

THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE

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Comment and Criticism.

WE owe an apology to Col. Maunsell for last week referring to his command as C company instead of A company.

THE Amherst *Gazette* quotes and endorses our remarks in a late number respecting the advisability of inspecting officers finding fault unhesitatingly where fault is deserved, and adds that the new D. A. G. of the Nova Scotia district, Lieut.-Col. Worsley, is already doing much to improve the force there by strict and impartial criticisms whenever needed.

AGAIN we would urge all our subscribers to preserve their files for binding, and they will be astonished to find how often they will refer back to their volumes for information on one point or another. We are constantly getting applications for copies to complete the first volume, but unfortunately one or two numbers are about exhausted, so that soon we will be unable to meet the wishes of our friends in this respect. Remember we publish a title page and index at the end of the year, and the size and appearance of the GAZETTE adapt it admirably for binding. Keep your copies.

COLONEL BACON is issuing notices asking for returns of winners of the several Dominion Rifle Association medals sent out to affiliated associations. As it is very desirable that a complete record should be kept of the disposition of these medals we would urge all

secretaries of associations to forward promptly the returns asked for, and if they find in last year's report blanks for previous years, they should look up their old records and help Colonel Bacon to secure complete returns. Let them attend to this at once and they will run no chance of forgetting it.

IN the general orders this week we find the losses and gains equal, there being ten of each; of the new appointments only one is qualified; and eight previously appointed officers are promoted. In the Dufferin Rifles Major McMichael has resigned and is replaced by Major Rothwell. In the 49th Dr. Farley attains the rank of surgeon on the completion of ten years' service as assistant. In the Royal Rifles Dr. Coote succeeds Surgeon-Major Parke, whom we are sorry to see leaving the service. In the 71st Quarter-Master Lipsett attains the honorary rank of Major, and in the Winnipeg Field Battery, Major Coutlee succeeds to the command, rendered vacant by Major Jarvis accepting a commission in the Mounted Police. All other appointments and changes are below the rank of field officers.

SEVERAL additions are made to the Regulations and Orders, 1883, this week, but they are all in the way of explanations of existing regulations. The first, referring to the physique of recruits, will be found difficult to carry out in practice, especially in rural companies, where enrollment in many cases resolves itself into a spasmodic effort at the last hour to fill the ranks with anyone that will go to camp. Hence we find men turning up with fingers missing, limbs more or less deformed, or sight impaired. How the regimental surgeons can reconcile it to their consciences to pass such at the medical inspections we are at a loss to conceive, but the fact remains that they are found in the ranks, to the annoyance of everyone in general, and the musketry instructors in particular. The state of mind of one of these overworked staff officers when he comes across a man physically unfit to hold a rifle to his shoulder or one unable to see the target, is pathetic. We can suggest no remedy for this violation of the regulations that would effectually reach the really responsible parties, the enrolling officers and the regimental surgeons.

LATELY reports of several inspections of city corps have been published in our regimental notes, and in most instances the old stereotyped formula has been adhered to. "The regiment received the inspecting officer with a general salute, and after he had ridden down the ranks, marched past in column, etc. It was put through the manual exercise by the senior major," and so on, in terms that all know by rote. We reprint an article, respecting the English forces, blaming the inspecting officers for much of this. Are our own D.A.G's. open to the same accusation? Do they tacitly discourage fighting drill, and insist upon marching past and machinelike excellence in the manual, acquirements that will make a big hole in the time annually allowed to us by government, or are the commanding officers afraid to leave the beaten tracks from want of confidence in their own powers? Whichever it is, the