

# THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE

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## Notice.

The present volume of the CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE will not be completed until the end of the calendar year. This will be better than having the volumes end on the anniversary of the first publication; especially for those of our readers interested in the artillery and rifle competitions, as the detailed programmes, published mostly in the first half of the year, will not then appear in separate volumes from the results of the competitions, which take place in the latter half.

## Topics of the Week.

Increased departmental responsibility consequent on his well-deserved promotion to the office of Deputy Postmaster General, may it be said cause Lieut.-Col. Wm. White to relinquish the command of the 43rd Battalion, Ottawa and Carleton Rifles, which he has held since the organization of the corps, in 1882. The regiment will learn of this with regret, for Col. White has been a general favourite with all ranks. His command is one to which any officer might be proud to succeed, the Rifles being in a thoroughly prosperous condition.

Our suggestion of last week, that the General Officer Commanding should, instead of addressing militia corps upon their merits or demerits after viewing them for an hour upon parade, reserve his remarks until they can be based upon performances at the rifle ranges as well, has led a correspondent to refer us to Par. 436 of the Regulations and Orders for the Militia, 1887. Here is a quotation: "City corps are to fire their allowance before completing the annual drills, the target practice returns to be handed to the Inspecting Officer when the corps is inspected." This, however, is one of those rules apparently made only to be broken. It is a very common practice to have the official inspections before the target practice has been performed. This is a pity, for a strict observance of the rule would induce many commanding officers to be more careful about having every man attend at the rifle range, to there get some insight of the most important part of his military education.

These be stirring times with the militia at the Capital. For the past few days the daily papers have at column length been regaling their readers with details of a passage now in progress between the Lieutenant-Colonel commanding and the other officers of the Governor-General's Foot Guards. To emphasize their protest against certain of the Colonel's measures, the officers have almost to a man tendered resignations of their commissions. Whichever side is in the right, it is plain that the Colonel must be supported by the law; otherwise the officers, who with good reason are proud of their connection with the

Guards, would have found a different remedy for their grievances. At the risk of offending military traditionists, we must confess that we have no admiration for the application, in our volunteer system, of rigid Old World rules placing absolute authority in the hands of any one man in an organization not maintained by hire, but by the devotion of its members to the service. The monarchy of the commanding officer should be limited, not absolute.

News from Wimbledon, where the shooting men of the empire commenced on Monday last their great annual competition, shows that the Canadian twenty are doing exceptionally well, so far. In the Alexandra competition, no less than seven won prizes, aggregating £32. Up to the time of publication, two ranges of the first stages of the Queen's prize competition had been fired, and the complete Canadian scores, which have been cabled, show that our team have made good average shooting, twelve obtaining inners and over for the 200 and 500 yards ranges. The highest score was 62, made by Sergt. Short of the G.G.F.G., and Sergt. Miner of the 71st, and Lieut. Vaughan of the 5th Royal Scots, follow close with 61 each. In subsequent issues, just as soon as the information is obtainable, we will publish a complete list of the prize-winning scores of the Canadians, and also other details of interest concerning the meeting.

An engineering officer of the Militia Department has been despatched to Montreal's new rifle range, at Cote St. Luc, with a view to preparing it for use this season. This move has led to the announcement in several papers that the Quebec provincial matches will now of a certainty be held there. No official decision to that effect has been arrived at, however, and we believe that in view of the improbability of having in proper time sufficient accommodation upon the new range, the council are still considering the advisability of holding the matches in Ottawa this year. Should this be decided upon, there would undoubtedly be at the matches a large representation of riflemen from Eastern Ontario, who would be glad of the opportunity of securing at Rideau range valuable practice for the Dominion matches, an advantage which should not be lost sight of by those who may see objections to holding the Quebec matches on a range a mile outside the boundaries of the province.

Though his name was mentioned in this connection last fall, the appointment just announced, and not yet gazetted, of Major-General Donald Roderick Cameron to be Commandant of the Royal Military College, Kingston, has been the surprise of the season. When then spoken of he was on the active list, a Colonel in the Royal Artillery, and when he retired at the close of last year, in order to obtain the step of rank not to be henceforth granted to retiring officers, all jumped to the conclusion that there was nothing in the rumour of his proposed appointment to the College. He is no stranger to Canada, having served in the North-West troubles of 1870, for which he wears the C. M. G. decoration; and to this early service, responsible no doubt for his