

# THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE

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

Sixth Year.  
VOL. V, No. 50.

OTTAWA, THURSDAY, 11th DECEMBER, 1890.

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

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## Note and Comment.

Many of our readers have no doubt been interested in the letters appearing from time to time in these columns advocating an increase in the pay of the Orderly Room Clerks at the Royal Schools of Infantry, who now have only the pay of private soldiers. The explanation of the seeming anomaly lies in the fact that the Militia Department does not desire to maintain a regimental staff for each of the companies in connection with the schools, and soldiers other than those allowed to draw pay as staff-sergeants have been appointed Orderly Room Clerks. The appointee of course views the matter from quite a different standpoint, and there is much in his argument that as he does the work, he should be accorded the rank and emolument. But the Department disclaims any responsibility for the office, saying in effect to each of the company commandants: "We give you your complement of all ranks; utilize them as you think best; but the subdivision of the work is not to entail any greater expense than authorized for the company establishment."

The *Broad Arrow* contains the following complimentary notice of a Canadian officer having hosts of friends in the Dominion militia who will be pleased to hear of his promotion: "Whatever feeling there may be on the subject of senior promotions, the Horse Guards continue to do good work in pushing on deserving subalterns by means of special advancement in the service. The latest instance is afforded in the selection of Lieutenant Henry Ellison Wise, of the Cameronians (Scottish Rifles) for a company in the Derbyshire Regiment. Captain Wise has been for five years on special service in Canada as aide-de-camp to Sir F. D. Middleton, and as such served throughout the operations in the North-West Territories in 1885, being present at the engagements of Fish Creek (when he was wounded), and at Batoche. He was mentioned in despatches, and received the Canadian War medal for his services." Capt. Wise has for some time past been on the staff of the Viceroy of India. He was one of the first class of graduates of our Royal Military College, and did his full share in establishing for that institution the reputation which its graduates have ever maintained.

Col. Herbert's appointment to the command of the Militia of the Dominion, with the rank of Major-General in that body, was gazetted in last Militia General Orders, in which also the official announcement appears of his arrival at headquarters and assumption of the duties of his new office. General Herbert has promptly set about familiarising himself with the affairs of his command. No doubt he will be able to

give an interesting statement of his impressions and ideas at his first public appearance in Canada, when on Tuesday next he is the guest of the Toronto officers at a grand banquet, invitations to which have been accepted by the Minister of Militia and the General. No happier auspices could be chosen for the inaugural public meeting of the new Commandant and the officers of his command.

A valuable pointer was given by the Minister of Militia at the Belleville banquet, reported in our Regimental News, as to the means by which Government grants may be obtained for purposes of the militia. Of course Sir Adolphe Caron spoke largely in jest, because it is not to be supposed that he would yield to a demand, however urgent, for an expenditure not absolutely needed; but there not being money enough to satisfy all applicants, other things being equal the most importunate will generally be found to be the first served. A Minister desiring to find means of satisfying just claims upon his department may have his case greatly strengthened with his colleagues by the influence exerted by the Member of Parliament most interested. It therefore behoves the members of the Militia to see that their representatives in Parliament are kept properly posted and interested in the requirements of the force.

We have before this had occasion to make complimentary allusion to the enterprise of the Belleville officers, and we now take occasion to congratulate them upon the successful inauguration of the handsome home they have established for the Fifteenth Battalion. Col. Lazier has just cause for pride in the outcome of his many years of effort in this direction. His corps have thus been afforded opportunity for the social features which are always a powerful incentive to connection with volunteering.

Another bazaar is in progress in connection with the Victoria Rifles Armoury fund, and the enthusiastic lady friends of the gallant Vics are nobly helping to free their club house from the debt still remaining and rendering the maintenance of the institution more expensive than it ought to be. The bazaar will be beneficial to an extent greater than the money immediately realized, for it will increase the interest in the regiment and assist the officers in their endeavour to secure as recruits the best class of young men in the community. The Vics made a bold experiment in erecting their capacious armoury and club house, but the results have already shown their action to have been well advised and timely.

The Board of Visitors of the Royal Military College, revived and reconstituted after some seven years' inactivity, are very shortly to pay a visit to that institution. The members are all officers of large experience and practical ideas, and their conclusions and recommendations will be awaited with general interest.

*Apropos* of the remarks recently appearing in these columns on the subject of the funding of drill pay, it is interesting to note the continued satisfactory working of the adoption of this system in the