

THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE

A Weekly Journal devoted to the Interests of the Active Force of the Dominion.

Third Year.
VOL. III, No. 2.

OTTAWA, THURSDAY, 14th JULY, 1887.

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

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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Should be made by Registered Letter, Post Office Order or Draft. For Great Britain, each dollar may be taken as equivalent to 4s., and cents as half-pence. All communications must be addressed to

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

Printed by MASON & REYNOLDS, 45 Elgin Street, Ottawa.

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Comment and Criticism.

WE hear from New Brunswick that there is considerable dissatisfaction in some quarters there over a district order limiting the strength for drill this year to thirty-seven officers and men per company. It appears that a number of captains of city companies had been making special exertions to turn out with full ranks in honor of the jubilee year, and these would naturally be much put out at having, at the eleventh hour, to dispense with some of the men whom, by means of voluntary drills, they had just got into presentable shape.

IT is said a spirit of economy prompted the order, and also that without this reduction it would have been impossible to incur the extra expense consequent upon having a company of the I. S. C. attend at the district camp. The benefit derivable by the rest of the camp from the presence and example of a well drilled and disciplined company of the permanent force, is such that their attendance should certainly be secured. It is a pity, however, that ways and means could not have been devised to turn out the Infantry School Corps without causing vexation and disappointment to zealous officers and men of the volunteer force.

A SHOOTING man, whose letter, signed "Martini," will be found in our correspondence columns, wants to know what Snider ammunition will be used at the D. R. A. meeting this year. We can give him the information. It will be the 1887 make of the Quebec cartridge factory, with brass coiled shells, and will be served out by the register

keepers at the butts, to be taken by the competitors "for better for worse." We wouldn't like to venture too positive an opinion, but think it safe to say that the ammunition will do its duty tolerably well. Some excellent shooting has been made with it this season.

THE Canadian rifle team went into camp at their old quarters, Wimbledon common, on Saturday last, after having had a week's practice at Cambridge. The N. R. A. shooting in the Wimbledon competitions commenced on Monday. On Tuesday the 200 yards range, the first of the initial stage of the Queen's prize competition was fired; the 500 yards range on Wednesday, and the 600 yards, completing the first stage, is in progress to-day. The whole competition will be over before another issue of this paper, the third and last stage, at 800 and 900 yards, being set down for Tuesday next. On Wednesday the Kolapore cup match, the event of greatest interest to Canadians, takes place. Interesting particulars concerning the colonial teams entered for this competition, together with other details of the N. R. A. meeting, will be found in another place in this issue.

THE Fortieth Battalion, one of those which attended the district camp recently held at Kingston, attracted not a little favorable attention there, particularly in connection with the presentation of colors to the corps by the ladies of Northumberland. It was strong in numbers, well drilled and in equipment could score some points over the majority of Canadian corps, as for headgear serviceable white helmets were worn, these having been generously provided by the officers at their own expense. The government uniform has been similarly supplemented by officers and men of many other corps—in fact by nearly all of those maintained in the cities. We would like to see the necessity for such a tax removed. It is enough that the members of the militia force should give their time to preparing themselves for efficiently serving in defence of their country without being called upon to contribute from their private purses for necessary articles of equipment.

THE regulations under which the Queen's pardon is to be applied to cases of desertion and fraudulent enlistment have been published and the fact of the granting of the pardon is now being advertised in the daily papers in the principal cities of Canada as well as the other parts of the empire. The proclamation extends to all classes of offenders under the enlistment clauses of the Army Act, provided, however, that the offence was committed before the date of its publication, and the surrender or confession is made within two months, if at home, or four months, if abroad. The offenders are to report themselves in writing to the officer commanding the regiment in the case of the guards and cavalry, and the regimental district in the case of the line. Men who enlisted more than ten years ago, or who have been absent for five years, or who are physically unfit for service, will not be required to rejoin, but will be granted "protecting certificates." Full information is given as to the course commanding officers are to pursue in dealing with the several classes of offenders; and it is enjoined that the men are not to be subject to stoppages on account of free kits or of articles lost