

THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE

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CORRESPONDENCE.

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COMMENT AND CRITICISM.

The militia authorities state that the ammunition question has been settled satisfactorily for the present season. Waltham Abbey powder of the proper grain and brand for Snider cartridges has been imported, and, having been found, under rigid tests, to be in every way a first rate article, is being made up into ball ammunition at Quebec. The ammunition made from this powder will be reserved for sale, and will be supplied, to all individuals and rifle associations purchasing, and, as the seven thousand pounds weight of powder procured will suffice for the season's consumption, marksmen throughout the Dominion can depend upon having both reliable and uniform ammunition. As the failures and experiments of the past and the investigations of the cartridge commission may be expected to have revealed all the defects in former issues, it should not be expecting too much to hope this season for ammunition as perfect as any we have yet fired, for the Quebec made cartridges are certainly very neatly finished.

Meantime arrangements have been made for the supply of home-made powder, under a new and strict specification, for manufacture into the cartridges required for this year's supply to the militia force, so that we shall have an opportunity of comparing the two makes of

powder. The Department of Militia express their confidence that a perfectly satisfactory powder can be manufactured here as successfully as in England, as well as their determination to spare no pains in procuring a thoroughly reliable article.

We publish to-day a couple more letters on the subject of the permanent corps, expressing diametrically opposite views, and would merely say that we can neither understand nor sympathize with any feeling of jealousy towards these admirable institutions. We have always looked upon them as the core and nucleus of our whole system, and if the day should come when they must be regarded as being separate institutions or having separate interests it will be a bad omen for our little force.

The last general orders show a large number of changes, almost wholly confined to the grades of company officers, the appointments of Majors Burnet of the 35th and Hughes of the 45th to substantive majorities, and the resignation of Major Emond, 86th, being the only exceptions. We are glad to see that twenty-eight commissioned officers and a larger number of non-coms. have obtained certificates at the several schools, and only wish the number had been ten times as great—there would be places for them. This is shown by the fact that of the twenty new appointments only two are qualified. Twenty-three names have disappeared from the list, leaving a net loss of three officers. Besides these gains and losses there are eleven promotions.

We give in another column the draft of a constitution for a small rifle association, which has been found to work well for one vigorous institution, and will, we think, be found to comprehend all that is absolutely necessary for any new local or regimental associations that may be formed this spring. It will be seen that almost unlimited power is delegated to the council, and that very little is formulated respecting the work of the association. This is done so that the difficulty of securing attendance at general meetings may be obviated and so that the arrangements may be varied from time to time as may be expedient, and any definite rules for conducting shooting may come under the head of by-laws rather than be constitutional.

The list of mounted police officers which appeared in the official *Gazette* of the 10th April was reprinted in that of the 17th, and in the later list we find the following changes, presumably corrections of that first issued: Superintendent Dean's first name is Richard, not Robert, and Inspector George Buchanan Moffatt's name should have followed that of Inspector Joseph Howe, with the same date, 1st September, 1883, attached to it.

Col. Bacon has just received authentic information to the effect that the Calcutta volunteers will be represented this year at Wimbledon by a strong team from that portion of the Indian Empire.