

THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE

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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.

SUBSCRIBERS will not in future be sent receipts for moneys remitted for subscription fees. The number on each printed address label indicates the last issue for which payment has been received, and a change of this number will be equivalent to a receipt. Our friends are reminded that all subscriptions are payable in advance, so that the second year's subscription of any one whose label shows a less number than 68 is now due. We have to thank many for responding to this notice in past issues; but there are great numbers yet in arrears, and we would be greatly obliged if they will not let this matter escape their attention. Please strengthen our hands by remitting promptly.

Comment and Criticism.

THE difficulty of securing suitable rifle ranges in England for the volunteers and militia is yearly becoming greater, for not only does the value of land and density of population prevent the opening of new ranges, but existing ones are rapidly being condemned as unsafe and closed by the government, so that commanding officers and musketry instructors often find it impossible to carry out the existing regulations for the practices of their corps. Mr. Morris, the inventor of the Morris' tube, has succeeded in making short ranges safe by interposing an ingenious system of iron screens and earth embankments between the firing points and the targets, but this is chiefly suitable for firing at one fixed distance, preferably 300 yards; and now Lieut.-Col.

Hadden suggests the adoption of underground ranges similar to those used in New York. This is one point in which at least we Canadians have the advantage of the mother country—we can find plenty of good and safe ranges, and we should make the most of our privilege while we have it.

COLONEL NAIRNE, commandant of the school of gunnery, commenting in his official report to the D.A.G., R.A. upon the lessons taught by the Shoeburyness meeting, takes occasion, amongst other things, to remark that "the gun drill generally was better than last year, many of the defects then brought to notice having been corrected. I must, however, bring to your notice that there is a great tendency to incorrect laying, Nos. 1 preferring to make allowances for wind, etc., by laying off the target, and so violating the rules of gunnery, and impairing their shooting. In many cases I looked over the guns myself, and almost invariably found them laid with a fine sight, and, on questioning Nos. 1, I found they were unaware that the guns were sighted for a full sight. I recommend that the attention of adjutants and commanding officers be called to the necessity of instruction being given in laying, and the use of the scales; and, if approved, I will draw up a short precis of instruction for circulation. They will not search through the large drill books for that which, I feel sure, will improve their shooting, did they understand the necessity and the simplicity of it. I found Nos. 1 also very frequently ignorant of the principles attending the use of time fuzes. The value of the use of the instructional target should also be brought to the notice of commanding officers. I consider that the theoretical instruction above alluded to, sufficient to improve the shooting 15 to 20 per cent., could be imparted in three lectures of one hour each." In the report of Col. Lewis, camp commandant, Lieut.-Col. Armstrong's team is referred to in the following complimentary terms: "The Canadian artillery have certainly detracted nothing from the good name earned here by their predecessors, and I cannot speak too highly of their bearing and conduct."

"CHARLES WILLIAMS, Savage Club, London," the well-known special war correspondent, announces in the English service journals that he is preparing a magazine article on "Famous Marches of the Present Century," and that he would like to receive brief particulars from any officer who took part in a march characterized by rapidity or endurance. We wonder if Mr. Williams would consider the performances of our little force in the North-west last year worthy of a place in his record—they were certainly notable achievements, even if they were made by only a colonial militia.

WE reproduce the comments of an English service paper upon the proposition of a South African volunteer that England should take to London for the Queen's Jubilee representative bodies of troops from the several colonies. The article will be read with interest here in consequence of the talk last winter with regard to sending some Canadian corps to the jubilee; talk that we have heard none of for some time back. We think that if even transport alone could be provided by