

THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE

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

First Year.
VOL. I, No. 33.

Ottawa, Tuesday, 22nd December, 1885.

\$1.50 per Annum in advance
Single Copies Five Cents.

CORRESPONDENCE.

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THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE,
Box 316, OTTAWA, Canada.

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COMMENT AND CRITICISM.

The Indian element does not appear to be any better disposed than last week. From Prince Albert and McLeod districts alike, they are reported as uneasy. Last year most of them at least were fed regularly by the Government, this winter, we understand, some changes have been made which may induce them to become mischievous. While there is very little danger of a general uprising, it is quite possible that some marauding may be done, and it is the duty of the country to use every means to prevent this. There are several points at which sufficient loyal men should be found willing to do military duty to permit the formation of militia companies. Might it not be advisable to supply arms and accoutrements to companies at say Prince Albert, Battleford, Edmonton, Regina and Calgary? If such could be organized, we have little doubt it would tend to restore confidence in those centres.

We may make our minds easy on the score of any inroads from the other side of the border. The American Government are entitled to every praise for the precautions they took last spring, and are yet maintaining, to prevent their border tribes from molesting us, and the first attempt at a movement in that direction would be promptly checked by troops from one of the many forts on the confines of Montana.

A correspondent wants our opinion as to the desirability of raising the question of granting medals for the Fenian raids. Our first impression is decidedly averse to such a proposition; and for several reasons. Fifteen years have passed since the last raid, and it is too old an issue to revive, for one thing. Besides it would open the door to endless bickerings. Undoubtedly the performance of some of our troops under fire, was quite as gallant as any work done in the Northwest, and quite as deserving of recognition, but some of the troops were not so successful, and if any distinction were made there would be a row at once. Moreover, if all who were on active service were to obtain the distinction, it would include nearly the whole militia force of that day. Once bring up the question and irreconcilable differences of opinion would appear simultaneously.

If our correspondent doubts this a perusal of the letters that have appeared in our columns as to the disposition of the medals for the late campaign, where there have been a dozen suggestions as to the bestowal of clasps, &c., should sufficiently prove what would happen if the same thing were attempted for work done fifteen or twenty years ago, and we feel sure that the Government have too great a desire for peace to entertain the proposition for a moment.

The Dufferin Rifles are evidently determined to "do things up in style." Last week they took possession of their splendid new mess rooms; this week they are issuing special regimental Christmas greetings. The cards are neatly lithographed, bearing vignettes of the Earl and Countess of Dufferin, and the regimental crest in an appropriate and elaborate border surrounding the words "Compliments of the season, with best wishes of the Lieut.-Colonel commanding and officers of the regiment, Brantford, Xmas., 1885."

Well done Ninetieth! The "little black devils" are to the front again with a men's club, and nearly six hundred and fifty dollars to put into the pot for a start, so that its success is well assured. We would commend the description of this association, under our heading of "amusements," to the many city and town corps which have not yet established similar clubs, with the assurance that such an institution for each one of them would involve great benefits, both moral and physical, to the battalions, and would be an invaluable recruiting agent for the assistance of the officers. To any such club we would wish to make a couple of suggestions. It should have such a reputation that parents, wives and sweethearts would feel that their friends were safe there, and to this end, while there is no possible objection to cards or billiards in themselves, there should be a cast-iron rule in the constitution, preventing the remotest approach to gambling, with any infringement punishable by dismissal. Even the arrangement of making the loser in a game of billiards pay for it is objectionable. There should also be a room in the club—preferably the reading room—in which no smoking should be allowed; there is always a small minority who dislike the fragrant weed, and it is well to teach men that there is a time and place for everything—even smoking.