

THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE

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NOTE AND COMMENT.

Major Hughes gave notice on Wednesday last of his intention to move for an order of the House of Commons showing:

1. The corps of the active militia of Canada that have been drilled, (a) annually, (b) biennially, and (c) triennially, in the period 1889-91 inclusive.

2. The number of qualified combatant officers in each corps.

3. The number of provisionally appointed officers in each corps, specifying those whose period of qualification has expired.

4. The names, length of service, and ages of each commanding officer upwards of sixty years of age.

5. The actual strength of and number of enlistments in, during the year 1891, the permanent corps located in Ontario, Quebec and New Brunswick.

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The force is to be congratulated upon the evident intention of Major Hughes has displayed thus early in the session, to interest himself in the affairs of the militia; and as the returns asked for will furnish him with ample materials to discuss the administration of the department, an opportunity will be given him to explain to the Government and House, as one who is competent to speak with practical knowledge of the subject under discussion, the disadvantages under which a large proportion of the force now labour in consequence of the very objectionable policy of biennial and triennial drills.

* * *

Fortunately for Major Hughes and for those he is interesting himself in, the militia expenditure is an item which admits of criticism by a Conservative member, with greater freedom from party ties and consideration than that of any other department: and in any suggestions he may offer for the improvement of the

force, he may count upon hearty support from a large majority of members on both sides of the House.

It would be well indeed if consideration of matters of defence could be separated distinctly and completely from party questions, and discussed from a national point of view solely. If such a course could be adopted we would not find the departmental reports filled, year after year, with recommendations by experienced officers, possessed of thorough practical knowledge of the subjects they are speaking of, without some action being taken to carry out the recommendations made by them.

* * *

Ample as the returns called for by Major Hughes appear to be, it will perhaps surprise many to learn that the information asked for by him under heading No. 1, will not include the whole of the Active Militia Force of Canada. There are battalions carried on the strength of active militia, who not only have not drilled during the past three years, but who actually have not paraded in three times that space of time.

We know of one instance in which a certain battalion has not paraded since June 1882, on which occasion the commanding officer marched into camp with three companies, having been unable to muster the remaining half of his command. In the succeeding year the D. A. G. of his district reported to the department that the battalion had been relieved from drill owing to the sudden resignation of two captains, and the inability of the officers to muster another portion of the regiment owing to the busy season. His report adds, "If the request of the officer commanding to be allowed to recruit in the county of ——— (the adjoining county) were complied with, this battalion could soon be brought into an efficient state."

Although this recommendation does not appear to have been complied with, and the battalion is absolutely defunct, its arms, accoutrements, and stores having all been returned to the department, yet it is carried on the active list, and its officers, some qualified under the old military school system, and some unqualified, are published annually in the militia list as members of the active force, and those of them who have their qualification certificates have been quietly and easily gaining their seniority, the commanding officer being well up in the list of lieutenant-colonels on the active list.

* * *

This is but a single instance of many that we could point to evidencing necessity for a more thorough overhauling of the Department of Militia and Defence than it has ever received, and the desirability of allowing a freer scope, and more untrammelled rules to the practical head of the department, than is likely to be permitted unless the affairs of the department are considered outside of the ordinary range of party politics.

* * *

The annual report of the Department of Militia is looked for this year with more than the usual amount of interest, as it will contain the first report of Major General Herbert upon the force under his command, and it will be a surprise to many if the General is not more free in his criticisms and recommendations than his immediate predecessor.

* * *

Already on more than one occasion in public, General Herbert has expressed his opinion upon the desirability of improving the arm with which the force is equipped, and it will not be surprising if he further emphasises his views upon this point in his report.

It cannot be expected that the country will or can stand the expense of purchasing any of the more recent make of rifles, much as a magazine rifle is to be desired. There would, however, be little difficulty in supplementing the store of Martini-Henry rifles now on hand with a sufficient quantity to arm the efficient active force, and this change would be a great improvement upon the time honoured gas pipe now in use.

* * *

An important order issued by the German Kaiser at the end of last year will probably do a good deal in exciting the emulation of commanding officers to take an active interest in the good shooting of their men. In this order the Kaiser directs that all general officers and others, in submitting the annual returns of the shooting for the army on November 30th of each year, shall bring to his personal notice officers who have distinguished themselves in the training of their companies, squadrons or batteries in shooting. The effect of this cannot fail to act beneficially in inciting individual officers to look closely after the training of their men.

THE D. R. A.

The annual report of the Dominion Rifle Association, just issued, contains the usual interesting information for those who like to fight their battles once again and explain how that outer happened to come in the middle of a good score, and why that string of bulls eyes trailed off with a wretched magpie.

The report of the council is brief and satisfactory. It alludes to the match between the Senate and the House of Commons, the presence of the contingent from the 1st Batt. Leicestershire Regiment, thanks the usual donors to the prize list, and others; alludes with regret to the death of Captain Macnachten of Cobourg, and speaks in high terms of the success of the Bisley Team, and of the report of Major Weston, the commandant.

This latter is undoubtedly the most important part of the report, and deserves close attention and careful consideration on the part of the executive. The recommendations made by Major Weston bear evidence of the advantage of occasionally obtaining the views of a practical rifle shot as commandant of the

Canadian Bisley Team. Allusion is made to the magnificent shooting of Lieut. Davidson in the Queen's, in which at one time at the last range he was leading the field, and eventually finished fourth. In this match Sergt. Henderson finished ninth, having made the best score of the field at 900 yards,—unfortunately he started badly in the first stage. The capture of the Prince of Wales' prize by Capt. McMicking is referred to, and the report concludes with a high eulogium upon the efficient and pains taking Adjutant, Major Blaiklock, and an expression of the pleasure it affords the writer to place before the President of the Association so favourable a record of the team of 1891.

We recommend to the attention of the incoming council a close perusal of the statement of comparative number of entries, etc., to be found on page xxiv. The decrease in the number of entries to the Snider Extra Series might be in a measure anticipated and accounted for by the introduction of sighting shots, but the decrease in the four series of Martini Matches can only be explained by the very limited period during which competitors could find time to take part in them. This must have resulted in a very considerable financial loss to the association, and was the occasion of no little annoyance and disappointment to members, who would greatly have preferred that the meeting should have been extended over another day rather than have been crowded and rushed in the way they were, and made to fire the most important match of the gathering almost in the dark.

It will undoubtedly benefit the association and better suit competitors to have the meeting laid out for five days instead of four, and it is hoped this course will be adopted this year.

MORRIS TUBES.

At the annual presentation of prizes of the 2nd Tower Hamlets Rifles, the commanding officer, Colonel Bryan, in the course of his remarks when opening the proceedings said that, at the last prize presentation the Brigadier in speaking of the musketry training had to remark upon the figure of merit, which was low by the bad shooting of certain companies.

Since then Morris Tube practice had been greatly used, and the figure of merit of the two bad companies had been thus

raised until it equalled that of other companies, and was better than some.

Subsequently Colonel Trotter, addressing the corps, congratulated every member upon the very satisfactory year they had passed through; also the prize winners upon their success, and especially he was pleased that the shooting had improved, and particularly that of the two companies who had not done so well in the previous year.

If they had reaped any advantage from the advice he gave a year ago to use the Morris Tube he hoped they and everyone would continue to use it; for it was very difficult for volunteers to get to ranges outside London.

FUTURE OF THE VOLUNTEERS IN ENGLAND.

The future of the volunteer force in England is apparently causing no little anxiety in many quarters there, and various are the devices suggested for strengthening the force at present, for increasing the public interest in it, and improving the status as a means to induce men to join hereafter.

The oldest and most popular corps appear to experience difficulty equal to that of their less well known brothers in arms in obtaining men to fill their ranks, and this scarcity is not confined to the ranks alone, as there is an equal difficulty found in disposing of vacant commissions, and the outcry for young officers is becoming very active.

The state to which some of the regiments have been reduced may be well imagined, when the Hon. Recruiting Secretary of that old, popular and well known corps, the Victorias, is compelled to address an appeal through the press to those interested in the regiment to either join themselves, or induce their younger relatives to do so, unless they wish it to be utterly extinguished; for he has found it utterly impossible to secure a sufficiency of recruits during the past year by use of the ordinary methods usually adopted for filling their ranks.

The dearth of officers and men, serious feature as it is, is not the only trial the force has to cope with at present. The affairs of the National Rifle Association, which has been one of the best aids and strongest factors in increasing public interest in the volunteers, are in anything but a satisfactory condition, and the outlook for its future is not bright unless

active measures are taken to arouse a spirit of public generosity such as occasionally is shown to a marvellous extent by Englishmen when necessity arises.

The first step actually taken in the interests of the service has been to submit a bill to Parliament to free volunteers from the necessity of serving on juries, and from the approval this has met with, there is little reason to doubt that it will become law.

Among the other suggestions made for improving the status of volunteers, are some for conferring substantial benefits, and others for honorary distinctions.

The suggestions made are all of a nature which would be advantageous only to a volunteer in England with one exception, and that is the proposition that a medal be granted for long service—the idea is after twenty years—to be distinctive from any existing medals, and to be given to officers and men alike.

The consideration of a similar proposal for our militia might be entertained by the department with very beneficial effects. It would tend not only to keep men in the force, but would give commanding officers an immense pull in ensuring their regular attendance at a sufficient number of drills to guarantee their efficiency.

THE NEW SMALL BORE RIFLE.

Some interesting particulars have been received of the action of the Mannlicher rifles used by a portion of the congressional troops in the closing engagements of the Chilian struggle. The claims which were advanced as to the humanity of the new small bore rifle seem to have been fully borne out by the facts elicited through actual conflict. The wounds inflicted by the 8. mm. Mannlicher bullets were quite characteristic in their nature, they either killed at once or healed without troublesome complications.

Even at long ranges bones were shot clean through without splintering, and no portions of the lead bullet or its steel casing were found to remain in the wound to give rise to further aggravating symptoms.

The physical effects produced by this new weapon of offence may fairly be claimed to entitle it to the fanciful designation which has been applied to it of being a philanthropical engine of war, but the moral effect produced by it was simply extraordinary.

Not more than 30 per cent. of the Congressional troops were armed with it, yet 56 per cent. of the losses of the Balcamedists were due to its fire, the rapidity and accuracy of which was such that the Balcamedists, utterly demoralized declared they would rather be shot down by their own officers than advance against such death dealing weapons that killed them like dogs.

More interesting even than the effect of the bullets are the accounts of the rapidity with which the Mannlicher could be fired.

On an average each rifle fired in three hours from 160 to 200 rounds. This clearly demonstrates the great necessity for the maintenance of the strictest fire discipline, lest the consumption of so much ammunition in such a short space of time might exhaust all on hand without any possibility of obtaining an additional supply for the firing line at least.

Letters to the Editor.

The 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 MOUNTED POLICE.

DEAR SIR,—Your excellent article on a fit successor in the event of Commissioner Herchmer's quitting the N. W. Mounted Police contains valuable modern lessons. The man of "ungovernable temper" is nowhere nowadays—nowhere in the race. What is required is, as you well say, "tact, suavity of manner, and knowledge of *savoir faire*."

It is not, I think, without interest to hark back to the British Army's history to see the changes brought about under the head of "discipline"—changes found absolutely necessary—consequent upon improvement in civilization and education. Let us glance at some of the methods of maintaining discipline in old days.

Grose says (Military Antiquities, 1786) that a "common punishment for offenders among the followers of an army when martial law prevailed was the 'whirligig'." This was a circular wooden cage, with many apertures, which turned on a pivot, and turned round with such velocity that *the delinquent inside it soon became extremely sick!* Adjutant Cuthbertson, writing in 1768, says "whenever the regiment is under arms the drum major should have his apparatus for whipping constantly with him." It will be right for a soldier who has been whipped to remain twenty four hours after it in confinement, that he may have leisure to consider seri-

ously of his crime, whereas was he to be immediately enlarged it is odds but he *might persuade himself into a belief of having been ill treated.* The Duke of Wellington brought about radical changes for the improvement of the status of the soldier. He spoke of the "mutual confidence between officers and men."

Taking a stride in the "whirligig" of time to the present day, what do we find in our Queen's Regulations—golden words with which every soldier is familiar:—"Officers of all ranks will invariably practise towards their subordinates such methods of command and treatment as will not only ensure respect for authority, but also foster those feelings of self-respect and personal honor so essential to a high standard of military efficiency." As has been well said, it is like a question of horsemanship; the best rider is the one who always has his attention on the alert, and keeps a light but firm hand on the bridle, not one who lets his reins hang loose, and from time to time recalls his horse's attention to the fact that he is in the saddle by a jerk at the curb; the former will get far more out of his horse and take far less out of himself than the latter.

In view of this how important those words of yours, as applied to any commander, "tact, and suavity of manner."

"MARTINET."

THE SNIDER.

DEAR SIR,—In regard to the use of the Snider rifle, I can see no reason whatever why we are compelled to use this rifle in military matches, even though the forces are armed with it and use it for purposes of drill, unless it is that the Government factory manufacture the ammunition and it must be used.

Even in a small affair like the North-West rebellion, the authorities at once had a large number of Martini-Henry rifles sent out, and is it at all likely that in case of any difficulty with any other nation the volunteers of this country would have to defend themselves with an inferior weapon against their (most likely) superior ones, while our superior weapons are rusting in the stores.

I do not therefore think that because the force are unfortunately armed with it, is any argument why we should be obliged to use it for shooting, as all or nearly all the volunteer force who take an active part in rifle shooting could go back to the Snider in case of necessity, and it would make no difference whatever to those who do not shoot at all if they are required to use either rifle.

I think that in having to procure two rifles in place of one is a great drawback in getting young shots to take as great an interest in shooting as they would had they to procure but one, as it costs from \$30 to \$40 more in the matter of a rifle and requisites than if only one were used. More practice is required, and conse-

quently a greater expenditure for ammunition. Then there is the disagreeable task of taking care of two rifles, taking them to competitions and lugging them around the range, not knowing where to leave them. It is disagreeable and, I think, an unnecessary expense.

If there are, as reported, a large number of Martinis in store, why not issue them as far as they will go?

Another consideration is the cost of ammunition. If in England the volunteers can buy their ammunition for 10 cents or less, I should think that the Canadian Government could supply it at 15 cents. If the money that it costs to keep up the League was used to reduce the cost of ammunition to volunteers in general I think that it would be more beneficial to shooting in general, there would be better scores made or more of them at the Dominion and Provincial matches instead of on paper at the home ranges. It would be an encouragement to honest shooting instead of to trickery, and those winning prizes would not be ashamed to walk up and accept them on presentation day.

I have often wondered why those taking active or foremost positions in the management of the Provincial and Dominion matches were not greater advocates of doing away with the Snider rifle, unless it is that there are quite a number of them that are officers of management and are not shooting men, or that the Government Ammunition Factory had to be patronized.

I think that every shooting man should use every endeavour with their respective representatives at Parliament to bring this change about, and as we are not a few I think it would have some effect. If it is worth having it is worth asking for, and it is not at all likely the change will be made until we do ask for it.

Hoping that we will hear from others on this matter and that it is not too late to have the change made this year,

I remain, Yours respectfully,

MARTINI.

Notwithstanding all the exertions which Germany has made during the past two decades to increase her army it still remains numerically inferior to that of France by some 40,000 men. Moreover, Germany possesses only 2,184 field guns, whereas France has no less than 2,280 ready for war. Alarmed by this discrepancy, Emperor William is bringing every influence to bear on the reichstag with a view of inducing it to consent to the increase of the imperial army. It is claimed, however, that his efforts are not likely to succeed. For the compliance with his demands would involve the repeal of the military clauses of the constitution of the empire, which restricts the annual conscription to 1 percent. of the population.

Regimental News.

TORONTO.

E. CO. Q.O.R. 30TH ANNUAL DINNER.

An annual gathering of any company is always looked forward to with more or less enthusiasm, but when it happens to be the 30th occasion of such it is little wonder that the enthusiasm is pronounced. Without doubt E. Co. Q.O.R. occupy the proud and unique position of being the only company of the Canadian Militia to have held a company dinner each year for the past thirty; and naturally one must revere the esprit-de-corps that never lets one, no matter how old, forget that he once served his Queen and country, and looks forward as so many do to the annual dinner, where for a few happy hours he is a boy once more, and tells with pardonable pride to the youngsters (as such they seem to him) of what the Company was like, and what they did in the old days of ten, twenty, twenty-five or thirty years ago.

The dinner this year was held in the mess rooms of the buglers, which were handsomely decorated for the occasion, and your correspondent has no hesitation in saying that it eclipsed anything of a like nature ever held in the city. About 9 o'clock, to the strains of "The Regimental March," played by the Buglers' Orchestra, the members of the Company and their guests to the number of about 80 took their places, and a few minutes later Capt. Mutton was presiding over a crowd unanimous in their mode of discussing the menu placed before them. After ample justice had been paid to Caterer Tasker's efforts, pipes and cigars were lighted, and the toast list and musical programme was entered upon.

The first toast, that of "The Queen," was honored in a fitting manner, after which a selection was given by the Buglers' Orchestra, composed of Bugle-Sergt. Woods (violin), Bugler Davies (piano), Bugler Thompson (piccolo), and Bugler Davidson (trombone). Before proceeding any further Capt. Mutton briefly stated the reason for the unpersonal nature of the toast list, which was that as meetings of this kind too often turned into a mutual admiration society, and, desiring to remedy such, the list had been compiled so as to make each toast in the light of a sentiment, and, as afterwards proved, the idea was a good one. Corp. Blair, secretary of the Company, read letters of regret from several invited guests, prominent among those being Lt.-Col. Oter, Lt.-Col. Gray, Major Delamere, Capt. Mason and Sergt.-Major Robertson, 48th.

The toast of "The Canadian Militia" was proposed by Captain Mutton and responded to by Captain Thompson, and it is doubtful if a better sketch of the Canadian militia could be given than that given by the proposer, who briefly reviewed

its history ever since its formation.

"The 2nd Military District" was happily responded to by Capt. Knifton, who is exceedingly popular with the members of No. 5, having been one of themselves for the past 23 years.

"Our Regiment," proposed by Sergt. Pearson, brought response from Lieut.-Col. Hamilton, Capt. Mercer and Sergt. J. G. Langton.

"Our Sister Corps" was proposed by Lieut. Morton, and was responded to by Lieut. Chadwick, 10th R.G., Sergt.-Major Taylor, 12th Batt., and Sergt. Butcher, No. 2 Co., I.S.C.

Col.-Sergt. Cauldwell neatly and briefly proposed the toast of "Our Guests," ample justice being done to it by Capt. Heakes, Lieut. Wyatt, Q.O.R., and Mr. J. McIntyre, St. Thomas.

"Ex-members," proposed by Col.-Sergt. Bowden, was responded to by Ex-Col. Sergt. Simpson and Ex-Sergt. Lockwood.

"The Ladies" was proposed by Pte. Cuthbert and responded to by Sergt. Bailey. And the last toast, that of "The Press," proposed by Corp. Blair, was responded to be the representative of the MILITIA GAZETTE.

Interspersed between each toast were contributions to the musical programme by the following: Capt. Mutton, Capt. Mercer, Lieut. Wyatt, Lieut. Morton, Lieut. Chadwick, Bugle-Major Swift, Col. Sergt. Cooper, Bugler Davies, Bugler Baker, and Messrs. Draper, Lauder and Sparks, with mandolin, banjo and guitar. And thanks to the efforts of these gentlemen, the hours flew rapidly, and some three laps were placed to the credit of the coming day ere the National Anthem terminated a very pleasant and enjoyable evening.

Amongst those present were noticed Lt.-Col. Hamilton, Capts. Mutton, Thompson, Knifton, Mercer, Heakes, Q.O.R. Capt. Heward, 10th R.G., Lieut. Morton, and Wyatt, Q.O.R., Lieut. Chadwick, 10th R.G., Sergt.-Maj. Taylor, 12th Bn. Sergt. Butcher, No. 2 Co., I.S.C., Col.-Sergt. Cooper, Mr. J. McIntyre, St. Thomas, Mr. A. R. Clark, ex-Col.-Sergt. Simpson and ex-Sergt. Lockwood. The committee to whose efforts is due the success of the Dinner is as follows:—Capt. Mutton, Col.-Sergts. Cauldwell and Bowden, Sgt. Lennox, Ptes. Watson, G. Keys, Heron, Cuthbert, Corp. Blair.

NOTES.

The non-com. class for those qualifying for corporals' certificates which has been parading since November last under Sergt. Langton, finishes next Wednesday, when the final examination will be conducted by Capt. Mercer.

Recruiting in both the Queen's Own and Grenadiers is exceedingly brisk; no doubt rumors of both regiments going to Montreal for the Queen's Birthday, have a great deal to do with it. Of this review to be held in Montreal, no one

seems to have much idea as to whether it is going to be carried out or not. Perhaps some of our eastern friends can throw some light on the matter, although some one did say that part of the programme would be the transportation to and attacking of St. John's Infantry School by the visiting troops.

The Kilties are still working hard, over 200 men being on the strength. The uniforms are expected from Scotland some time in April, so that before long, they will make their first and much looked for appearance. BREECH BLOCK.

THE HIGHLANDERS' OFFICERS.

There was a large attendance at the regular drill of the 48th Highlanders held on Thursday evening last week. The following regimental orders issued by Lieut.-Col. John I. Davidson were read by Capt. Macdougall:—The undermentioned officers, having been duly gazetted, are taken on the strength of the battalion from the 20th February, 1892, and posted to the companies opposite their names: Major William Campbell Macdonald, Capt. Donald Murdoch Robertson, A Company; Capt. John Allister Currie, C Company; Capt. William Hendrie, F Company; Capt. James Wilson Gray, G Company; Lieut. John Forbes Michie, A Company; Lieut. Donald Hector McLean, C Company; Lieut. Charles Albert Hunter, F Company; Lieut. George McLean Rose, G Company; Lieut. Duncan Donald, H Company.

PORT ARTHUR.

Port Arthur, March 7th, 1892.—Readers of the GAZETTE will probably remember the story told by A. Ward, the great American humorist, during war times, of the attempt to organize a corps in his native town. Night after night enthusiastic meetings were held and it was resolved "that we uphold our government in her effort to quell the rebellion," "that it is decided that the time has come to organize, and send our friends and relatives to the front," etc., etc., but still no recruits came forward, no service rolls were produced, until one night in the midst of their enthusiasm, the doors were thrown open and in marched a determined body of women, headed by the redoubtable Betsy Jane, who at once demanded to know when the men were going to quit talking and go to work, and at once settled the business by demanding to know "whether the lists were to be filled by men or by women," and the answer came with a roar from the males, "by men, by men," and, adds the writer, "our quota was made out that very night." This is pretty much the fix we are in up here; we have been nursing a very sickly little organization and trying to train it up to be useful in its day and generation, but our boys seem to be afraid of military duty, although

our League team upheld our name so nobly last season.

At the commencement of this year it was decided to hold a military concert; but no great amount of enthusiasm was worked up amongst the male population until the happy thought came, like an inspiration, to our Colonel to form an Amazonian corps. The Benedicts amongst his officers, remembering their years of toil in such training, looked askance at the proposal; but the Colonel, who is a bachelor, possessed no doubts concerning the success of the scheme, and, assisted by Lieut. McKibbon, also single, with characteristic courage dashed into the work. The result has been a grand success. The concert came off in due time, and although No. 1 Company of the 96th put on a good bayonet and manual exercise team under the instruction mainly of Sergt. Kirkpatrick, late of the regular army, and although sword and lance were handled in magnificent style by Capt. Riches, of the only U.S. Lancers, and by Capt. Garland, late of the Princess Louise Dragoon Guards, and by Sergt. Kirkpatrick, the attraction of the evening proved to be the female corps, who dressed in a neat and most becoming uniform, and, armed with rifles borrowed from our public school drill corps, went through squad and company drill, manual and bayonet exercises and fancy marching in a manner to draw the applause of the house, the bayonet exercise in quick time, performed to music, calling for a rapturous encore. The outcome of the affair has been that we have formed a military gymnasium in connection with our armory; and prominent citizens have become patrons, subscribing liberally towards the outfitting of the hall. No. 1 Co. have been much benefited, and one night a week is devoted to squad drill. We have competent instructors in the various branches of fencing, boxing, bar and ring, Indian club and dumb bell exercises, in Captains Garland and Riches, Lieutenant McKibbon and Sergeant Kirkpatrick.

The ladies have not grown tired in the work either, for patronesses are also on our list, and thrice a week the ladies have the use of the gymnasium, so that the sterner sex will still have to look to their laurels.

We are still building ourselves up with hopes of a trip to camp this summer. We hardly think the Amazonian corps would tackle that, but we never can tell.

Altogether military affairs look quite flourishing here this spring, and we expect to put a strong team into the League matches this summer.

Before closing this rather long letter I would propose a scheme for checking scores, which has been talked over amongst us, after the very apparent doubts expressed last fall about the "big scores." We propose that new targets be put on for

each match; cotton of course, used only for the 21 shots per man of the team, then carefully removed, certified to by range officer and marker, and mailed to the secretary as a record of the team's hits. Any difference between the targets and the score sheets could thus be easily detected. HYPERBOREAN.

ST. JOHN, N. B.

The officers of the New Brunswick Brigade of Garrison Artillery gave their annual ball last Monday week at the Institute assembly rooms, St. John. Tasteful hands had decorated the hall wings with flags, the rooms were adorned with military emblems formed of swords and other warlike implements, now as harmless as ploughshares, appropriate pictures hung on the walls, and a mounted gun suggested possibilities that were at least worthy of contemplation. When the guests had assembled the scene was a very pretty one. Mrs. J. R. Armstrong, Mrs. George F. Smith, Mrs. J. W. Daniel, and Mrs. George K. McLeod received the guests, and, of course, they were supported by Col. Armstrong and his gallant and courteous officers, and all the arrangements were so effective that everything passed off in a most pleasant manner, the guests, whether dancers or non-dancers, enjoying every moment of the time. The supper table was a beautiful creation, and was set off by both the substantial trophies won by the artillery in various competitions, and by the more delicate creations of the caterers' skill, which did good service during the evening. Many of the dances were mazes of color and labyrinths of beauty, and at an early hour in the morning the company had scarcely begun to thin out. There were about one hundred and twenty couples present. All of the different arms of the volunteer service were represented. Music was furnished by the Artillery band.—*The Globe*.

Who will be the first to establish a swimming bath in Canada suitable for competitions in swimming, water polo, etc., with accommodation for spectators as well as competitors, and which city will be the pioneer in such an undertaking?

That it will be a profitable venture if properly conducted, regularly and frequently cleansed and refilled, is almost a foregone conclusion. Water polo would be a more amusing and quite as exciting a game to witness as the best lacrosse, hockey or football, and would undoubtedly draw large gates. Swimming races might also be made very popular affairs, and with the aid of the electric light could be very easily conducted at night as well as in the daytime.

ATHLETIC

Sports and Pastimes

The final match for the championship of Canada which was won by the Montreal A.A.A. from the Ottawa A.A.C. has been the occasion of a good deal of discussion and no little feeling.

This is mainly attributable, if not exclusively so, to the "bete noire" of so many of our sports—the betting fraternity—and does not, as far as I know, represent the feelings of the players or their true friends. The matter would hardly be worthy of notice but for the fact that the Ottawa correspondent of the *Montreal Gazette* seems to have been carried away by the extent of his losses, or by the expressions of others who have suffered in this way, and to have written to his paper in a strain which could not possibly serve any good end, and might have a very unfortunate tendency to create a hard feeling between Montreal and Ottawa athletic circles if the bond of union between the two, and the strong friendly feeling of one for the other, was not so firmly established as not to be easily shaken.

The power of the press is very great, and may easily be used to arouse or intensify a spirit of jealousy and ill will which it may be found extremely difficult to allay or dispel altogether. It is most unfortunate then, and not very wise for a paper as influential as the *Montreal Gazette* to adopt the strain it did in reporting the results of the final match for the hockey championship.

That the game was not to prove a satisfactory one, irrespective of the winner, was almost a foregone conclusion owing to the condition of the ice before the struggle began, and the result justified the anticipations. Matters were not improved by the long delay which occurred before the M.A.A.A. team appeared on the scene, as owing to the temperature, the ice was perceptibly getting worse all the time. There was excuse, however, for their delay in getting to work, as they had only arrived in the city by special train between 6 and 7 p.m.

The results of the evening demonstrated very plainly what I have already pointed out the necessity of—namely, greater elaboration in the rules governing championship matches. There ought to be a proviso made for a certain degree of frost without which a match could not be played. It is hardly Hockey when play is conducted in pools of water a quarter of an inch in depth.

Another rule which should be considered is, how long "time" ought to be permitted, except in the case of personal injury having been suffered.

There ought to be a limit, and that limit a short one, to the time given a man to retie his boot lace, or get a new strap

or even to fit on a new skate. Much talk was indulged in by those interested in the result of the game, at the referee not insisting upon greater dispatch on the part of M.A.A.A. members in resuming the game after the interruptions of this description. I fail to see, however, what he could do unless appealed to by the O.A.A.C. men, and then he could only have remonstrated, but he was not asked to do so.

A simple rule would prevent the possibility of a referee being called upon to exercise his judgment in this matter, and would have a tendency to make things run more smoothly.

Those who criticized Mr. Arnton, and his rulings, did so without any just cause, and I am sure none will admit this more readily than the members of the O.A.A.C. team.

The facts of the case appear to be, as far as the match is concerned that the M.A.A.A. managed to get together for a final effort the strongest combination of hockey players that have ever been upon ice—magnificent specimens of athletic humanity they were too—and if they had all been in good training and condition, they would probably have proved too strong for any team in Canada without any breathing spaces. They were fortunate enough to take the first goal, and availing themselves of accidents of one kind or another managed to help through those of their number whose wind is not just what it used to be when they were playing regularly.

The game was played, was lost and won, and probably no more would have been heard of it, if it had not been for that most objectionable element alluded to before, the betting fraternity, who do so much to injure true sport, and who if they have their way may soon reduce hockey to almost as low a level as baseball, where the umpire not infrequently gives his decision almost at the risk of his life.

SKATING.

Few amusements have ever undergone such complete change by the development of a special feature, as appears to be likely to occur to skating by the universal desire among the younger portion of the community to indulge in the game of hockey. This craze is not confined to the male portion of society, it has even seized upon the females, and it is not impossible that, for a time, we may hear of ladies' hockey clubs.

The effect upon skating of this rage for hockey is likely to be most injurious from an artistic point of view unless energetic means are adopted to again arouse interest in figure skating, and the beautiful intricacies evolved thereby. Every youth now devotes his whole time and attention to endeavouring to increase his pace, and all that is wanted is to be able to skate fast. The old skates at one time cultivated for the purpose of figure skating, are discarded for racers in the

endeavour to be fast.

This is most unfortunate, as although hockey is undoubtedly a very fine game, yet there are many hundreds spoiling their chances of ever becoming good skaters in the vain endeavour to become speedy ones, an accomplishment in which many will fail.

Skating clubs may do much to alter this condition of affairs by a more liberal encouragement of fancy skating, and the introduction of prizes which will induce their members to compete for them.

CRICKET.

The cricketers of Toronto are to be congratulated upon the wisdom displayed by those of their number who attended the recent annual meeting of the Ontario Cricket Association, and declined being inveigled into forming themselves into an association to be called the Canadian Cricket Association.

A more unwise proposition to submit to a meeting composed exclusively of representatives of Toronto clubs can scarcely be conceived, and does not speak well for the originator of the idea, Mr. J. E. Hall, who was chosen secretary pro tem. to correspond with clubs throughout the Dominion in order to endeavour to secure their co-operation in the formation of such an association.

It is well known that a good deal of feeling exists in the Dominion against the Ontario Cricket Association and that they have by their independent action on more than one occasion given good cause for such feeling. If then this feeling had been further aggravated by a meeting composed exclusively of representatives of Toronto clubs forming an association to be called representative of the Dominion it could not but have had a most unfortunate influence on the interests of the game throughout the country.

Everyone interested in cricket must heartily hope for the successful organization of a truly representative association, which will be above the suspicion of being under the control or influence of one particular locality.

In connection with the inaugural meeting which it is proposed to call, it may be pointed out that Ottawa is decidedly a more central point to meet at than Toronto, and, especially at this time of the year, preferable in many ways. Ottawa is just as easy of access, if not easier, than Toronto from Manitoba and the North-West, while it is much more readily reached from Montreal, Quebec and the lower provinces.

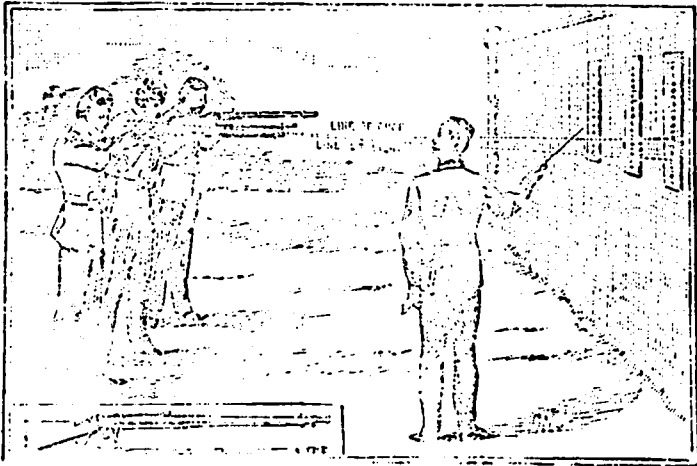
As a matter of fact Toronto is rather out of the way for a Dominion gathering, and is not easily accessible to any but Torontonians and those in the western part of Ontario.

If true regard is had for the interests of other provinces than Ontario the inaugural meeting of the Canadian Cricket Association will be held in Ottawa.

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200 " " 15.....	3,000
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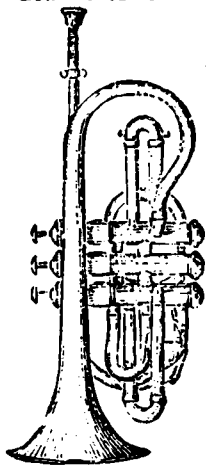
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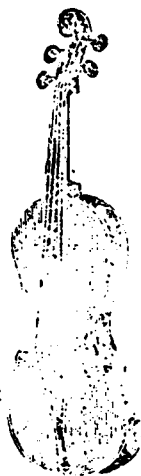
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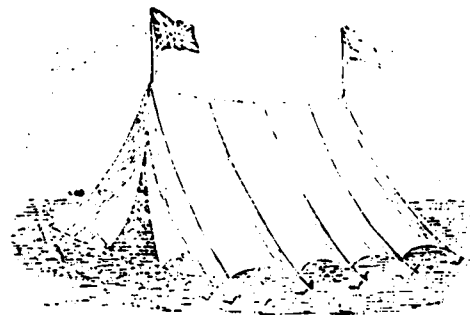
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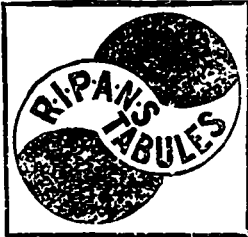
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