

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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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 department of militia is considering the possibility of reducing the price of Martini-Henry ammunition, and we hope soon to be able to announce that it will be sold at twenty dollars per thousand rounds, instead of twenty-four, as heretofore. This can only be done (if at all) by the stores taking it out of the service boxes and either using rough temporary boxes or making purchasers supply their own. Such a reduction of price would be a great boon to all our rifle shots, especially this year, when the D.R.A. programme necessitates all intending D.R.A. competitors to practice with the Martini Henry.

TALKING of ammunition, Capt. Howard, manager of the new Dominion cartridge factory, exhibited at the D.R.A. meeting solid drawn brass-case Snider ammunition. The cartridges were neatly made and

finished, but were considerably shorter than the service coiled-shell or paper covered shell pattern. Capt. Howard assured us that this in no way detracts from their accuracy, despite the manifest theoretical objection. We hope to have an early opportunity of settling the point by the only convincing argument—actual experiment. If they prove reliable in quality, if Capt. Howard can furnish them at a low price, and if he can perfect arrangements for receiving back and reloading the fired shells, he can drive the government make, which does *not* give satisfaction, out of the market. We will charge him nothing for this hint.

LAST week's *Gazette* contains another long list of promotions and appointments. Analyzing it we find that it includes twenty promotions, twenty-one new appointments, made up of one qualified lieutenant, four non-combatants, and sixteen provisionally appointed company officers, while twenty-four names disappear from the list, a greater proportion than usual of these, unfortunately, by death. This leaves the balance on the wrong side as usual, there being a net loss of three commissions. The sixteen officers whose appointments have been confirmed exactly equal in number the newly appointed provisional officers. Besides the appointments there is little of note—the regulations for the jubilee salutes are not exciting reading. The officers on the special list at headquarters seem to experience some difficulty in getting their exact status satisfactorily settled, as the wording of the order establishing the list is changed periodically.

THE following items affect officers holding or promoted to field rank: Major Peters, for fifteen years past commanding No. 2 troop of the first regiment of cavalry, and Dr. Burdett, surgeon of the Argyle light infantry for the last nine years, are both placed on the retired list; Major Carlisle succeeds to the command of the 19th Lincoln, made vacant by Col. Thompson's death; Quartermaster Griffin, of the 39th, receives the honorary rank of major on the completion of ten, and Surgeon Phelan the rank of surgeon-major on the completion of twenty years' service; in the 41st Brockville Rifles Capt. Cole, the senior qualified captain, succeeds to the vacant majority, and probably has the distinction of being the youngest field officer in the service; Captains R. Cox, 47th, and J. Rorke, 31st, receive their brevet majorities from the date of completion of ten years' service; Major Lucas succeeds Col. R. Rogers, who has held command for 20 years, and who saw service in '37-38 in the command of the Hemmingford Rangers; Dr. Speer takes the vacant surgeoncy of the 54th; and Lieut.-Col. Thomas Scott has retired from the command of the Manitoba Grenadiers.

WE have received a catalogue of military books published by Messrs. Gale & Polden, Chatham, Eng., which appears to be very complete, comprising everything a soldier in any line could want from manuals on squad drill to tactics and courts martial, and hints for every rank from private to field marshal. We have no doubt the publishers would be glad to send copies to any militiamen or regimental associations wishing to purchase any military books, and, a chief recommendation, the prices seem to be low.