

THE CANADIAN MILITARY GAZETTE.

(SUCCESSOR TO THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE.)

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MONTREAL, 15th JUNE, 1893

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NOTES AND COMMENTS.

This is pretty rich, and is probably as annoying to the gallant officer referred to as it is amusing to every one else: The Governor Generalship of Canada is the

most important appointment in the gift of the Crown, next to that of India. The military state of the Queen's representative is assisted by the Vice Royal Guards, a regiment which resembles in many ways the Foot Guards at home. It is a crack corps, and one of its officers, Captain Bate, of Ottawa, the headquarters of the regiment, was in London recently. Captain Bate served in the last Indian war as Commissariat General of the Dominion Army. He received his appointment while dressing for a ball. He had just shaved one side of his face when an orderly brought the General's letter of appointment, together with an intimation that the train for the front was about to start. Captain Bate rushed into a great-coat as he was, leaving his man to follow with his baggage. How curiously a familiar incident of the Waterloo ball may repeat itself, and how far a-field?

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The usually well informed journal, the Broad Arrow, is the sinner, publishing the above in cold blood. During the rum-pus of 1885 the staff at Winnipeg, more than 500 miles from the nearest fighting, by the way, consisted of five Lt. Cols., two majors, one captain and one lieutenant (G. Bates) the junior of the lot, who was as far from being "Commissariat-General" as he was from the field of battle. The chief commissariat officer at Winnipeg was Lt. Col. Whitehead. There was no commissariat officer with the general in the field. Captain Haig, R. E., was his acting quarter master general. At the time the Winnipeg staff was appointed the general was more than 1,500 miles from Ottawa.

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The Army and Navy Gazette publishes a letter from a field officer urging that paper to use its influence to induce the "powers that be" to introduce a cross-

belt and field pouch as part of the infantry officer's equipment. The sash to be retained for review order only, and the cross-belt and field-glass pouch to be worn on all other occasions and orders of parade; the cross-belt to be of plain buff or white patent leather, the pouch (or glass case) to be black patent leather. He also recommends that the whistle with its crimson cord attachment be worn attached to the above mentioned shoulder belt.

There is a movement in England towards organizing an efficient reserve in connection with the volunteers. Her Majesty's Birthday was celebrated by a parade of a large number of the retired members of the Queen's Westminster R. V., in the playground of the Westminster Endowed Schools. The objects which the Commandant, Col. Howard Vincent, C.B., M.P., had in view in organising this parade were—first, to keep up the communion between those now serving in the battalion and those who had retired from it; secondly, to promote esprit de corps; and lastly, to endeavour to ascertain how many men trained to arms for four years or more would be available in the event of the corps being called out for active service, to fill up any gaps occasioned by illness, or other unavoidable causes. The names and addresses of no less than 1,500 old members of the corps were ascertained, including not a few who joined in 1859. Among these names were those of the Duke of Bedford, Sir Reginald Palgrave, Sir William Harcourt, Mr. Freeman Melford, M. P., the Baron de Worms, Lord Farnborough, Lord Ebury, Matthew Arnold, and Lord James Buttler, some of whom are now dead. Would it not be a good idea to attempt to organize a similar movement in connection with the Canadian Militia? The establishment of the Victoria Rifles reserve is a move in the right direction and is well worthy of imitation.