

# THE CANADIAN MILITARY GAZETTE

ESTABLISHED 1885.

PUBLISHED AT TORONTO

ABOUT THE

1st and 15th of each Month

According to circumstances, the issue being delayed, or printed a few days earlier, in order to publish important information that would become stale if published in the succeeding issues.

DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF THE MILITARY FORCES OF CANADA.

**SUBSCRIPTIONS:**

Canada and the United States, per annum.....	\$2.00
Great Britain, Ireland and Postal Union Countries.....	10s. 6d. stg.
Single Copies.....	10 cents

Subscriptions are in every instance payable in advance, and the publishers request the favor of prompt remittance.

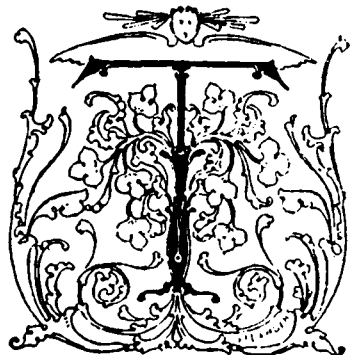
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All communications and remittances should be addressed to the editor, Montreal.

MONTREAL-TORONTO, SEPTEMBER 15, 1896.

**THE OTTER COMPETITION.**

THE publication in THE GAZETTE of the details of the competition inaugurated by Lieut.-Col. Otter, D.A.G., for the corps in his district was read with interest by military men all over Canada. Many have written and spoken to THE GAZETTE in cordial support of the scheme, which they consider one of the most important innovations yet introduced. It has revived

the talk in some districts of the disadvantages under which they labor in not having a D. A. G. who will display enough interest in the corps under his command to devise some plans for their general improvement. As one officer writes, "if our D.A.G. would only follow in Col. Otter's footsteps he could make a great improvement in this district." This talk is unfortunately too true. The great interest taken in military matters in No. 2 District is largely due to efforts put forth by Lieut.-Col. Otter—the long and untiring efforts, both as officer commanding the Queen's Own Rifles and his present district.

Several of our D.A.G.'s and other staff officers should long ago have been placed on the retired list. They are not only useless, but they actually stand in the way of the carrying out of plans for the increased efficiency of the corps under their command. Few, if any, of the officers under them would for a moment say one word that might lead to a change. These officers have all served their country long and faithfully. Their pay has been small and their expenses necessarily large. A heartless country makes no provision for their old age. Until they can retire with enough to live on we all prefer that things remain as they are. The appointment of capable brigade commanders would help matters materially, and with no additional expense to the public, while the incapable permanent staff could continue in office to do the clerical work.

**WE ARE MUCH DISAPPOINTED.**

THIS issue is necessarily devoted almost entirely to Dominion Rifle Association matters. It is by long odds the most complete report of the annual matches ever yet published. But it is

far from being what we intended. This is not owing to any neglect on our part. We made arrangements with Photographer Pittaway, of Ottawa, for a large number of photographs which were promised a week ago. At the last moment he telegraphed they could not be ready; some in fact he admitted he had not begun work on. It is needless to say we are more than disappointed. Next year we will take no chances. We hope to merit such increased patronage that THE MILITARY GAZETTE can afford to have an artist of its own on the grounds during the entire meeting.

**DISMISSING WITH ARMS.**

WITH reference to the enquiry from "Cambridge," which appeared in last issue, with regard to saluting when dismissing, another officer, who speaks with authority, writes THE GAZETTE: "There is no direct authority for paying compliments 'with arms,' as part of dismissing a squad or company. The instructions for the latter are correctly quoted by your correspondent, sec. 45 Infantry Drill, 1893. The practice of turning to the front with shouldered arms after dismissal (the left arm is not brought across the body with the Lee-Metford or Lee-Enfield rifle) originated, I imagine, with the desire to have simultaneous action in 'paying the compliment' to the officer dismissing the squad or company, as provided for in sec. 4 Rifle Exercises (Lee-Metford Rifle, 1892.)"

**THE MILITIA ESTIMATES.**

SITTING as Committee of Supply on Monday, the militia estimates were brought up. Mr. Fielding appealed to the House to pass the vote for the militia with as little delay as possible.

The appropriation was \$446,500. The items that go to make up that sum were pay for eight days' drill for field batteries and city corps in 1895-96, \$100,000; annual drill of 1896-97 for twelve days, all garrison artillery, city infantry battalions and independent companies, \$85,000; drill in camp of instruction, pay and allowances, all the cavalry corps, field batteries, engineers, and all the rural infantry corps, including pay and allowances of brigade staff at camps, \$237,000; rations, forage, supplies and contingent expenses of camps, \$69,500; field and garrison artillery competition, \$5,000; transport of officers, men, horses, camp equipment, etc., \$50,000.

Hon. Dr. Borden explained concerning this item that provision was made for the drill of the whole force. Only a portion of it, however, would be called out this fall, and the remainder would go into camp before July next.

Mr. Brodeur gave notice in the House of Commons that recognition be made to the volunteers of 1837-38 for the valuable services they rendered in the defence of their country.

**THE CAMP AT LONDON, ONT.**

THE battalions in No. 1 Military District, who are to put in their 12 days training, arrived at the camp ground, Carling's Heights, on Tuesday last. There are three battalions, viz., the Oxford Rifles, 21st Batt., of Essex, and the 30th Batt., Wellington Rifles. Besides these three regiments the men from Wolseley Barracks are also out under canvas. The Oxford Rifles are 290 strong or 46 men short of full strength, besides two officers. The commanding officer is Major Hegler, Ingersoll. The 21st are up to full strength, but four officers are absent. Lieut.-Col. Beattie is in command. The Wellington Rifles, which comprise ten companies, are up to full strength. Lieut.-Col. White is in command. There are also a number of attached officers from Wolseley Barracks. All that is now required to make the camp a success is good weather.