

The Military Equipment Stores and "Tortoise" Tents Co.

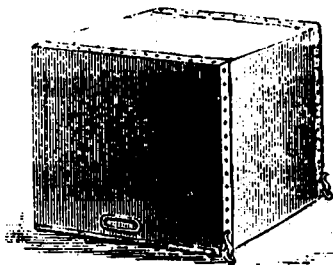
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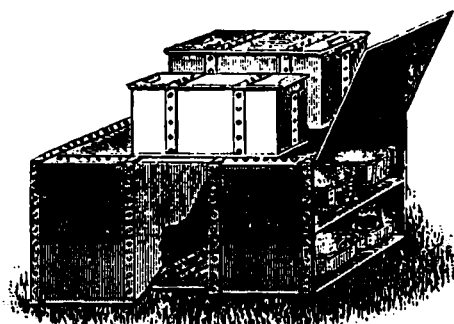
The "Tortoise" Hospital Tents—The most perfect outfit possessed by any country in the world in hospital tents was recently supplied by this company for the Argentine Government.

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to September. The conditions upon which the cup is granted stipulate that it is to go to the corps making the best showing in the year. But the September camps of 1896 and the June camps of 1897 fall both in the same financial year; and at first sight it would appear as if the awarding of the cup would have to be delayed until the inspections of next June are completed. Bearing in mind, however, the difficulties which would arise from inspections carried on at such diverse times, and possibly under different inspecting officers, Lieut.-Col. Otter, D.O.C., has determined to award the cup to the corps passing best last September, and to allow it to be competed for at the next June camp by the corps called out then. The 37th Haldimand Batt. led with 131.02 points, and it accordingly is the possessor of the cup until next June.

MILITARY ADMINISTRATION.

[By Justice.]

THE MILITARY GAZETTE comes to every corps with its usual regularity, and each number brings fresh prospects of improvement to the force and encouragement to its individual members. No longer is the cry of "Blue ruin" to be heard in the land. At no time in the history of the force was the outlook more bright, in my humble opinion.

In the first place, we have a Minister of experience, that experience which is said to teach, and who is leaving no stone unturned—apart from politics—to have the foundation properly laid before rebuilding the superstructure.

In the second place, the staff at Headquarters is surely more up-to-date and more in touch with the force of the country than ever before. The G.O.C. is a model and modern major-general—firm yet conciliatory, with a deep sense of the importance of his duties, and a thorough knowledge of how to perform them, a pleasing contrast to others who have preceded him.

Thirdly, though at times there is, unfortunately, some apparent

friction between parts of the force—some slight act of omission or commission to prevent the pulling together of the whole—there is, I think, a steady bringing of "light out of darkness"; and nothing can tend more to bring the clear light of day to bear on an important difference of opinion—the relative positions of permanent and other parts of the active militia—than the sound words of sense of the Minister, quoted in your GAZETTE of the 1st inst. as follows: "Let us have no feeling or no misunderstanding between these branches of the active force. Let them go hand in hand and help each other, and, if they do, they will be inseparable, and in that way the schools will make themselves such a necessity to the militia force of this country that they will be always maintained."

It has well been said that "we can no longer speak of the 'handicraft' of war," for war has become an art that must be exercised with mind, science, and sagacity, as well as resolution and energy, and requires accurate technical instruction and constant practice, and no forces that fail in any of these particulars can expect to equal a well disciplined and instructed army.

In the fourth place—one word more re the district staff of such a force. You have most thoughtfully struck the key note—the grievance of the staff—the almost criminal neglect on the part of the Government, of whatever political party, to provide a pension fund for the staff—in referring to Lieut.-Col. Houghton being retired without any remuneration for his long services to the country. It is a hardship, indeed, that these staff officers who have given their whole life's work to the Canadian militia should be thus treated. "Why one part of the force (the mounted police) should have provision made for them and not another is a matter that should be looked into by the new Government."

I am convinced that no Parliament would object to make provision to supply this pressing want. It is the law of nations now-a-days to provide, after an active, busy life, for the few remaining days of its servants.

Long may you continue to advocate justice to all ranks. Thus, and thus only, can the best interests of the force and its improvement be secured.