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# MILITARY GAZETTE

THE GENTLEMAN'S PAPER

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## NEWS OF THE SERVICE.

Our readers are requested to contribute promptly to this department all important items of Military News affecting their own corps, districts or friends, coming under their notice.

Commanding officers and adjutants should see that full particulars are promptly sent of anything out of the ordinary that may be done in connection with their corps. All members of the force are invited to express their opinion on subjects under discussion or to make suggestions that may improve the efficiency of the service. If news items are not inserted and this may frequently happen it will be because other and perhaps more important matter has come in ahead of it, or the news may be stale. Lack of space usually prevents the publication of full scores at other than the larger matches.

Opinions expressed in correspondence are not necessarily the views of THE GAZETTE. In fact we often materially differ from our correspondents.

Address,  
THE CANADIAN MILITARY GAZETTE,  
Montreal.

## REGIMENTAL NEWS.

### THE 25TH BATTALION INSPECTED.

THE annual inspection of the 25th Battalion took place at St. Thomas on Monday evening, November 16, instead of on the dates mentioned in last issue. The change was welcome, all preferring to get the ordeal over in one long parade. The inspector of infantry, Lieut.-Col. Otter, of Toronto, was accompanied by Lieut.-Col. H. Smith, D.O.C., of London. The former inspected the right half and the latter the left half battalion. While the 25th Battalion did not come out of this trying ordeal without some errors, the members have the gratification of knowing that the result must be better than any previous year. The regiment was over-strength, and had a full compliment of officers (save that the Majority is vacant), something never before happening in the corps' history. The sole weakness displayed on inspection was the work in sections and company drill.

The furnishing of the new officers' quarters at the "25th Batt. Club" has been completed, and the rooms are now occupied by them. The non-coms. have also taken possession of their new quarters. By the addition of the new quarters the members of the corps now flatter themselves that they have the most extensive and complete club rooms in Western Ontario. The formal openings of the new quarters have not yet taken place, but an early announcement of details may be expected.

Everything possible that can be done will be inaugurated to keep up the esprit de corps during the winter months, when there is no drill. The open-air rink is in course of construction, and all sorts of ice sports will take place there. Each member of the regiment will have the full privileges extended to him.

The last GAZETTE contains the notice of the promotion to a captaincy of Lieut. Geo. W. Campbell, who for some time has been in command of "A" Co.; of the appointment of Mr. E. E. Weldon to be second lieutenant, and of the transfer of 2nd-Lieut. D. W. B. Spry from the 35th Batt. to the 25th.

Lieut.-Col. C. A. O'Malley, formerly commandant of the 25th,

gave evidence of the interest ex-members take in the local corps by writing a congratulatory letter to Lieut.-Col. Stacey, "on the splendid showing of the 25th on inspection." Col. O'Malley's letter was a very interesting one, as it referred to military matters as far back as 1864, at which time he was senior to Lieut.-Col. Otter, and the present commanding officer of the Queen's Own (Toronto) was a private in Col. (then Capt.) O'Malley's company. This gentleman now resides at Niagara Falls. The letter will go among the archives of the regiment as one of its most interesting documents.

At last, shooting has been done on the long-looked-for rifle range. Thanksgiving Day was the opening day, and a large number availed themselves of the opportunity of doing target practice.

The officers of the 25th Batt. entertained the inspecting officers at dinner at the 25th Batt. Club on the evening of inspection.

WILL DABEE.

### PRINCESS LOUISE FUSILIERS INSPECTED.

The city brigade of militia will have good reason to be thankful when the new drill hall is completed, for the accommodation for the force in this city the past five years has been simply scandalous. This total want of conveniences is felt more as the time for the annual inspection comes on, when the weather calls for some shelter for the men who assemble for drill. The last of our city corps has now been inspected, and none too soon, for the weather has become too cold for drill in the open air and the ruins of the old drill shed do not give either proper shelter or afford room for modern military movements.

Lieut.-Col. Maunsell inspected the 66th Princess Louise Fusiliers on Tuesday, the 24th ult., and the inspecting officers and the officers commanding the regiment must have been well pleased. It had been raining all day, but, fortunately, cleared up just before night, and, while the drill ground was soft and muddy, the weather was much milder than could be expected so late in the season. As the men paraded without overcoats, this was fortunate.

On Tuesday night the inspecting officers were received by the Fusiliers in line, or rather in three sides of a square, for the yard is not large enough to receive in line, and this fine body of men certainly looked well and must be a source of pride to Col. Humphrey and his officers. They were 504 strong. The staff was received with a salute, and then inspected the regiment. The band and fife and drum corps was particularly noticed, they being in full strength. After the manual and firing exercises Major Weston took charge, but the space was too small to handle so large a body, and very little could be done. The D.O.C. next proceeded with company inspection, the companies commanded by Capts. King,

Chipman and Brown being inspected. On Wednesday evening the companies under Capt. Davidson, Ritchie and Stairs were inspected, and the remaining two companies, those of Capt. Whitman and Nagle, had their turn on Friday evening. Col. Humphrey is a model C.O.; he has his regiment well in hand, and while he has not the name of being a martinet, a very good state of discipline exists in the corps. Major Weston, the next in command, is well known to the active militia of the Dominion, being a prominent marksman and for some time secretary of our P.R.A. Major Menger is not so well known to his comrades outside Halifax. He is a good officer, who, by his long and painstaking services to his regiment, has made himself worthy of the rank he holds. The adjutant, Major Kenny, is a son of Thos. E. Kenny, late M.P. for Halifax, who was himself, when a young man, an officer in the city volunteers. The result of the inspection will show that the company officers are up in their duties, and, taken all together, the 66th is a regiment that any city in the Dominion might be proud of.

The physical drill proved particularly hard on the elderly men at the inspection and is a very objectionable feature of the inspection. The movements serve no good purpose and are only practised for the inspection. There is little enough time at the evening parades to learn the regular drill. They would be all right for corps in educational institutions, or if practised regularly every week in the year, but as part of the routine for the annual inspection, should have been left out. A man of middle age who has served ten or fifteen years in the ranks, or fifteen or twenty years in the regular army, does no care for this part of the performance and is very reluctant to take off his belt and unbutton his tunic to go through the "three practices."

OUTPOST.

#### GUN DRILL AT VICTORIA.

The exhibition of field gun drill given by detachments from No. 1 Company of the Fifth Regiment C. A. last evening in connection with the weekly band concert, proved a very interesting feature of the programme, while the good attendance demonstrated that these popular concerts are steadily growing in the public estimation. Lieut.-Col. Peters and Major Irving acted as umpires for the competition, while Major Gregory and Capt. Blanchard were the time-keepers. The guns used were the new 13-pr. R.M.L. field guns of 800 pounds, and the rapidity with which the pieces were dismounted, mounted and fired reflects great credit on the men and their instructor, Sergt.-Major Mulcahy. No 2 detachment, under Corpl. Nevin, won both shifts, the time from the order "Load" till the gun and carriage were dismounted being 1 minute 24 seconds; while the time from the order "Mount gun and carriage" to the completion of "unloading" the gun was 2.00 1-5. The time made by No. 1 detachment under Sergt.-Major Wilson was 1.24 1-5 and 2.06 2-5 respectively. Lieut.-Col. Peters, D.O.C., complimented the men on the way in which they had gone through the drill.—Victoria, B.C., Daily Colonist.

#### INSPECTION OF THE 38TH.

The absorbing issue in military circles in the Telephone City has been the annual inspection which was held on November 19 and 20. Lieut.-Col. Buchan conducted the inspection, which was satisfactory in most respects to the local interest. Armouries were gone through by the inspecting officer on the afternoon of the 19th, and could not fail to prove satisfactory, as in almost every case they had been neatly fitted up at the expense of the individual companies. "A," "B," "C" and "D" Companies were put through their paces in company drill in the evening. Regarding the movements given these companies considerable criticism has been heard. The local newspapers had representatives on the ground, and the following day one of them published an article which handled Lieut.-Col. Buchan without gloves, alleging that

he had maliciously tangled up the companies in order to make capital for an argument in favor of the usefulness of the permanent corps.

Battalion drill was held the following evening, and the regiment acquitted itself admirably. The turnout was two men over strength, although the establishment is five officers short.

The season thus brought to a close has been a most satisfactory one in every respect. The esprit de corps was much higher than at any former period in the history of the regiment, and the prospects for next year are decidedly bright. Efforts are being put forth to hold the battalion together over the winter months, and it is to be hoped that this can be managed.

SUBALTERN.

#### A GOOD ENTERTAINMENT AT ST. JOHNS.

The following notice of the first performance of the St. Johns garrison minstrel troupe is condensed from The St. Johns News :

The first performance of the above newly formed troupe took place at Black's Opera House on Tuesday, December 1, 1896. To say that everyone enjoyed himself thoroughly and that nearly all were surprised at the excellence of the entertainment would be to confine criticism strictly within the limit of truth. The house was well filled by the elite of the town, and nearly every seat was taken in advance. All the officers of the depot were present, viz.: Lieut.-Col. D'Orsennens, D.O.C.; Surg. Lieut.-Col. F. W. Campbell, Major Young and Capts. McDougall, Chinic and Fages. A programme was given in which there was not a dull or uninteresting feature.

Sergt.-Bugler Riquette led the orchestra in his accustomed masterly style. The end men, who were simply irrepressible, were Corp. Wilson and Lce.-Corp. Miller (bones), and Hosp.-Sergt. Cotton and Pte. Lincoln (tambourines), while Pte. Pratt was fully up to the mark as interlocutor. Where all did so well, surpassing many professional troupes that have visited St. Johns, it would be insidious to particularize. Still, we cannot refrain from paying tribute to the cultured voice and bearing of Pte. Mullane, a Victoria Cross hero. His rendition of that sweet old ballad, "Come into the Garden, Maud," was deservedly encored, as also the solo on the cornet, by Pte. Lefebvre, who plays this instrument to perfection. Surg. Lieut.-Col. Campbell completely metamorphosed himself in his character as an old southern negro. He was exceedingly droll. The song and dance was encored to the echo, as also was the Irish jig, whilst the tableau, "The Sons of the Empire," which was a fitting finale to Drill-Sergt. Roberts' stirring patriotic song, was in one sense the piece de resistance of the evening. The farce at the close, in which Hosp.-Sergt. Cotton took the principal part, was simply inimitable. Altogether the entertainment was one long to be remembered and would bear repetition at an early date.

The successful launching of the troupe is in a great measure due to the untiring efforts of the manager, Sergt. Cotton, and the stage manager, Pte. Lincoln, assisted by a hard-working committee.

#### COBOURG G.A.'S GOOD INSPECTION.

On Friday, 4th inst., Col. Cotton, D.O.C., inspected that crack military organization, the Cobourg Battery of Garrison Artillery. The battery paraded in full strength at Victoria Hall, under the command of Capt. W. F. MacNachtan, and were then marched by him to the grounds of Victoria University. Col. Cotton, attended by Lieut. E. A. MacNachtan and Mr. Bowen, the contractor of the C., N. and P. Railroad, then drove upon the grounds, and gave the battery a most minute and critical examination, after which the men were put through the company movements by Capt. MacNachtan, while the manual and firing exercises were taken by Lieut. MacNachtan. Although sadly handicapped by having about

two inches of snow on the ground, while at the same time a cold, raw northeast wind swept the old campus, officers and men did remarkably well, not a single hitch occurring to mar the beauty of the movements. The remainder of the afternoon was spent in the gun shed, where the four sections underwent a most crucial test. Each N.C.O. in charge of a section was required to give the full detail in everything pertaining to the gun drill. This called for a great deal more than mere memory work; yet it proved conclusively that the N.C.O.'s are above the average in the matter of instructing. After seeing the very creditable manner in which officers, N.C.O.'s and men acquitted themselves under the eyes of the inspecting officer, it is not at all surprising that the Cobourg Battery has for so long a time maintained its high position as the leading company of Garrison Artillery in the Dominion. It was pleasing to note the great interest taken in the inspection by the two former commanding officers of the battery. Capt. Dumble, who commanded the company from its organization, May 4, 1866, to April 18, 1890, and Capt. McNaughton, commanding officer from the latter date to June 1, 1894, were both present, and helped very materially to enthuse the officers and men by their presence. Majors McCaughey and Snelgrove, Capt. and Adj. Hamilton, 40th Batt., and Lieut. Dumble, R.E. (Halifax), who is spending his furlough with his father, Capt. Dumble, were also on the grounds, thus contributing to that esprit de corps which should always obtain between the different arms of the service. One very noticeable feature of the inspection was the number of ladies who braved the inclemency of the weather in order to be present, thus showing the hold the "Battery Boys" have upon the affections of the citizens.

Capt. Campbell, No. 1 Co., 40th Batt., is prospecting in Rossland, B.C.

#### QUEBEC GARRISON CLUB.

The Garrison Club recently decided to build an addition to the club for the purpose of instituting a "Squash Ball." The capital required, some \$3,500, was readily subscribed, and work has already been commenced on the foundations. This will add very considerably to the attractions of the club, and will doubtless mean an increase in the membership. The suggestion was brought forward by Capt. W. J. Ray, of the 8th Royal Rifles.

On the 4th inst., the R. C. A. Quadrille Club gave another dance in the Citadel. The orchestra was supplied by the regimental band, and, as on former occasions of a like nature, those present enjoyed themselves heartily.

A smoking concert will take place at the club on Saturday, the 12th inst., at which the Hon. Dr. Borden has been invited to attend.

The explanations accorded to those who applied for information on the famous G. O., No. 73, have not as yet proved satisfactory, and the outcome of the whole business is watched for with interest. This matter of brevet promotion is creating more interest in militia circles than was probably expected, otherwise it is thought the order would not have been allowed to pass so quickly into force.

PATROL.

#### ROYAL CANADIAN ARTILLERY.

On the 4th inst. the Royal Canadian Artillery, stationed at Quebec, lost one of their members in the person of Trumpeter M. Thomson, of "B" Field Battery, aged 16 years and 9 months. His remains were laid at rest in Mount Hermon Cemetery on the 7th inst. Sergt. Englefield was in charge of the firing party. The music was supplied by the regimental band and the coffin drawn on a gun sleigh, drawn by six horses. Among others in attendance were the following officers: Lieut.-Cols. C. E. Montizambert and

J. F. Wilson, Majors Farley, Rutherford and Benson, Capt. Thacker, Panet, Pelletier, Benyon and Ogilvy.

The Royal Canadian Artillery Football Team at Quebec have been very successful so far in their matches with other corps and stand a very good chance of becoming the champions. They have been doing some hard practice, and as the composition of the team includes Capt. H. A. Panet and J. H. C. Ogilvy, who devote considerable time in the way of coaching their team, it is anticipated they will carry the honors at the termination of the matches. These are being held in the drill hall.

PATROL.

#### THE 8TH ROYAL RIFLES.

The 8th Royal Rifles have set up a Morris tube range in one of the galleries of the drill hall, and which was opened on the evening of the 9th inst. Capt. H. J. Lamb, of "C" Company, is to be congratulated upon the results of his efforts in this connection, as much of the credit is due to him. Sergt. Genest, the efficient caretaker of the drill hall, has been hard at work helping placing the target, etc., and has proved as usual the right man in the right place. The conditions of the shooting are as follows:

Shooting will take place on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday of each week. Two nights in the week will be reserved for matches. No man will be allowed to fire more than 15 rounds, if there are others waiting to fire. The marker's decision will always be taken as final. There will be two aggregate nights per week, namely, Tuesday and Friday from 7 to 10 p.m., starting on Friday the 11th inst. Competitors will be divided into three classes, the 1st and 2nd being chosen according to their standing in the rifle association, and the 3rd class will consist of green shots. A silver spoon will be given in each class for aggregate of the three highest scores out of four matches held in any fortnight. There will be five rounds fired at each of the three ranges, and no sighting shots will be allowed. Score to be kept by a commissioned officer; if none present the senior N.C.O. in attendance to take charge of same. These competitions will do considerable good, and already much interest has been manifested, not only by the members of the battalion, but by ex-members, several officers having already promised to donate spoons as prizes.

PATROL.

#### THE 9TH BATTALION'S EARLY START.

The 9th Batt. have decided to commence their annual training on the 25th of February, a date earlier than in former years, with the view of permitting as much work being done as possible before the annual inspection. Capt. Ouellet, the adjutant, has organized a class of instruction for non-commissioned officers. So far, two classes have been held, and which were well attended. This will doubtless help the battalion considerably during their training, as upon the N.C.O.'s will devolve much of the work. A like step on the part of the 8th R. R. would doubtless result to their advantage.

PATROL.

#### ENTERTAINMENTS AT MONTREAL.

There is very little doing around the different battalions at present. Festivities seem to be the order of the day. Armories are being touched up for the numerous events that will take place between now and Christmas. Some of the designs by the caretakers are, indeed, a credit. One or two of the battalions have started a course of socials. These are becoming more popular, as the officers and non-coms. recognize the good these events do towards drawing the men more closely together during the off seasons. They cannot be encouraged too much, and it is pleasing to see the interest that the officers take in the events got up by the men. The Montreal corps are greatly handicapped in comparison with the Toronto corps. They have not got the recreation space provided for the

more fortunate western corps. It is a wonder, indeed, that the Montreal corps keep up as they do, for there is little, if anything, in the way of recreation provided for them.

The D.C.R.C. Hussars held the first social of the season last Friday. It was a great success and reflected great credit on Sergt.-Major Lilly and his committee. The armory reminded one more of a cavalry room in some of the crack mounted regiments in the Old Country. Sergt.-Instructor Hawker has not forgotten the knack of getting up a nice display with the accoutrements of a cavalryman. His piece of work made up of swords, scabbards and cleaning rods, and hung from the ceiling, was much commented on and showed great ingenuity on the part of the designer.

The quarters of the field battery are also very well got up and smack a good deal of regularism. The display at a social is well worth going to see. The Montreal infantry corps may not be able to make such a fine show with their armories as the Toronto men, still with what room they have they are indeed a credit to any district, and as for the cavalry and field battery quarters they would give points to the same corps west.

The officers of the 65th Battalion gave a very enjoyable smoker on Wednesday night. The different city corps were all represented.

The sergeants of the 2nd R.C.A. tendered a dinner to the members of the Shoeburyness Team. They were Lieut.-Col. Cole, commandant of the team; Sergt.-Major Fellowes, Quartermaster-Sergt. McGuinness, Sergts. Morrison and Gillis, and Bombr. Dickson.

#### ROYAL SCOTS QUALIFYING.

The examining board in connection with the class for promotion of the Royal Scots will make their final examination on Friday night. This class has done good work, which will no doubt bear good results before next season is over. The Scots are going on the principle, and a very good one too, that no promotion will be given unless the applicant has a proficiency certificate granted by the board. This does away with any favoritism, and at the same time has a healthy influence on the rank and file, for they will recognize that the non-coms. are better qualified than has heretofore been the case. Major Lydon, who had the class in hand, is to be congratulated on having not only kept up the attendance, but at the same time imparted his instruction in such a manner that the class now over would be able to hold its own with any similar class in the Dominion.

#### THE VICS' CHRISTMAS FESTIVITIES.

The attendance at the Morris tube competition, in connection with the different battalions, is well maintained and some very good scores have been made during the past week. The money spent by the companies for prizes for this competition is well expended, as shooting is entered into with such healthy rivalry that this practice does a great deal towards keeping up a company's reputation on the rifle range.

The Victoria Rifles recognize this winter work as being of great assistance to them. A challenge vase has been presented by Lieut. Starke for section competition in Morris tube shooting. Capt. Meakins has also offered a cup for the best company in the battalion. The aim of the officers of the Vics. is to have every man in the regiment learn the use of the rifle. The fight for the trophies will be the means of drawing the men out to this work.

No. 5 Co. Victoria Rifles (Capt. Wilson) held its annual dinner on Saturday, when a jolly time was spent. During the course of the evening Color-Sergt. Phillips, who is retiring, was the recipient of a present from the company for his efforts in keeping the company up to its present standard of efficiency.

No. 3 Co. Victoria Rifles held their annual supper on Friday night. Capt. Meakins presided. General regret was expressed at Capt. Meakins having to sever his connection with the company, he hav-

ing received the junior majority of the regiment. At the same time congratulations on his promotion were heartily tendered. Capt Meakins has been identified with No. 3 since 1878, he having joined that year as a private.

A most successful concert was given by the cycle corps of the Victoria Rifles in the armory on Thursday night. During the evening Col. Starke, C.O., presented the prizes to the successful competitors. Mr. Wyness won the mileage prize, having ridden no less than 972 miles during the club's summer rides. Col. Starke spoke of the great assistance these corps were to a regiment, and said that during the recent parades of the regiment he found them invaluable and much better adapted for the work than horses.

#### ARTILLERY INSPECTED.

At a meeting of No. 2 Co., R.C.A., of Montreal, which was held the other night, Gnr. Sharpe was presented with the handsome Ogilvy Cup for the highest score. This cup now belongs to Gnr. Sharpe, he having won it once before.

Lieut.-Col. Montizambert, R. C. A., inspector of artillery, was in Montreal last week and inspected the stores of the field battery and artillery. He expressed himself highly pleased with the way they were kept.

#### COTE ST. LUC RANGES USELESS.

Lieut.-Col. Houghton, D.O.C., spent a couple of days inspecting the ranges at Cote St. Luc last week. Mention has already been made of the dangerous condition of these ranges, and it is needless to go further into the matter, as everyone who has shot over them is fully aware of their condition. They would be quite unfit for the new rifle, and even to shoot with safety with the old rifle they would require to be greatly repaired. Col. Houghton and the architect are both preparing a report on the matter. They will report on the unsatisfactory condition, and recommend that the present ranges require a good deal of patching before they would be of service with the old rifle, and if the new rifle is to be used that new ranges will be required. Shooting men are anxiously awaiting some definite plan from the Department, as they are thoroughly disgusted with the present state of affairs.

#### NEW RIFLES IN MONTREAL.

A consignment of the new rifles arrived in Montreal this week. Each of the corps is to receive 25 for instructional purposes. By this it would seem that the general distribution is not far distant, and that the Sniders will soon be "retired as unfit for further service." It is to be hoped that classes of officers will now be formed, so that they may have a thorough knowledge of the weapon before it goes into general use. A large number of the officers know little or nothing about the mechanism of a rifle, as in the past this part of instruction seems to have been omitted from an officers' class.

#### FORT GEORGE.

#### THE NEW RIFLE IN TORONTO.

The main topic in regimental circles in Toronto is the N.C.O. classes. The Highlanders are already at work, and the Queen's Own and Royal Grenadiers will start early in January. The classes are particularly interesting this year on account of the necessity for instruction in the new rifle, 25 stand of which have been served out to each battalion. In this connection it is worthy of note that 25 stand of arms per battalion is a decidedly small allowance, especially when it is remembered that it is in the highest degree advisable to put all the N.C.O.'s already in the corps through this course. It is understood that two of the corps applied for at least double the number, but could get only the 25 allotted. Thus they will be obliged to have two or three classes instead of one, and will thus be put to inconvenience, and sometimes expense.

Mr. Arthur P. Taylor is to enter the Highlanders.

Major Hay has retired from the Royal Grenadiers. Capt. Trotter is the senior qualified captain and so, it is generally supposed, will succeed to the vacant majority.

# COMPARATIVE EFFICIENCY RETURNS.

## THE STANDING OF THE CITY CORPS OF NO. 2 DISTRICT.

### THE 13TH CAPTURE THE CZOWSKI CUP.

	SQUAD DRILL.	COMPANY DRILL.	MANUAL EXERCISE.	FIRING EXERCISES.	CLOTHING AND ACCOUTREMENTS.	ARMS AND AMMUNITIONS.	BOOKS AND REC'DS.	VALUE FOR INDIVIDUAL TARGET PRACTICE.	ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS BY OFFICERS.	TOTAL.	DEDUCT FOR ABSENTEES FROM INSPECTION PER MAN.	DEDUCT FOR TARGET PRACTICE PER MAN.	TOTAL POINTS GAINED.	BATT. DRILL BY C.O.	BATT. FIGURE OF MERIT.
	25	25	10	20	10	10	10		12		1	1		30	
<b>2nd Batt. Q.O.R.</b>															
Capt. and Bt. Major. J. A. Thompson.	18	20.50	8	16.50	8.50	9	0.50	21.93	10.50	122.43	—	1	120.93		20
" B. Capt. Lloyd.	19	19	8.50	16.50	8	9	0.50	18.73	10.50	118.73	—	1	117.73		
" C. Capt. Peuchen.	18	21	8.50	17	8.50	9	0.50	14.45	10.50	116.45	—	—	116.45		
" D. Capt. Mason.	18.50	22	8.50	17.50	8.50	9	0.50	21.25	6.50	121.25	—	2	116.25		
Capt. and Bt. Major. J. E. Mutton.	17.50	19.50	8	16.50	8.50	9	0.50	21.34	7	116.84	—	1	115.34		
Capt. and Bt. Major. J. F. McGee.	18	21	8.50	18	8	9	0.50	26.55	7	125.55	—	—	125.55		
" G. Lt. Wyatt.	17	20	8	15.50	8.50	9	0	14.81	6.50	108.31	—	—	108.31		
" H. Capt. Gunther.	19.50	22	8.50	17.50	8	9	0.50	15.39	10.50	116.89	—	1	118.89		
Capt. and Bt. Major. J. I. Murray.	19	22	9	17.50	9	9	0.50	13.25	10.50	118.75	—	—	118.75		
" K. Capt. Rennie.	17	21.50	8.50	17	8.50	9	0	14.35	10.50	115.35	—	2	113.35		
<b>Total.</b>	<b>181.50</b>	<b>208.50</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>169.50</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>182.02</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>1183.52</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>1174.52</b>		<b>143.45</b>
<b>10th Batt. R.G.</b>															
" A. Capt. Cameron.	17	19	7.50	16.50	8.50	8	0.75	22.18	7	115.43	—	2	113.43		26
" B. Capt. Boyd.	20	23	9	18.50	8	8	0.50	25.72	7	128.72	—	8	120.72		
" C. Capt. Caston.	17	17	6	17	7	6.50	9	18.98	6	104.48	4	5	94.08		
" D. Capt. Stinson.	17	21	8	18	8	8	0.50	21.06	10.50	121.06	—	—	121.06		
" E. Capt. Tassie.	18.50	17	8.50	16	7.50	7.50	0.50	23.47	7	114.97	—	—	114.97		
" F. Capt. Gooderham.	16	19	7.50	16	8	8	0.50	19.68	9.50	113.18	—	—	113.18		
" G. Capt. Willis.	15	16	7.50	15	7.50	6	5	22.95	9.50	101.45	—	1	100.45		
" H. Capt. Lehmann.	16	17	8.50	17	7.50	7.50	9	28.57	7	118.07	—	1	117.57		
" I. Lieut. Craig.	17	19	8.50	17.50	9	8	0.50	24.12	7	119.62	—	8	111.62		
" K. Capt. Trotter.	18	22	8.50	17	8.50	7.50	9	29.98	6.50	117.98	—	—	117.98		
<b>Total.</b>	<b>171.50</b>	<b>199</b>	<b>79.50</b>	<b>168.50</b>	<b>79.50</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>89.25</b>	<b>227.71</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>1154.06</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>1125.06</b>		<b>138.59</b>
<b>Hamilton, 13th Batt.</b>															
" A. Capt. Herring.	19	18	8.50	17	7	9	0	28.80	9.50	125.80	—	—	125.80		25
" B. Capt. Labatt.	18	20	8.50	18	7.50	9	0	31.28	10.50	131.78	—	—	131.78		
Capt. and Bt. Major. J. C. Zealand.	19	19	7	16	7	8.50	9	25.39	10	114.89	—	—	114.89		
" D. Capt. Ross.	18	18	7.50	16	7.50	8.50	9	24.39	10.50	119.39	3	—	116.39		
" E. Capt. Powis.	15	18	7.50	16	7.50	8.50	9	31.51	10.50	123.51	—	—	123.51		
" F. Capt. Tidswell.	16	19.50	8.50	18	8	9	0.50	24.81	10	123.31	—	—	123.31		
" G. Capt. Newburn.	15	18	8	16.50	7	9	9	21.14	10.50	114.14	—	—	114.14		
Capt. and Bt. Major. J. H. Moore.	14	17	7.50	16	7	9	9	21.59	10	111.09	2	—	109.09		
<b>Total.</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>144.50</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>133.50</b>	<b>58.50</b>	<b>70.50</b>	<b>72.50</b>	<b>208.79</b>	<b>81.50</b>	<b>963.79</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>958.79</b>		<b>144.84</b>
<b>Bramford, 38th Batt.</b>															
" A. Capt. Fuller.	13	15	5.50	14.50	6	8	7.50	15.13	11	95.93	—	—	95.93		21
" B. Capt. Muir.	19	12.50	5	13	5	7.50	7	15.39	4	79.39	6	—	73.39		
" C. Capt. Cameron.	12	13	9.50	14	9.50	7	6.50	8.63	8.50	82.63	—	—	82.63		
" D. Capt. Ashton.	14	16.50	7	15.50	9.50	7	7	19.78	4	94.28	12	—	82.28		
" E. Capt. Gibson.	11	12.50	5	13.50	5.50	7.50	7	13.19	7	82.19	3	—	79.19		
" F. Capt. Howard.	13	14.50	6	14.50	9	9.50	7	18.99	7.50	93.99	8	—	85.99		
<b>Total.</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>35.50</b>	<b>43.50</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>87.99</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>527.99</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>498.99</b>		<b>104.10</b>
<b>Toronto, 48th Highlanders.</b>															
" A. Capt. Robertson.	14	17	7	12	9	9	0.50	25.39	10.50	113.39	—	—	113.39		24
" B. Capt. MacLean.	18	17	8	17	8.50	9	0.50	17.33	7	111.33	—	6	102.33		
" C. Capt. Currie.	19	20	7	19	8	9	0.50	18.66	3.50	110.66	—	7	103.16		
" D. Capt. Michie.	18	19	6.50	16	8	9	0.50	11.92	7	104.92	—	1	100.92		
" E. Capt. Orchard.	15	19	6.50	16	8.50	9	0.50	27.19	9.50	114.19	—	3	106.19		
" F. Capt. Hendrie.	19	19	7.50	17	8.50	9	0.50	17.47	9.50	113.47	—	8	105.47		
" G. Capt. Ramsay.	17	20	8	16	8.50	8.50	9	23.79	7	117.79	2	11	104.29		
Capt. and Bt. Major. J. H. Henderson.	20	22	8.50	18	9.50	9.50	0.50	22.99	9	128.99	—	—	128.99		
<b>Total.</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>66.50</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>75.50</b>	<b>164.50</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>914.50</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>864.50</b>		<b>132.06</b>

## GENERAL KITCHENER'S REMARKABLE CAREER.



PRESENT Sirdar, or Commander-in-Chief, of the Egyptian army is barely forty-seven years of age. He is an Irishman and hails from county Kerry. There is an old proverb current in the west of Ireland to the effect that if Kerry cattle are small Kerry men are big—big in stature, big in muscle and big in brain and understanding. Horace Herbert Kitchener

is no exception to this rule, for he stands a trifle over six feet in his stockings, and a smarter or braver soldier never drew breath.

Like the late General Gordon, Kitchener is a Royal Engineer officer; and he made his first acquaintance with the East in 1874, when he was despatched to Palestine in charge of a surveying expedition. Prior to this, however, he had seen plenty of active service, having fought as a volunteer in the Franco-German war.

In 1882 his chance came. He was engaged in a surveying expedition in the neighborhood of the Dead Sea, when news was brought by Arab runners of the total destruction of Hicks Pasha's army of 10,000 men by the forces of the Mahdi. The intelligence created the wildest excitement among the native tribes, and the greatest consternation in the minds of the rulers of Egypt. All communication with the disaffected districts was cut off; but a pretty clear record of the advancing tide of Mahdism was kept by the ever-widening area of telegraphic silence, as station after station fell into the hands of the conquerors.

In this crisis it became absolutely necessary that someone upon whom the Government could rely should penetrate to the Mahdi's camp, and discover what were his plans, and the exact means he possessed for carrying them out. It was a service of infinite danger. Not death alone, but death preceded by the most fiendish tortures that Oriental cruelty should suggest, was the certain fate of a detected spy.

## LIFE AS A SPY.

"They will roast you alive, or flog you to death as they did So-and-so and So-and-so," urged one of the officials who knew of his intention; but Kitchener pooh-poohed their warnings. A few days later an Arab date-seller set out from Korti. It was the young Engineer officer, who thenceforth became lost to civilization for the space of some years.

An account of what he saw and suffered during that terrible time would fill a volume. Three times in one week he was fired at by wandering bands of robbers, and over and over again he was wounded. Only a short time back, while dining, a Dervish Remington bullet fell on his plate from the back of his throat, where it had long lain imbedded.

At Omdurman he witnessed the execution of a supposed spy by flogging. The unfortunate man was whipped until the flesh hung in shreds from his body, and his whole back, from the shoulders to the loins, was one vast gaping wound. Then he was taken down; rock-salt, seasoned with a liberal allowance of the strong red pepper of the country, was rubbed into his hurts, and after being fastened face downwards in the blazing sun, he was left to die. He lingered for nearly forty hours in indescribable anguish.

That Sir H. Kitchener escaped a similar fate is due to his wide and intimate acquaintance with Eastern habits and modes of life. Needless to say, he speaks Arabic like a native, and is, in addition, conversant with every "batt"—i.e., local dialect—spoken between Cairo and Khartoum.

As a proof of this may be mentioned an incident that occurred during Gen. Wolseley's advance up the Nile. One dark night two suspicious-looking characters were caught prowling round the camp,

and confined in the guard-tent. Half an hour later the patrol stumbled upon a third Arab stranger, who was quickly arrested and sent to keep his compatriots company. No sooner was the new arrival thrust inside the tent than an animated dialogue commenced, and was continued for the best part of an hour. At the end of that time the flap of the tent-door was quietly lifted, and Kitchener stepped out. "I am going to the General's quarters," he explained to the astonished sentry; "see that you keep a sharp eye on those two scoundrels in there. They are Dervish spies." A short whispered consultation, followed by a few brief directions, and the affair was settled. At daybreak next morning the two Arabs were marched out a little way into the desert, forced to dig their own graves, and then shot.

## THE WORK OF REORGANIZATION.

The omnipresence and ubiquitousness of General Kitchener has long been an article of faith among such of our Tommies as have had the good luck to see active service in Egypt. "Throw a stone at a nigger, and you'll hit the Sirdar," they say. This proverb also dates back from Wolseley's campaign. Kitchener was working in disguise among the fellaheen on the river bank when a soldier threw a piece of sandstone at him, inflicting a nasty scalp wound. The next morning the too-accurate marksman was paraded at the orderly-room, and taught that even a "bloomin' nigger" possesses rights.

Kitchener dearly loves his work. To him the Egyptian army owes everything. Ten years ago the fellaheen soldiers of the ancient land of the Pharaohs were a byword and a reproach wherever their name was known. Five thousand of them, under Baker Pasha, broke and fled before the Dervishes at El Teb after the fashion of a flock of frightened sheep. Hundreds allowed themselves to be speared to death without ever attempting resistance. Military men were in despair.

"The Egyptian is a coward to the backbone, and he will never be anything else. Centuries of oppression and injustice have broken his spirit," so said one famous authority.

"Not so," urged Kitchener. "Give him a chance. The same blood courses in his veins as runs in those of the wild Arabs of the desert. Discipline, discipline, discipline—that is the one thing needful."

So, with the Khedive's firman in his pocket, and a strong belief, amounting almost to a conviction, in the excellence of his new materials, he set to work. In twelve months he had completely reorganized the Egyptian army. The indiscriminate use of the whip was strictly forbidden; peculation, bribing and corruption were put down with a stern hand; and every individual officer and man was made to feel that the eye of a master was upon him.

## A MARVELLOUS TRANSFORMATION.

Swift to recognize merit, and possessing vast and arbitrary powers, he allowed no one nor anything to stand in the way of the task he had set himself to accomplish. One of the first officers to be superseded was a personal friend and a relative of the Khedive. As far as possible he avoided having recourse to extreme measures, but when the time came to act he did not shirk his duty. In one day no fewer than three general officers, who refused to resign their commissions, were tried by court-martial and cashiered.

Slowly and surely the result of his measures was seen in the increased efficiency of the force he commanded. The privates no longer cowered and shrank away when passing one of their officers. The officers began to take an intelligent interest in the welfare of their men. The first real test of his work took place at Joski, when, on August 3rd, 1889, the Egyptian cavalry, supported by the 20th Hussars, successfully withstood the repeated desperate charges of Wad-el-Njumi's fanatical spearmen. When it is reflected



that it was these same spearmen who, on two separate occasions, actually succeeded in breaking a British square, this feat appears in its true light.

The cavalry on this occasion was led by Kitchener in person, and more than one Emir recognized the "spy of the Soudan." Afterwards, when the prisoners were brought in for interrogation, the scene was most laughable. This one had known him as a merchant at Dongola; to another he was a slave-dealer of Korosko; while yet a third remembered him as having hawked dhurra (millet) cakes about the streets of Omdurman. Needless to say, they one and all evinced boundless astonishment at recognising in their quondam acquaintance the most dreaded and most renowned warrior in the Egyptian service.

Since then things have altered greatly. Slatin Pasha has escaped from the clutches of the Mahdi, and, with Major Wingate, directs the Intelligence Department of the Egyptian army. There is now no need for a white man to take his life in his hand and penetrate in search of information into the regions that still own the sway of the Mahdi's successor. A constant stream of native spies passes backwards and forwards between the British outposts at Dongola, and the Khalifa's headquarters at Omdurman, and exactly what is happening at the latter place is known 48 hours later at the former.

It will be a proud day for the Sirdar when he enters Khartoum a conqueror, at the head of the army he has, to all intents and purposes, created. That he will so enter it some day in the not very distant future there can be no reasonable doubt; and then, and not till then, will the Soudan be permanently rescued from one of the cruellest, foulest, and wickedest despotisms that has ever been established since the world began.—London Answers.

#### A PLAN OF ORGANIZATION.

THE correspondent of THE CANADIAN MILITARY GAZETTE at St. Thomas has obtained from an officer of the 25th Battalion the following interesting suggestions as to an organization for the permanent corps and the city corps:

"There is at the present time great interest taken in military matters in Canada. The Government and people seem anxious to assist the militia, and all agree that Canada should have a very efficient and well-trained force. At the same time, there is a strong feeling against a standing army, be it ever so small. The fact is known to all that our militia is not what it should be. We are not lacking in loyalty; it cannot be said that in case of need we would have any difficulty in securing good men. We know from past experience that at the first alarm the people of Canada would respond as one man. This being the case, can we improve our condition from a military standpoint without increasing the expenditure to any extent? With this in view, the following suggestions are made, at the present time referring to the permanent force and city corps only. The rural corps should have far more consideration than can be given in this letter.

#### THE PERMANENT CORPS.

"First, our permanent force or schools of instruction should be of greater help to the militia. Among the officers of the permanent force we have many good soldiers and men of ability. I will only refer to the N.C.O.'s and men of this force, and would suggest that at each school of instruction there be at least thirty-five or forty first-class instructors, men able to impart instruction. To get men of this kind the Militia Department should be liberal with the pay. With this number of instructors at each school, the D.O.C. could, during the spring and fall drill of the city corps in his district, send such instructors as in his judgment he would consider would be of use to the different corps. These instructors, under the direction of the officer commanding the battalion, would

take over the N.C.O.'s and thoroughly post them in their duties, and would assist at squad, company and battalion drill, and in any way that would help to make the corps a very efficient one. A visit from an officer of the permanent force, say once a week, during these drills would have a very good effect and be of great help to the officers in many ways, such as sword exercise, lectures on interior economy, discipline, etc.

"As to the number of N.C.O.'s and men besides these instructors at the different schools of instruction, that is a matter of little importance to any other than the commandant and officers of the school, who know best the number required to keep the schools what they were intended to be—first-class schools of instruction for the officers, N.C.O.'s and men of the Canadian militia.

#### THE CITY CORPS.

"I am confident a change should be made in the city corps. We do not want a large number of men so much as we want efficient and competent men, men able to command and impart instruction and good organizers. With the force officered by men of this kind in time of trouble, it would be an easy matter to recruit plenty of good men, and in a very short time have them in good shape and ready for duty, knowing that those at the head are competent men. I would suggest that city corps, especially those in the smaller cities, have an establishment as follows: Staff—as at present, except that each corps should have an hospital sergeant. Eight companies, each to have one captain, one lieutenant, four section commanders, four corporals and 20 privates.

"These battalions should have authority to drill, say, 40 evenings during the year, and the officers, N.C.O.'s and men to receive pay for the actual parades they attend; the pay for each evening's drill for a private to be 25c., for a corporal 30c., for a section commander, orderly-room clerk and paymaster's clerk 40c., for a Q.M. sergeant and sergeant-major 50c.; and the pay of officers on the same basis. The fact that the officers, N.C.O.'s and men would only receive pay for the parades they attend would be fair to all and no loss to the country, not as it is now, when many enthusiastic, good soldiers attend every parade, and other careless, indifferent men do not attend half as many and receive the same pay. I am confident with this establishment and encouragement and the assistance, as suggested, of the officers and instructors from the permanent force, that one year's trial would more than convince the Department that any small increase in the expenditure is more than paid to the country in having ready for immediate use in case of need many good battalions in all parts of the country, well drilled, with good commanding officers for battalions and companies, and good section commanders, so that if needed the strength of each corps could be increased to 800 strong, and, with able leaders, be of great service to their country."

#### A BATTERY AT THE "SOO."

Editor MILITARY GAZETTE:

SIR,—I am in hopes that our new Major General will be more of a success than his predecessor. By General Herbert's most arbitrary action we are now without any volunteer force in this extensive district. In 1892 he disbanded my mountain battery of 21 well-drilled, active young men whom he had never seen, and so far as I can ascertain no report was ever made by any of the inspectors of artillery. I was placed on the retired list with the rank of brevet major, after having been connected with the militia of Canada since 1837. Being over age, I could not complain, and did not, for being retired, as I had two N.C.'s who had first-class certificates from the Royal School of Gunnery at Kingston; one, my battery sergeant, was well qualified to take command of the half battery. My friends urged me to bring up the matter in the House, but I did not, not wishing to bring politics into the case.

Truly yours,

Sault Ste. Marie, Oct. 27, 1896. JOS. WILSON, Major, R.I.

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MONTREAL-TORONTO, DECEMBER 15, 1896.

OUR AUTUMN MANOEUVRES.



THE field day which was held on Thanksgiving Day in Toronto was an excellent example of the really hard and enthusiastic work which can be obtained from militia which are properly handled. The day was a public holiday, the first break in work since the early part of September, and yet the four infantry battalions—the Queen's Own, the Royal Grenadiers, the 13th, of Hamilton, and the 48th

Highlanders—turned out almost to their full establishment. The 13th, it should be noted, went to the inconvenience of traveling from Hamilton to attend the manoeuvres. The roads were muddy, the ground most difficult and many of the troops had some miles of difficult marching before the work of the sham fight commenced. The whole of the circumstances were most creditable to their zeal and military enthusiasm.

From the tactical standpoint we have the authority of the District Officer Commanding for concluding that the field day was most instructive. True, the ground was exceedingly difficult; but in actual war operations will take place on very difficult ground. Again, the ground, with all its difficulty, is in the immediate vicinity, indeed is, in large measure, actually included within the limits of the City of Toronto; and there surely needs no argument to prove that the garrison of the city should be familiar with the tactical and strategic features of the place which it exists to defend. The officers who have been at the manoeuvres of the last few years have now worked over the rough ground of High Park to the west of the city—closely adjoining, by the way, the spot where the Americans landed in 1813—the high ground to the immediate north, and now the heights of the Don Valley to the east of the city. The topographical knowledge thus attained, if nothing else, should be valuable in the extreme. In fact, it is worthy of notice that many of the more zealous officers spent days previous to the field day in exploring the ground. One, for instance, was out on no less than seven occasions. One company officer spent three afternoons on the ground, and he reaped his reward, for his company had to work over very rugged country, in which his local knowledge thus

acquired proved exceedingly valuable. This is an eminently practical form of training—it “looks like business,” as the Minister observed—and methods which give such excellent results, and which unquestionably stimulate the ardor of all connected with the force, should by all means be encouraged.

DR. BORDEN ON POLITICS.

THE Minister of Militia in his speech at the garrison dinner in Toronto said there was no politics in the administration of military affairs. He made this a strong point. There is a suspicion that this is not in accordance with facts.

When fault was found with him for allowing the general order to go through which gives remarkable advantages to the officers of the permanent corps, he said that the Major-General advised him that the general order was fair and necessary, that it was in the interests of the force, active as well as permanent. Receiving such a strong recommendation from his subordinates, Dr. Borden practically said that he must abide by it unless a very much stronger case was made out by the officers of the active militia in the different parts of Canada.

It is generally known that things have not been running smoothly in the Queen's Own Rifles. Lieut.-Col. Otter, D.O.C., was instructed to inquire into the cause of the trouble and report upon it. He was specially fitted for the work. He commanded the regiment for many years and made it what it is, the finest regiment in Canada. He came to the conclusion that Lieut.-Col. Hamilton was to blame, and so reported to the General Officer Commanding. The latter, after carefully considering the question, reported to the Minister of Militia, in effect, that the interests of the force would be best served by allowing Lieut.-Col. Hamilton to retire.

The Minister has been in possession of the General's recommendation since he took office, five months ago. He has not paid any attention to the General's recommendation. Why?

Lieut.-Col. Hamilton is a Liberal of long standing. For many years he was, and is yet, somewhat of a professional politician. He has been a sort of general agent of the party. If the Conservatives had remained in power, there are few who do not think that he would have been placed on the retired list long ago.

In fairness to Lieut.-Col. Hamilton, we have to state that his case is simply mentioned as an example, because it is before the public at the present time. We are not discussing the merits of it. It is a matter of discipline. It is not within our field.

Dr. Borden, we feel sure, means well, but he will have to fight against the ward politician or else he will soon drop into the groove of some of his predecessors. He has an opportunity of making his Department independent of political influence. The Conservative press have treated him more liberally than any other member of the Government, because they, too, want him to follow independent lines.

“BUSINESS IS BUSINESS.”

To the Editor of The Star:

SIR,—We are informed that the contract for the supply of coal for the military school, St. Johns, for next year has finally been awarded at the following prices: Stove, \$5; egg, \$4.75; soft, \$4.75. Our tender for the supply was as follows: Stove, \$4.00; egg, \$4.40; soft, \$4.00. As there are about 400 tons used in the barracks during the year it is easy to calculate what the loss is to the country in this transaction. Business is business.

St. Johns, Que.

BISSELL & DONAGHY

The above is from The Montreal Star and is republished for the information of the Minister of Militia. There have been frauds in the past in the supply of coal and wood to the Militia Department. It is to be hoped that they are now at an end. It is the duty of every member of the force to report anything of this sort. Every

dollar misspent means that much taken out of the fund voted to make the force generally more efficient. Some may not care to take the responsibility of bringing such matters to the attention of the authorities. If they will write THE MILITARY GAZETTE privately the matter will be enquired into and brought to the attention of the Minister. If action is not then taken THE GAZETTE will expose.

We believe the present Minister is a man of good intentions, but he has been imposed upon already by ward politicians with personal interests to serve. He will continue to be unless we give him sufficient back-bone to resist.

#### METHODS OF INSPECTION.

THE annual inspections which have just been concluded have produced the annual crop of protests against what is described as the tendency of inspecting officers to frame their tests in such a way as to trip the officers examined rather than to ascertain the exact amount of knowledge and competence possessed by them. Chapter and verse are not infrequently given by the aggrieved ones, and one hears of movements required which are really not practicable, the victims' proper course being to point out their impracticability, of familiar movements being called for in unfamiliar terms, of ceremonial drill movements being exacted from officers who have spent all their time—none of the longest—upon the more practical parts of the work, and of numerous other sins on the part of the inspecting officers. Motives, it is to be regretted, are occasionally imputed, and the questions which cause the company to be tangled up are set down to a deliberate desire and intention to cause confusion.

The topic is by no means new, nor is it by any means confined to the militia of Canada. In all ages, and in every branch of learning, the besetting sin of the examiner is the desire to "stick" the examined, instead of to test him. It appears in every branch of the educational system, from public school to university, and it flourishes with especial vigor in viva voce examinations. If any militia officer has doubts upon the subject, and wishes to convince himself, let him secure a few minutes of the society of a party of medical students when the council examinations are on. He will gain a considerable insight into the possibilities of iniquity on the part of examiners, together with side-lights upon the capabilities of the English language. When it is remembered that all examiners are exposed to this temptation, it is less to be wondered at if the inspecting officer occasionally lapses from the path of examinational rectitude. The inspecting officer, too, has his side of the case. A test so arranged as to bring out that only which is already known would be no test, and by ascertaining the limitations of an officer's knowledge he also obtains an idea of its extent. He might also contend that the putting of questions in a novel form is an encouragement to the cultivation of a clear head and ready mind, not to mention a more thorough acquaintance with the fundamental principles of drill. He might even be imagined as pleading that it is not always a bad thing to shake men's complacency and to put them on their mettle.

But it is nevertheless a vicious principle that the proper way in which to examine a man is to puzzle him. It is very difficult to attain the golden mean between a perfunctory and an unfairly difficult test, to make the inspection searching and at the same time absolutely fair, but it is an end worthy of effort. An ideal inspection should leave a good, hardworking militia regiment satisfied that there has been progress made through the year, and at the same time convinced that there is room for further improvement. And if the militia officer can never attain absolute perfection in his department of work, so, too, the inspecting officer may well devote much time and thought to his own improvement in a difficult and often thankless task.

#### QUALIFICATIONS OF A COMMANDANT.

"Snap Cap" writes a very sensible letter to The Toronto Mail on the qualifications necessary for the commandant or adjutant of the Bisley Team. We cannot agree with him that it is necessary for an officer to hold the rank of lieutenant-colonel. This would shut out such men as Major Mason, or Major Delamere, who have done so much for rifle shooting. It would shut out non-combatant officers who sometimes join the force because of the shooting. In theory they are not supposed to have anything to do with rifle practice, but actual experience shows that they have done a very great deal for the development of individual shots and teams. They are often better able to do this than are company officers, whose time is fully occupied with drills, etc. "Snap Cap" writes as follows:

"We have had political commandants, who, we hope, have disappeared for ever, and purely military commandants, and if the records of past teams be examined it will be found that those which were the most successful were commanded by some of the latter class.

"The qualifications for either the command or the adjutancy may be stated thus: (a) to hold—in the case of the former—the rank of lieutenant-colonel, and be in command of a battalion, and of the latter to be of any rank up to and including that of major, and on duty with a battalion; (b) to be rifle shots, and possessing a thorough knowledge of the work to be done on the range; (c) to have a knowledge of the shooting merits of each member of the team, and the ability to select the best men for teams for matches in England; (d) to be not only members of the Dominion Rifle Association, but to be attendants at its matches, and taking a part in its welfare and advancement; (e) to be a supporter of rifle shooting, not only in the battalion, but also in local and provincial associations; (f) to possess the ability to dispense that courtesy and hospitality at Bisley, which has been so marked a feature in connection with the presence of the Canadian team at the National Rifle Association.

"These qualifications were possessed in an eminent degree by the officers of this year's team, and their fitness should be the standard for future appointments. A place on the team is the highest prize offered by the D.R.A., and can only be obtained by members of the active militia, who, having become proficient rifle shots, win it on the range, and it follows that the officers should be selected from those on active service in the infantry branch only, with the exclusion of all officers connected with the infantry or other schools, as they are paid for their services and have their duties to attend to, whilst the militia officer gives his time and services for almost nothing, coupled with the privilege of paying varying amounts out of his own private means for the support of his corps, and from such the officers of future Bisley Teams should be selected."

#### THE GZOWSKI CUPS.

THE comparative efficiency returns for the city corps of No. 2 Military District, which we publish in this issue, show that the 13th Batt. has once more won the Gzowski Cup—this time by the narrow margin of .99 of one point over the Queen's Own. The 13th has also the company making the best showing, Capt. Labatt's company scoring 131.78 points. Major Henderson's company, of the Highlanders, comes next with 128.90 points. The companies of the Queen's Own strike a high average throughout. The competition has been exceedingly close, and, so far as the Toronto and Hamilton corps are concerned, the marks are appreciably higher.

In connection with the awarding of the Gzowski Cup for the rural corps passing the best inspection in the year, a curious complication has arisen, growing out of the postponement of the camps

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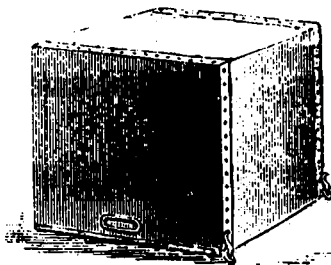
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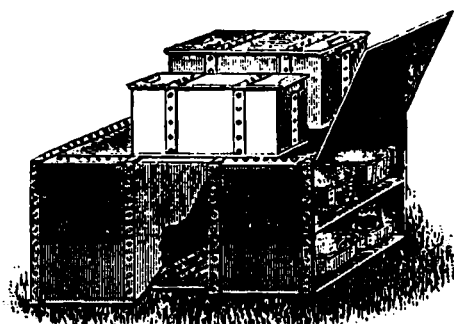
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to September. The conditions upon which the cup is granted stipulate that it is to go to the corps making the best showing in the year. But the September camps of 1896 and the June camps of 1897 fall both in the same financial year; and at first sight it would appear as if the awarding of the cup would have to be delayed until the inspections of next June are completed. Bearing in mind, however, the difficulties which would arise from inspections carried on at such diverse times, and possibly under different inspecting officers, Lieut.-Col. Otter, D.O.C., has determined to award the cup to the corps passing best last September, and to allow it to be competed for at the next June camp by the corps called out then. The 37th Haldimand Batt. led with 131.02 points, and it accordingly is the possessor of the cup until next June.

## MILITARY ADMINISTRATION.

(By Justice.)

THE MILITARY GAZETTE comes to every corps with its usual regularity, and each number brings fresh prospects of improvement to the force and encouragement to its individual members. No longer is the cry of "Blue ruin" to be heard in the land. At no time in the history of the force was the outlook more bright, in my humble opinion.

In the first place, we have a Minister of experience, that experience which is said to teach, and who is leaving no stone unturned—apart from politics—to have the foundation properly laid before rebuilding the superstructure.

In the second place, the staff at Headquarters is surely more up-to-date and more in touch with the force of the country than ever before. The G.O.C. is a model and modern major-general—firm yet conciliatory, with a deep sense of the importance of his duties, and a thorough knowledge of how to perform them, a pleasing contrast to others who have preceded him.

Thirdly, though at times there is, unfortunately, some apparent

friction between parts of the force—some slight act of omission or commission to prevent the pulling together of the whole—there is, I think, a steady bringing of "light out of darkness"; and nothing can tend more to bring the clear light of day to bear on an important difference of opinion—the relative positions of permanent and other parts of the active militia—than the sound words of sense of the Minister, quoted in your GAZETTE of the 1st inst. as follows: "Let us have no feeling or no misunderstanding between these branches of the active force. Let them go hand in hand and help each other, and, if they do, they will be inseparable, and in that way the schools will make themselves such a necessity to the militia force of this country that they will be always maintained."

It has well been said that "we can no longer speak of the 'handicraft' of war," for war has become an art that must be exercised with mind, science, and sagacity, as well as resolution and energy, and requires accurate technical instruction and constant practice, and no forces that fail in any of these particulars can expect to equal a well disciplined and instructed army.

In the fourth place—one word more re the district staff of such a force. You have most thoughtfully struck the key note—the grievance of the staff—the almost criminal neglect on the part of the Government, of whatever political party, to provide a pension fund for the staff—in referring to Lieut.-Col. Houghton being retired without any remuneration for his long services to the country. It is a hardship, indeed, that these staff officers who have given their whole life's work to the Canadian militia should be thus treated. "Why one part of the force (the mounted police) should have provision made for them and not another is a matter that should be looked into by the new Government."

I am convinced that no Parliament would object to make provision to supply this pressing want. It is the law of nations now-a-days to provide, after an active, busy life, for the few remaining days of its servants.

Long may you continue to advocate justice to all ranks. Thus, and thus only, can the best interests of the force and its improvement be secured.

**THE MILITIA PROBLEM.**

[By an Officer in a Rural Corps.]

**A**FTER the September camps there appeared several letters in your columns anent the rural corps, and as I disagreed with most I thought of writing in answer to them, but being busy, the time went past and I did not. The plan I would advocate would be to place the country corps as nearly as possible on the same footing as city corps, as farmers' sons and mechanics have no more time to attend camps than their city brethren; therefore, they do not join, and it is mainly the floating class who go, who are here to-day and away to-morrow, and one thing is certain, that if trouble were to arise they are not the class who could be relied on. I would therefore advocate the appointment of a paid instructor, from one of the schools of infantry, who would drill each company two nights a week at company headquarters in the months of June and February, and then, say, on Dominion Day, or Thanksgiving Day, or some other public holiday, have them meet at battalion headquarters for battalion movements and a dinner provided like a picnic, where the people would take some interest in them, and not as at present, when it is considered a disgrace to be a volunteer.

I have always maintained that were a company composed of the right material and its men well grounded in company drill and able to hit the target every time, the money expended would not be, as at present, thrown away.

I think a good test of efficiency would be that of calling out the companies at short notice, and in the case of those who could not muster half strength—let someone else try it. At present I am so sick of the way things are carried on that I have mude up my mind to take a back seat unless some change for the better is brought about.

**THE OTHER SIDE OF IT.**

[By Ulysses.]

**I**N an article headed "the Permanent Corps" in your issue of the 15th of November you make several statements which, if not contradicted, may do harm to the permanent force, which indeed seems to be one of the aims of your paper and some "military" correspondents in Canada, where everybody, from the beggar on the midden up, seems to be able to give opinions off-hand upon military questions.

In the first place, you say these corps "have not by any means fulfilled the purposes for which they were organized." This I emphatically deny, especially if you refer to their instructional duties. Granting for the present that they exist, not as soldiers, but as pedagogues merely, I will ask you to look at the Militia List, as you should have done before writing your article, and look up the corps in, for instance, No. 2 District—the Queen's Own, Royal Grenadiers, 13th Battalion, 48th Highlanders—and see what the permanent force has been doing. The officers of these corps have worked hard in a proper spirit, have obtained their certificates and have their reward in their splendid battalions. But I dare say they would have found it much easier if the permanent force had not existed when they went through, and the old system of education, which produced commanders of the Ridgeway type, had been in vogue—but what would their battalions have been like now? By the way, what was the old system of education? I know of the V.B. examination, but I don't know that it was a system of education. I do know, however, that it was looked upon as a military joke. I also know of the military schools. But how could you return to that system without Imperial troops (should I say Imperial schools?) returning to Canada? Perhaps your well-known reader, who wants to smash the permanent force (I fancy I see V.B. after his name), prefers Englishmen to his own people. I have known such. As to the "enormous" sums the permanent corps

costs the country (Mr. Well-Known Reader probably gauges it by the amounts spent by a town council on its police), I beg to say that the country gets full value for every cent she spends upon it, which is more than can be said about a great part of the militia.

If you and your reader are so zealous why don't you set to work and clean up the active militia? There are, for instance, old fossil captains therein who refuse promotion and won't retire because they would thus drop their "care of arms" and "drill instruction" allowances. Such "care" they take, and what "instructors!" There is plenty of real work for zealous people if they look for it in this direction; but your paper and its correspondents seem to relish nothing so much as pitching into the permanent force, the most efficient of all. Does it not occur to you that this must disgust painstaking officers in that force?

Now as to "schools." The word is a general one and has no military signification to the public. When a soldier comes to be asked 30 or 40 times in a year what the ages are of the children taught at the "school," he naturally gets sick of the word, and it was for this reason that the military word "depot" was substituted. What, then, is your objection to this? Why should not soldiers go to a "depot" for their instruction? And why should not the label "Military School" stuck upon a barrack be torn down when it would be misleading to those who should be taught that soldiers live in barracks or camps and not in "schools?" And why should not infantry officers, whom you specially single out, correct people who use the word "school" instead of "depot," when the latter is the official word? What is the matter with your paper? Can it show that the word "depot" hurts anybody or does any harm? What of it, for goodness sake?

Further, as to this pedagogue business. We will suppose again that the permanent force exists solely for teaching, that they never saw the Saskatchewan, and that they do not serve Her Majesty as soldiers. I think that even laymen can see that in order to teach others to be soldiers they must first be soldiers themselves, and it is quite as plain that they must accordingly be organised, trained, and taught to look upon themselves as such. This can never be if they exist only as "schools" and not as military units, and for a further and most important reason, that the "teachers" in order to keep their "hands in" must remain in touch with a purely military body in order to be of use to the "school-boys" when they join.

What are your reasons for your objections to the permanent force as soldiers? Let us hear them, and see if they will bear inspection.

**MONTREAL VETERANS ORGANISE.**

A veteran association is an accomplished fact in Montreal. At a meeting the other day the Executive Committee submitted the following list of officers, which was approved of:

Hon. president, Lieut.-Col. Lyman; president, Lieut.-Col. Bond; 1st vice president, Lieut.-Col. Isaacson; 2nd vice-president, Mr. James Harper; treasurer, D. L. Lockerby; secretary, Major D. Seath; surgeon, F. W. Campbell, M.D.; Executive Committee, Lieut.-Col. McArthur, Lieut.-Col. Stevenson, Sergt.-Major Walker, Major Baynes, Sergt. Cunningham, Capt. Beers, Mr. Mathewson, Major Campbell, Lieut.-Col. Gardner, Lieut.-Col. Kennedy, Sergt. Logan, Lieut.-Col. Cushing, Major Atkinson, Sergt.-Major Stark, Lieut. Ellicot, Sergt. Jones, Sergt. Tigh, Col. Mattice, Col. Marchand and Lieut.-Col. Ste. Marie. It was decided that the officers meet the Minister of Militia when in Montreal this week, and lay their claims for recognition before him. The movement is enthusiastically entered into by the veterans who rose in arms against those who sought the destruction of their country.

**THE RIFLE.**

**T**HE annual Thanksgiving Day competition shoot of the 5th Regiment at Clover Point brought out over 70 contestants, and although the intense cold made accurate shooting difficult, some very good scores were made. So many were the contestants that the final matches were shot in the twilight, making hits a matter of good judgment rather than sight. There were over 200 prizes, and as they were presented by merchants and business men of the city, Mayor Beaven, as the representative of the city, made the presentations to the winners at the drill hall at the close of the concert given by the band of the regiment. The principal matches were:

**Team Match** :—Bankers' trophy, value \$30, presented by the combined city banks; awarded to the team of five members representing any one company. **Aggregate match.** Trophy to be won twice to become the absolute property of any one company. 1st, No. 2 Company, 306; 2nd, No. 3 Company, 296; 3rd, No. 1 Company, 257.

**Bulls Eyes** :—For the greatest number of bulls' eyes, Dominion of Canada Rifle Association, bronze medal, presented by Capt. E. H. Fletcher, R.L.—Sergt. Bailey, 9 bulls eyes out of 19 shots.

**No. 1 Match** :—1st prize, "A" class, silver cup, presented by Mr. R. B. Esnouf—Sergt. Bailey, 30. 1st prize, "B" class, silver match safe, presented by Mr. J. Wenger—Gnr. A. Bostock, 28. 1st prize, "C" class, half-dozen silver spoons, presented by Mr. E. J. Salmon—Gnr. C. Tod, 28.

**No. 2 Match** :—1st prize, "A" class, gold medal, presented by Lieut.-Col. Gregory—Sergt. McDougall, 33. 1st prize, "B" class, gold medal, presented by Mayor Beaven—Gnr. J. Godson, 27. 1st prize, "C" class, silver medal, presented by Mr. W. H. Pennock—Gnr. Penketh, 19.

**Aggregate Match** :—1st prize, "A" class, presented by Hon. J. H. Turner—Gnr. F. Richardson, 78. 1st prize, "B" class, Lieutenant-Governor's medal—Sergt. Russell, 60. 1st prize, "C" class, Senator's medal, presented by Senator McInnes—Gnr. H. Fox, 45.

**No. 3 Match** :—1st prize, "A" class, silver cup presented by the association—Gnr. Richardson, 23. 1st prize, "B" class, silver clock and thermometer, presented by Mr. J. T. Bethune—Gnr. H. Howeh, 12. 1st prize, "C" class, porcelain vase, presented by Mr. Robert Jamieson—Gnr. H. Fox, 17.—Victoria Colonist.

It is interesting to note that in the Mediterranean fleet the physical drill with rifles has been stopped in nearly all the ships, as

it is found that there is danger of injury to the mechanism of the Lee-Metfords. The Admiralty will supply bar LLBs to take the place of the rifles.

Rifleite powder, made by the Smokeless Powder Co., London, Eng., has again scored over all other makes. At the New South Wales Rifle Association's meeting the three highest scores were made with the Martini-Henry rolled case cartridges loaded with Rifleite .450. It is to be hoped that the Canadian military authorities will give this powder the fair trial which has hitherto been refused. It is hinted that the authorities in the War Office at home are financially interested in Cordite, and they therefore refuse to give any chance to Rifleite or other smokeless powders.

**ST. JOHN'S GATE TO GO.**

St. John's Gate, Quebec, which was erected in 1867, is to be removed, or at least such is the present intention of the City Council, who will apply to the Militia Department for authority to remove it and build in its place a gate somewhat in keeping with those of St. Louis and Keokuk. The present one is not deemed sufficient for the traffic on that thoroughfare. This is doubtless the beginning of a number of required changes in connection with the fortification walls and military properties. There is ample room for improvement in the way of repairs to the walls throughout the entire length of the same and unless taken in hand soon they will certainly demand more than an ordinary repair. When the question is taken up it is to be hoped that wood work will not be again used to replace masonry, as was done on a former occasion. PATROL.

**A VIEW OF THE HIGHLANDERS.**

The issue of "The Navy and Army Illustrated" for November 27 is of peculiar interest to the Toronto garrison, as well as to the militia of Canada generally, for it contains a capital full-page photogravure of the 48th Highlanders. The view is one which was taken when the battalion was in camp at Hamilton for its Queen's Birthday outing this year, and shows the Highlanders in quarter column, wearing their white shell jackets. The entire number is good, some fine wrestling views and a sketch of the Burma regiments being particularly interesting.

**THE LORD MAYOR'S BANQUET.**

The banquet at Guildhall given to the Lord Mayor, George F. Faudel Phillips, Esq., was one of more than usual brilliance this year. Among the many distinguished guests present were Lord Salisbury, Prime Minister; his grace the Duke of Devonshire; United States Ambassador Bayard, etc. Specially chosen again for the occasion was that splendid vintage of 1889 of G. H. Mumm & Co.'s "Extra Dry" which is now coming to Canada.

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HULL MONTREAL TORONTO

### THE MILITIA OF NEW FRANCE.



THE organization of the French-Canadian militia, which so long gave infinite trouble to the populous and powerful New England colonies, was the subject of an exceedingly interesting lecture which Mr. Benjamin Sulte, of Ottawa, delivered at the Canadian Military Institute, Toronto, on the evening of Monday, Nov. 16. Deputy Surgeon-General Ryerson occupied the chair, and there was a good attendance. Mr. Sulte made it clear that from the time of the Marquis de Frontenac to the Seven Years' War, the wars of the French colony were carried on under a militia organization which in many ways suggests the Sedentary Militia, which

until 30 or 40 years ago was the organization in vogue in Canada under British rule, but which, owing to a few simple provisions, was far more effective than that of the later system.

Mr. Sulte began by sketching the feudal system of the seigneuries, which sprang up on the withdrawal by the king of the power of government from the trading companies. When the Marquis de Frontenac arrived in Canada in 1672, he found in a fair process of development a system whereby 25 or 30 individuals, cadets of good houses of France, had large estates for which they were supposed to find settlers; and, as a matter of fact, a few years previously there had been an immigration of a number of settlers of a genuinely agricultural class, nearly all being hard working Normans. The regular troops had departed, and in 1674 Frontenac made the seignorial system the basis of a system of local defence. In each parish, large or small, a captain was appointed, his duty being to see that the men of the parish able to bear arms were assembled from time to time for military exercises, more especially for shooting, for it was intended mainly to utilize these men as skirmishers or piquets, to meet the requirements of Indian warfare, as it could not be expected that masses of men large enough to be styled armies would be used against either the Iroquois or the British establishments in proximity to the borders, the two possible foes of the infant colony. In this manner Frontenac secured an efficient and very cheap militia force.

At no time were the men of the parish all called out for military service. When, after ten or twelve years of peace, war broke out in 1684, and again in 1686, to continue with few interruptions for nearly thirty years, the expeditions against the Iroquois and the English colonies were undertaken by bodies of volunteers taken from the ranks of these parish companies; a body of 100 men—their strength was seldom greater than this—would probably contain elements from five or six neighboring seigneuries. There was no levy en masse until the Seven Years' War. These expeditions were generally under the command of seigneurs, who, as a class, gave an exceedingly good account of themselves during the struggle. Mr. Sulte disproved the assertion that the leaders who guided the French in their numerous wars were regular officers brought out from France; the careers of these men, he said, are known, and they were all Canadians, trained in Canada. Some Canadians, he observed, went into the regular army in France—and took care to stay in France. The seigneurs had the supervision over the captains, who were generally well-to-do habitants, combining with their military rank the duties of bailiff and some municipal functions; in fact, their position was a good deal similar to that held by some local officers in the Channel Islands at the present time.

The main features of the wars with the Iroquois and the New England colonies were then sketched by Mr. Sulte, who pointed out how they were fostered by the fur traders, who found supporters

in the military tastes of the seigneurs, who were frequently interested in the fur trade, and in the adventurous disposition of the people. The colony itself suffered on the whole very little in the struggles, screened as it was by an impenetrable frontier. During all these years the wars were almost altogether carried on by the light troops trained under this system and officered by Canadian seigneurs acquainted with the methods of fighting needed in the bush. The only semblance of regular troops kept up in the country were the detachments maintained in Quebec, Three Rivers, Sorel, Montreal, Chambly and St. John's. These posts were commanded by members of the seignorial class. These detachments were paid by the Minister of Colonies in France—in accordance with the centralizing system, the evils of which Mr. Sulte forcibly exposed—and amounted in all to about 150 men. Most of these men were old soldiers who enlisted for service in Canada on the understanding that after three or four years they might return to France or take up land; sometimes men were recruited in the colony. The yearly draft was about 25, and the entire force, which really amounted to little more than a guard for the magazines and stores, was under the command of a captain.

In such a country the question of transport would naturally be of great importance and it was the one which was least satisfactorily met. The chief expedient resorted to was the corvee, or

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# RIFLES



forced labor, and military exigencies led to unconstitutional extensions of this which were bitterly opposed by the settlers, so willing and enthusiastic in everything else in connection with military service. They were bound to aid, in event of war, in the conveyance of troops and military stores through their own parish, and to this they made no objection; but the principle was so extended that men from Batiscan and Montreal might be up the Richelieu to Lake Champlain, or up the St. Lawrence to Lake Ontario, conveying troops, manning batteaux, etc. This was a constant source of friction.

It was with this organization that the French Canadians for many years maintained themselves, the aid of regulars being called in only when the great struggle of the Seven Years' War commenced.

**THE BISLEY COMMAND.**

PETERBOROUGH papers have nominated Lieut.-Col. Bell, of the 57th Batt., for the command of the Bisley Team, and make out a strong case for the colonel. They hold that, in the past, Montreal and Toronto have been rather unduly honored in the matter of appointments. The Examiner says: "Lieut.-Col. Bell has been actively associated with the volunteer service for a generation—thirty years. During twenty-five years of this time he has been an officer. He has for nineteen years been connected with the 57th Batt.—as adjutant, major and commanding officer—and under his command the regiment has improved greatly in efficiency, till it is now one of the best city corps in the volunteer force. Last year, in the matter of efficiency, based on inspection, it stood high among the several corps, and this year it is well up to the top.

"Lieut.-Col. Bell has always taken an active and intelligent interest in promoting the interests of rifle shooting in the regiment. Since 1877 he has either been secretary or president of the Peterborough Rifle Association. Since becoming commanding officer of the 57th he has twice attended the Dominion meet at Ottawa with a regimental team, which was successful in capturing, under Lieut.-Col. Bell's command, prizes in the skirmishing and volley firing matches both years. In the matter of taking a thus active interest in his regiment in the matter of rifle shooting Lieut.-Col. Bell is a pioneer. Taking all these things into consideration, Lieut.-Col. Bell's length of service, his success with the regiment with which he has been associated as an officer for 19 years, his enthusiasm in the service and, especially, in the matter of rifle shooting, all point to him as a fit and proper person to command the Bisley Canadian contingent at Bisley in 1897. While his qualifications as a military man are matters of record—all who know Lieut.-Col. Bell will agree that he is personally qualified to meet the social requirements that are part of the duties of a commandant of a Bisley team. It is to be hoped that the authorities will see fit to share our entire confidence that Lieut.-Col. Bell is the right man for the position, and will act accordingly. In appointing Lieut.-Col. Bell the authorities will have, especially, the endorsement not only of this town, but of No. 3 Military District, which has never but once been honored by furnishing a commandant for a Wimbledon or Bisley team."

The Review speaks in similar terms of Lieut.-Col. Bell's service, and adds: "Lieut.-Col. Bell would also be fully equal to the demands which the position would make on an officer in a social way, for besides being an efficient officer, he is of a genial, happy disposition that will not only make him a popular officer with the team he commands, but with the other officers with whom he would be associated at Bisley. In fact, when the case is reviewed, it must be admitted that in Lieut.-Col. Bell this district has an officer who is fully qualified and well able to perform the duties at the head of the Bisley Team with credit to himself, his country and with acceptability to the team. Lieut.-Col. Bell's friends here would like to see his claims receive that consideration to which they are entitled."

**A D. O. C.'S CONGRATULATIONS.**

A District Officer Commanding, in enclosing his subscription to THE GAZETTE for another year, writes: "I must congratulate you on its continued improvement; it is such an excellent medium for the exchange of ideas of those interested in militia matters and keeps us so well informed of the movements and doings of the force generally."

**Canadian Military Gazette Hotel Directory.**

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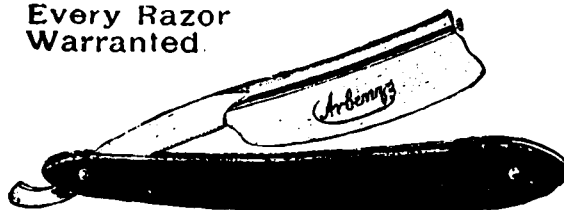
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### A VOICE FROM QUEBEC.

Editor MILITARY GAZETTE:

SIR,—Will you allow me to make a few remarks in reference to the want of life displayed by the staff officers of the 7th Military District. We continually hear of field days being held in Toronto, and also of lectures on military subjects being delivered, and it must be gratifying to the officers of that district to find their D.O.C. one of the prime movers in these manœuvres, lectures, etc., which do so much to raise the standard of efficiency and to foster that esprit de corps which is necessary for the general welfare of our militia.

Here we boast of a permanent school, yet hardly once a year will they favor us with even a short lecture. Such a thing as a field day has not been held since the Carnival in '94. Why is it that we are so far behind the forces in Toronto in this respect? We have equally good men who, if given the chance, would prove themselves just as keen on sham fights as our western friends. Let us entreat the permanent force and staff officers to wake up and show the good example as is shown by Lieut.-Col. Otter and others in Toronto. Let us have lectures frequently during the winter months, and then, whenever the opportunity occurs, let them join with our militia corps of this city in a field day, for we all know that the men will learn more in one day's manœuvres in the open than they will in their twelve days' drill inside of four walls.

MILITIAMAN.

[We are very glad to find space for this letter, which is from one of the most capable officers we have in the force and one who possesses more than the average qualifications. We trust that not only will the officers of the permanent staff and units in Quebec, but in other parts of Canada, take the hint so nicely given. The corps in Toronto district are by long odds the most efficient in Canada. This is almost entirely due to the enterprise and untiring efforts of Lieut.-Col. Otter, D.O.C., who has done more, perhaps, than anyone in Canada to increase the efficiency of the force. A polite note from the G.O.C. to the various D.O.C.'s, saying that he would expect more than routine work from them in future, would have a good effect. He should then see that they carried out his suggestion.—Ed. C.M.G.]

### THE SURGEONS OF THE PERMANENT FORCE.

Editor MILITARY GAZETTE:

SIR,—With reference to your edition of 1st inst. on the pay of the surgeons of the permanent force, I am sorry to say the opinions expressed are not sanctioned by military men in this part of the country. Hitherto militiamen of the Dominion have much to be thankful for on the manly stand you have taken for the betterment of the service, and some of the good results obtained, I have no doubt, have been occasioned by your pen. Anything looking to the reduction of pay of the surgeons and placing them on a par with Indian doctors or poor-house medicos, would seem to us a lowering of the service. The many important duties of a surgeon in the Canadian militia—particularly in the permanent force—are sufficient to warrant pay in proportion to rank of that received by his brother officers. We of the rural corps cannot help commenting on the great change for the better with respect to the vast improvement of late camps in connection with the hospital service, and you know as well as I can tell you, the credit is mainly due to the surgeons of the permanent force. The Minister of

Militia himself will bear me out in this statement as a result of his own personal experience at camps of instruction. I am not writing in any way as a champion of the military surgeons of the permanent militia, but only from a sense of fair play to a class of men who have made considerable sacrifice in connecting themselves with the force. I trust, therefore, you may yet see your way clear to defend the surgeons against any disposition on the part of the authorities with respect to a reduction of their pay.

Yours obediently,

A NEW BRUNSWICK OFFICER.

[This question has excited a good deal of interest, and many opinions have been expressed for and against the amounts paid to the permanent medical staff. The views recently published in THE GAZETTE were those of a correspondent and not necessarily those of the paper. In some places the medical officers have done much good work, but in others, especially in the one in which our correspondent resides, it cannot be said that material progress has been made. Reference to back numbers will show that THE GAZETTE itself has been a very strong friend of the medical department.—Ed. C.M.G.]

### A COMPLAINT ABOUT CLOTHING.

Editor MILITARY GAZETTE:

SIR,—I think it would be a friendly act on your part to call the Militia Department's attention to the bad quality of the clothing issued to the militia for many years past. The material is, as a rule, of the poorest class, shoddy or half shoddy, and the fit is nearly as bad as the quality. Take, for instance, cavalry riding breeches issued to the active corps. There is no fit at all about them; they seem to be cut with a broadaxe. This trash is not issued to the permanent corps; I think their riding breeches come from England. Compare the trash I speak of with that issued to the English yeomanry, or to the Canadian permanent cavalry; the latter is of good quality and a different pattern.

The material of the issues to Canadian cavalry is so poor that it is a difficult matter to get them fitted by a tailor after paying him well to alter the scarecrow article. Riding breeches, if not reasonably well fitted, are conspicuous for their ugliness. Then again, the English prices are just about half that for the Canadian-made goods of inferior quality. I prefer to see the militia clothing made in Canada, but unless there is a marked improvement in the quality and pattern of the clothing made, it would be well to return to the purchase of English-made tunics and pants until Canadian manufacturers learned how to make a better article at lower cost. A tailor informs me that a cheap shoddy pair of pants may now be made up for \$1, the material and work about as good as specimens I showed him.

In the Government price lists, which represent the net cost of the article, cavalry cloth trousers are listed at \$5.50 and cavalry cloth riding breeches at \$6.25. This is, I think, double the price asked by the English manufacturers for better goods. The same manufacturers who charge the Government such prices will manufacture on a smaller scale, for retail merchants, trousers, which for fit, quality of material and general make-up, are the equal of the military article, for \$2 per pair or less. Indeed, it may be claimed that the quality of the civilian article is better, for the general public do not have the same patience with the manufacturer's poor goods as the militia and the Militia Department of Canada have. Go to any rural armory, pick up a pair of pants or riding breeches, get at a cut edge, pick it for a moment and see the shoddy come to pieces. As a rule it is thick, unnecessarily thick, well stiffened with glue, and the surface nicely finished, to look well.

This additional cost is charged up against the militia, when, as a matter of fact, a great saving could be made in this line alone.

Yours, ANTI-SHODDY.