

# THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE

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

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## CORRESPONDENCE.

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

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## COMMENT AND CRITICISM.

Poundmaker's surrender "makes things easier," allowing the whole of the forces in the country, with the exception of those left to garrison the Mounted Police stations, to concentrate their attention on Big Bear. The surrender is ample justification of Col. Otter's sortie, with which there was some disposition to find fault, but it is doubtful if that alone would have sufficed to subdue him. If buffalo were as plentiful as of yore it is probable that more persuasion would have been necessary; but the effort to support 2,000 people on the products of the chase might well have puzzled a man with more resources at his command than Poundmaker could boast. In giving himself up this chief must have felt pretty certain that he was giving away his own life for the good of his followers, and he commands a certain amount of pity and respect for his unselfish action. We have no belief in the rumor that his followers released on parole have gone to join Big Bear; if they had had any intention of doing so they would not have cried "enough" and have come voluntarily into Battleford.

Signs are not wanting of an early break-up of the North-west campaign; the corps last ordered out have not been sent forward; several members of corps at the front have been allowed home on leave, and whole corps are beginning to speculate about the probable date of their return, while General Middleton speaks of calling for volunteers to remain in the several garrisons. It may be that in all this our con-

tingent are reckoning without their host, for if Big Bear has 800 warriors in the woods on the north side of the river he may make things most uncommonly unpleasant for many months to come. If he can manage to evade a decisive action with the troops he has a line of retreat into the north country over which it will be well-nigh impossible to follow him, and it will be necessary to keep a large force on the river to sit down and wait until he is starved out; and even if he is caught and satisfactorily whipped there will be small dissatisfied bands creating such an element of danger that under the most favorable circumstances the country along the Saskatchewan from Edmonton to Prince Albert will have to be garrisoned with a much larger force than the Mounted Police, at least until the rigors of winter have brought all the Indians to see the benefits of a prompt and constant provision of food by the Government.

At a recent meeting of the United Service Institution in London the matter of supplying the volunteer force with field guns, a point on which they apparently feel sore, was discussed. It seems either that field guns have never been provided to the volunteer force, or that they were given and taken away again. Perhaps the English authorities might not be above taking a hint from our latest experiences, where the seven-pounders alone saved Col. Otter's force from defeat, and where the light artillery and Gatling gun with General Middleton were the chief agents in driving the half-breeds back from one position to another and in saving enormous loss of life to the infantry. Here most of our volunteer field batteries are remarkably efficient, and the men being to a large extent resident in rural districts are able to turn out horses that, if not perfectly drilled, have lots of work in them and can get the guns through pretty rough country, which is after all the main point.

In another column attention is directed by the medical press to the action of certain militia surgeons in withholding their services from their respective battalions when these were called out for active service. We are not aware what reasons were given, if any, to the authorities in the special instances referred to, for their course of action at such a crisis in our history, but the facts serve to show that volunteering in Canada at times becomes a stern reality and that positions should not be accepted on the roll without due consideration and a full sense of the responsibilities involved. He that putteth his hand to the plough must on no account turn back, and he that wadgeth a war must count the cost thereof. The whole question, in fact, of volunteers' obligations to the crown and country is here opened up, and there can be only one opinion as to what these are, viz; to serve her in time of necessity regardless of personal loss or inconvenience. On this point the volunteer militia system hinges, and the rule is quite as applicable to the medical staff as in the case of combatants.

A correspondent at the front of considerable experience in military medical matters introduces a very important topic for discussion, which will be found in our present issue. The subject is no doubt well

worthy of careful consideration, and we will be pleased to have the views of other surgeons of our militia force on the points suggested by our correspondent. The indications are that we are on the eve of times of peace, and this will have to be borne in mind in treating of a subject which really acquires its special prominence owing to the element of disturbance.

Attending the church parade in Ottawa on the Queen's birthday were two military bands, those of the Guards and the 43rd Rifles, which of course played alternately, and the difference in the length and speed of pace, as given by the two, were very noticeable. Now the Field Exercises lay down very definitely that the quick march shall consist of 116 paces of thirty inches each every minute, and it is quite evident that one band, if not both, was disregarding these facts. We know that the same state of things exists in other places, and remember vividly the effectual manner in which the marching past of several battalions at a review in Montreal some years ago was spoiled by the erratic time of one of the bands. The remedy for this state of things is simple, and lies in the hands of the bandmasters and commanding officers of corps. Drum, plummet and pace-stick shall be used, say the Field Exercises, in teaching men to march, and so say we.

Another point brought out by the same parade was the unsuitability of the present regulation headdresses for the variations of our Canadian climate. The brass helmets of the Dragoon Guards, the bearskins of the Foot Guards and the fur-bushies of the Rifles are alike unsuitable for the cold of our winters and the heat of our summers. Sunday was a bright day with the thermometer up in the nineties, and the discomfort of all the corps under their top-heavy loads was pitiable. It is easier to find fault with existing arrangements than to propose a remedy. If martial appearance could be left out of account the problem of providing head-gear for Canadian troops would be simple enough; a tuque would fulfil all necessary conditions for winter or night work, and a soft felt hat to protect the head, and particularly the eyes, from the summer sun, would meet the case perfectly, but unhappily neither of these is particularly trim looking. Perhaps some of our readers may have something practical to suggest.

#### THE WEEK'S DOINGS OF CORPS IN THE NORTH-WEST.

During the week ending on Monday morning there have been considerable changes in the disposition of the forces; the easternmost column, under General Middleton, having effectually completed its work, has virtually been absorbed into the Battleford force, the Winnipeg Field Battery alone remaining to garrison Prince Albert. General Middleton reached Battleford by boat on the 23rd with parts of the 90th and Midland Battalions, the 10th Grenadiers had set out to march to Battleford, and the remainder of the troops were going through by boat. Riel has been handed over to the civil authorities at Regina. The Simcoe Battalion and G. G. Body Guard are yet at Humboldt, and the 7th Fusiliers at Clark's Crossing. Col. Scott's Battalion has been ordered to Prince Albert, which will probably be garrisoned by its right wing; the left wing going on to garrison Battleford.

Poundmaker followed up his offer of submission by surrendering unconditionally on Monday, the General arriving at Battleford just in time to receive him. 210 stand of arms were given up, and after the chiefs and the murderers of two settlers had been secured, the remainder of the band were released on parole. The large size of his band, numbering about 2,000 souls, and the difficulty of supplying them, were probably important factors in bringing about this gratifying result.

General Strange's command has safely reached Fort Pitt and re-garrisoned that important point, and a report has just been received

that he met Big Bear's band, said to include 800 armed men twelve miles north east of Pitt on the north side of the river, where he had two days' skirmishing with them on the 28th and 29th, losing one man killed and two wounded. This, however, lacks confirmation. He left garrisons at Edmonton, the Peace Hills, Battle River, Fort Sackatchewan, St. Albert and Victoria, as he advanced.

General Middleton is said to have left Battleford by the river to reinforce General Strange with a field gun, a Gatling gun and detachments of "B" Battery, Mounted Police, the Queen's Own and the Midlanders. Thus the three columns have practically been merged into one, and the only active work yet remaining to be done is the dispersal of Big Bear's hostiles.

#### RIFLES AND RIFLE SHOOTING.—III.

BY CAPTAIN HENRY F. PERLEY, HEADQUARTERS STAFF.

During the feudal times the *arbalist* was much used, and it was recognized as a military weapon about the time of Richard I. Its equivalent in these days is the cross-bow gun of our school boys, which throws an arrow or a pea. In the smaller kind of *arbalist* the bow was bent by hand, but as it was found that wooden bows did not possess sufficient power to propel arrows to the distances required, steel was used, and an instrument called a *moulinet* was employed to bend them. The missiles discharged were sometimes ordinary arrows, but generally a short, stout kind having a four-sided pyramidal head, called *quarrels*, were used; and occasionally stones and leaden balls were discharged from the larger kind of arm. This weapon continued to be a favorite in England up to the 14th century, when it gave place to the *long bow*, which was found to be more convenient in battle, for by it twelve arrows could be discharged for one by the *arbalist*, and, being held in a vertical position the soldiers, or bowmen, were enabled to stand in closer array, while by reason of the lightness of the bow they were able to take a larger supply of arrows into the field. The first mention of the bow is found in the passage of Genesis (1760 B.C.), where Isaac told Esau to take "thy quiver and thy bow," and to go and fetch some venison. Next earliest, or contemporaneous with the historical books of Holy Writ, are the marvellously preserved testimonials borne to their truth by the sculptures of Nineveh, in which the bow is represented as the favorite weapon of the king and his chief warriors, whether for war or for the chase. In these sculptures it is shown as a long and powerful instrument, drawn to the ear of the shooter, and carrying an arrow apparently not inferior in size to the cloth-yard shaft of the English archers of the olden time.

Soldiers armed with the bow and arrow were called archers. Among the ancients specially eminent in the use of the bow were the Thracians, the Cretans, Parthians, and Numidians; among the moderns, the Arabians, the Germans, English and Saracens. In 1327 the Emperor Frederick II. employed Saracenic archers, and those who were attached to the light troops opened the battle. In England the archers wore light armour and a short sword, and carried a quiver containing 20 arrows. At first archers fought in small groups, later on in large masses; and the battles of Crecy and Poitiers (1356), Agincourt (1415), Crevant (1423), Verneuil (1424), and Roderway (1429), were decided by them alone. At the battle of Crecy a large body of Genoese archers assisted the French, and previous to the commencement of the engagement a shower of rain came on which wetted the strings of their cross-bows, causing them to stretch, and thus rendered them to a great degree inefficient and useless. The English had covers of canvas, or other material, for their bows, which protected them from the weather, and they were thus enabled to come into the field with their weapons in good and serviceable condition. In the records of the Exchequer of England in the years 1344-1347 there are to be found items of payment "for leathern cases for bows and arrows" supplied to Edward III. Among the Asiatic tribes, the Turks, Persians and other nations of the East, the bow and arrows are used as weapons of offence and defence; and it is only within the present century that the Indian tribes of this continent have abandoned their use for the gun and rifle.

The cross-bow was the chief arm of many of the foreign powers, but the English adopted the long-bow for use in the field, and used the cross-bow in defending castles and fortified places. The invention of the cross-bow is attributed to the Normans. It was used in the first crusade and came into general use on the Continent soon afterwards, remaining in favour for some years; but during the reign of Francis I it disappeared from the armies of France. It was deemed to be a most cruel and bar-

barous weapon, and Pope Innocent VII forbade its use between Christian nations, on account of the fearful wounds caused by it missiles, but he sanctioned its use against infidels. The cross-bows of the 14th and 15th centuries were sometimes furnished with sights, and some of the back sights had three or more peep-holes, one over the other, as guides for elevation. They were dangerous arms, as they were apt to go off unaware after the bow had been bent.

The English infantry, previous to the general introduction of fire-arms, were divided into two principal classes—archers and bill men; which last comprehended all those who were enumerated in the old statutes of arms as serving with “bills, gisarms, knives and other small arms.” They were protected in their persons by such armour as they could procure. Most of them wore iron scull caps or basinet, and short leather or linen doublets stuffed with cotton or wool, and often a long loose garment called a “jack,” resembling a smock-frock, and sometimes they carried a *roundel*, or light round shield. Such men as happened to be ill-provided were returned as “naked foot,” and received less pay in consequence. Their weapons of offence were of all sorts, comprising lances or pikes, swords, daggers, bills, mallets, forks, and the poorest brought the simplest of all weapons, a sling and a stone.

Some made a *mall* of massy lead,  
With iron all about did bind;  
Some made strong *helmets* for the head,  
And some their grisly *gisarms* grind.

Some made their *battle axes* bright,  
Some from their *bills* did rub the rust;  
Some made their *pikes* and *lances* bright;  
Some *pitch forks* for to give and thrust.  
(Ancient ballad of Flodden Field, fought 9 Sept. 1513.)

In the time of Edward III. the bow was priced at 1s. to 1s. 6d., and a sheaf of arrows at 1s. to 1s. 2d. In the reign of Henry VII. the cross-bow was forbidden to be used by law, and under Henry VIII. the price of a bow, as fixed by law, varied from 8d. to 3s. 4d. This king adopted extraordinary means for encouraging the use of the long bow. The bowyers (those who made bows), string-makers, fletchers and arrow-head makers were placed under stringent regulations; merchants were compelled to import good bow-staves with every cargo, and those of extra length were admitted free of duty. Yew was considered the best wood, and in order that the supply might not be used up too speedily elm, ash and wych hazel were ordered to be used. The heads of families were bidden to provide bows for their sons and male servants, and town councils or officers were required to provide shooting butts just outside their respective towns. Every man under 60 not laboring under any impediment, judges and priests only excepted, was enjoined to shoot habitually with the bow, whilst even lads between 7 and 17 were to have their bows and arrows, any parent or master who suffered such youths to be two months unprovided being fined 6s. 8d. None under 24 years of age were permitted to shoot at any standing mark under a penalty of four pence each shot, and no man above 24 was allowed to shoot at a less range than 220 yards without making himself amenable to a fine of 6s. 8d. for each shot. By virtue of the same act any man who kept a cross-bow in his house was liable to a fine of £10.

In the same reign the “Fraternity of St. George” was established, the members of which were permitted for pastime sake to practise shooting; and their charter contained this peculiar proviso, that “In case any person should be wounded or slain \* \* \* with an arrow shot by one or other of the archers, he that shot the arrow was not to be sued or molested, if he had, immediately before the discharge of his weapon, cried out ‘fast,’ the signal usually given on such occasions, meaning that ‘the person was to stand fast’ or ‘still.’”

The following from a proclamation of the time of Queen Elizabeth, is perhaps the best account of an archer and his appendages: “Captains and officers should be skilful of that most noble weapon, and see that their soldiers, according to their draft and strength have good bows, well stringed, and every string whipped in their notch, and in the middle rubbed with wax; bracer and shooting gloves; some spare strings trimmed as aforesaid; every man a sheaf of arrows, with a case defensible against the rain, and in the same four and twenty arrows, wherof eight of them shall be lighter than the residue, to astonish the enemy and gall him with the hail of eight arrows, before they shall come within danger of harquebus shot.”

The range of the long-bow was from 320 to 400 yards, and so quick were the archers, or so slow the musketeers, that six arrows could be discharged whilst a musket was being discharged once, and this is given as a reason why archery continued in force so long after the invention of gunpowder.

(To be continued.)

MILITARY RIFLES.

The following tables, which contain most valuable and complete information for comparison and reference, were communicated by the Director of Artillery to the Royal Artillery Institution, and have been somewhat altered in form to suit our columns.

SYSTEMS.	MECHANISM.		GROOVES.			CARTRIDGE.				VELOCITIES.				GREATEST HEIGHTS OF TRAJECTORY.				TIMES OF FLIGHT OVER DIFFERENT RANGES.			
	Closing.	Striking.	Length of Barrel.	Calibre.	Number.	Depth.	Length of Turn.	Weight of Cartridge.	Powder.	Bullet.	Proportion of weight of powder to weight of bullet.	Value of $\frac{1}{a^2}$	Muzzle.	50 yards.	1000 yards.	1500 yards.	2000 yards.	500 yards.	1000 yards.	1500 yards.	2000 yards.
Berdan.....	Bolt	Spiral spring and firing-pin	32 1/2	.42	9	.01	21	610	77	370	1:4	338	873	64	353	388	417	1409	3418	6139	9826
Chassepot (modified).....	Bolt	Spiral spring and firing-pin	32 1/2	.43	9	.01	22	620	87	370	1:4	338	873	64	353	388	417	1409	3418	6139	9826
Chassepot.....	Bolt	Spiral spring and firing-pin	32 1/2	.43	9	.01	22	620	87	370	1:4	338	873	64	353	388	417	1409	3418	6139	9826
Gras.....	Bolt	Spiral spring and firing-pin	32 1/2	.43	9	.01	22	620	87	370	1:4	338	873	64	353	388	417	1409	3418	6139	9826
Jarmann (magazine).....	Bolt	Spiral spring and firing-pin	32 1/2	.43	9	.01	22	620	87	370	1:4	338	873	64	353	388	417	1409	3418	6139	9826
Martini-Henry.....	Falling hinged block	Spiral spring and striker	33 1/2	.45	7	.007	22	788	75	389	1:5	366	905	67	387	411	452	1432	3477	6288	10100
Mauser.....	Bolt	Spiral spring and firing-pin	33 1/2	.45	7	.007	22	788	75	389	1:5	366	905	67	387	411	452	1432	3477	6288	10100
Murata.....	Bolt	Spiral spring and firing-pin	33 1/2	.45	7	.006	22	607	85	42	1:5	366	905	67	387	411	452	1432	3477	6288	10100
Peabody-Martini.....	Falling hinged block	Spiral spring and striker	33 1/2	.45	7	.007	22	802	85	490	1:5	366	905	67	387	411	452	1432	3477	6288	10100
Remington.....	Segmental block	Flat spring and striker	33 1/2	.45	5	.010	20	665	75	400	1:5	333	849	63	359	397	433	1359	3289	5848	9213
Snider.....	Turn-over block	Side lock and striker	33 1/2	.45	3	.005	78	715	70	480	1:6	857	71	478	196	284	343	1179	2833	4949	7467
Springfield.....	Turn-over block	Side lock and striker	33 1/2	.45	3	.005	26	588	62	500	1:7	143	87	676	323	342	460	1460	3599	6118	9233
Vetterli, single loader (Italy).....	Bolt	Spiral spring and firing-pin	33 1/2	.46	4	.009	25	468	55	310	1:5	63	824	588	390	484	651	1486	3651	6708	10977
Vetterli, magazine (Italy).....	Bolt	Spiral spring and firing-pin	33 1/2	.46	4	.009	26	465	55	310	1:5	63	824	588	390	484	651	1486	3651	6708	10977
Vetterli, magazine (Swiss).....	Bolt	Spiral spring and firing-pin	33 1/2	.46	4	.009	26	465	55	310	1:5	63	824	588	390	484	651	1486	3651	6708	10977
Werder.....	Falling hinged block	Flat spring and striker	33 1/2	.46	4	.013	38	655	77	329	1:5	143	815	570	396	284	328	1486	3690	6897	11440
Wernld.....	Revolving block	Side lock and striker	33 1/2	.46	3	.018	26	655	77	329	1:5	143	815	570	396	284	328	1486	3690	6897	11440

The weights and dimensions given were obtained from examination of the arms and ammunition at the Small Arms Factory, Enfield Lock. The observed velocities were found by means of the Boulegé Chronograph, and the muzzle velocities, remaining velocities and times of flight were calculated with the aid of Professor Bashforth's Tables.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

A PRIVATE LETTER FROM LIEUT. GRAY, OTTAWA SHARPSHOOTERS, PUBLISHED BY PERMISSION.

Long before you get this you will see by the papers that we have had an engagement with the enemy. I will give you some of the particulars. On Friday last a flying column consisting of about 300 men (the Sharpshooters furnished twenty men and one officer as their share) under the command of Col. Otter left the camp at Battleford for an unknown destination. We started at about three o'clock in the afternoon, travelled until ten, when we halted for about two hours for refreshments, then started again, and travelled until about five o'clock or so, when we came upon the first sign of the enemy, who fired upon our advanced guard, which had reached the top of a hill about a half a mile from top to bottom. We had one Gatling gun and two seven-pounders, which were in front, the rest of the column straggling up the hill. The Indians having opened fire on us the minute the head of the column reached the top of the hill, the rest of the men came up as quickly as possible. The brigade major told me to form up my men and support "C" Company, I. S. C., and I was proceeding to carry out his instructions when he came along and countermanded his order, telling me to cover a coulee on our left front. I was marching my men in fours to do this when the enemy opened fire from this place upon us as soon as we came to the top of the hill. We immediately extended, lay down and returned their fire. But they had the advantage of being in a dense cover, while we were in the open. This coulee was in the shape of a wooded ravine, running down the hill. After we had been firing a little while, I noticed that the enemy were gradually extending down the ravine to a hill from where they could rake our whole line, at least I thought so, and as the Queen's Own had come up and extended on our left, effectually guarding us in front, I told some of my men to follow me, and doubled down to this hill. I found afterwards that we were just in time, as if we had not got there the enemy would have surrounded us. Eventually they did get on our extreme left down in another ravine, so we had to retire into the bush ourselves, and as soon as we commenced to play at their own game of getting under cover, we not only held our own but drove them back until they got into a ravine, from which it took us a long time to get them out, there being an open stretch of about two hundred yards in front, and their back being protected by the ravine. All this time the artillery had been hard at work with the Indians directly in front, "C" Company and the Mounted Police with those on our right front, the Indians evidently trying to surround us. I honestly believe that if it had not been for our having the Gatling gun and the two seven-pounders with us, the two latter enabling us to shell the enemy in the wooded ravines they were in, we would have lost at least one hundred men. It is a wonder that we did not lose more men than we did. At one time when we went with a rush up a hill with the idea of advancing on the enemy who were down in this ravine, the minute we reached the top of the hill they sent in a regular shower of bullets that whistled round our ears and struck all about us. Fortunately there were not many of the enemy in this particular spot, probably about twenty. At the time of this rush three or four of our men were hit, one man on my right and another on my left at the first volley. We saw at once that we could not advance across the open space, about 200 yards, without losing a lot of men, so we lay down and returned their fire, but here again we were in the open and the enemy in cover, so after standing their fire for a few moments we retired a short distance under the brow of the hill and potted them. In this rush I suppose there were about forty or fifty of our men, about eighteen of my own men and the rest Queen's Own men. The Battleford Rifles did very good service in getting at these fellows, going around on their flank and advancing very pluckily on the enemy, who at last were compelled to retire. I can tell you it was no picnic at any time during that day, but more especially at the time of the rush and just after, when we were lying down with these fellows about 200 yards off, firing at us. You would see bullets strike the ground in front of you, then on your left, or right, or hear them whiz just past your ear. Just tell Ned Sutherland that it beats the Rideau rifle range all hollow. What was most provoking though was to lie there and be potted at without being able to do any damage in return, as the enemy in this ravine lay under the bank, rested their rifles on it and quietly took a "dead rest" shot at us. At first we sent a hot fire into the bushes and wherever we saw the smoke coming from a rifle. But I soon saw this was a waste of ammunition, so I quietly kept my rifle at the shoulder and took aim at the spot where most of the firing was coming from with the intention of letting fly at the first sign of a head that appeared, but

it was no use, the beggars were too cunning. They never put so much as a hand even, as far as we could see, above the bank. I suppose I kept my rifle at the shoulder for at least three or four minutes. It is a great satisfaction to the company that the people in Ottawa seem to appreciate what we have gone through. I must say that we have had a good deal of roughing since we left home. It seems at least a year since we left, but none of us complain. We all came prepared to do our duty as soldiers and to serve our country to the best of our ability. We had a telegram from F. White to-day saying that friends had subscribed some \$300 for us, and wanting to know what they could do for us. We are telegraphing to him. We were all very much pleased. When the captain got the telegram he assembled the company and we all gave three cheers for those at home. We have all felt rather sad the last two days owing to the loss of our two comrades, Privates Rogers and Osgoode. They were both good men. I feel very much cut up about Osgoode being left behind on the field of the engagement. I will tell you how it happened. I was trying to find two or three of my men who were missing, having got scattered in the bush, when Col. Otter sent me off to a position to cover our waggons with the wounded men when they retired. While there it was reported to me that the ambulance had picked up Osgoode, that he was shot through the head, but was still living. When I joined the column I went to see Osgoode, but found another man, who looked very much like him, had been mistaken for him. As we were then returning it was too late to go back to look for him. I found out from several parties that he had been shot. Two or three Queen's Own men told me he was with them and they saw him shot dead. There were about fifteen or twenty lying in a row on the brow of a hill. One of the officers of the Queen's Own spoke to Rogers; he turned his head to reply when he was struck. His death was instantaneous. Color-Sergeant Winter and Private McQuilken were wounded in the early part of the fight. Both are doing well, and we hope they will be back with us in a few days. Winter had a close shave for his life, the bullet entering his cheek close to the nose, passing underneath it and out through the other cheek. An inch higher would have taken it through his eye.

To the Editor "Canadian Militia Gazette."

DEAR SIR.—I should think it would be of interest, at present, to medical officers serving with troops at the front, and throughout the Dominion, if you would devote a space in your columns to a discussion of the relative merits of the regimental and departmental medical systems. As an army surgeon of some ten years service, I have had, in my time, experience of both. My experience as a militia surgeon dates only from the beginning of the present campaign. I have had no opportunity, therefore, of ascertaining the views of my militia confreres on this subject, but think the present time opportune, and the columns of your paper appropriate for the discussion. At all events, I have no doubt, this campaign will have opened the eyes of most of us to the necessity of reorganization. Should this take the form of the departmental system now prevailing in the British service? It has been found, in war time, that the pure regimental system is a failure. Has it not proved so on the present occasion? Of course our regimental hospitals have not been properly equipped as such; nor have our field hospitals (such as I have seen of them at least) been put upon a proper footing; but would not a well organized departmental service have been more efficient, more movable and cheaper than the present one? With a surgeon-general at Ottawa as head of the department, one deputy-surgeon-general for each province, with a suitable staff of surgeons-major and surgeons under him (transferable on duty as required from one point to another within the province, from one corps to another, and available for home and foreign service) we would have a simple, cheap and readily movable staff, possessing more authority, independence, and *esprit de corps* than can ever be obtained under the present system. I only throw out these ideas hoping to obtain a ventilation of the subject, and, having nothing but agreeable reminiscences of both systems whilst in the home service, consider myself as quite unprejudiced in the matter.

Yours sincerely,

W. TOBIN, F.R.C.S.I.,  
Surgeon Halifax Battalion.

Camp, Medicine Hat,  
21st May, 1885.

Late Surgeon A. M. D.  
" Asst. Surgeon H. M. 24th Reg.

## PERSONAL.

Lieut.-Col. McDonald, of the Militia Department, who accompanied the Midland Battalion to Winnipeg as supply officer, has returned home looking all the better for his trip, and full of praise for the conduct of the campaign.

We were delighted to receive a call last week from Capt. S. Hughes, the genial adjutant of the 45th West Durham Battalion, and hope it may be the precursor of many such visits from our friends and well-wishers having business at the Capital.

The promotions of Captains T. Kelly, A. H. Todd and E. Harrison to Brevet Majorities are peculiarly opportune, in view of the fact that they are all on active service, besides being in every way worthy of their



increased rank, and indefatigable in their interest in their companies. Major Todd's company has always held a high place for its shooting qualities, and he himself has been more than once on the Wimbledon team. Major Harrison has the letters *K.* and *J.* before his name, indicating that he has seen active service in both the Red River Expedition of 1870, and in the Fenian raids, and if his gazette has come out two or three months before his ten years are completed, he has secured no more than his due.

The Dominion Rifle Association suffer a great loss in the resignation of Capt. Costin, their indefatigable secretary, rendered necessary by other duties. He was appointed on the death of Lieut.-Col. Stewart, and bringing to his work a long experience at Wimbledon, has introduced many improvements in the regulation of the meetings, especially in the timing of the pairs, a system which has given great satisfaction to the competitors, and for the convenience of which he will be gratefully remembered. He carries with him the good wishes of all the rifle shots.

Lieut.-Col. Thomas Bacon, late Brigade Major of the 4th and 5th military districts, the new incumbent of the office, has had a long experience in a similar capacity with the P. Q. R. A. at Montreal, and we have every confidence in his ability to fulfil his new duties satisfactorily.

#### DOINGS OF CORPS AT THEIR HEADQUARTERS.

KINGSTON.—It is rumored here that another provisional battalion will be formed shortly in the vicinity to relieve one of the corps already at the seat of the rebellion. Two companies of the 16th Battalion of Picton, it is said, will form part of the new regiment.

"D" Company of the 14th P. W. O. Rifles will relieve "C" Company of that corps, now doing garrison duty at Fort Henry, on Monday, 1st June.

The men of "A," "B" and "C" Companies of the P. W. O. Rifles stationed at Fort Henry are practising regularly at the rifle ranges. There is a marked improvement daily in the shooting.

Gunner Nolan, of "B" Battery, was buried here on Wednesday by the 14th Battalion. The dead soldier was a veteran of the Indian mutiny and the Zulu campaign, and was one of twenty in his regiment who came out scathless at Rorke's Drift.

The men of the P. W. O. Rifles parade every morning at 5.30 o'clock for "setting-up drill."—J. C. M.

TORONTO.—The Queen's Own went to Orillia for the 25th and had a parade and sham-fight. Their marching in column of companies was greatly admired, as well as the large muster, notwithstanding the absence of half the battalion at the front.

They and the Grenadiers turned out on Sunday for the purpose of meeting the body of Private Moor, but owing to delay on the lakes the steamer did not arrive in time to allow of this.

The Toronto City Council have resolved to attend Private Moor's funeral in a body and also to make arrangements to give the Toronto contingent a rousing welcome home on their return.—A. F.

MONTREAL.—A church parade took place on Sunday morning, the 31st of May, in which the following corps took part, numbering in all 500:—Cavalry, Capt. McArthur; Field Battery, Lieut.-Col. Stevenson; Engineers, with fife band, Lieut.-Col. Kennedy; 5th Royal Scots of Canada, with bugle band and pipers, Lieut.-Col. Caverhill. Heavy showers at short intervals made the weather anything but favorable. The appearance of the different corps as they marched to and from church was worthy of praise. The marching was extremely good, as since the outbreak of the North-west troubles the corps that were not called upon have been putting in extra drills, consequently there is a decided improvement noticeable in their marching. The Royal Scots in their picturesque uniform give an effect that is greatly admired whenever they parade. The corps assembled at their respective armories and marched down St. James street, through Victoria square, to St. Andrew's church, Beaver Hall hill, where an appropriate sermon was

preached by the Rev. J. Edgar Hill, M.A., B.D., who made some very touching remarks in connection with the North-west troubles.

The proceeds of the concert given by No. 5 Co. Victoria Rifles, on the 19th inst., amounted to \$194, which have been handed over to the committee for the benefit of the sick and wounded in the North-west.

The Prince of Wales Rifles are still in camp on the exhibition grounds.

Lieut.-Col. Stevenson, of the Field Battery, is making preparations for that corps to go into its annual summer camp.—E. J. R.

#### PUBLICATIONS.

We have received a neat little pamphlet entitled "Useful Hints and Regulations for Non-Commissioned Officers and Men," lately compiled by Capt. E. J. Sturdee, 62nd St. John Fusiliers.\* It does not pretend to do more than collect in convenient form, for the benefit of untrained militiamen, a few points of primary importance respecting discipline, dress and conduct, especially when off duty; it also gives the hints for marching men which appeared in the first number of this journal, and a few definitions of common terms in the field exercises.

The pamphlet undoubtedly possesses the utility which its name claims for it, and might advantageously be distributed to every man going on active service, whether to the front or to annual drill. In case of further editions being issued, we would suggest that a little more respecting discipline might be judiciously added, and that the authority for every regulation should be appended at the end of the paragraph; also, that the definitions at the end might be omitted, as they could not be made sufficiently full to be of much value without including a considerable portion of the field exercises, while the recruit would most naturally pick them up with his drill.

Captain Dunlevie's handbook to corps on actual service in the North-west,† will be found very useful by those wishing to refer to a list of the militia sent to the front, as well as to those acquainted with any of the corps on active service. It consists simply of a roll of all the men in the battalions from the east, in the 90th Rifles, and in the Mounted Police force, with lists of the officers in the provisional North-west corps lately organized. It is evident that the information has been obtained from official sources, and is therefore reliable. The issue is being handled by the Toronto News Co.

#### THE MEDICAL SERVICE.

##### VOLUNTEER MILITARY MEDICAL OFFICERS.

The rebellion in the North-west, necessitating the despatching to the front of nearly five thousand of the volunteer militia of Canada, has rendered necessary the organization of a very considerable medical force to attend to the relief of the sick and wounded. For this work a series of ambulance corps have been organized, and the number of medical men who have volunteered for this service has been very greatly in excess of those required. A number of dressers have been attached to these ambulance corps, being selected from advanced medical students, who have shown an equal enthusiasm in coming forward to take part in the noble work of relieving the medical necessities of our gallant volunteers. All this medical organization is independent of the medical and surgical equipment of each corps which has taken the field—each of course having its regimental surgeon and assistant surgeon. We are pleased to notice that, with few exceptions, the regimental medical officers who appear in the militia list have proceeded to the front. A Montreal battalion, the 65th, we regret to say was, we believe, the first to make an exception to this rule. When this battalion left our city it took with it two surgeons who went as substitutes for the gazetted regimental surgeons. We believe one of these regimental surgeons had a reasonable excuse in the very delicate condition of his health, but we have not heard any reason assigned why the other did not obey the call

\*Useful Hints and Regulations for Non-Commissioned Officers and Men, compiled by Capt. E. J. Sturdee, 62nd St. John Fusiliers, 12 pages 64mo. Franklin Printing Office, St. John, N.B., 1885.

†Our Volunteers in the North-west. A ready reference hand-book. Capt. Horace G. Dunlevie, late 1st Batt., G.G.F.G., compiler, 52 pages 32mo.: Ottawa, Daily Free Press Office, 1885.

of duty. Halifax next becomes notorious in this respect, the surgeon who declined to accompany his regiment being, it is said, presented with a considerable number of white feathers. Eventually so excited did the recreant medico become under the castigation of public opinion, that he assaulted in the public street a brother M.D. whom he believed to have been loud in denouncing his conduct. The ordering to the North-west of the Montreal Garrison Artillery has again brought our city disagreeably to the front in this respect. On the 11th of May this battalion started, leaving behind both its medical officers, and taking with them substitutes for these gentlemen in the persons of two gallant young medicos. This has given rise to a large amount of talk, which has not been of a character very complimentary to those who (in the hour of trial) failed to fulfil their duty, and has reflected unfavorably on the entire medical profession of Montreal. A volunteer medical officer, when he accepts her Majesty's commission, takes upon himself an obligation of a very responsible character. Of all the officers of a volunteer regiment he is the one that could be most easily dispensed with so long as his corps is not on active service in the field or in camp. Even in the latter case, were it not that it gives him some slight insight into the duties he would have to perform in the field, his duties might be dispensed with and the slight ailments of the men attended to by a local practitioner. But the Government places him on the strength of his regiment, pays him his annual drill money—not that he may attend balls and levees clothed in the Queen's uniform, but that he may learn something of the interior economy of his department and familiarize himself with those duties which are peculiar to his position. All this is done so that when his regiment is called upon for service he may enter upon his work having some idea of its character. It is at this period that the medical officers of a corps become useful appendages to their regiment. To fail to perform their duty at such a time, and to be replaced by perfectly green hands, is a very serious matter, and one which we think deserves, as it is receiving, all but universal condemnation. What right, we ask, has the surgeon of a corps to absent himself from his post at such a time as this? If the other officers must go why not the surgeons? We trust we have seen the last of these evasions of duty on the part of medical volunteer officers. If it is again attempted we trust those in authority will show that they understand their duty in such cases.—*Canada Medical Record.*

### THE TARGET.

#### NEW MUSKETRY REGULATIONS.

A general order has been issued as to the musketry instruction of the army, pending the issue of the revised book of "Musketry Regulations," and although not affecting the volunteers this year, it will be received by them with the utmost eagerness, as showing what they may expect for next year's course of instruction. The changes made in the conditions of firing, the number of rounds, the positions to be adopted, and the targets, are so radical as to render it impossible to do more than allude to the prominent features. That old friend the present third-class target, with its one-foot bull's-eye, entirely vanishes, so far as regards its present form, its place being taken by a "figure" of the size laid down in the musketry instructions of last year, which figure will be painted on a six-feet-by-four target. The scoring will, however, be the same, as, although invisible to the eye, the same divisions as at present will be used, the bull's-eye being two and a half feet from the ground, or in the waist of the figure. A recruit's third-class course will consist of five rounds kneeling and five rounds standing at 100 and 150 yards, to be followed by five rounds lying down at 200 yards, and then five rounds kneeling. In addition to this the recruit will fire two rounds at 100, 150, 200, 250 and 300 yards, with the sight fixed at 200 yards, at a target without bull's-eye or centre, hits on the figure only counting. The annual course of the trained soldier will consist of three rounds kneeling and then two standing at 150 and 250 yards, followed by five rounds kneeling and five standing at 300 yards. In addition to this he will fire ten rounds in what is called the defence position at distances from 320 to 100 yards with the sight fixed at 200 yards at a figure target, hits on the figure only counting; the first four rounds will be fired lying down, the next four kneeling and the other two standing. This practice will be fired with bayonets fixed. The next step will be the last stage of attack practice, which will be carried out at a "head and shoulders" target, at distances between 265 and 150 yards, the sight being kept at the 250 yards mark, the idea being, as above, that there would be no time to readjust the backsight for each distance. Ten rounds will thus be fired lying down. The second-class target (six feet by six) will be painted with three figures, but the scoring will be as heretofore, as it will be divided into an invisible bull's-eye of two feet diameter and a centre of four feet. The conditions of firing, however, may seem a little retrograde to some, as they entail a

return to the kneeling position at the long ranges, five rounds being expended at 500 and 600 yards, lying down, to be followed by five kneeling. The first-class target will be painted with figures to resemble a squad of four men, but otherwise neither the scoring, the number of rounds, nor the positions have been altered, excepting, of course, as to abolition of the visible bull's-eye. The volley-firing target presents a squad of six men, and will be fired at in close order, in volleys and independently at 400 yards and also at 600 and 800 yards, five rounds at each distance in extended order. Perhaps one of the most interesting features of the new regulations is the introduction for the first time of rapid firing into our system of instruction. This is done in what is called "rapid section volleys (timed)," the object being to train the sections of a troop or company to quick deliverance of a succession of volleys. The volleys are to be fired at 400 and 500 yards in the short space of thirty-five seconds from the first word of command, "ready!" to the last word, "fire!" No doubt when this has been practically dealt with it will be found that three volleys in the time is ample to expect any good results from, anything more only resulting not only in the loss of ammunition but the acquirement of bad habits by the men.—*Volunteer Review.*

At the council meeting of the D.R.A., held on Saturday, the resignation of the secretaryship by Capt. Costin was announced, and Lt.-Col. Thos. Bacon, of the Militia Department, was unanimously appointed to fill the vacancy.

It was also decided to conduct the practice of the Wimbledon team, before sailing, on the Rideau Range here in consequence of the damage to the Point St. Charles Range by the spring freshets. The members will be required to report themselves on the range at 10 a.m. of the 22nd inst.

At a meeting of the executive committee, held later, the prize list for the matches, which are to begin on the 31st August, was completed. It will consequently soon be ready for publication.

It is pretty well decided that Lt.-Col. Landry, M.P., commanding the 61st Montmagny and l'Islet Batt., will be commandant of the Wimbledon team, with Capt. Clark, of the 90th, now in hospital at Saskatoon, as second in command, if he has sufficiently recovered from his wound to enable him to undertake the arduous duties of the position.

OTTAWA.—The Ottawa Rifle Club held their first Martini spoon competition on Saturday afternoon, 30th inst., Queen's ranges, and one sighter at each range. Weather threatening rain, light dull, moderate 12 o'clock wind, with enough fishtail in it to make it puzzling.

Captain Perley.....	31	33	25	89	Mr. Grant.....	27	27	21	75
(First spoon.)					Mr. Pink.....	28	23	22	73
Lt. J. C. Chamberlin .	31	30	26	87	Lieut. Sherwood.....	28	29	16	73
(Second spoon.)					Mr. Whiteley.....	30	18	24	72
Major Anderson.....	31	26	28	85	Mr. Cotton.....	30	24	18	72
Mr. J. A. Armstrong...	28	27	27	82	Captain Waide.....	29	26	16	71
Mr. H. Walters.....	31	32	18	81	Mr. Reardon.....	30	22	18	70
Mr. E. Sutherland.....	28	26	26	80	Mr. Carroll.....	21	25	23	69
Dr. Hutchison.....	29	26	22	77	Mr. J. E. Hutchison...	29	28	10	67
Mr. Short.....	25	27	24	76	Lieut. Wright.....	25	27	12	64
Mr. W. A. Jamieson...	25	28	22	75	Mr. R. N. Slater.....	23	23	10	56

The first pairs for the Club tournament have been drawn and resulted as follows; they will shoot off on or before Saturday next:—

Perley	against	Sutherland	Cotton	against	Walters
Sherwood	"	G. Hutchison	Armstrong	"	C. Wright
Carroll	"	J. E. Hutchison	J. C. Chamberlin	"	Reardon
Pink	"	Whiteley	Grant	"	Jamieson.
Anderson	"	Waldo			

### EXTRACT FROM MILITIA GENERAL ORDERS, 29th MAY, 1885

#### NO. 11—SPECIAL CORPS ON ACTUAL SERVICE IN THE NORTH-WEST.

Midland Battalion—Adverting to No. 4 of General Orders (10) 15th May, 1885, read "Thomas Cameron Lazier" instead of "Robert E. Lazier," serving as Captain in this Battalion.

Winnipeg Battalion of Infantry.

The following are the Officers, with the ranks in which they are respectively, temporarily, serving in this Corps:—(Appointments to date from 30th March, 1885.

Lieut.-Colonel—Lieut.-Colonel Thomas Scott (M.P.), Retired List.

Major—Stewart Mulvey (formerly Captain Winnipeg Rifle Company.

Captain William Hill Nash, Emerson Infantry Co.

Captains—William Sheppard, John Alexander Rowe, Thomas Wastie, Joseph Henry Kennedy, Samuel Jacob Jackson, James Church Waugh, John Crawford, Adoniram Cate. (Major, Retd. List.)

Lieutenants—Eugène Clementi Smith, Frederick Irons Bamford, Roland C. Brown, Albert Monkman, George Albert Glines, Aaron Pearson Cameron, James Boyd Rutherford, William Henry Saunders.  
 2nd Lieutenants—Frederick Robson Glover, George Rofus Reade, Henry McKay, Richard Harrison Hunter, Hunt Walsh Allan Chambré, Thomas William Brondgeest, Edward Ellis, Francis Verschoyle Young.  
 Paymaster and Honorary Captain—William C. Copeland.  
 Adjutant and Captain—Richard William Allan Rolph.  
 Quartermaster and Honorary Captain—William Henry Bruce.  
 Surgeon—Maurice McDonald Seymour, M.D.  
 Assistant Surgeon—Frank S. Keele, M.D.

*Montreal Brigade of Garrison Artillery.*

The following temporary appointments of Officers while the Brigade is on Actual Service in the North-West, date from 2nd May, 1885 :—

- Captain Walter H. Laurie to act as Senior Major.
- Edward Alfred Baynes, Captain Reitred List, to act as Junior Major.
- Lieut. Campbell Lane to act as Captain.
- 2nd Lieut. John A. Finlayson to act as Lieutenant.
- 2nd Lieut. James K. Bruce to act as Lieutenant.
- Lieut. George Charles Patton, 5th Batt., to act as 2nd Lieutenant.
- Lieut. Thomas W. Chalmers, R.M.C., to act as Lieutenant.
- Henry T. Willgress, Lieut. Retired List, to act as 2nd Lieutenant.
- William McCrae, Esq., to act as Paymaster.
- Charles Ernest Cameron, Esq., to act as Surgeon.
- John Munroe Elder, Esq., to act as Assistant Surgeon.

**NO. 2—ACTIVE MILITIA.**

2nd Reg. Cavalry, No. 2 Troop—To be 2nd lieutenant, Sergeant John Z. Fraser, C.C. (1st B.), vice C. Weir.

Durham F. B. of Art.—To be veterinary surgeon, Samuel Sidney Dickson, gentleman, vice Hinman, transferred to Winnipeg Field Battery.

26th Bat., No. 5 Co.—To be 2nd lieut., provisionally, Private John W. Bice, vice Oronhyatekha, resigned.

27th Bat.—To be major, Captain Joseph Hall Beattie, V.B., from No. 5 Co., vice William Kelly, retired retaining rank.

No. 5 Co.—To be Captain—William Kern Snider, M.S., from retired list of captains, vice Beattie, promoted; to be lieut. provisionally, David Alexander Gordon, vice Nelson M. Jackson to retire retaining rank; to be 2nd lieut. provisionally; Myles McCarron, vice Jackson, promoted.

32nd Bat.—To be major, Captain Benjamin Bowman Boyd, V.B., from the Adjutancy, vice James Christie Eckford, to retire retaining rank.

No. 8 Co.—To be lieut., Albert George Midford, M.S. (formerly 1st lieut. No. 4 Battery, Ottawa, B.G.A. vice Fairbairn.

34th Bat., No. 3 Co.—To be 2nd lieut., provisionally, William James Deans, vice Thomas Cooper Robinette, resigned.

No. 4 Co.—To be captain, Lieut. Charles Archibald Paterson, M.S., vice Charles Henry Davidson, deceased.

39th Bat., No. 8 Co.—To be lieut. provisionally, Joseph Gilmore Bottomly, vice G. T. McKee.

47th Bat., No. 6 Co.—Capt. Isaac Henry Radford, jr, to retire retaining rank. The headquarters of this company are hereby changed from Wolfe Island to Napanee.

56th Bat., No. 6 Co.—To be 2nd lieut., provisionally, Color Sergeant William Henry Stephenson, vice William Wallace.

Montreal F. B. of Artillery—To be lieut., 2nd Lieut. John Smythe Hall, jr., R.S.A., vice Green, promoted. To be 2nd lieut., Lieut. Geo. Robertson Hooper, R.M.C., vice Hall, promoted.

Quebec Car. Art., No. 1 Battery—To be 2nd lieut., provisionally, 2nd Lieut. (provisionally) William P. Burroughs, from No. 3 Battery, Quebec Gar. Art., vice Joseph Pierre Stebenne, left limits. The resignation of Lieut. Thomas Donohue is hereby accepted.

No. 2 Battery, Lévis—To be 2nd lieutenant, provisionally, Sergt. Joseph Philippe Lemelin, vice Houde, promoted.

8th Bat., No. 4 Co.—To be 2nd lieutenant, Walter Stevenson, gentleman, S.I. (1st B.) vice Fry, promoted.

To be paymaster, Edward Montizambert, Esq., vice George Hopper Balfour, to retire retaining his honorary rank of captain.

76th Bat.—To be majors, Capt. and Brevet Major Joseph Beaudreau, M.S. from No. 4 Co., vice Edouard Laberge, deceased. Capt. and Brevet Major Louis Turcot, M.S., from No. 5 Co., vice François Durocher, deceased.

No. 4 Co.—To be captain, Lieut. François Laberge, M.S., vice Beaudreau promoted.

No. 5 Co.—To be captain, Lieut. Alexandre Mallette, M.S., from No. 3 Co., vice Turcot, promoted.

84th Bat.—The resignation of Paymaster Eugène Sicotte and Assist. Surgeon Louis Ovide Morasse, are hereby accepted.

67th Bat., No. 5 Co.—To be 2nd lieut., Color-Serg. Frederick William Fleming, S.I. (1st B.), vice Ferguson, promoted.

82nd Bat., No. 1 Co.—To be lieut. provisionally, Serg. John A. Ferguson, vice William J. Scott, resigned.

Winnipeg F. B. Art.—Memo.—Adverting to No. 4 of General Orders (8), 10th April, 1885, with reference to the appointment of Veterinary Surgeon, read "Charles Gunion Rutherford," instead of "Charles F. Rutherford."

90th Bat.—To be lieut.-colonel, Major Alfred Mackeand, V.B., vice William Nassau Kennedy, deceased. To be major, Capt. Christopher Fortescue Forrest, V.B. from No. 1 Co., vice Mackeand, promoted.

**BREVET.**

To be Majors—Captain Thomas Kelly, G.S., No. 4 Co., 47th Bat, from 21st May, 1885. Captain Alfred Hamlyn Todd, M.S., 1st Bat. Governor-General's Foot Guards, from 21st May, 1885. Captain Edward Harrison, M.S., No. 1 Co., 49th Bat.

**CONFIRMATION OF RANK.**

2nd Lieut. John Smythe Hall, jr, R.S.A., Montreal F. B. of Art., from 11th May, 1885.

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