

THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE

A WEEKLY JOURNAL DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF THE ACTIVE FORCE OF THE DOMINION.

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CORRESPONDENCE.

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COMMENT AND CRITICISM.

With this issue the MILITIA GAZETTE completes the first year of its existence, and grievously disappoints the many Job's comforters who have kept predicting that no service paper in Canada could survive for a twelve-month. Looking back over our work we feel that we deserve congratulations for the measure of success we have achieved, and have to thank our friends for the expressions of confidence and hearty goodwill which we are continually receiving—expressions of opinion which, while entirely unsolicited, have greatly encouraged us to renewed efforts. At the same time we are quite aware of many shortcomings on the part of the GAZETTE, which we hope time and experience will help to remove. It is impossible that a young paper, with a limited field from which to draw subscriptions, could cover all the ground possible to one with an almost unlimited field, but we have endeavored to make the most of our limited space and opportunities by confining ourselves strictly to topics of immediate and special interest to the whole Canadian force. For the coming year we promise several improvements, including a heavier quality of paper, and we bespeak for the GAZETTE the good offices of all our present subscribers, and a persistent effort on the part of our friends to swell our subscription list.

In a week or two we will issue a title page and index to the first volume of the GAZETTE, which will be of value to those who have preserved their files for binding.

The promotion of the Deputy Minister of Militia and Defence to a full colonelcy on the active list will appear in Saturday's official *Gazette*, and will be learnt with pleasure by the force, whether it is looked upon as a reward for the extra exertions imposed upon the department by last year's rebellion, or as an acknowledgment of the ability which Colonel Panet has shown since he was made permanent head of the department eleven years ago. Previous to this Col. Panet had been in command of the 9th "Voltigeurs de Quebec" for some years; in 1874 he was made a senator, and the next year was appointed to his present post, when he was obliged to resign his active command. As deputy minister Colonel Panet has always been most popular, his practical military knowledge specially qualifying him to judge the requirements of the service, and we, in common with the whole force, congratulate him on his well deserved promotion.

We understand that Dr. Bergin, M.P., has also been given the same rank. This is no more than should accompany his appointment as surgeon-general, which in the English army would carry with it still higher rank. During the rebellion the surgeon-general showed a great talent for organization, and the efficiency of the medical service was matter of general surprise and congratulation.

"We fear that many commanding officers of militia are still indifferent to the shooting capabilities of their corps, and begrudge the time spent in musketry. Formerly the instructor of musketry was looked upon as an unmitigated nuisance and one who materially interfered with the smartness of the corps. So long as time is devoted to the march past—an obsolete standard of efficiency—so long will the shooting of the militia continue to go year by year from bad to worse." All this *might* have referred to our Canadian militia, but as a matter of fact it appears in the *United Service Gazette* in an article on the English militia, and if there is cause for complaint there, where each battalion has its instructors, and where the men are not restricted to a miserable twenty rounds in the years they go to camp, what must be the verdict on our system—or to speak truly, want of system—of musketry instruction. It is not too late to amend the regulations for the annual camps in this direction, and we sincerely hope prompt notice may be taken in the matter. The same article goes on to suggest that as the military element in the House of Commons has received a considerable infusion of new blood it is hoped that the remarks made may induce some officer of the service not only to call attention to the matter but to insist on the want of system under which the militia trainings are now conducted.

There is a feeling here that more might be done in our own House of Commons to advance the interests of our force; a feeling that has