

# THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE

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

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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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THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE,  
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## NOTICE.

We have been sending the GAZETTE to a large list of officers and others who we thought were sufficiently alive to militia interests to wish to become subscribers, and while we have no intention of taking advantage of the law which enables us to count these amongst our debtors, we would request all those who wish to receive the GAZETTE in future to remit their annual subscription, and those who are not pleased or do not sympathize with the military force sufficiently to wish for the paper to notify us to that effect, and to return promptly any future copies sent them.

## COMMENT AND CRITICISM.

We felt sure that the noodle's ideas about "foot gear" for our troops on active service would give rise to some discussion, for this is one of those subjects where the old proverb "*tot homines tot sententiae*" holds good. But the "beef boot" or "shoe pack" has certain advantages, if it be borne in mind that there are beef boots and beef boots, just as there are contract high boots with paper stiffening, and the genuine article of solid leather with a proper fit to the foot. Sharpshooter, when he speaks of his experience with beef boots, is alluding to an article altogether different from those that the noodle described. In the genuine article there must be good soles, so put on that the stitching does not go quite through the inner leather, and so leaves the boot watertight. We are afraid that if the sharpshooter struck a good flock of mosquitoes, or a few miles of thick raspberry or rosebush scrub,

he would modify his ideas of hieland costume. We used personally to favor English shoes for Nor'-west surveying work, with thick soles and copper toes, with leggings for rough country or cold weather. A few holes in the sides, to let out any stray slough water, were not deemed objectionable.

The Carleton Place *Herald* resents with some heat the comment in No. 28 on its proposal to have a Lanark County battalion formed, but unfortunately it has quite misinterpreted our motives. In the first place we did not speak officially in this case, we have never spoken officially yet, and it is as well that it should be thoroughly understood that we are not in any way officially inspired in our utterances, and do not propose to be; and in the second place we repeat that we see difficulties in the proposition. There is not sufficient unoccupied territory around Brockville to support two battalions if the north country be cut off from them, and it is only just to give preference to the corps already in existence. If, however, the *Herald* can show that full companies can be raised, with qualified officers, in unappropriated parts of the country, we should be the first to wish the venture good luck, for nowhere in the district can a finer body of men be found than the farmers and manufacturers of the county of Lanark.

On one other point must we join issue with the *Herald*. It expresses the opinion that a battalion drilling at its own headquarters would offer far more encouragement to the young men of the district to join its ranks than if they were required "to leave their homes and occupations for a couple of weeks each year and go into camp in some strange and distant town." Our experience has been exactly the reverse of this, for we know that many of the "boys" look forward with lively interest to a trip away from home, and thoroughly enjoy the evening leave in the strange towns. Moreover, it is better in every way for the troops themselves. They are more amenable to discipline, and they are less likely to be distracted by trying to look after two things at once, or by having friends perpetually interfering with their duties. In this if in nothing else the system of brigade camps is an advantage over battalion camps.

The Government have just issued, in the form of a blue book of ten pages, a memorandum prepared by the Hon. Sir Alexander Campbell, Minister of Justice during the proceedings against Riel, concisely setting forth the position which the government assumed upon the question of Riel's execution. The many false assertions that have been made, and the animosities that have been kindled for selfish ends, render it necessary, Sir Alexander explains, to put the facts clearly before the public. As the matter is outside our province, as well as having been already pretty extensively ventilated by the daily press, it is unnecessary to further refer to it here. We have no doubt that anyone desiring to read the full text of the explanation would be sent a copy by the Queen's Printer of the Deputy Minister of Justice in answer to a request for the same.