

THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE

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A MATTER OF PRECEDENCE.

The last Militia General Orders provide that the kilted regiment being organized in Toronto will be known as the "48th Battalion (Highlanders)," and "will take precedence in the Militia next after the 47th 'Frontenac' Battalion." Why a special order of precedence should be prescribed, is not explained, and as our corps do not take precedence in the order of their numerical designations, Par. 48 of the R. and O., 1887, providing that "Corps of each arm take precedence according to date of formation," this Order seems to be irregular, as well as not quite fair. As the date of the organization of the 47th Battalion is 30th Nov., 1866, the 48th will take precedence of all corps organized since that date. Amongst these are Montreal's splendid kilted regiment, the 5th Royal Scots (organized 12th April, 1872), and another Highland corps, the 79th Shefford (31st May, 1872); the 21st Essex Fusiliers (12th June, 1885); the 43rd Ottawa and Carleton Rifles (5th August, 1881); the 53rd Sherbrooke Battalion (22nd March, 1867); the 54th Richmond Battalion (22nd March, 1867); the 57th Peterborough Rangers (3rd May, 1867); the 59th Stormont and Glengarry Battalion (3rd July, 1868); the 62nd St. John Fusiliers (22nd March, 1872); the 65th Mount Royal Rifles (18th June, 1869); the 66th Princess Louise Fusiliers (18th June, 1869); the 77th Wentworth Battalion (23rd May, 1872); and the 90th Winnipeg Rifles (9th November, 1883). As these corps all stand high in efficiency, it seems an injustice that a new organization should be given precedence of them.

The General Order referred to must surely have been issued through a misapprehension. The auspices under which the 48th Highlanders have been established are such that no special precedence seems to be called for other than can be earned in popular favour by the merits of the corps, which with a commanding officer of the sterling merit of Lieut. Col. Davidson, and a recruiting ground such as the Queen City, ought speedily to become equal to the best in Canada.

THE BEST ARTILLERY CORPS.

The inspection report showing the comparative efficiency of the several artillery corps in each branch—field and garrison—for 1891, is published in the last General Orders, with the signature and approval of the Major-General Commanding as well as of the Inspector of Artillery. Upon this report the prizes offered by the Dominion Artillery Association will be awarded, as follows:

FIELD ARTILLERY.

1st.—Cup presented annually by Lord Stanley of Preston, and \$25—Hamilton Field Battery	576.96
2nd.—Lansdowne Challenge Cup, to be held for the year, and \$40—No. 1 Battery, 1st Brigade.....	523.15
3rd.—\$25—No. 2 Battery, 1st Brigade.....	515.76

GARRISON ARTILLERY.

1st.—No. 3 Battery, Halifax Brigade.....	252
2nd.—No. 5 " "	248
3rd.—No. 1 " New Brunswick Brigade.....	247

The three prizes for the Garrison Artillery are identical with those for the Field Batteries. It will be noticed that the Hamilton Field Battery have a decided lead in their branch, and the detailed report shows them to be thoroughly efficient in every detail, and that their great lead is due to the specially creditable manner in which their officers and non-commissioned officers answered the questions put by the inspecting officer. It will be remembered that last year Hamilton was less than one point behind the leading battery, and had an abnormally low firing score. This year the one weak spot has been strengthened, and they win the honourable place at the top for which they have made such close running ever since they held it before in 1887. The battery taking second prize this year was first for the past three years in succession. The third battery belongs to the same brigade as the second. Major Van Wagner for Hamilton, and Lieut.-Col. Macdonald for Guelph, have good reason to be proud of their artillerymen, who have so well profited by the skilled instruction provided for them.

For the first time in ten years the first prize for Garrison Artillery does not go to the Prince Edward Island Brigade, and here again the answers to questions seem to have had most to do with determining the victory, Halifax being only one point short of the total of 120 awarded under this head, for the battery taking first place, and 7 points short for the battery taking second. New Brunswick, with two batteries third and fourth respectively, ran Halifax a pretty tight race, and No. 2 Battery P. E. I. was an excellent fifth, an indication of very little falling off in the state of efficiency which so long kept them at the head of the honour roll.

On the whole the reports show a very gratifying state of affairs with respect to our artillerymen's proficiency in the work prescribed for them—an indication that they deserve and are apt to make good use of any further facilities that the Government may be able to offer them for next drill season.