



DISMISSING WITH ARMS.

Editor CANADIAN MILITARY GAZETTE:

SIR,—Seeing that you have lately, through the medium of THE GAZETTE, settled the question of "swinging of arms" and "saluting with both hands," will you kindly settle one more matter, viz., the custom of saluting on dismissal of men with arms, which is in vogue in some companies of the Canadian regulars? Sec. 45 of Infantry Drill of 1893, the latest issued to the volunteer force, says: "On the word 'dismiss' the men will port arms, and, after a pause, shoulder arms and break off quietly." But some of our schools teach the men that after the port arms "they must face to the front, shoulder arms and salute by bringing the left hand across the body, fingers touching the sling," as the salute is made by soldiers with arms passing officers, etc. This is not laid down in the drill book. Is there any general order for the innovation, or is it somebody's "fad"? By settling this you will greatly oblige.

Yours, etc.,

Montreal, July 28, 1896.

CAMBRIDGE.

[The custom in question is practically a "fad" copied from some regiment in the Imperial Service, where any number of such things exist from notions of smartness, etc.—Ed. C. M. G.]

INFORMATION WANTED.

Editor CANADIAN MILITARY GAZETTE:

SIR,—Can you give me any information regarding a match shot at Ottawa during D.R.A. week in 1884 or 1885 in which the conditions were, standing, at 200 yards, in heavy marching order, and which match was won with the tidy score of 34 points; prize, silver tankard and \$50 cash? If you have not the record at hand, perhaps some of your old-time readers can enlighten me.

Montreal, August 17.

YOUNGSTER.

GOOD REASONS FOR FALL CAMPS.

Editor CANADIAN MILITARY GAZETTE:

SIR,—As a subscriber to your and our most valuable military paper, and as an officer of some 15 years' service, both in a crack volunteer corps in the Old Land and in one of our best rural corps in Canada, I wish to be the means (or to help to be so) to publish our many wants, and to bring these before the Government and the people through this paper. The fall camp is the question nearest our hearts just now, and I, having been in contact with a great number of officers in both No. 1 and 2 M. D., know well the desire of our most healthy and active soldiers, and that is that fall camps may be looked on as a regular thing. The reasons are so plain: September and October are the most beautiful months of the year, bright, healthy, dry, and, at the same time, not too hot for our thick tunics and clothing (for some reason not having fatigue serges, which would cost little and save the Government at least every other issue of tunics.) At nights, four years ago at Niagara, we were served with a double issue of blankets, which put an end to the looked-for cry of cold nights, not one complaint being made in our regiment, and to-day I have some 25 men still in my company who were out that year, and all speak of that camp as the finest of all. In conclusion, I feel sure

if our ever kind and thoughtful D.A.G. were asked he would be able to certify as to the truth of these few lines. Trusting you will take this subject up and push hard for every-year training,

I am, yours, etc.,

August 15th, 1896.

ALLISTER.

FALL CAMPS.

Editor CANADIAN MILITARY GAZETTE:

SIR,—There is much disappointment among both officers and men of this district, that the Department of Militia and Defence has seen fit to order out a few of the battalions for a fall camp. If the Department would consider for one moment the inconvenience it is going to be to the majority of the company commanders and men they would see that going to camp at this season at so short a notice is only degrading the force. Men in business can't get away at a few hours' notice, and what men they do get are of no use to the force, and the money spent on them is only wasted. If the camps are going to be in September let that be understood. Then all can be ready for that time. But this changing about is doing much harm, and disgusting the best officers and men in the force. From what I have heard and know I would advise the Government to cancel these camps this year and bring more battalions out next year.

Yours, etc.,

SENYRY, No. 1 Dist.

PATRIOTISM IN THE VATERLAND.

THE Germans seem to be remarkably patriotic. As the Reichstag refused to vote the supplies necessary for increasing the German navy, a public subscription was started for the construction of warships. German patriotism proved equal to raising the magnificent sum of £53 15s. 0½d. So the construction of warships was postponed until a few more pence were collected, and the money was invested. Recently, however, the trustees of the fund thought it unwise to allow such wealth to remain idle, and they petitioned the Admiralty to devote the £53 to the building of a war-vessel. With some irony, Admiral Hollman replied that the sum raised by "popular subscription" would not materially strengthen the navy, and that it had better be given to a marine hospital. After this noble example of self-denial and patriotism, the proposal that seaport towns and commercial centres of England should commemorate Her Majesty's long reign by building and fitting out a man-of-war, ought not to be abandoned. We must build more war vessels. Fancy the danger to British supremacy, when Germany has £53—to say nothing of the odd shillings and a halfpenny—to fall back upon.

RAPID PROMOTION.

THE retirement of another major of the Royal Scots is reported as impending—namely, Major C. H. Gostling, who very recently had to resign the adjutancy of the 6th V.B. Royal Scots (2nd Mid-Lothian and Peebles Rifles) at Penicuik, in order to join the 1st Battalion Royal Scots at Chatham as second in command. It is now stated that Major Gostling has sent in his papers to the War Office, with the view of passing into civil life. The vacancy thus about to be created raises Major C. W. S. Hallett, promoted to field rank only 14 months ago, to second-in-command of the 1st Royal Scots, and his transference from the 2nd Royal Scots at Mandalay to the home battalion. Capt. W. E. G. Login, who succeeded Major Gostling as adjutant of the 6th V.B. Royal Scots, will be given the vacant majority. Since June, 1895, the changes in field rank consequent on two promotions and five voluntary retirements number seven, which is shown, as compared with other regiments, to be exceptionally great.

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