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**The Importance Of Rifle Shooting, and The Target Practice Rod**

(The Canadian Military Gazette)

In the Franco-British wars of the Middle Ages the British won not because of superior bravery, but because of their better skill in the use of the bow, the rifle, so to speak, of that day. In the present war the importance of accuracy in shooting cannot be over-estimated, and anything that will promote marksmanship must not be overlooked. In his recent speech, the Minister of Militia proudly stated that the First Contingent went to the front better riflemen than any body of troops of equal length of training. He is a wide-awake soldier, and emphasizes good shooting.

There can be no doubt about it, this excellence on the part of Canadian troops is largely due to the use of the target practice rod, a device adopted before the outbreak of the war, about which that excellent old British service paper, the "Army and Navy Gazette", has this to say:

"The target practice rod, invented by Mr. Reardon, and patented and sold by the Target Practice Rod Company, Ltd., of 17, Victoria Street, S. W., has been for some little time before the public in this country without attracting any particular official attention, while both in Canada and in America the invention has for at least six years past been officially adopted for use in the military forces by the Department of Militia and Defence of Canada, and by the board of Ordnance and Fortifications of the War Department of the United States. In view of the fact that the target practice rod was approved of by so high an authority as Lord Roberts, and by so thoroughly practical and well-known a rifle shot as the late Mr. Ommundsen, we asked an officer, who was for many years on the musketry staff of the Army, to make a thorough inspection of the invention and to give us his opinion about it. He says: "the apparatus is very simple, consisting of a hollow brass tube inserted in the barrel of the ordinary Service rifle, and containing a needle-pointed rod actuated by the striker on pressing the trigger. The rifle, fitted with the instrument, is held about six inches from the special miniature target provided, upon which the hit is recorded by the needle-pointed rod above mentioned. The target practice rod teaches the riflemen to aim correctly, to keep his sights on his object, and properly to press the trigger; for instructional purposes in barrack rooms it is most useful, it is capable of taking the place of an aim corrector, and gives an accurate record of the result of each pressure of the trigger; it affords unlimited and valuable rifle practice at a merely nominal cost, and seems admirably adapted for the instruction of the new men now joining our armies." Canada has ordered its issue at the rate of one for every ten men of the establishment

of each squad on or company; America has directed the issue of ten target practice rods to each company and troop in the United States Army. Our War office has exhibited its usual coyness, and, for some reason not readily appreciable, will so far have none of it. Possibly it is considered that with us the rifle shot is produced ready made on enlistment, or grows 'spontaneous' like the buildings of Eden City!

We know of one commanding officer of a Canadian corps who refused to requisition for the rods to which he was entitled because, he said, "I have more than enough stores to keep track of now." Such a stand, on such a subject, is little less than criminal. We must give the C. O. the benefit of the doubt, and impute his action to ignorance of the great value of what he was rejecting. The point is that these rods should be issued by the Militia Department to all C. E. F. battalions, without awaiting their requisitions—an infantry corps should no more be without them than without rifles and bayonets.

**Verdun Fort Captured By Assault Says German Report**

BERLIN, Via London, Feb. 26.—It is officially announced that Fort Douaumont, one of the fortifications of Verdun, was taken by storm yesterday, and is now firmly held by the Germans.

The official announcement is as follows: The armored fort Douaumont, the northeastern corner pillar of the permanent main line fortifications, of the stronghold of Verdun, was stormed yesterday afternoon, by the 24th Regiment of Brandenburg, infantry, and is now firmly in German hands.

[Fort Douaumont lies four miles northeast of Verdun. It is one of nearly a score of forts circling Verdun, and is situated just to the north of the railroad, running east from the city to Metz.

Douaumont is one of a cluster of seven forts protecting Verdun from the east. Forts De Sauvville, De Tavannes and St. Michael lie directly between the position conquered by the Germans and the city of Verdun.

The conquest of this fort was made by the right wing of the huge attacking army, which has scored the greatest advance in the assault on the

**Notice of Sale**

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to the terms of a warrant issued by the Secretary of the Municipality of Carleton County and according to the provisions of Section Eighty five (85) of Chapter twenty one of the Act Third George V., 1913, of the legislative Assembly of the Province of New Brunswick, entitled "An Act to Consolidate and Amend Chapter 170 of the consolidated Statutes, 1903 respecting Rates and Taxes" the said warrant being dated the Fifteenth day of November A. D. 1915, there will for default in the payment of County, Poor and Road taxes be sold at public auction in front of the Court House in the Town of Woodstock in the said County of Carleton, on Friday the Twenty fifth day of February A. D. 1916, at the hour of two o'clock in the afternoon of the said day to the highest bidder so much of the Real Estate assessed in the name of the Wiggins Estate lying and being in the Parish of Richmond in the County of Carleton aforesaid, as will be sufficient to pay the sum of One Dollar and sixty six cents being the amount assessed for County, Poor and Road taxes against the said Wiggins Estate for the years 1912, 1913 and 1914 together with the further sum of Three Dollars and Fifteen cents costs and expenses on the date of issue of said warrant and the further sum of fifty cents for the said warrant, making in all the sum of Five Dollars and Thirty One cents, now unpaid, and also for costs and charges attending this Notice and Sale hereon and recovery of said assessment. The said Real Estate assessed in the name of the Wiggins Estate to be sold as aforesaid being described as follows:—All that certain piece of land and premises situated in the Parish of Richmond aforesaid, being same conveyed by John McBride to said George Campbell by deed registered in Book K number 2 Carleton County Records on pages 336 and 337 the 22nd of March A. D. 1872 and therein described as "Commencing on the Road or East line, on the Road leading from Watson Settlement in North Richmond to Haultain, and thence west five rods till it strikes a certain line between Francis Watson and the said John McBride, thence along said line North eight rods, thence east five rods, thence south eight rods to the adjacent beginning containing one quarter of an acre."

Dated at Woodstock in the said County of Carleton this Twentieth—Jay of November, A. D. 1915.

John R. Tompkins  
Sheriff of the County of Carleton.

French positions. Douaumont is some what to the east of what has hitherto been the principal lines of progress, being situated

**FOUR MILES EAST OF THE MEUSE RIVER**

The main force of the German attack, as indicated by the previous official communications, was being exerted southward along the Meuse.

The capture of Douaumont is the most important achievement since the inauguration of the German drive at Verdun—an onslaught which for fury and for weight of men and guns, has few precedents in the war. The French war office has expressed confidence that, notwithstanding the admitted great strength of the German drive, Verdun and its protecting fortresses would be able to hold out. These positions form what has been regarded as one of the greatest strongholds of Europe. It is the strongest fortress of France and is of particular importance from the fact that it offers direct communication with Paris, which is 150 miles to the west. Verdun marks the northerly point of the great French defenses against direct attacks from German territory, the most southerly being Belfort, as between these two points, lies the stretch of frontier on which Germany touches France.

PARIS, Feb. 26.—The Germans are continuing their violent attacks north of Verdun, with regard to their sacrifices, the War Office announced this afternoon.

PARIS, Feb. 26.—The Petit Parisien says that the battle now raging before Verdun was preceded on Feb. 12 by a feint in Champagne intended to divert attention from the coming attack on Verdun. A curious feature of the Champagne attack, subsequently used at Verdun, was the rehearsal on a miniature scale, behind the German lines, of the attack about to be delivered. A few days previously, the soldiers were ordered to assemble at a given spot, so as to reproduce exactly the intended onset. There was an imitation, on a reduced scale of French trenches, and other features of the defence works. The scheme had been worked out from aeroplane photographs of the French lines, the copies of the plan on a scale of one to two thousand had been supplied to each soldier. Several attacks were rehearsed, until the General in charge was satisfied that the attackers knew just what to do. The attack in the Champagne on Feb. 12 failed chiefly because of the change of wind, the Petit Parisien says, rendered ineffective a large quantity of asphyxiating gas and flamethrowers, which were relied upon for the success of the attack.

PARIS, Feb. 26.—"Serious, but not disquieting," is the common phrase which is used to day in official and parliamentary circles regarding the progress of the Germans in their attack against Verdun. Unaffected by the snowstorm the Germans hammered away all day Friday at the French line, which although unbroken at the end of the sixth day of battle, was, however, again rectified as a measure of prudence, the left wing being drawn into Champagnoville and the right being brought back a little south of the Ornes. The new front, barely three miles in length, extends along the heights offering every advantage for defense and forming one of the most formidable obstacles before the entrenched camp of Verdun.

It is in this narrow space that the Crown Prince is hurling his masses, military observers here express the belief that the counter offensive will be launched from this line at a precise and decisive moment, and that it will drive back across the ground already covered with the dead bodies of their comrades the battalions which are being hurled forward in the most bloody assault which this war has yet seen.

"The work up there is hot indeed," said an officer, who has arrived in Paris from the Verdun battlefield.

"They are gnawing at our lines a little faster, but with comparative advantage for themselves. Previous attacks made by the Germans in that section are nothing to what they are now delivering. I cannot, of course, give details, but I can say that we are holding well against their formidable attacks. The artillery exchanges are intense. Our batteries, admirably handled, have changed ground in masterly style, and the

**LOSSES TO THE ENEMY ARE REALLY FABULOUS**

Ours are slight, a feeble percentage of theirs. The Germans are, so to speak, at the limit of Argonne and the Meuse heights, the topography of which constitutes what I might compare to a series of cofferdams. The Germans have been preparing this stroke for a long time. It was in the region of Coignies Etain that they gathered the bulk of the material for the assault as they

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had erected large factories at those points."

PARIS, Feb. 26.—The German attack in the region of Beaumont, east of the Meuse, have failed, the War office said, notwithstanding

**REPEATED ATTACKS AND TREMENDOUS SLAUGHTER.**

The text of the statement follows: The fighting is still being carried on bitterly in the region north of Verdun, where the enemy continues his efforts on the front to the east of the Meuse. After the last engagement our troops retained their positions in spite of the repeated assaults of the enemy which no longer counts his sacrifices.

"In the region of Beaumont the battle which is still raging, has taken on a most sanguinary character.

On the front of the Woivre, the advance post which we had as lines of observation from Ornes to Hennefont since the battles of last year, have been attacked by infantry forces from both sides of the Meuse. Our artillery on both right and left banks of the river replied without ceasing to the bombardment of the enemy.

"Nothing of importance has occurred on the remainder of the front."

LONDON, Feb. 26.—The only word concerning the German claim of taking the armored fortress of Douaumont outside of Verdun, comes through German sources. Further information is awaited anxiously, owing to the recognized strategic importance of this fort which is the base of solid field works

on a line of hills 1,000 feet high, about six miles northeast of Verdun.

The last detailed information showed the French holding lines two and a half miles beyond Douaumont.

**Harry Ryder.**

Capt. George P. Ryder, recruiting officer, St. Stephen, has received a telegram announcing the death of his brother, Harry Ryder, in a town in Saskatchewan. He was about 45 years of age, a chef in a large hotel and had been away for a number of years. The remains are being brought home for burial.

The late Mr. Ryder was at one time a resident of Woodstock and a member of the bakery firm of Baird & Ryder.

**Red Cross Work**

**OSKAVILL**

The Oakville Red Cross Society still continues to carry on a splendid work. A box containing the following was sent to headquarters, St. John, this week:—33 pair socks, 4 hospital, shirts 5 pajama suits, 2 field shirts.

The society wishes to thank Mrs. Thos. Beattie for a donation of \$5.00 and H. M. Beattie, 25c.

MRS. JOHN McLELLAN, Pres.  
MISS LARA McLELLAN, Secy.

John Cunningham of Canterbury underwent an operation in Fisher Memorial Hospital on Feb. 23rd by Dr. Griffin for Cancer of the face.

**NEURASTHENIA THAT FOLLOWS LA GRIPPE**

Rest and a Tonic Is the Proper Treatment Distinguished Medical Authority Says

There is a form of neurasthenia that follows la grippe. Doctors call it "post-grippal" neurasthenia.

One of the foremost medical authorities of New York city in a lecture in the international clinics, said:

"Broadly speaking, every victim of la grippe will suffer from post-grippal neurasthenia also. Lowering of nervous tone with increased irritability is the most striking effect of the disease, languor of mind and body, disturbed, fitful sleep and vague pains in the head and elsewhere. The treatment calls for rest and a tonic."

If you have had la grippe read those symptoms again: "Languor of mind and body, disturbed, fitful sleep and vague pains in the head and elsewhere." If you have any or all of them it means that you are still suffering from the effects of la grippe and that you will not be well and free from

danger of relapse until your blood is built up.

The treatment, says the distinguished physician quoted above, is rest and a tonic. Dr. Williams' Pink Pills, a non-alcoholic tonic, are particularly suited for building up the blood and strengthening the nerves after an attack of grippe. The rich, red blood expels the lingering germs from the system and transforms despondent grippe victims into cheerful, healthy, happy men and women.

If you have had la grippe do not wait for a relapse or for the neurasthenia that so often follows grippe, but get a box of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills now from the nearest drug store and begin the treatment at once.

You can get Dr. Williams' Pink Pills from any medicine dealer or by mail, at 50 cents a box or six boxes for \$2.50 from The Dr. Williams' Medicine Co., Brockville, Ont.