brass cartridge capable of being reloaded nine or ten times. This ammunition can be obtained in the usual way at the same price as ordinary cartridges, \$16 per thousand, and it is good stuff.

The factory are making a handy loading apparatus, consisting of a swedge for the shell, recapper and decapper, creaser, and also supply the bullets ready plugged and waxed, caps and anvils, and also the powder. Thus a rifleman can at small expense provide himself with the above rig out, obtain a sufficient quantity of this coiled brass ammunition and reload his shells till they are unserviceable, costing him far less than the solid drawn cartridge, and working just as well for practice.

In quoting the price that Snider ammunition can be obtained in England you should not forget to add the heavy cost of transport and duty, which soon brings it up to Government prices. If it could be sold here cheaper than \$16 per thousand it would be imported by all the hardware and gun dealers.

It is little use comparing the rifle shooting as carried on here in Canada with that done on the other side of the line 45°. There all sorts of plans and contrivances are allowed in matches, but in the Dominion, I am glad to say, we use the service arm and ammunition at all matches, and the object of all the rifle shooting is never lost sight of, that is, "active service."

Tableau: a soldier reloading his shells on the field. Better return to muzzle loaders and

RAMRODS.

To the Editor of the Canadian Militia Gazette:

SIR,—As I have had considerable experience with all kinds of ammunition and in the countries where it is manufactured, will you permit me to say a few words on this important subject? In the first place let me say that I had an opportunity last year of seeing the ammunition made at Quebec officially tested there, and I never saw better results. It excelled the Home Government pattern. Also at Fish Creek and Batoche that part of the ammunition which was best liked by the men came out of barrels, and was, I was told, of Quebec manufacture. I see that some advocate the solid drawn case for the Snider, and talk of its being cheaper because it can be refilled. There never was a greater blind than this idea. It is true that you can use the solid drawn cases over again, if you always use them in the same rifle, but the chambering of every rifle varies from that of others to a very small extent, as the chambering tool is worn by use or a new one made, and you cannot insert a solid drawn cartridge into a chamber which is even  $\frac{1}{1000}$  in. smaller than the cartridge, so that supposing you explode the cartridge first in the larger chamber and then serve it out to a man with the smaller, you at once jam his rifle and throw him out of action. No; as for cost, you may safely compute the cost of the solid drawn cartridge at double the Boxer.

Then again, are you aware that the Boxer cartridge, on account of its paper covering and lining, is the only cartridge that does not deteriorate by age, as damp cannot affect it? A solid drawn cartridge, or even a Boxer Martini-Henry, will become perfectly useless after being kept two or three years in store, whereas a Snider Boxer cartridge will keep tolerably good for twenty years. In spite of this, I personally am a strong ally of the solid drawn cartridge, and I will point out one way in which it might be made cheaper for our Government in time of peace. Let the cartridges be made and filled and served out, 100 rounds to every man in the militia, with a recapper and powder measure. Let each quartermaster draw the average number of bullets used by his regiment and serve them out to the men as required, and then let each man buy his own powder after he has expended his 100 rounds, and recap and refill his own cartridges, which will fit the chamber of his own rifle but not that of another, and can be refilled again and again until worn out.

Of course in time of war there must be a dead loss in cartridges, and with the solid drawn case it will be nearly double that of the Boxer, but the convenience of the former in packing and handling will be immense.

16 Nov., 1885.

U. GREVILLE HARSTON.

FADS.

To the Editor of the Canadian Militia Gazette:

SIR,—You know everything, and I want you to help me. I have been reading the lectures on the "Rifle and Shooting" which have appeared in your paper, and in them I have been told that plain black and white is all that I want on the foresight of my rifle, and a white line on the centre of the bar is sufficient. Now my friend Smith, of Kazubazua, who was over with Col. Ross on the Wimbledon team, tells me that this is not enough; that when he was home he got put up to a whole lot of wrinkles, and he advises me to use them. Smith says that I must use "Nigerine" if I want the exact thing in black, and somebody's "prepared white" if success is to be attained; and unless I procure a stock of "sight definers," to make dots, and diamonds, and bars, and Y's on my foresight, I will fail everlastingly, and may as well retire. For is it not proclaimed by Miller and Andrews and that ilk, that they are absolutely necessary to enable me to get into the "sixty," and win the "Queen's Prize." Then, again, Smith tells me I must use Stewart's "mathematical pen" to draw the line on my bar if I expect to be successful; whilst, on the other hand, failure is predicted unless I use Gregory's "pen and Chinese white accompaniment;" and to top all and save me from eternal smash, it is absolutely necessary that I use a "triple definer."

But this is not all, for Smith enumerates the fact that these pens must—no less a word than must—be used in conjunction with somebody's "Ventometer," with which to measure to an infinitesimal degree the exact distance the line is to the right or left of the centre according to the strength of the wind. Now, to my mind, if the "Ventometer" would only measure the strength of the wind and tell me something about it, it would be a serviceable adjunct. On this serious question of where the line should be drawn, Fletcher says that unless his "wind gauge" is used, defeat is certain; whilst Smith shows me his "hanging vernier and knife-edge-wind-gauge," and laughs me to scorn over my simplicity in attempting to draw the line where my judgment dictates.

My troubles are not over, for here my irrepressible friend intervenes and tells me that success is not for me unless I moisten the interior of the barrel of my rifle. I told him a damp rag would do the business to perfection, but he smiled at my ignorance, and told me I must not blow into the muzzle, that is not the correct card, but breathe into the breech through a special "cooler," or an "anti-fouling apparatus," or a "Wimbledon blower," or some other affair compounded of a brass pipe perforated like a pepper castor, and the tube of a nursing bottle. I told Smith I wanted all my breath to assist in firing my rifle, and was told that was an exploded idea, that the world was advancing, and that science and knowledge were increasing, and he expected soon to hear of an apparatus for "sucking the end of a bullet."

For years I have used a "Murcott vernier." Smith informs that I have been all the time laboring in scientific darkness, and he does not wonder that I am generally at the foot of the list in the way of prizes. Light has at last dawned upon my benighted state, and to reach the top of the list, I have only to use somebody's vernier which is divided on "scientific principles to 150ths. of an inch, or minutes of a circle;" and I will be sure to reach the top and come down the other side, if I am the possessor of a "hanging vernier, adjusting zero," with "quadrant windgauge and divisions on the face."

Smith whispers in my ear that the sharp shots at home have a pocketful of sliders in which notches are cut at different distances on either side of the centre to suit right and left winds, and using these, are enabled to keep on the target. I have hunted through the English volunteer papers, but do not see them advertised for sale, and Smith says he hopes they never will be.

Now, Mr. Editor, what am I to do? Am I to do as Smith tells me; or am I to stick to my old practice and leave the "fads" alone?

SMITH'S FRIEND.

P.S.—I have ascertained that Smith did not win a prize at Wimbledon.

[Your postscript seems to me to give you all the advice that is necessary, or that I could offer.—EDITOR.]

HONORS FOR THOSE WHO WERE IN THE FRONT.

To the Editor of the Canadian Militia Gazette:

SIR,—I have read the letter signed "Volunteer" in your last issue with great interest. He has voiced a growl that has been rumbling through the ranks of those who were in the front. Batoche was the only really successful fight in the campaign, and unless we have a clasp or some distinguishable badge for it we will consider the medal of much less value. I have heard it argued that if they give a clasp for Batoche they must give clasps for Fish Creek, Cut Knife and Frenchman's Butte. By all means do so if they like. We who were at Batoche are not in the least jealous. Let each clasp go for what it is worth. Or if they won't give us a clasp for Batoche, let them give us a different pattern medal or a different colored ribbon; we don't care which it is, so long as we have some distinguishing badge.

16 Nov., 1885.

THE ODD FILE.

D.R.A. COUNCIL MEETING.

The meeting was held as proposed on the 11th inst. Lieut.-Col. Ouimet, chairman of council, presided, and Lieut.-Cols. Bacon (secretary), Macpherson (treasurer), Panet, Ross, Graveley, White, and Macdonald, Major Anderson, and Captains Toller and Gourdeau were present.

It was decided to issue immediately to each of the forty highest candidates for next year's Wimbledon team who should signify their

readiness to go if called upon, a Martini-Henry rifle and 200 rounds of ammunition, so that practice with the weapon they would be required to use at Wimbledon might be begun at the earliest possible date. Col. Bacon will consequently call on each of the Governor-General's sixty who is eligible for the Wimbledon team through his commanding officer, to signify his willingness to go, or otherwise.

The following is the resolution adopted: That forty Martini-Henry rifles and 200 rounds of ammunition each be immediately issued to the first forty men who notify their acceptance of a place in the Wimbledon team for 1886, provided they are chosen. The issue to be made upon the recommendation of and through the commanding officers of the corps to which they respectfully belong; the rifles loaned to be returned to the D.R.A. by those of the forty who do not proceed to Wimbledon not later than the day of sailing of the team from Quebec, and by the twenty immediately after the completion of the Wimbledon matches, 1886.

Several suggestions contained in letters from Col. Ross, commander of this year's team, tending to the improvement of the arrangements for future teams, were considered by the council, but as none of them, except that recommending the immediate issue of rifles to the next team, were urgent, they were laid over for the consideration of the incoming council, whose duty it would be to complete arrangements for the new team.

### MILITARY PUBLICATIONS.

*Colburn's United Service Magazine* for November opens with a long article by E. Garel on the administration of the Admiralty, in which the reasons which led the Government to give out nearly all their shipbuilding to private firms are gone into, and it is shown that the cost of Government yards is so increased by the red tape of the Department, and by the interference of the non-professional with the technical officers, that no competition with business systems is possible. Incidentally he shows how poorly paid the technical officers are; but this is an injustice common to all governments. The same writer continues his articles on the organization and administration of private shipbuilding yards. Col. Knollys contributes a practical paper on modern war, dealing chiefly with the efficient handling of large bodies of men. An article on Mounted Infantry is so apropos that we hope to reproduce it. Col. Eyre's diary is continued, with ever increasing interest, as is the serial story "Colville of the Guards."

*The Rifle*, a monthly paper published in Boston, attained its seventh issue with the November number, which is to hand, and is, in make-up, one of the neatest periodicals on our exchange list. The current issue continues its sketches of America's crack shots, and its discussion on the best target for off-hand shooting. A list of rifle associations and records of the best scores at different ranges and of highest possible scores are continued from month to month. We gave an extract last week from their English letter in the issue under notice.

The English weeklies to the 31st October have been received.

### REGIMENTAL NOTES.

#### THE ANNUAL INSPECTION AND DINNER OF THE 6TH FUSILIERS.

The annual inspection of the 6th Fusiliers, by Lieut.-Col. Van Straubensee, D.A.G., was held at Montreal on Thanksgiving day. Unfortunately the weather was bad, a heavy downpour of rain lasting throughout the day, which necessitated the inspection being held in the drill hall, Bonsecours market, much to the disappointment of many, as the 6th inspection is looked forward to by volunteers and civilians as the military exhibition of the year. However, the fates decided that the admirers of the old regiment would have to put up with the inconveniences of the stuffy hall. The battalion formed on parade at 3 p.m., and when it was wheeled into line, was a sight that did the heart of many an old veteran good. Owing to want of space the pioneers, brass band, drums and fifes and signallers were formed on the right of the line, the staff officers and sergeants and the ambulance corps on the left. The non-com. officers and men wore folded coats and harversacks.

At 3:30 Lieut.-Col. Van Straubensee arrived and, the ranks having been previously opened, was received with a general salute. The inspecting officer, having told Col. Gardner to order arms, passed down the ranks and made a minute inspection of every man. The inspection over column was formed and the battalion marched past in open and quarter column on the parade line, the column was wheeled to the left, and moved to the right in fours. Column of double companies was formed, and the column wheeled to the left, and again wheeled to the left, and marched past in column of double companies. The marching was excellent, the double company march past could not be better. Column was again formed, and the battalion wheeled into line. The manual and firing exercises were then performed, the junior major (Mooney) giving the command—the performance was nearly faultless. The adjutant (Capt. Pettigrew) then put the battalion through the bayonet exercise, and this was done in a manner that provoked rounds of applause. Col. Gardner then formed column of double companies on the two centre companies, square on leading double company, advanced and retired the square, these movements being very well done, the men locking up correctly. Column of double companies was again formed, then line to the right on the right half battalion. The senior major (Fred. Massey) took com-

mand, the first move being "retire in fours from the right in rear of the left; halted, fronted, deployed to the left," then "break into column to the right," "quarter column on rear company; line to the left on rear company," advancing and retiring in fours, with formation from fours to the front, rear and right-about. Lieut.-Col. Gardner having assumed command, the battalion advanced in review order and gave the inspecting officer the salute. Lieut.-Col. Van Straubensee complimented the battalion on being one of the smartest and most efficient, if not, in fact, the very best volunteer corps he had ever inspected. Rolls were then called by Lieut.-Col. Worsley, B.M., and Lieut.-Col. Fletcher, acting district paymaster, after which the men were broken off and removed their accoutrements, etc., and made ready for the Windsor Hotel, where they ate their thanksgiving dinner. The officers present were Lieut.-Col. Gardner, Majors Massey and Mooney; Capts. Gray, Paterson, Denison and Stewart; Lieuts. Virtue, Lighthall, Engelke, Ross, Stanway, Chambers, Smith and Gadsby (15th batt.); Capt. Pettigrew, adjutant; Capt. Slater, paymaster; and Surgeon Bell. Capts. Anderson and McLaren (qr.-master), and Lieut. Laidlaw, are on leave, Capt. Burland confined to bed through illness, and Lieut. Lawson at the St. John's School of Infantry. The parade state showed that in addition to the officers there were 296 non-coms. and men on parade. There is no doubt that the 6th is one of the best of our militia corps, and great credit is due to its members for keeping up its reputation. During the inspection the signallers gave Col. Van Straubensee a sample of their work, and that officer was highly pleased at the way it was done.

In the evening both officers and men, with a large number of invited guests, sat down to a grand banquet provided by the officers at the Windsor Hotel. Lt.-Col. Graham occupied the chair. To the right of the chairman sat Mayor Beaugrand, U.S. Consul-General Anderson, Col. Dyde, C.M.G., Lt.-Col. T. Lyman, Mr. J. J. Curran, M.P., Mr. Geo. Stephens, M.P.P., Rev. James Fleck, Dr. Cameron, Major Horne, Lt.-Col. Sinton and Lt.-Col. Fletcher, C.M.G. To his left were Lt.-Col. Van Straubensee, D.A.G., Mr. M. H. Gault, M.P., Lt.-Col. Worsley, Lt.-Col. Oswald, Lt.-Col. Crawford, Lt.-Col. Caverhill, Lt.-Col. Martin, Major Vidal, Capt. McArthur, Capt. Prevost, Mr. Richard White, Dr. Bell, Mr. R. D. McGibbon and Dr. J. C. Cameron. The following gentlemen sent letters of regret at not being able to be present: Sir A. P. Caron, Minister of Militia; Adjt.-Gen. Powell; Mr. Burgess, Deputy Minister of the Interior, for the Hon. Thomas White; Lt.-Col. A. A. Stevenson; Lt.-Col. Otter, "C" School, Toronto; Hon. Peter Mitchell, Capt. W. D. McLaren and Lt.-Col. d'Orsonnens. After the viands had been done justice to, Sergeant-Major Street, who wears on his breast one of Her Majesty's medals, was presented by the colonel, on behalf of the officers, with a magnificent gold-headed cane. The prize-winners of the battalion rifle matches were called up by Captain Denison to receive their prizes, and as each man stepped forward, decorated with the honors won in the past, it was a signal for general applause. The toasts of the "Queen" and "Governor-General" were received with loyal enthusiasm. Major Massey proposed the toast of the "President of the United States," to which Dr. Anderson, Consul-General, responded. Major Massey proposed the "Army and Navy." He referred to the endurance and gallantry of the Canadian volunteers during the North-west campaign. Col. Dyde, A.D.C. to the Queen, in responding to the toast, reviewed the history of the militia for seventy years, having been connected with them for that length of time, and said it would warm any loyal man's heart to see such a gallant regiment as the Fusiliers sitting down to dinner with their officers. Col. Gardner proposed the health of Mayor Beaugrand, and that gentleman in replying said it afforded him much pleasure to be able to personally thank the volunteers on behalf of the city for the assistance they had given it in the late troubles. In response to the toasts of the "5th and 6th Military Districts," Col. Van Straubensee and Col. Worsley of the 5th and Lieut.-Col. Fletcher of the 6th district responded in a very felicitous manner. During the evening Mr. J. J. Curran, Q.C., M.P., Lieuts. Patterson and Ross, Privates Bradshaw, Bingham and Lloyd sang songs, Lieut. H. S. Virtue accompanying on the piano. One of the most enjoyable events in the history of the 6th Fusiliers was brought to a close shortly after midnight with the singing of "Auld Lang Syne" and "God Save the Queen."

#### INSPECTION OF THE G. G. F. G.

By far the largest parade this fall of the Governor-General's Food Guards was that of Wednesday evening for the purpose of undergoing the annual inspection, before the Deputy Adjutant General of the district. The attendance at the drills had been very small of late, and it was feared by many of its friends that the battalion would make a very poor showing at the inspection. The officers, however, never lost confidence, and Major Tilton last week, addressing a drill parade of about one-third the nominal strength of the battalion, reminded those present that the guards had always been found on hand when the credit of the corps was to be upheld, and expressed his confidence that this year, as on previous occasions, they would again acquit themselves satisfactorily and creditably. Nor was he mistaken; for on Wednesday evening the battalion mustered very nearly its full nominal strength of officers and men, together with the two fine bands, the whole presenting an appearance creditable to any city corps. There were very many spectators in the drill hall. About eight o'clock the battalion was formed up in open order in the hall, and Lieut.-Col. Lamontagne, D.A.G., the inspecting officer, accompanied by Lieut.-Col. Lewis, brigade major, and Lieut.-Col. Ross, G.G.F.G., passed up and down the ranks and examined the men, their uniforms and equipments, the result of this examination being quite satisfactory. Several belts and rifle slings were noticed to be of a dull coffee colour in contradistinction to the spotless whiteness of the remainder; these it was found were part of the equipment of the Sharpshooters' company which participated in the North-west campaign and which had not yet been condemned and replaced by the department. The large turn-out necessitated the use of these articles. The men were then put through the manual and firing exercises, and afterwards through several battalion movements, which they performed in a satisfactory manner, though several mistakes occurred owing to the remoter companies not hearing the word of command. After the inspection was over and the pay roll had been called, the battalion had a march out, headed by the two bands, the route taken being across Cartier Square to Elgin street, down Elgin to Wellington street, across Dufferin and Sappers' bridge, up Sparks to Elgin street, and thence across the square to the drill hall. Here Lieut.-Col. Ross addressed the men, complimenting them on the fine turn-out they had made on this occasion, and on

the proficiency shown in their drill, and expressing the opinion that as long as the present spirit pervaded the members of the corps it would continue to be a source of pride to its commander and the city. Referring to the proposed trip to Quebec last spring, which had not taken place in consequence of the outbreak of the insurrection, he expressed a hope that the efficiency of the battalion would continue satisfactory so as to permit of it being carried into effect next year. Besides the company officers, the following officers were present at the inspection: Lieut.-Col. Ross, commanding; Majors Macpherson and Tilton; Capt. Hodgins, adjutant; Surgeon Horsey and Assistant Surgeon Grant, and Capt. Heron, quartermaster. Bandmaster Bonner and Bugle Major Taylor were in charge of the bands. The total number of officers on parade was 23, of musicians 46, and of n.c.o. and men 209, being 3 officers under, and 3 men over the establishment of the corps.

The annual dinner of No. 5 Co., G.G.F.G., took place last Friday evening at Acres' Coffee House. Sergt.-Major Conroy, Staff-Sergt. Benbow, and the members of the Ottawa sharpshooters were presents as guests. An excellent repast was provided, and a very pleasant evening was spent, with songs and speeches. It is the intention of the officers of this company to have company parade throughout the winter for drills and marches out.—*Citizen.*

INSPECTIONS OF TORONTO TROOPS.

On Thanksgiving Day the Queen's Own and Royal Grenadiers turned out in full strength on Garrison Common to be reviewed by General Sir Frederick Middleton. The day was fine but the ground wet and sloppy. There was a large concourse of spectators, numbering probably 20,000. When the General reached the ground, only the Queen's Own were present. They received him with a general salute and then waited in quarter column for the Grenadiers, who, on their arrival, formed line on the left of the Rifles and saluted. The brigade then moved to the right in fours, changed direction on the saluting base, and marched past in column, closing to quarter column at the end of the saluting base, changing ranks and marching past in quarter column, during which the front of the Queen's Own column was broken by a restive horse. After a few brigade movements the two battalions formed line and advanced to the salute in review order, the inspection closing earlier than anticipated in consequence of indisposition of the General.

Before the Grenadiers left their drill-shed for the common, the regiment was presented with a handsome flag by ladies of Toronto. The intention of the ladies having been announced by Mr. Beatty, M.P., in a felicitous speech, Miss Impey then presented the banner, and Miss Rogers an accompanying address to Col. Grasett, who made a forcible and touching reply. The flag, a very handsome silk one, is attached to a light pole surmounted by a golden crown. Neatly worked on the field, in satin, are the words "Fish Creek, Batoche, 1885." In the upper dexter section is the Canadian Coat-of-arms, surrounded by the words "Royal Grenadiers," and "Ready aye Ready." The address was beautifully written and framed.

On returning to the drill-shed the men of both battalions who had been on actual service were dismissed, and the remainder were mustered for pay.

On Friday the General inspected the drill associations of the Toronto public schools at Wellesley school. The boys were formed into a battalion of four companies, consisting of two companies from Wellesley school, and one each from Dufferin and Ryerson schools, Capt. Thompson being in command. After receiving Sir Frederick with a general salute the battalion marched past in column and quarter column, formed line and went through the manual, and again broke into column and closed to quarter distance, when the General expressed himself pleased with their proficiency.

He then witnessed Miss Keown's senior fifth book class of girls go through their calisthenic exercises.

On Friday "C" company were also inspected in their barrack square by Gen. Middleton. They were under command of Major Smith, with Lieuts. Sears and Wadmore as right and left guides. The General, accompanied by Col. Otter, Capt. Wise, A.D.C., and Surgeon Strange, proceeded to inspect the company after the general salute had been given. The General scrutinised closely the equipment, arms and accoutrements, and expressed his entire satisfaction. The march past in quick and double time followed, the closing the ranks, and the dividing of the corps into two companies were performed with admirable precision and steadiness. The battalion was exercised in turn by the company officers. At the close the outer sections of the line were wheeled inwards, and the General addressed the company. He expressed his pleasure in meeting them again for the first time after their return from the North-west, and his gratification on finding they had retained their high standing in drill, soldierly bearing and steadiness. He referred in terms of pride and pleasure to the manner in which they had performed their duty in the recent campaign—their first experience in actual war. They had done their part well in commencing the record of the permanent forces of Canada so creditably, and had greatly aided in the establishment of a high standard of attainment for the future. In fact they could not have done better. The next time he inspected them he hoped to see on their breasts the medals they had so gallantly merited, and he trusted that the possession of these medals would prove an additional incentive to maintain their *esprit de corps*. Addressing himself to the colonel, he said he could scarcely express the satisfaction he felt at the services rendered by him and his officers in the campaign, and that the state of efficiency in which the corps has been and now was is highly creditable to him and his officers. He concluded by impressing upon officers and men the importance of maintaining the efficiency of the force, and a constant readiness for action.

On Thursday morning the General made a thorough inspection of the barracks and interior management of the establishment.

In the evening the officers of "C" company entertained the General to dinner, to which a company of twenty-four sat down. Among those present were His Worship Mayor Manning, Col. C. W. Robinson, of the Rifle Brigade, brother of Lieut.-Governor Robinson, Col. Gilmor, Col. Milsom, Col. Miller, Col. Grasett and Col. Alger.

INSPECTION OF THE DUFFERIN RIFLES.

BRANTFORD.—The Dufferin Rifles took advantage of Thanksgiving day for their annual inspection. The regiment paraded at the armory at two o'clock, and marched by way of Colborne street to the Agricultural park, headed by the

pioneers, brass and bugle bands and signal corps, and followed by the ambulance corps. The regiment never appeared to better advantage. The marching of the men was much admired, and several changes of formation on the street were done with great precision. The regiment was in command of Col. Jones, and on arriving at the park was drawn up in line at open order awaiting the arrival of Col. Denison, D.A.G., who was received with a general salute. A very minute inspection of every man was made by Col. Denison, after which Col. Jones was called upon to put the regiment through such movements as were directed by the inspecting officer. Several of these movements had not before been practised, owing to the limited space in the armory. The march past in column, quarter column, and also in double time was performed with great regularity. Receiving cavalry in line and in square, and marching in square were well done. After several other movements the pay rolls were called over by Col. Alger, district paymaster. Every company mustered over its strength. After the conclusion of the manoeuvres Col. Denison addressed the regiment, complimenting it in high terms. He said each year he inspected it he found a marked improvement, and he had not had the pleasure of inspecting a finer regiment in his district. During the evolutions a man dropped in the ranks, and the ambulance corps, with remarkable dexterity, bound up his broken leg, using the man's rifle as a splint, and carried him off the field. This fine corps has received its instruction from Surgeon Harris, assisted by Hospital Sergeant Gough, the signal corps having been instructed by Capt. T. Harry Jones.

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PRIZE MEDAL 1851.



PRIZE MEDAL 1862.

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B. CHAMBERLIN,  
Ottawa, May, 1885. Q.P



**CONTRACT FOR SUPPLY OF MAIL BAGS.**

SEALED TENDERS addressed to the Postmaster General, (for Printing and Supply Branch), and marked "Tender for Mail Bags," will be received at Ottawa until 12 o'clock, noon, on MONDAY, the 2nd NOVEMBER, 1885, for the supply of the Post Office Department of Canada with such Cotton Duck, Jute and Leather Mail Bags as may from time to time be required for the Postal Service of the Dominion.

Samples of the Bags to be furnished may be seen at the Post Offices at Halifax, N.S., St. John, N.B., Charlottetown, P.E.I., Quebec, Montreal, Ottawa, Toronto, London, Winnipeg, Man., Victoria, B.C., or at the Post Office Department at Ottawa.

The Bags supplied, both as regards material and manufacture, to be fully equal to the samples, and to be delivered from time to time in such quantities as may be required at Ottawa.

The contract, if satisfactorily executed, shall continue in force for the term of four years, provided always the workmanship and material be satisfactory to the Postmaster General.

Each tender to state the price asked per bag in the form and manner prescribed by the form of tender, and to be accompanied by the written guarantee of two responsible parties, undertaking that in the event of the tender being accepted, the contract shall be duly executed by the party tendering for the price demanded. Undertaking also to become bound with the contractor in the sum of two thousand dollars for the performance of the contract.

Printed forms of tender and guarantee may be obtained at the Post Offices above named, or at the Post Office Department, Ottawa.

The lowest or any tender will not necessarily be accepted.

WILLIAM WHITE,  
Secretary.

Post Office Department, Canada,  
Ottawa, 1st October, 1885.

N.B.—The time for the reception of tenders for the supply of Mail Bags has been extended by the Postmaster-General for one month (until noon on Wednesday, the 2nd December, 1885), certain changes having been made in the form of tender, as shown in the amended form of proposal to be had from the Postmasters of the following places:—Halifax, N.S., St. John, N.B., Charlottetown, P.E.I., Quebec, Montreal, Ottawa, Toronto, London, Hamilton, Winnipeg, Man., Victoria, B.C., or at the Post Office Department at Ottawa.

WILLIAM WHITE,  
Post Office Department, Canada,  
Ottawa, 24th October, 1885.



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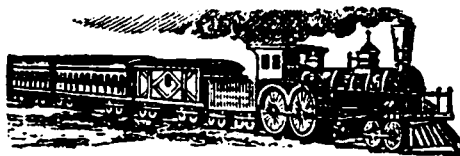
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D. POTTINGER,  
Chief Superintendent

Railway Office,  
Moncton, N.B. 26th May, 1885.

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POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT,  
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