

# THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE

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REFERENCE was made last week to the rapid decrease this year in the strength of the volunteer garrison artillery in Ontario our remarks being called for by the report that the Toronto battery was to be the next victim. But the state of affairs in the other provinces is as bad as in Ontario, and the disbandments this year are only the latest of a long series tending in the same direction—the extinction of this branch of the militia force. During the past fifteen years the extinguishing process has been going on, in all the provinces, and the condition in which several batteries are allowed to remain at present shows that the end is not yet. If it is thought that the country cannot afford to properly maintain the present nominal strength, would it not be better to dispense altogether with some really useless corps of infantry, which do not know any drill and have no idea how to effectively use their arms, than to make all the reductions in the artillery branch?

PUBLICATION of a valuable series of papers on "Modern Tactics" is commenced in this week's issue. It will take several months to complete the series. The author, Capt. H. R. Gall, is at the present time delivering this series of lectures before classes of volunteer officers in England, and they have received warm praise from the most competent critics.

"Since," says Capt. Gall in his introductory remarks, "the Franco-German war of 1870-71 practically demonstrated the superiority of the education and training afforded in the German military schools, the study of tactics has become a prominent feature in our own military course. The following lectures furnish a concise and simple exposition of the principles and theory of modern tactics in war, in an elementary and connected form. They are addressed especially to officers of the auxiliary forces, and are meant to enable them to acquire a sound and practical knowledge of the subject, in a way that will, perhaps, be more interesting and less superficial than by a system of set questions and answers."

A STEP of rank has been conferred on Sir Fred. Middleton, consequent on his retirement from active service in the British army, and he is now Lieutenant-General. Sir Fred. has received a letter from the Duke of Cambridge, expressing regret that the rule of compulsory retirement should cause the loss of so valuable an officer. From Col. Cameron's appointment as official secretary to the Canadian representative on the fisheries commission, our readers will also be interested in learning that a step of rank has been conferred on him, consequent also

upon retirement, and he now goes on the retired list as Major-General. Col. Cameron had not quite reached the age limit, but he forms one of a number who have voluntarily retired in order to attain the step in rank, granting of which in such cases will cease with the year. Several daily papers have gravely informed their readers that Col. Cameron's advancement to Major-General is indicative of an intention to appoint him to the command of the Canadian militia!

THE Minister of Militia is at last paying the long expected visit to British Columbia. Sir Adolphe left last week, accompanied by Lady Caron and daughter, and Col. Walker Powell, adjutant-general. Lieut.-Gen. Middleton will join the minister at Winnipeg, on his return trip, and they will inspect the military properties there.

IT seems likely that the remnants of the colours of the Hundredth Regiment will be stored with the other curiosities in the military museum in this city. That is, we consider, the most fitting place for them, and it was there that we advocated placing them when the subject was first discussed. This little museum does not receive nearly the amount of attention it deserves. Probably nine-tenths of the residents of Ottawa are unaware of its existence, and a visitor never hears of it unless he happens to fall in with a military man who will show him the sights. Yet the place is very well worth a visit. The collection is in a small room on the east side of the drill hall, and is accessible at all reasonable hours of day light. In a short time better accommodation, in a more convenient place, will probably be provided for the museum curiosities.

BAKER PASHA is dead. He breathed his last at Tel-el-Kebir, on the 16th inst, succumbing to a fever contracted at Port Said, while on his way to Cairo. Valentine Baker, son of Mr. Samuel Baker and brother of Sir Samuel, was born in 1825. He entered the British army in 1848, served through the Kaffir war of 1852-3, and in the Crimea during the campaign of 1855. In 1860 he took command of the 10th Hussars, resigning in 1873. After extensive travels through Persia and on the borders of Afghanistan, he returned to England and published "Clouds in the East." In 1874 he was appointed assistant quartermaster-general at Aldershot. In the August of the following year he was tried for assaulting Miss Dickenson in a railway carriage, fined £500, sentenced to twelve months' imprisonment, and dismissed the army. In many minds there have always existed doubts as to the extent of his blameworthiness in this matter, but he bore his punishment bravely, and upon his release at once set out to live down the disgrace which had overtaken him. His record since has been brilliant and honourable. In 1877 he began a new military career in the Turkish Empire. He was employed in organizing the gendarmerie, and held the position of major-general in the Turkish army. In the August of that year he went to Shumla as staff military advise to the Turkish commander, and was conspicuous throughout the campaign on the Lom, and shortly afterwards he was given the rank of Pasha. The Prince of Wales was a staunch friend of the banished Colonel, and he and other friends made