

# The Canadian Militia Gazette

THE POPULAR ORGAN OF THE ACTIVE FORCE OF THE DOMINION.

(Adopted as their official paper, by the Dominion Artillery Association, the Ontario Artillery Association, the Canadian Military Rifle League, and the Royal Military College Club.)

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## NOTE AND COMMENT.

Artillerymen appear to be agreed that a Canadian team should be sent to Shoeburyness this year, and it is to be hoped that the lateness of the Session of Parliament will not have the effect of putting a financial obstacle in the way. The prospect of participation in such a trip is a strong incentive to the artilleryman to acquire a high degree of proficiency in his duties, and to be well trained in this branch requires such a generous sacrifice of time that no opportunity should be lost of offering noteworthy reward to the volunteers who make it.

General Herbert has interested himself in securing from the Committee of the Royal Military Tournament, of which the Duke of Cambridge is president, twelve bronze medals for competition amongst the members of the Canadian permanent corps. The medals are awarded for military exercises such as displayed at the tournaments annually held at Islington, and in making the gift the committee express the hope that Canada may ere long be represented by a team. It is reported that General Herbert hopes also to obtain medals for competition amongst other than the permanent corps, and in this we trust he will be successful, as to interest the militia in such contests will hasten the inauguration of the Canadian military tournaments which time and again we have advocated as a distinguishing feature of the celebration of our national birthday.

Lieut.-Col. the Hon. J. M. Gibson was this week again elected to represent his old constituency, Hamilton, in the Ontario Legislature. At the general election last summer he was in a minority, but his opponent being unseated for irregularities in the contest another election was held with the above result. Col. Gibson is Provincial Secretary, and one of Premier Mowat's ablest colleagues. He appears to be as popular with his fellow-citizens generally as with the gallant 13th, and on the Dominion rifle ranges, where he is one of the most familiar figures. At a bye-election a candidate's personal merits are more considered than in a general contest where party supremacy in the Province or Dominion is the stake, and the handsome majority just received is a marked tribute to Col. Gibson's personal worth.

A new House of Commons will have been chosen by the time the next issue of this paper appears. The military members are for the most part to the fore again, though there are two notable retirements, those of Lieut.-General Laurie, who has gone to reside in England, and Major H. A. Ward, who was not on this occasion the choice of his party in East Darham. Prominent amongst the military ex-members again in the field, are Lieut.-Cols. Onimet, Kirkpatrick, O'Brien, Denison, Prior, Amyot and Tisdale; and Majors Carpenter, Sutherland and Marshall, all able men with bright prospects for re-election; and Major Sam Hughes of the 45th Battalion is a new aspirant for Parliamentary honours, having taken the field on the Ministerial side in North Victoria, against the former member, Mr. Barron. The Minister of Militia, Sir Adolphe Caron, has abandoned his old constituency, Quebec County, and accepted nomination in Chicoutimi. The Speakership has for the last two parliaments being held by military men, but this "command" will probably now fall into civilian hands.

Secretary Pringle's letter in this issue foreshadows an important new departure on the part of the Military Rifle League, this being the admission of other than exclusively military teams to participation in the competitions. He gives sound reasons in support of the idea, which we hope will prevail with the council. The greater the number of persons interested in rifle shooting the better, and so long as the civilians or Retired List officers are not to be made beneficiaries out of the funds set apart for the active militia, by all means encourage their friendly competition.

"Buckshot's" letter on the subject of a Northwest Rifle League indicates seemingly an extension of the plan of "simultaneous" competitions which have been quietly carried on in the Territories for a few seasons past. The great distance separating them has not prevented a warm interest in each other springing up amongst the riflemen of the prairie towns and their regularly appointed series of matches have excited much interest in the sport. This interest is bound to be increased by the formation of the proposed Northwest League, and we hope the advent at the D. R. A. meetings of a strong representative team from the Territories will be an early result.

Judging from a series of letters appearing in the English service papers, the management of the National Rifle Association does not give entire satisfaction, the allegation being made that the members of Council are not in touch with the sentiments of the shooting men, or sufficiently experienced practically to arrange the prize meeting to the best advantage. One dissatisfied rifleman has gone the length of hiring a hall adjacent to the N. R. A. meeting room, so that "members desirous of independently discussing matters" may meet previous to the general gathering and formulate a plan of campaign. The movement seems rather ill-advised, savouring rather of a threat which it would be only human nature for the guiding spirits of the Council to resent by ignoring proposed changes that otherwise would doubtless receive due consideration.

The British Army estimates for 1891-92, recently submitted, provide for a Home and Colonial Establishment, exclusive of India, of 153,696 men. The appropriation asked is upwards of eighty-five million dollars, which includes the cost of the Militia (\$2,500,000) and Volunteers (\$3,500,000), and the non-effective as well as the effective services. In a memorandum accompanying the estimates Mr. Stanhope, the War Minister, commenting upon an increased sum asked for the training of the garrison artillery, says: "The increase would have been greater but for the larger contributions made by certain Colonies towards the cost of their defence. This subject is being thoroughly threshed out by the departments concerned, and it has been found in several cases just and necessary to require an increased amount of Colonial contribution."

Another interesting paragraph in the memorandum relates to the Volunteers' who appear to be becoming weary in well-doing, or at all events not so zealous as they have been:—

"The Volunteers show a reduction in enrolled numbers of nearly 3,000 men. This reduction is brought about mainly by the very stringent conditions of efficiency, which have weeded out some of the older and less energetic men; but is also partly due to the fact that, whilst efforts have been made to increase the artillery branch in places where their numbers would be deficient of mobilization, it did not seem desirable to allow increases of establishment to Volunteer infantry in districts where there existed an undue proportion of that arm. Some increases of establishment have, however, been lately sanctioned, and there seems no reason to fear a continued diminution of numbers. I am satisfied that the Volunteers we now have are very much more efficient for their duties than before. I am sorry to say that the dearth of officers still continues. While it is mainly due to the increasing disinclination of gentlemen of means and leisure to make the necessary sacrifices, there can be no doubt that the falling off of local subscriptions, even in the matter of prizes, has thrown greater expense on Volunteer officers."

The unsatisfactory position of the British Volunteers has been the subject of protracted discussion at a meeting of commanding officers recently held "by permission," and which resulted in a long series of recommendations looking to the removal of many grievances. The concluding recommendation is that an Association of the Commanding Officers of the United Kingdom should be established at London, and that the sanction of the authorities should at once be requested.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

[This paper does not necessarily share the views expressed in correspondence published in its columns, the use of which is freely granted to writers on topics of interest to the Militia.]

### THE WAR OFFICE—ENGLISH OPINION AND CANADIAN EXPERIENCE.

An official who will play the part which Mr. Stanhope has done since his appointment to the War Office may be deemed by his party to be a very smart young politician, but other persons will take a rather different and less generous view of his qualities. The correspondence in Col. Rich's case is not pleasant reading, showing as it does that the financial authorities of the War Office will stoop to any device in order to perpetrate a wrong after they have discovered a means of upsetting the terms of a Royal Warrant. And yet people sometimes express surprise that there is so much discontent in the army.—*Army and Navy Gazette*, 29th November, 1890.

EDITOR MILITIA GAZETTE,—The above is one of the many clippings from the Service journals that have been sent to me during the last year, and which tend to show that the English public eye is becoming open to the disgraceful and dishonourable conduct of the War Office officials, which, to quote the above, "will stoop to any device in order to perpetrate a wrong."

I also enclose a leading article from the "Thunderer" of 4th inst., which I hope you will find room to print, either in this issue or the next, as it is temperate and moderate, upon the debate in the House of Commons, but at the same time it does not hesitate to speak out to Mr. Stanhope, and ridicules that fantastic piece of mechanism called the "Improved Lee Rifle," and expresses the general dissatisfaction that is felt at a committee of (exceedingly nice and polished) gentlemen having been allowed to play at mechanics for a number of years with the usual effect of creating a "fad," with which they played until they taught themselves to believe that they had created, or built up, the most wonderful rifle in the world. Their so-called "improvements" being carefully patented by their foreman, Mr. Speed, who has (unless report lies) sold their improvements in his name to the Lee Company, who now want to charge the War Office a big figure for the same.

For the benefit of brother colonists it may be well to give to the public some of my own experiences with the War Office, which certainly bear out the indictment of the *Army and Navy Gazette*.

From 1882 until 1886 the W.O. authorities were trying to convert the Martini rifle into a repeating rifle, and in the fall of the latter year I saw, in the *Journal of the Royal United Service Institution*, a statement by Gen. Arbutnot (then superintendent at Enfield) that they found it "impossible" to accomplish this. I have since been shown figures to prove that they spent over £5,000 sterling per annum in trying their experiments, or a total of say \$100,000.

I discovered whilst in British Columbia three ways of making this conversion, and on my return to Toronto in December, 1886, I wrote to Lord Wolseley to that effect. He put me into communication with the War Office, with whom I corresponded until August, 1887, when, upon receiving an official promise from the Director-General of Artillery at the War Office (General Alderson) to pay for the conversion, I resigned a good appointment here and went to England to do it. I may also say that I was, privately, led to believe by a distinguished person that if I succeeded in doing the work satisfactorily it would doubtless be utilized, and I may here remark that the proof of my having succeeded in doing so satisfactorily (in spite of Mr. Stanhope since trying to make believe that it was not so) is shown by the remarks of Sir Henry Halford, one of the committee, and concurred in by several others at the time, "that it was a good thing for them that I had not gone home two years earlier or they would never have had a new rifle, as they would have used my conversion." I

took the words down at the time and can give date and particulars. The truth is that the decision in November, 1888, to adopt a .303 barrel, only, prevented any further desire upon their part to convert the existing stock of Martinis. I succeeded by May, 1888, in making a satisfactory conversion, in spite of every official obstacle which I found they piled up in my way, and in June, 1888, they decided to convert some of the Government Martinis and issued them to me, and directed me to make some alterations to suit the committee, and in an official letter from the "Horse Guards" (not the War Office this time) promised to pay all expenses. This took until November, 1888, when I asked for some money, having expended in all some £2,380 sterling, or \$11,900; part of this money, say £700, or \$3,500, was advanced to me on the strength of these official letters by the Maxim Nordenfelt Co. I then asked for pay, as I had the verbal promise of the Director-General of Artillery that I had only to put in the vouchers to obtain it. Then I found to my consternation that he said he had exceeded his authority in authorizing such an expenditure without higher financial authority, and I tried in vain, by application and through members of Parliament asking questions in the House of Commons, to obtain justice, and in March, 1889, I was obliged to return here "without receiving one cent." I left a power of attorney to receive money with the President of the Maxim Nordenfelt Company, so that they might receive their £700 advanced; and during the last twelve months frequent despatches from the Governor-General-in-Council have been sent to the Secretary of State for the Colonies to try and obtain a fulfilment of the War Office and Horse Guards, "official promises to pay." They now pretend that they have settled with the Maxim Nordenfelt Company's President for £700, and I am told privately that this company received a large order for Maxim guns to square them.

The Director-General of Artillery being, I hear, the brother-in-law of Lord Salisbury, the Premier, they were doubtless anxious to save him, and so I am not to get one cent, and being only a "poor devil of a Colonist," what does it matter if I am ruined and unable to get a berth and left to get a living as best I can, having given up, as I said, my good appointment to do the work for them on the faith of their official promises!

I must say that I do not yet know if they pretend that they settled for both the War Office order and the Horse Guards order, and as my recollection of the power of attorney is that it only covered the former and not the latter, I shall fight "for justice" as long as I can stand. And I fully believe that if H.R.H. the Commander-in-Chief had his own way I should yet be properly treated; also, I happened to meet, just before I left London, a certain eminent person who told me that some time previously (two months before I heard of it, I believe) I had been recommended for a C.M.G., and that it only waited our Minister of Militia's endorsement; but then it never received that endorsement.

Yours truly,  
C. GREVILLE-HARSTON.

### THE RIFLE LEAGUE PROGRAMME.

EDITOR MILITIA GAZETTE,—I have followed with interest the ideas of your several correspondents on the subject of the League, and the changes recommended by some of them as to the number of matches, strength of teams, class of the same, and change of ranges for the coming season.

I heartily concur in the proposal of five matches instead of seven, it is quite enough for a season. Many good shots would be pleased by this reduction in time and expenditure.

I am in favour of leaving the strength of teams the same as last year. If the number is raised to 15 or 20, many

battalions will not enter a team at all. The expense would be too burdensome. And I do not believe in class firing in the League. It is meant for a test of skill between regiments. Let all be placed as last year on the same footing. And regiments that choose to enter a second or more teams well and good. This mode will debar no one. Whatever changes are made in the ranges, let 600 yards not be thrown out.

I heartily concur in the idea of putting the marking beyond a doubt.  
HOTSPUR.

### CIVILIAN RIFLE ASSOCIATIONS AND THE LEAGUE.

EDITOR MILITIA GAZETTE,—The undersigned is daily on receipt of letters advocating the admission into the League of teams from Civilian Rifle Associations who use the military rifle. When the League was first projected, it was intended to allow teams from militia corps, civilian associations, or retired officers to enter, but for various reasons (the principal one being "creep before walking") it was decided for the season of 1890 to confine it to militia corps. Now, as the object of the League is "to encourage and boom the pastime of military rifle shooting," I do not see why any grave objection should be taken to enthusiastic civilians or retired officers entering under teams from Village, Town, City, or County Rifle Associations. That retired officers should be debarred from taking part in these interesting competitions solely because they do not see their way clear to still continue to be members of the militia force—perhaps after years of faithful service and considerable expense, their business does not allow of their remaining members—seems rather a shabby way of treating them. Of course it is not to be expected that the Militia Department will supply *them* with "free ammunition," but I understand that they are willing to enter and pay for their ammunition. Now, that the League is in good working order, it may just as well have two or three thousand competitors as five hundred. It would certainly make the competition more interesting, and I think boom military rifle shooting to a greater degree. I intend, therefore, to move at the final meeting of the Council of the League, the following motion: "That Village, Town, City, or County, Civilian Rifle Associations (using Snider rifle), be allowed to enter teams in the League at the usual entrance fees, &c., on the understanding that said associations supply their own ammunition, and that a prize list composed of the team entrance fees of said associations be made up for competition among association teams."

W. R. PRINGLE,  
Toronto, 20th Feb., 1891.  
Secretary of League.

### A NORTH-WEST RIFLE LEAGUE.

EDITOR MILITIA GAZETTE,—The success of the Militia League last year appears to be appreciated by the Manitobans, as a North-West League is about to be formed here on the basis of the C. M. L., with alterations to suit local exigencies. The teams will likely be five men and the competitors *unrestricted* to any association, military or civilian, or both. It has been found that shooting as a pastime, while it offers splendid opportunities in the way of association, and in the pursuit of health, as well as a fair road to fame, has not been inculcated to that extent which is not only advisable but essential in our Western land, and measures are being taken by the shootists themselves—all honor to them—to foster and stimulate Canada's finest pastime.

I think it will be conceded that no country on the face of the round earth offers such natural advantages as

our magnificent heritage for shooting. We have a vast country as yet untrod by white men; we have stretches of forest and ranges of mountains, and almost boundless prairies, which offer to the sportsman unsurpassed inducements for large game. But we have more than that: we have a climate that is conducive to the raising of the perfection of physical manhood, and with equal advantages Canada can more than hold her own where the energies of human nature are called into play. There is not a country in existence which offers the natural encouragement to shooting that ours does; it gives the opportunities and develops the men. We have only to look at the comparative success of our teams to Wimbledon and Bisley as proofs. Twenty men against twenty-five hundred! During my short memory our gallant little band have won the Kolapore cup four times, captured the Prince of Wales' prize three times, the second highest individual prize in the world. We have got within fifth place of the Queen's—the blue ribbon itself—not to mention the scores of times that our marksmen have come near to winning important prizes. This shewing against such odds and under different climatic conditions, is very creditable, and is proof of my argument that we have the "stuff" to make a shooting nation. I firmly believe that most of us think about the same, but thinking is merely a preliminary although essential quality, it demands action. We pave our earthly *Hades* with unactioned thoughts. We have yet another advantage, and a great one. We have the CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE, in which our ideas can, with the witchery of steam, boiler plate and telegraph, be comfortably perused from Gaspé to Victoria and from "the rivers to the ends of the earth." Without it our ideas would be localized, narrowed and crippled. Let this factor—the GAZETTE—be used to its utmost extent and our shooting affairs will grow to such an extent as to insure entire satisfaction to all, including

BUCKSHOT.

#### DRILLED vs. UNDRILLED OFFICERS.

EDITOR MILITIA GAZETTE,—In reply to the two letters in your issue of the 12th inst., signed "Sergeant" and "Audace" respectively, presumably in reply to mine in the previous issue, I will first give my attention to "Sergeant," then, space permitting, a few words to "Audace," who seemingly possesses ideas analogous to mine, expressed and unexpressed in my aforementioned letter.

"Sergeant" is apparently in favor of, fosters and satisfied with the present state of affairs in the militia, and quite evidently was awakened, perhaps a little annoyed, at my attacks on, and shots of truth sent into the (figuratively) empty camp, sporting club, picnic of happiness, or, to use his own words, "athletic clubs," taking refuge under the name of the militia. His attempt at defence of these "athletic clubs," and to palter them off as a satisfactory, fit and proper militia, as his own argument shows before he got fairly started, has no base to work on, there are no grounds to collect together for such, and consequently is very meagre, like all mushroom growths. He has gone wild in one or two of his statements, neither has he stuck to the subject, but wandered far and wide in order to scrape together a few fragments of material to talk about and divert the mind of the reader to that which is *nihil ad rem* at issue, the loop-hole between the N. C. O. and the C. O. through which the evil I mentioned in my former letter jumps, and the fitting of our militia for the battle-field, not merely for pleasure parties and parades on 24th of Mays, 1st of Julys, etc. He does not attempt to repudiate, cannot do so, support and substantiate the same by good sound argument of facts and evidence, any statement by me made in my letter in the issue of the 5th inst. "*Majora est veritas, et prevalebit,*" is a maxim true as it is old. The

greater part or sentiment of his letter taken together (with a few exceptions which accompany all cases and for which I will herein give "Sergeant" due credit) *ab initio ad finem* is a defence good enough *prima facie*, I presume, for a pure and simple sporting club, athletic clubs, etc., but, Mr. Editor, when used as a shield to guard the manner in which men are appointed as officers and allowed to remain such, in the Militia, from attacks is too thin, like a mist vanishes in the sunshine; but on the contrary, powerful in behalf of, and a great support to my statements in my prior letter when examined, analysed and viewed in and from the proper manner and point respectively, which I will now endeavour to point out as I proceed, together with the several other assertions I have herein above made.

The "Sergeant" is in favour of, satisfied with and fosters the present state of affairs in the Militia. That he was a little disturbed by some assertions in my letter and consequently rushed to retaliate and to the defence of the "athletic clubs," as he terms them (the city battalions), perhaps a proper appellation enough for the whole Militia in its present state, hurriedly, without carefully reading my letter through to the end and thereby consider and meditate thereon, is obvious by his attempt at defence of the same and the first two questions he asks, "What is the remedy?" "How does C.F.C. propose to fill vacancies for officers?" the identical questions I answered in my letter, as he will observe when he takes the time to read the same through to the end, an act doubtless he has done ere this, but ought to have done before replying; for an enquiring mind frequently learns on the second reading what is but slightly awakened in the mind on the first. But for his benefit and that of the cause I will repeat, fill the vacancies for officers from the ranks rather than from the streets and club houses as the case may be. Here I agree identically with "Sergeant" and Major Mayne: "Make the best use of the material you have," and when new material is introduced put it in the ranks. "Who," says "Audace," "should object to accepting a provisional appointment and then enter one of the Military Schools," and thereat receive his qualification, or in other words, begin at the foot of the ladder to climb? None who sincerely wished to be well versed in military tactics, competent and qualified for the office he aspires to fill.

As to Sergeant's assertion, "there isn't a battalion that I know of with its full complement of officers," true, another point of evidence of the deplorable state of our militia. If the vacancies of such were filled from the ranks (which seldom suffer in point of numbers, even in the event they should) as I suggested in my letter we would then have as "District Camp Staff" says "an organization complete as to officers and N. C. O.'s; "the men can in a few days be picked up," which is by all means far more preferable than the present state or system.

That many of these so styled officers are not jackdaws adorned in peacock's feathers as I asserted in my letter, I admitted them and do so now, that there are exceptions to all rules and cases; but Sergeant admits in his own words "he" (the officer) "is usually a popular man, and always to be depended upon for a good subscription to the company rifle match, the battalion match, the band fund, etc., etc.," a sporting man making a display of his position by means of freely using his money, buying his popularity instead of being capable of and teaching his men their duty, drill and obedience. Why, Mr. Editor and reader, I ask is this not precisely what the story tells us the jackdaw in the plumage of the peacock, without the body and substance of what he pretended to possess, did?

That there are no grounds, no base, for defence against the attacks I have, in my prior letter, made against the manner or system of appointments to vacancies for officers and the sort of men chosen for the same in the militia, speaking strictly in the true sense of the word (militia) but

as Sergeant says "athletic clubs," is evident by the absence of points made in that behalf. One certainly must feel the awkwardness of the position when one sits down to write and discovers himself compelled to wander far and wide over a large territory to scrape together a few fragments to write about; which are, I fail to perceive, in any manner or form connected with the points attacked by me. One must indeed feel lonely when anyone finds himself as "District Camp Staff" says counting on what we haven't got, as at present." As the poor fellows who composed the rank and file experienced at the skirmish of Ridgeway, June 1st, 1866, to which I drew attention in my letter. Here these men must have looked for and expected officers to command, as is a soldier's duty to look up to his officer, but what did they find? Lo, the disappointment that must have presented itself upon every countenance; well they found men quite probably members of, to use "Sergeant's" words, "athletic clubs," who cried out at that critical moment, after the blunder in formation for battle had been made and several lives lost, "Where must I go now?" "What command shall I give next?" and undoubtedly did, as they very naturally would under such circumstances. receive in reply not an answer as Lord Cardigan did at the charge of Balaclava, but in some such words as "Let us run for our lives or the Fenians will kill us all;" for history records that the remainder turned their backs to the Fenians, fled and left them in possession of the field for three days, during which time they (the Fenians) buried their dead and on the third day retired or returned to the place from whence they came, at their leisure.

"Sergeant" says he can easily forgive an officer for his ignorance who says "Where must I go now?" "What command shall I give next?" Giving him the benefit of the doubt, I presume this to mean on parades on 24th of May, 1st July, etc., for his argument goes no further; it certainly does not reach the battlefield, otherwise I fear in the event of a battle in which he should lose some near and dear relative, a father, one or more brothers, his and their homes plundered, through bungling made by undrilled and unqualified officers, his forgiving disposition would give way to human nature in censuring these unqualified and undrilled officers for blundering.

In "Sergeant's" wandering over a large territory he touches upon the cost for uniform, etc., for officers and men—a question of finance; this is foreign and has no relation whatever to the questions in my letter, therefore all I have to say thereon at present is, it costs no more to dress a qualified officer than an unqualified one; if any difference exists the qualified one has the advantage for he is not compelled to spend money as a substitution for qualification, competency, etc.

In his statement "I could be an officer if I chose to increase my expenditure," "Sergeant" leaves the reader with the impression that such rests solely upon his own decision. Will he give his authority? Now such is erroneous. He might spend just what sum he pleased, mortgage the whole City of Toronto and with the avails therefrom decorate himself in as gorgeous attire as the proceeds will afford, and he could not, so far as I understand the Regulations and Orders, secure a commission in a company of which he is a member in the rank and file without first being approved of and recommended by his superior officer commanding the company, which recommendation is forwarded to the authorities for giving the commission.

This is an assertion no non-commissioned officer or private has a right to make, under the existing system of filling vacancies for officers; but such a right he'd have in his turn should the suggestion, by me made in my former letter, respecting the filling of vacancies occurring in the militia, become law.

As to "Sergeant's" sneer on the imperial customs and discipline in the army, I wish to ask him to name an army

that is superior to the Imperial army, one which has in modern times done, or that can at the present time do nobler deeds, fight more desperate battles than that which the Iron Duke commanded during the Peninsular war, including the battle of Waterloo?

His argument that the militia can never be "qualified to lead against regular troops" strengthens my idea and knowledge that they are capable of such attainment. He says the Swiss can do so by six or eight weeks' drill annually; if so, I claim we in Canada can do so in four to six weeks, by reason of the intelligence and cleverness of the Canadians to pick up the drill, and our educational system, especially that of Ontario, which is *nil secunda* save that of Germany, an important factor in the Franco-Prussian war, 1870. And moreover he who consults history will learn what was done by militia at the battle of Chrysler's Farm, 1812, the irregular troops during the Indian mutiny, 1857, and Cromwell's Ironsides, 1642-45, before whom no royal troops could stand. Give the men drill and discipline, officered by men who are a credit to the position they hold, who know what command to give upon the battlefield and when to do so, who can say "*Aut vincere aut mori*," "Fix bayonets and charge the enemy, men, and the day is yours," such officers victory follows, rather than by those who ask, "Where must I go now?" "What command shall I give next?" and they (the militia) will do credit to their country. It matters not about the name by which they are called, militia or otherwise. I have now reached another point where "Sergeant" has wandered many miles, and though in no connection with the point on which I wrote my previous letter, *i. e.*, his suggestion in adopting the German system of company drill at headquarters, inspection, etc., of the companies at camp, such a system I would endorse.

He further says "it is all rot to talk about compelling the officers to do anything; you can't drive a Canadian." A poor opinion of his officers. Does he imagine them beyond the control of the law, or does he consider that they are made by a maker from some material and substance, are creatures entirely different from the rank and file? Now the fact is they are but mortal, having on earth their office to fill, and their authority is limited as the rest of us. When they accept of their commission from the Government they accept at the same time of the Regulations and Orders governing that commission, and when they grow too large for their office, become superior to their masters, the Government, by disobeying these Regulations and Orders (the soldiers first duty) let the authorities, as "District Camp Staff" says, "discharge them" as in any other calling, and the vacancies fill by the next in rank as I set forth in my prior letter.

"Sergeant" concludes by saying if more is wanted, more money must be furnished, now it will cost the country nothing, but would be the gainer thereby, to adopt the suggestions made by District Camp Staff and myself in our respective letters. In bidding "Sergeant" *au revoir*, I must admit Mr. Editor that I as himself, have wandered far and wide from the questions in my previous letter; but for the purpose only to follow him.

"Audace," with him I must be brief, thinks there has in the past been no dull stupid sleep of ignorance regarding the existing evil of ill appointments of men as officers in our militia. He ought not to be so easily satisfied, for the old adage says, "one swallow makes not a summer," neither can I see, are the few letters written of late on the question more than a slight awakening to the seriousness of the fact; but may the good work continue till something of a remedy is accomplished.

He cannot see where the abolition of purchase of commissions in the army is connected with our militia system; well, as I stated in my previous letter, there is no provision against a captain recommending and having appointed some

social or political favorite to his (the captain's) position upon it becoming vacant by reason of promotion or otherwise, which I emphatically say that is an injustice to the Lieutenant or Sergeant who joined as a private and rose by reason of merit and qualification (not political and social favoritism) to his present position. This I say is worse than the purchasing of commissions, for here one who receives a provisional appointment can remain in the service year after year as ignorant of military duty as when receiving his commission; but in the regular service an officer remains not therein year after year without learning something of the drill and duty of a soldier. He says some of the greatest battles recorded in British history were fought by officers who purchased their commissions; very true, but remember they qualified and became competent after, for the positions they held, did not remain in the service as some of our so called officers do, from year to year, without learning something of a soldier's duty.

The sentiment of his letter on the whole concurs, as all the several others, with mine, that the militia requires re-organizing. My letter having extended further than intended at the outset, I now for the present bid adieu, with many thanks for the space occupied.

The country's obedient servant,  
E—town, Feb. 23rd, 1891. C. F. C.

### REGIMENTAL.

Mr. J. Aird, of the Bank of Montreal, has taken a commission in the Fifth Royal Scots.

Capt. Geo. F. Cooke, a popular young officer of the Prince of Wales Regiment, died in Montreal last week after a short illness. He was an esteemed member of the Bar of Montreal, who at a special meeting passed a resolution of condolence with his family. So also did the officers of the Regiment.

A meeting of a committee consisting of the commanding officers of various forces of the Toronto garrison was held at the Canadian Military Institute last week. Col. Otter, D.A.G., presided over the deliberations, which had reference to the changes in the rifle range at the Garrison common. The committee drew up a series of recommendations which are to be forwarded to Major-General Herbert. If they meet with his approval they will form the basis of the military view of the question, which will be finally settled at a conference of the authorities of the city and the Militia Department.

The *Charlottetown Patriot* describes a military social held there on the 18th, as "the jolliest and best" affair of the kind ever held there. The report continues: "Only true soldiers could have made those walls re-echo with such mirth, enthusiasm and good-fellowship as prevailed at Lieut.-Col. Moore's social last evening. Our gallant Canadian artillerymen turned out in force, and the deep blue of their uniforms were relieved with here and there a red coat. Surely such a pleasant evening will be cherished beneath their soldiers' coats, while their hearts beat so patriotically for their homes and country. Lieut.-Col. Moore presided, and he certainly understood his business. That the men are proud and fond of their Colonel was abundantly manifested last night. Among those present were Brigade Major Col. Irving, Col. Doherty, Major E. F. Purdy, Capt. S. F. Hodgson, paymaster; W. A. O. Morson, adjutant; Capt. J. A. Longworth, W. A. Weeks, jr., H. McL. Davison, D. Stewart, D. L. Hooper, Sergt.-Major Allan and Artillery Companies' Lieutenants."

### THE TWENTY-FIRST ESSEX FUSILIERS.

The annual meeting of the officers of the 21st Essex Fusiliers was held in the Crawford House parlors, Windsor, February 10th at 2 p.m., and was a fine success. Present, Lt.-Col. Wilkinson, Major Guillot, Surgeon Casgrain, Pay-

master Meloche, Quartermaster Reeves, Capt. Cheyne, Lieuts. Laing and Jackson of No. 1 Co.; Capt. Ley and Lieut. Alderton of No. 2 Co.; Capt. Jones and Lieut. Russell of No. 3 Co.; Lieut. Sicklesteel of No. 4 Co., and Capt. Dewson, Lieuts. Bartlett and Ponting of No. 5 Co. All attended in full dress.

Regimental, band and mess committees' reports were submitted and adopted. They showed the regiment to be out of debt, and with a balance on hand of \$48.00. The usual committees were adjusted for 1891-2.

On the recommendation of Col. Wilkinson, classes of the officers and n. c. officers for drill and instruction will immediately be formed at regimental and the several company headquarters.

A discussion arose as to the expected Brigade Camp at Windsor the coming season, which went to show that the officers of the regiment, the town council and the citizens of Windsor are alive to the situation, and will furnish suitable grounds, plenty of good water and all the usual conveniences, and will do all in their power to make the stay of the troops on the frontier one of pleasure and success.

Lieut. Russell stated that it was probable the citizens of Essex Centre would extend an invitation to the regiment to visit that town on Her Majesty's birthday for a celebration and field day, and asked for an expression as to acceptance. It was unanimously decided to accept if the invitation is given.

Col. Wilkinson addressed the officers in a happy manner, complimenting them upon their fine appearance, and thanking them for their able and hearty support in the past. He referred to the success of the regiment the past season at Camp Stratford, when among other honours they captured the highest average score in ball practice in the brigade. He also referred to the excellent performances of the regimental League team and the beautiful trophy won. This trophy was on the table at the meeting, inscribed with the names of the Colonel, Range Officer Major Beattie, Captain of the team, Capt. Jones; Staff-Sergt. Green, Sergt. Dixon, Sergt. McAnnany, Corp. McGregor, Corp. Dresser, Privates Elliot, Green, McKenzie, Staff-Sergts. Dow and Gow.

This meeting having adjourned, the annual meeting of the Fusiliers Rifle Association was immediately convened. All the officers were present, and in addition Sergt.-Major Leighton and Staff-Sergt. A. J. Green. The Secretary's and Treasurer's reports were read and adopted, and officers appointed for the ensuing year as follows: President, Col. Wilkinson; Vice-President, Staff-Sergt. A. J. Green; Secretary, Lieut. Bartlett; Treasurer, Sergt. Dixon; Executive Committee, the President, Vice-President, Secretary and Captains of Companies, and it was resolved to leave nothing undone to make the annual matches a grand success.

It was also decided to again enter a team in the League matches for the coming season, and \$50 was at once subscribed for necessary expenses. Col. Wilkinson reported the pleasant news that the County Council had again made a grant to the regiment of \$50 per company. This concluded the business of the meeting, and by invitation His Worship the Mayor, Mr. Fleming, and the Town Council in a body, with some forty guests (also the regimental band) having arrived and been heartily welcomed by Col. Wilkinson and his officers, an adjournment was made to the commodious dining room, where a sumptuous repast had generously been provided by Major Guillot and the officers at regimental headquarters. The menu was excellent, and during the dinner the band discoursed several fine airs.

The usual toasts were put and responded to with enthusiasm, Major Guillot presiding in his usual happy manner. "The Queen" was right royally received, the band playing "God save the Queen." Other toasts were "Army, Navy and Volunteers," Col. Wilkinson; "The Windsor Town Council," His Worship the Mayor, Capt. Reeves and others; "Our Guests," by Surgeon Casgrain, Wm. McGregor,

ex-M.P.; Police Magistrate Bartlett, Mr. Joslyn, U. S. Consul, Councillors Barnes, Sutherland, Whittaker and others; "The County Council of Essex," Wm. McGregor, Ex-Warden. The very best of goodfellowship prevailed, and the warmest sentiments of loyalty were expressed, and Colonel Wilkinson, Major Guillot and the regiment received most flattering praise and hearty offers of financial aid when needed.

Capt. Butler, the Adjutant of the 7th Fusiliers, was present, and also Col.-Sergt. Geo. Cooper, Queen's Own Rifles. After a thoroughly enjoyable time, "God save the Queen" was given by the band and all dispersed well pleased and happy.

#### THE GRENADIERS.

The Sergeants' Mess of the Grenadiers held a very successful card party in their mess room on Thursday evening last. Col.-Sergt. Cusick was the winner, taking nine out of the ten games played. Mr. Harrington of the *Mail* was the "booby," not being on the winning side of the table once during the evening.

A number of new officers are being gazetted to the "Grens", the latest being Capt. Gosling, Lt. Irving, Mr. Stimson and Mr. Boyd.

It is understood that Capts. Harston and Manley are to have the two new companies. Look out for the "very best."

The non-coms. class under Sergt.-Major Cox meets every Thursday evening. As there are likely to be a great many promotions this season the "boys" are working hard to qualify, about fifty attending every drill.

The members of the Sergeants' Mess have appointed a committee to arrange for having a large photo of the mess members executed.

#### THE QUEEN'S OWN RIFLES.

For the second time in two months regimental orders have been issued, calling for a funeral parade, and this time to attend the funeral of a victim of the most distressing accident that has occurred in Toronto for some time.

On Wednesday night last (18th inst.) Lieut. G. A. Badgerow was returning home on horseback from visiting his uncle, Mr. A. H. Badgerow, in North Toronto, the roads were in a very slippery condition, and, no doubt, the horse lost its footing and threw his rider forward. A spectator only a few yards away hurried forward to render assistance, but was horrified to find that the rider was beyond all human aid, the fall having broken the neck as well as fracturing the skull. The body was removed to North Toronto and word sent to the bereft family, who were in the Bermudas, owing to the poor health of Mr. Badgerow, the County Crown Attorney, he having found it imperative some time ago to spend a few months abroad.

The deceased was about 22 years of age and was attached to "K" company, the university company. He was in his third year in the faculty of arts, and took a part in all organizations, both athletic and others, in connection with the organization.

The funeral took place on Tuesday at 3 p.m., and despite the drizzling rain, was a most imposing one. The remains, dressed in full regimentals, were encased in a metallic lined casket of red cedar covered with broadcloth, and around the coffin were heaped many beautiful offerings, among which were: wreath, School of Infantry; wreath, inscribed No. 2, Brother Officers, Q.O.R.; pillow, from Zita-Psi Society in connection with University; wreath, from University third year class; anchor, Deer Park Athletic Association, besides a great many from personal friends of deceased.

Rev. Septimus Jones conducted the services at the house, assisted by Rev. A. H. Baldwin of All Saints. The firing party was composed of "K" Co., under command of Capt. Brock and Lieut. Coleman, and Lieuts. Crean, Mowat, Peuchen, Ince, Wyatt and Levesconte acted as pall bearers

The Q.O.R. turned out about three hundred strong under command of Major Sankey and Capt. Macdonald. Col. Otter, D.A.G, Capt. Macdougall and Lieuts. Laurie and Evans, I. S. C., were present with a detachment, deceased having been attending the school at the time of his death.

Besides the volunteers, some three hundred students of the University turned out to follow to his last resting place all that was mortal of their late companion.

At the vault where the remains were placed awaiting burial in the spring, the service was conducted by Rev. A. H. Baldwin, assisted by the choir of All Saints Church, of which deceased was a member, and who sang "Nearer my God to Thee" and "Forever with the Lord," both favourite hymns of the dead chorister. The last salute to the dead soldier then concluded one of the saddest funerals, although funerals are always such, but this being exceptionally so, that has been held in Toronto since the burial of those who fell in the North-West.

BREECH BLOCK.

"G" Co.—The annual meeting of this company was held in the Mess Room on the 18th, Capt. Bennet in the chair. The reports handed in by the various committees showed the company to be in a sound and healthy condition. The minutes of the last annual meeting were read by the Secretary, and committees were then formed for the coming year. The meeting was then adjourned amid hearty cheers for the Queen, the Old Flag and the Old Man.

Probably no modern medicine has obtained wider notoriety, within a given time, than the really wonderful SLOCUM'S OXYGENIZED EMULSION OF PURE COD LIVER OIL. To sufferers from lung troubles we say: take no other. As all druggists sell it, it is easily obtained.

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### MONTHLY DRAWINGS FOR THE YEAR 1891.

January 14, February 11, March 11, April 8, May 13, June 10,  
July 8, August 12, September 9, October 24,  
November 11, December 9.

### NINTH MONTHLY DRAWING, MARCH 11, 1891.

3,134 PRIZES

WORTH - \$52,740.00.

CAPITAL PRIZE,

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Ticket, - - - \$1.00.

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1	" " 5,000	5,000
1	" " 2,500	2,500
1	" " 1,250	1,250
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5	" " 250	1,250
25	" " 50	1,250
100	" " 25	2,500
200	" " 15	3,000
500	" " 10	5,000

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100	Prizes, worth \$25	\$2,500
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100	" " 10	1,000
999	" " 5	4,995
999	" " 5	4,995

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**THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S FOOT GUARDS.**

Staff-Sergt. R. M. Gallwey, Orderly Room Clerk, and Colour-Sergt. H. P. Brumell, of No. 1 Company, have taken officers' commissions in the Governor General's Foot Guards. Lieut. Brumell was on service in the Northwest with the Guards' Sharpshooters in 1885, and received his first stripe as a non-commissioned officer when the wounds received at Cut Knife deprived the company of Col.-Sergt. Winter's services. He has followed the good example of many of his comrades in the Sharpshooters by now entering the commissioned ranks.

Lieut. Gallwey was not so fortunate as to be able to go to the Northwest in 1885, being in the employ of the Mounted Police Department and leave of absence not being obtainable at such a time. He has had a long connection with the Guards, and is one of the "shooting members" of the regiment.

Two promotions arising out of the appointments noted above, have been those of Sergt. Frank Gordon of No. 1 Company to be Orderly Room Clerk, and Sergt. R. E. Watts, of the same company, to be its Colour-Sergeant.

The experiment tried a few years ago of setting apart one of the six companies of the Guards to be recruited and

maintained at New Edinburgh, the vice-regal suburb, has not worked well, and the six companies are to be again united. The arms of No. 5 Co. have been removed from their hall at New Edinburgh to the Drill Hall, their headquarters for the future.

Sergt.-Major Conroy has intimated that he cannot much longer trifle with his three-score years of age to the extent demanded by the duties of the responsible position he holds in the regiment, and he is pressing to be allowed to make way for a younger man. So long and faithfully has their Sergt.-Major served that the Guards will not bear of a change so long as they can keep him, but his wish to retire has caused some speculation as to his probable successor. A name freely mentioned is that of Sergt.-Instructor Thos. Davis, and a more zealous soldier, or one better up in the duties of the position, it would be hard to find. Sergt. Davis has made soldiering a hobby ever since his taste of service with the Nile Voyageurs in 1884. The following year saw him in the Canadian Northwest with the Guards Sharpshooters, and what he had not learned about drill in these two campaigns he has since endeavoured to pick up by hard study at the Royal Schools of Instruction and practical application as Sergt.-Instructor of the Guards.

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FRED WHITE, Comptroller N. W. M. Police.

Ottawa, Feby. 9th, 1891.



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