

St. George, the highest military decoration of Russia, in October, 1870; and from his own Sovereign the Grand Cross of the Order of the Iron Cross, March 22nd, 1871.

In an interview at Kingston last week Major-General Herbert said: "With regard to the Canadian militia, as a body, I consider that it is made up of a fine material. Men and officers alike appear to be full of zeal and soldierly spirit, and, although my acquaintance with it has so far been limited to the city corps, I have no doubt that the rural battalions will not detract in any way from my opinions as at present formed. The rural forces, I think, should go into camp yearly instead of once every two years, while volunteer corps would be benefited by more constant drill, especially as regards such field movements as skirmishing, attack, etc. The scheme for an annual mobilization at a central point of such troops in each military district as would be able to do so, would, I think, give a good opportunity for exercises and instruction in this particular. Kingston is splendidly situated for this purpose, as everything necessary, review grounds, supplies and water are right at hand. I do not intend to advocate any startling changes in the militia, but will aim to bring it to the highest standard possible by thorough and systematic work."

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

[This paper does not necessarily share the views expressed in correspondence published in its columns, the use of which is freely granted to writers on topics of interest to the Militia.]

AN APPEAL AGAINST THE SHOOTING OF PIGEONS

EDITOR MILITIA GAZETTE,—I trust you will allow me space to appeal to the gentlemanly spirit of the gunsmen of the Dominion against the great aggrivement and inconvenience that the members of the Dominion Messenger Pigeon Association and other societies of a similar nature are subjected to by the continual shooting down of the messenger pigeon during its flights.

Since the commencement of this season there have been a large number of first-class, reliable and tested birds fail to return home from distances that it was well known they were able to accomplish, and the only conclusion which can be arrived at is that the birds have come into contact with their old and much-to-be-dreaded enemy—a party of first-class shooters. The feelings of the homing pigeon fanciers on this matter can easily be perceived by the resolution adopted by the Ontario branch of the Dominion Messenger Pigeon Association at their last meeting, which is as follows:—

Resolved,—“That the members of this Association view with utter disgust and apprehension the fact that a large number of valuable messenger pigeons have failed to return from journeys which they were easily able to accomplish, and, as it is well-known that a great many pigeons are shot in the course of their flights, we hereby urgently appeal to the riflemen and gunsmen of the Dominion to refrain from shooting pigeons on the wing, and request them to look upon the flying pigeon as the property of private individuals and brother sportsmen, and to recognize that the messenger pigeon is of great value to society—military and civil alike”

I sincerely hope that the publication of this will have the desired effect.

Yours, etc.,

JAMES GAIRDNER, jr.,
Sec. O. B. of D. M. P. A.

Toronto, April 29, 1891.

PAY OF DISTRICT STAFF.

EDITOR MILITIA GAZETTE,—The troubles in District No. 9 are pretty well known by this time throughout Canada. The net result so far is the suspension of two staff officers. In company with many others connected with the militia in Nova Scotia, I heard of this with profound regret. Some reflections occur to me in this connection, and I send them to your journal for what they are worth.

The salaries paid in this district are too small. It must be remembered that Halifax has a large garrison of Imperial troops, and the officer in command of the militia must by virtue of his position be thrown much in contact with the higher officers of those troops, who are paid salaries commensurate with their duties. To my mind it is not possible for a D. A. G. to live in Halifax on \$1,700 per annum.

I would suggest that if pruning is to be done, it be thorough. The force in this district as much as in any other requires and deserves encouragement. The staff should, in all reasonable ways, strive to stimulate the zeal of those who at much loss of money have accepted commissions in the militia. Somehow or another it seems there is a very miserly feeling somewhere. Surely it can't be at headquarters at Ottawa. And yet we find the force in this district cramped and "sat upon" in many ways. Clothing is doled out as if it were precious as rubies. The unfortunate militiaman in the Lower Provinces reads with feelings of almost envy of the almost lavish expenditure on the more fortunate corps in the west. If the supineness in the District Staff has had anything to do with this state of affairs, I trust we shall in future hear no more of it, but that we shall be encouraged to do better work than ever in the future.

M.

QUERIES AND REPLIES.

"THE 10TH VETERANS."

EDITOR MILITIA GAZETTE,—In reply to Canada's inquiry in your last issue with reference to the 10th Veteran Battalion, there were at the time referred to 12 Veteran battalions raised between the year's 1802 and 1808, chiefly for garrison duty. Their name explains the material of which they were composed. They took precedence in the army district *after the line*—the West India and Ceylon Regiments, the Garrison Battalions, six in number, and a few other corps.

Yours truly,

B. H. VIDAL.

New Fort Barracks, Toronto, April 27, '91.

The committee of the *Societe de Tir* of Rheims, France, invite marksmen, all and sundry, of whatsoever nationality, to take part in the *Grand Concours International*, to be held in the environs of that city from the 13th of June to the 6th of July. The competitions are various, and the prizes are numerous.

In recent experiments at the Springfield armoury with the new .30 calibre magazine rifle, a velocity of 1,850 feet per second was obtained with a charge of 36 grains of the new Wedderin smokeless powder and a bullet of 250 grains. The pressure recorded was 40,000 lbs. Some equally as satisfactory results have also been obtained with a smokeless powder invented by Mr. W. B. Houghton, of North Adams, Mass. Indeed, the latter powder is considered by ordnance experts to be equal in all respects, and better in some, to any of the foreign brands yet tried in this country. Nitrate of cotton is understood to be the principal ingredient of this new powder.

Many a once suffering consumptive has had reason to bless that valuable preparation, T. A. SLOCUM'S OXYGENIZED EMULSION OF PURE COD LIVER OIL. Every druggist sells it, whilst the office of the company at Toronto, Ontario, can bear witness to the daily increasing demand for it.