

THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE

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Topics of the Week.

Militia General Orders (6) issued last Friday contain the regulations to govern the annual drill of 1890-91. They are with a few unimportant exceptions identical with those issued last year. The dates for the camps are given, but the locations are not yet stated. The three Ontario camps open simultaneously, on the 17th of June; those for Districts 5 and 6, Quebec, on the 24th June; District 7, Quebec, 1st July; District 8, New Brunswick, 24th June, and District 9, Nova Scotia, some time in September.

There is an air of permanency about the latest enterprise of the Queen's Own Rifles—the Q. O. R. of C. Revolver Association, nearly thirty members having already purchased revolvers and commenced practice. Great interest is reported to be taken in the affairs of the association. The rules of the organization have been printed in neat pamphlet form. The Association recommend the adoption of a .32-44 revolver, as that best suited for the practice. The maximum length of barrel is fixed at 7½ inches, and the minimum pull of trigger is to be three pounds. The practice will be at 25 and 50 yards. Paper targets will be used, with seven divisions, the bulls-eye counting seven points. The Queen's Own would naturally like to see similar associations formed in other cities, and to facilitate revolver practice they will furnish targets at a reasonable rate and send any information desired on application being made to the Secretary-Treasurer, Mr. W. S. Duncan, at 32 King street West, Toronto.

Since our last issue, Lieut. Manning and Capt. Busted have accepted the places offered them on the Bisley twenty, which is now complete; the last acceptance coming from the thirty-third man on the list. Pte. Burns of the Vics, who distinguished himself by winning the Governor General's prize last year and who refused his place on the team, now finds that he might have accepted, and it is not improbable that should a vacancy occur between now and the time of sailing he will be given another chance. The team sail on the 25th June, on the *Parisian*, and the N. R. A. meeting at Bisley opens on the 14th July.

A commendable effort is being made to increase the military spirit amongst the French youth of Montreal, who are blamed for not keeping their one French regiment, the Sixty-Fifth, up to the standard to which it should attain. *L'Etendard* says in a recent issue: "How much better it would be for the entire community if our young men, instead of passing their time in bar-rooms or at their clubs, would give a little more attention to military exercises. It is necessary, however, that the best men amongst us should give the example, and the sons of our first families should consider it an honour to belong to our military corps. While we have but one French-Canadian battalion in Montreal it should be the finest in all the Dominion. But we know of families who, instead of encouraging their sons to go and enrol themselves in our militia companies, where in perfecting their health and strength they work for their country, prefer to see them frequent clubs, loaf in saloons and become demoralized in every sense of the word. Let us follow the example of our English-speaking compatriots, who form numerous regiments, and let it not be said that they are in a better position than we to defend our common country. It would be something new to see the English surpass the French in the defence of this Canada of ours, for in the past the French-Canadians were always the first to serve their country against a common foe."

An attractive feature of the Toronto *Globe* of Saturday last was a liberally illustrated article on the Military Institute recently established in that city. The writer takes occasion to review the military history of Canada from the time of Wolfe, and coming down to the present has this to say of the Institute: "The establishment of a Military Institute in Toronto will facilitate 'reading and discourse' amongst military men. It will be the means of disseminating knowledge, will familiarise the members with the latest developments in implements of warfare, the latest products of military science, and the latest accomplishments of military strategy. It may, if successfully conducted, be even hailed as the advent of a new era in the history of our citizen soldiery. The Institute is not of a pretentious character, but it has been brought into existence to supply a long-felt want. It will, it is hoped, be the vital centre from which the military thought of the day will radiate to all parts of the Dominion. It is intended to be the trysting place where the officers, past and present, who have patriotic instincts will gather to discuss whatever influences, benign or sinister, may be operating upon the profession of arms."

The MILITIA GAZETTE follows many a member or ex-member of the Canadian militia to his temporary residence beyond the bounds of the Dominion, and we are naturally pleased to know that the news it conveys is so well appreciated as is shown by a letter received this week from St. Paul, Minnesota. The writer says: "Herewith I send my renewal subscription. I welcome the GAZETTE more than any other paper I take, and I would not miss the opportunity of reading in its columns about the old corps with which I have had seventeen years connection. I am much pleased to note the increased interest in military matters throughout the Dominion, and I hope this will continue, and that the MILITIA GAZETTE will share in the prosperous future."