

# THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE

A WEEKLY JOURNAL DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF THE ACTIVE FORCE OF THE DOMINION.

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## COMMENT AND CRITICISM.

The regulation which appears in this week's general orders, instructing commanding officers to report the names of all officers over the ages laid down in paragraph 75 of the "Regulations and Orders" looks as though the Department intended to compel the retirement of all over the prescribed ages. There is no doubt that if this is done it will be for the advantage of the force, both by bringing younger and more active men to the front, and by creating a healthy circulation in the ranks of the officers. There will be many cases where the service will suffer by a stringent enforcement of the rule, where men above the age retain the vigor and enthusiasm of their younger days, and are in every sense desirable officers, but it will be necessary to sacrifice these few for the good of the many. When the age regulations were introduced some months ago they met with general approval, and a strict interpretation of them would also be received with favor.

While we will miss many a familiar name from the active list and many a familiar face at our annual camps, we rest satisfied that the long and varied experience of many of our veterans will not be lost to the force at large, nor to the special battalions that have grown into prominence, and some of them into being, under a fostering hand—old associations are not so easily severed and those who will rise to take the place of the "shelved" will no doubt look to them for words of

encouragement and assistance in numberless ways to enable them to tide over difficulties and entanglements that are sure to arise sooner or later in all human institutions, and that they will not look in vain is almost a foregone conclusion. In all walks of life new men are always to be found fully capable of taking the helm when their turn comes, military life being no exception to the rule, and it must be remembered that a new shuffle of the cards often results in the turning up of trumps.

The old friends of the Stormont battalion will find the personnel of the staff greatly changed by this week's orders. That Lieut.-Col. Bergin should retire from the command may be accepted as a sign that the Surgeon-Generalship, which he now fills temporarily, will be continued permanently, and the whole district as well as the battalion is to be congratulated that, as they were obliged to lose so popular a commander, they should have secured in Lieut.-Col. Bredin another officer likely to maintain the regiment in its former efficient state. Both majors are new staff appointments, and Major McLennan is apparently new to the force. The Quarter-master has taken a company, and Major Davey has taken the Quarter-mastership, while Capt. Smart, who was formerly Adjutant, but who lately took command of a company, will be missed from the next camp, as he has retired from the battalion.

As there is considerable anxiety on the part of possible competitors to know what ammunition will be used at the D. R. A. meeting this year, we are glad to be in a position to assure all that English made cartridges (mark IX) have been already purchased by the association in sufficient quantity to provide for all the matches, and that this make only will be sold on the ground. We may add that there is no further supply of English ammunition here, nor, so far as we can learn, at any store east of Winnipeg, except some old stuff (mark IV) at Kingston, so that only Canadian make can be procured for practice.

Rightly or wrongly a very strong prejudice has arisen against the Snider ammunition manufactured by the Dominion Government; a feeling that time does not appear to be dispelling; and the Militia Department proposes to appoint a commission to investigate into the whole matter and report on the causes for any inferiority, if such is found to exist. We hope to see as members of the Commission officers, who are thoroughly acquainted with the theory of explosives and projectiles rather than shots.

The match for the Rajah of Kolapore's cups, the Wimbledon event in which Canadians are most particularly interested, has been decided this year adversely to our team, and for the first time we have lost the £80 which go to the best score of a visiting team. We were beaten by the Mother Country, Guernsey and Jersey, in the order named. There is no use in being either disappointed or discouraged by this reverse, which might have occurred under any circumstances, while on this occasion our