

THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE

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CORRESPONDENCE.

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

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TABLE OF CONTENTS.

COMMENT AND CRITICISM. Ammunition for the D.R.A. matches to be served out on the ground. The Gzowski match. The Steward cup. The Wimbledon programme. Improved equipments required. The claims of the first Red River expedition. Dates for the annual camps. Suggested tactical examination.	IN PARLIAMENT. RECORDS OF OUR MILITIA CORPS.—VI. SUGGESTED EXAMINATIONS IN TACTICS. CORRESPONDENCE. A protest against our equipments.— <i>Centurion</i> . Medals for the Red River expedition.— <i>Justus</i> . REGIMENTAL INTELLIGENCE. THE TARGET. MILITIA GENERAL ORDERS.— <i>Of 13th, concluded</i> . NEWS NOTES.
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NOTICE.

ONCE more we have the opportunity of offering the *Century* magazine and *St. Nicholas* as premiums, and these are such valuable publications that we think the offer should be largely taken advantage of. We will send the *Century* and the MILITIA GAZETTE for a year to any new subscriber for four dollars and a half; *St. Nicholas* and the MILITIA GAZETTE for a year for three dollars and a half, or all three for seven dollars, in each case a reduction of half a dollar on the price of each periodical. The *Century* is one of the two best illustrated magazines in the world; *St. Nicholas* is the best children's monthly. Need we say more. If you want them subscribe at once.

Comment and Criticism.

THE Executive Committee of the Dominion rifle association at its meeting on the 18th instant, decided, as we anticipated, to serve out the Snider ammunition to the competitors on the butts, and to include the price of it in the entrance fees. Arrangements have been made with the Militia department to have the cartridges put up in special packages, each containing the number of rounds required for the range at which it is served out. This course, together with the intention of the association to provide machinery for more rigidly enforcing the rules, will undoubtedly remove a great deal of the dissatisfaction expressed last year, and will put all competitors on an equal footing as regards ammunition. If only now we can depend on good powder and good weighing, Snider shooting will go up once more with a boom.

COLONEL GZOWSKI has kindly consented, in accordance with the views expressed by competitors on the grounds last year, as well as by the members at the annual meeting, to alter the conditions under which his cup is competed for by skirmishing teams in such a way as to permit the firing to be done in drill order, and has moreover volunteered to negotiate with the Marquis of Lorne for a similar concession in the British Challenge Shield match. This will make both competitions more nearly approach the conditions experienced in actual warfare as at present conducted, and will tend to increase greatly the popularity of these important team competitions. We should like to see the association supplement Col. Gzowski's action by bringing on the matches before the conclusion of the aggregate series. In this way alone can a large number of entries be obtained, for by postponing them to the end of the shooting many competitors are more interested in leaving town than in remaining for them, and then it is only by the most strenuous efforts on the part of team captains that teams can be got, or kept, together.

THE silver cup generously donated to the D. R. A. by Mr. J. H. Steward, optician, &c., has been added to the first prize in the Martini Extra Series at 500 yards, or rather it replaces ten dollars of that prize, the money deducted therefrom being made into two additional prizes.

THE *Volunteer Service Gazette* of the 14th contains the preliminary prize list of the Wimbledon meeting. There are many changes, but few of them affect our Canadian shots. Many of the special condition matches have been transferred to the regular M. H. series. Into the Volunteer Cadet Corps match, files from corps in the colonies will be admitted, for the money prizes only. The £1,000 Hop Bitters jubilee cup takes the place of the volunteer aggregate in name, though the conditions and money prizes are the same, and the Corporation of the City of London prizes, reserved for Indian and Colonial volunteers, will be given for the highest qualified scores in the grand aggregate, instead of for a separate match as last year. There are two revolver matches, open to all members, the one at a moving the other at a disappearing target.

"CENTURION," in our correspondence columns, draws a vivid picture of the unprepared state of the militia force in case of a sudden call to arms, which, even if it be to some extent exaggerated, has enough truth in it to set us considering whether something could not be done to improve our equipment without adding to the country's financial burden. *In pace paratus* is the motto of our force, yet it has strayed far from that text. If we must have showy and withal uncomfortable uniforms and equipments to attract the boys—and the girls—why should we not reserve these for special functions and have something comfortable and serviceable for ordinary drills or active work. The question is too extensive to discuss fully now, but it deserves serious consideration. From time to time it has come up in these columns; the "Notions of a noodle," criticising the equipment used during the rebellion, and several