

# THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE

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As detailed in General Orders No. 8, of 10th May.

### MILITIA GENERAL ORDERS.

Continuation of No. 7, of 3rd May, 1889.

### MISCELLANEOUS.

## Topics of the Week.

Later information to hand demonstrates that the intimation communicated to this paper a few weeks ago, respecting the honour conferred upon Lieut. Mackay, R.E., a Kingston College graduate now serving on the west coast of Africa, was not accurate. Instead of receiving merely the local rank of Captain (which he has possessed for some time) he has been appointed to the "Distinguished Service Order."

We have received from Mr. L. Homfray Irving, the gentleman who so often entertained our readers with his "Linchpin" letters, an explicit declaration that he was not the writer of the *Broad Arrow* letter which Sir Adolphe Caron ascribed to him in his speech in Parliament on Mr. Mulock's want of confidence motion. Mr. Irving says he has neither written nor inspired any letter whatever for any other than a Canadian paper. Such a disavowal is what the MILITIA GAZETTE expected would be forthcoming from Mr. Irving, to whom no one who knew him would have been apt to ascribe the letter in question.

A test of the range finder patented by Mr. Farquharson of Montreal, was made at Ottawa last week with exceedingly satisfactory results. Mr. Farquharson visited the Capital in company with Lt.-Col. Turnbull, of Montreal; and the test, made on Cartier Square and subsequently on the Rideau Rifle Range, was witnessed by General Sir Fred Middleton, Lt.-Col. Thos. Bacon, and others interested. The results obtained were precise, and the invention was commended for its simplicity as well as accuracy. Mr. Farquharson will submit it to the Imperial Government, in answer to their advertisement for an improved range finder, published last year. He has been working on it for seventeen or eighteen years, ever since his connection with a Scotch regiment.

The regulations to govern the annual drill for 1889 have been issued. Printed in full in this number, they speak for themselves. It will be noted there is but little change from the ordinary routine. Relating to the target practice, a commendable but trifling change is made in the prescription that a man must hit the target at each range before being allowed to fire from a longer distance. Though the usual paragraphs about the importance of rifle shooting appear, the ammunition allowance remains at the absurdly low issue of twenty rounds per man. We are sorry to see that again only one blanket per man is to be served out. For years mild protests have been made against the insufficiency of the night covering allowed the militia, but no change for the better results. In the meantime lives are endangered to save a few dollars in the blanket bill, and what is saved in blankets is lost in the destruction of uniforms by wearing them in sleeping as well as waking hours.

## Regimental News.

The Montreal Garrison Artillery, in command of Lieut.-Col. Turnbull, paraded to St. Paul's church on Sunday afternoon. The chaplain, Rev. James Barclay, preached an appropriate sermon.

The following provisional promotions have been made in "F" Company of the Thirteenth Battalion, Hamilton: To be colour-sergeant from 13th Oct., 1886, Sergt. F. W. Grant; to be sergeant from 21st June, 1887, Corp. Charles Hamilton.

The Governor-General's Foot Guards had their annual parade to Christ Church, Ottawa, on Sunday. The new uniforms were worn, and the battalion made an exceptionally fine appearance. Lt.-Col. Tilton was in command. The sermon was preached by the Chaplain of the reggimento the Venerable Archdeacon Lauder.

An invitation has been received by Col. Felton of the 53rd Sherbrooke Battalion from the officers of the 54th Battalion at Richmond asking the officers and men of the 53rd to participate with them in the presentation of a set of colours on the 24th inst. The invitation is likely to be accepted as the 54th were at Sherbrooke when the ladies there presented the 53rd Battalion with their colours some twenty years ago.

### Toronto.

Thousands of citizens, says the *Empire*, invaded the precincts of Queen's Park Sunday afternoon to witness the muster and march of the Royal Grenadiers to Grace church, where their annual sermon in commemoration of the battle of Batoche was preached by Rev. J. P. Lewis. General Sir Fred. Middleton honoured the occasion with his presence, and as the regiment filed down the avenue there was much pressing among the onlookers to get a view of the man who so gallantly led our volunteers to victory through the hardships and dangers of the rebellion.

Lt.-Col. Dawson was in command. The General arrived early on the ground, and watched the parade being formed. There was a splendid turnout. Every company was over the authorized strength. When the parade state were handed in it was found that 390 n. c. o. and men and 28 officers, a total of 418 of all ranks, were there—the largest turnout in the history of the regiment. Attached to the regiment was Capt. J. A. Macdonell, of the 59th, who turned out with Capt. Eliot. Lieut.-Col. Grasett was also present, but in plain clothes. The new white helmets were worn for the first time and became the men remarkably well, being of a specially neat design. The General and his A.D.C., Capt. Wise, accompanied Col. Dawson. Both bands were present and the two bandmasters were highly complimented on the music. The central portion of the church was fully occupied by the regiment, leaving only the side rows of pews to the civilians. The rector's text was admirably chosen for the occasion, consisting of the 12th, 13th and 14th verses of the 40th psalm. He, as rector of the parish, welcomed the regiment to the church, and he urged them not only to love their country as the place giving them sustenance, but also with that higher and purer love which constituted true patriotism.

After the sermon the Grenadiers marched in order to the drill shed where they performed a number of evolutions under the eye of the General. Before dismissing the regiment Lieut. Col. Dawson expressed the pleasure it gave him to be honoured by the presence of General Middleton, and he asked him to make a few remarks. The General said he always liked to visit Toronto because of early associations and because it was the headquarters of two regiments—the Queen's Own Rifles and the Royal Grenadiers—of which he was very proud. They had served with him in the Northwest and had acquitted themselves nobly. He was on more intimate terms with the Royal Grenadiers because they were immediately under his command during the entire rebellion. He was glad to meet so many old friends again, on such a pleasant occasion. They were very differently situated from what they were four years ago. Then there was the constant rattle of musketry and the booming of the big guns. Now they were at home among their fellow-citizens—much