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## THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE

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DOMINION DAY.

The fact that Dominion Day

LIEUT. COL. BACON.

What competitor at the D.R.A. does not know the energetic secretary --the man on whose shoulders falls the direction and responsibility of the great amount of detail work necessarily connected with the business of such an associa-It is at the annual tion. matches that he comes specially to the front; and it is to his zeal, systematic plans, and personal oversight that much of the success of recent meetings is undoubtedly due.

He was born and educated at Cambridge, Eng., and adopted civil engineering as a profession; was engaged on the South Eastern Railway during the heavy blasting operations at the Abbotscliffe and other tunnels of that railway, and was also employed at the Atmospheric Railway between Croydon and Epsom; when the Great Northern Railway was commenced was appointed resident engineer on it. He was next a contractor's engineer under Messrs. Peto, Brassey & Betts, on various works, and in 1854 came to this country and was employed

by the same firm on the Grand Trunk Railway until its completion. He joined the Victoria Rifles in 1861, and in 1862 was made Adjutant and then Captain of No. 1 Company, serving twice during the Fenian Raid of 1866, at Cornwall and St. Johns, Que. He was again on active service in 1879, and in 1867 was appointed Brigade-Major, 1st Brigade Division Military District No. 5. In 1878 the Montreal Brigade went to Quebec, on call, under command of Lieut.-Col. Fletcher, D.A.G. Colonel Fletcher being recalled to Montreal, the command of the Montreal force devolved upon Col. Bacon, who, on the 15th June, in front of all the troops on duty, received an address of thanks from the Mayor and Corporation of Quebec to the Montreal force for their alacrity in answering to the request of



LIEUT.-COL. BACON, Secretary Dominion Rifle Association.

Quebec for assistance. In 1881 Lieut.-Col. Bacon was transferred from Montreal to Ottawa, and performed the duties of Brigade-Major there until December 1883, when he was transferred to the store branch of the Militia Department. When in Montreal he, for a number of years, held the secretaryship of the P.Q.R.A. In May, 1885, he was elected secretary of the Dominion of Canada Rifle Association, and has acted in that capacity ever since. In 1889 he had command of the Canadian contingent to Wimbledon a team of exceptional shooting merit, and which brought back the much-coveted but seldom-won Kolapore trophy. We feel confident that we voice the sentiments of all shooting menin hoping that the Association may have for many years yet the services of its present energetic and capable secretary.

comes this year on a Friday should in itself be a strong reason for an attempt to bring together at Toronto a strong force of troops for field manœuvres. There is also to be be considered that special eclat should accompany this year's celebration of our great national holiday, it being the twenty-fifth anniversary of Confederation-the first quarter-century mark in our existence as a united people. On both these grounds, a military display is especially desirable this year. It would afford an excellent opportunity to get together a number of corps for three full days with very little interference with the business duties of the men, and at a time of the year when they can easily go under canvas and thus get excellent training in camp duties and routine. That the weather is usually very hot at such a time may be urged as an objection; but, on the other hand, should such be the case, active work could be suspended during the most heated

hours of the day and gone on with morning and evening -- the days being at their longest at this season. We commend this to the Major-General commanding and to the officers of the Toronto force. Montreal will have its military day next week; it will then be the turn of the western metropolis.

It is much to be regretted that the city corps in the Maritime Provinces seldom, if ever, take advantage of holidays to meet together at some central point such as Moncton – for field manœuvres or practical camp work. The country battalions get a certain amount of this in the annual camps; but the city infantry corps are never brought together for practice in what would be all-important if called on active service. Why could not something of the sort be arranged for the coming Dominion Day?