

THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE

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CORRESPONDENCE.

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COMMENT AND CRITICISM.

Our friends will be glad to learn that the notice which for a few weeks past stood at the head of this column, was productive of the very inspiring effect of largely swelling our subscription list, and so of insuring to the proprietors of the GAZETTE a happy Christmas. Some time ago the *Volunteer Service Review* remarked, referring to a former appeal of ours for support—"Our contemporary appears to have discovered what is nothing new on this side of the water, that whilst all volunteers are glad to have such a paper, very few care to have to pay for it." Now we think this altogether too sweeping an assertion, for we have received almost as much support as we expected, and are well satisfied with the progress we are making. If those who intend subscribing will only do so promptly; and if those who do not so intend, will be manly enough not to sponge on our generosity—both will help us much.

One word more. Many of our subscribers have given us unsolicited praise, and a few have frankly criticized us, and both classes of correspondents we wish to thank for these evidences of kindly feeling, and we would only add the hint that the best way each subscribing friend can help us now is by securing other subscribers. If each would procure one more it would just double our subscription list, and double our power for doing good work.

A correspondent this week makes a suggestion relating to the disposal of our Indians, or at least a portion of them, that is well worthy of consideration. Now that they have no buffalo to hunt, they are pretty much in the position of those "idle hands" of whom the old hymn prophesies ill. Private letters, from various points, describes them as unsettled and dissatisfied, and it is to be feared that this year's rising will make the problem of their support a difficult one to solve—certainly it is not as plain as it was this time last year. If then, a small proportion of them could be used as irregular scouts it might increase the cordiality of our relations with the whole of them, and they could be utilized as recruiting agents and instructors, if, at any time in the dim future, some such contingency as our correspondent thinks possible should require the raising of a much larger body of Indians for frontier defence.

Canadian Militia matters have never received so much or so favorable notice from the English service press as it is just now bestowing upon them, and for this satisfactory state of things the GAZETTE has no hesitation in claiming most of the credit. Of course the surprisingly effectual subjection of the insurgents last spring by a purely volunteer expedition was the prime reason for this favorable notice; but if our journal were not in the field as a medium of communication, the news would not be published in the English ones. The *Volunteer Service Gazette*, in its last issue, makes the following announcement: "Our readers will have noticed that we have recently given various items of news regarding our Canadian compatriots, and we shall continue to do so as our space admits, as it seems to us that as the Canadian Militia and the British Volunteers have the same common object for their *raison d'être*, the more they know of each other's doings the better."

Do not our English contemporaries think that when they find it worth while to extract a column or two from our pages they should give us full credit for the news? We have been punctilious ourselves on this score, the only *lapsus* we remember being when credit for a continued paper was omitted accidentally from one of the three issues in which it appeared.

The reports which reach us of our permanent infantry force, represented by the Infantry School Corps, are so uniformly satisfactory that we feel the country should be congratulated anew upon the enrolment of the three companies. Last week we gave a long account of General Middleton's inspection of "A" company at Fredericton, when the opinion pronounced was that "no imperial regiment of the line could have surpassed them;" and this week is presented an account of a similar inspection of "B" company, at St. John's, P.Q., which is briefer, principally because the weather prevented any manœuvring. We have not heard much lately of "C" company, but we know that they are hard at work making up for lost time in their normal occupa-