

THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE

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Halifax joins in praise of the '88 Quebec ammunition, a letter received by the MILITIA GAZETTE from a crack shot of that city stating that a trial has resulted in general satisfaction.

Lieut.-Col. Lucius Poitras, the officer commanding the 64th Batt., Beauharnois, since 1886, died on Friday last, and was buried at Valleyfield with military honours. Col. Poitras was Chief of Police at Valleyfield, and also Chief of the Fire Department. He had been ailing for some time from disease contracted by hardship in the States when serving with the Southern army during the war.

In the House of Lords last week, Lord Sudeley having questioned regarding the defences at Esquimalt, the Colonial Secretary replied that the Government was awaiting a reply from the Dominion Government to a despatch of June 13, asking whether Canada assents to the proposed arrangement. If the answer is in the affirmative the Imperial Government will at once proceed with the defensive works. The guns are in a very forward state.

Upon his return from camp at Niagara, Col. Otter held the ordered investigation into the charges of carelessness at the Garrison Common ranges on the 9th of June. His report has been sent to the Militia Department, but no action has yet been taken concerning it, and the ranges yet remain closed. That is, upon complaint the justice of which has not yet been admitted by the department, the ranges have been closed for nearly a month, out of the four constituting the season of activity in shooting.

Lord Stanley has intimated to the Secretary of the Dominion Rifle Association his acceptance of the post of Patron of that body, held from the first by his predecessors in the office of Governor-General. His Excellency will also generously continue the annual gift of five hundred dollars, constituting the prize fund for the Governor-General's match, in which the competitors are the sixty who win the highest places in the aggregate of each season's D. R. A. competitions. Being a military man himself, it is expected that Lord Stanley will take a lively personal interest in the force in Canada.

The first number of *The Dominion Illustrated*, the promised appearance of which we hailed with pleasure some time ago, is to hand this week, and a creditable specimen it is. The illustrations, mainly of Canadian subjects, are of a high order of merit, and the letterpress makes delightful reading, an augury that the literary element is not to be neglected in attending to the pictorial. To quote from its own in-

troductory, "the object of the paper is to illustrate, by pen and pencil, the resources of the Dominion of Canada; to assist in its growth; to promote its prosperity; and to help the spread of its good name both at home and abroad." We wish *The Dominion Illustrated* success in its laudable mission.

We are pleased to note the appointment of Mr. R. McVittie, the world-famed rifle shot, as the sole agent in Canada of the Field Martini-Henry Rifle Company, and take this opportunity to call attention to his own announcement, which appears in our advertising columns. When a man with Mr. McVittie's record speaks or writes upon rifle shooting, his observations are well worthy of attention and consideration. Such has been the case in the past with his "Hints and Advice on Rifle Shooting," a useful booklet, of handy size for the pocket, and which has been in considerable demand ever since the first issue. The work thoroughly covers the ground, dealing with the choice and care of a rifle, the tests of ammunition, safest positions, method of sighting, the effects of light, wind, atmosphere, etc., and ending with a valuable chapter on team shooting. Such a work as this ought to be in the hands of every shooting man.

Lord Wolseley in an address delivered a few days ago, struck another blow at military traditional institutions when he declared with emphasis that "if the time devoted to the eternal polishing of harness were devoted to instruction in the technical use of arms and field training, both artillery and cavalry would be more useful in the day of battle. Instead of the inspections taking place in a back yard or in a small field, they should take place on the ranges. Instead of inspecting the infantry on the Queen's parade, they should be taken to Cæsar's camp, where their use at targets might be tested. Both battalions and batteries could be best tested at the ranges." Hear, hear! we say. Apply the principle to Canada. Have our General Officer Commanding express his opinion of the Militia after he has seen them at work upon the rifle range, instead of after they have spent an hour or so, dressed up to kill—in a less useful sense—parading on the most level spot to be found in the neighbourhood.

The death of General Sir Duncan Cameron, G.C.B., is announced. Sir Duncan, who was the son of Lieutenant-General Sir John Cameron, K.C.B., was born in 1808, and entered the army in 1825. Serving throughout the campaign of 1854-5, he commanded the 42nd Foot at the battle of the Alma, and the Highland Brigade at the battle of Balaclava, and received the medal with three clasps for the siege of Sebastopol, etc., where he took part in the assault on the outworks. For his service during the war he was made a Companion of the Order of the Bath and an Officer of the Legion of Honour. He was appointed colonel of the 42nd Foot in 1863, and in the same year proceeded to New Zealand in command of the forces there with the rank of Lieutenant-General. In 1864 he was made a K.C.B. He was governor of the Royal Military College at Sandhurst from 1868 to June, 1875. For several years he has been colonel of the Gordon Highlanders. Sir Duncan was appointed Major-General in 1858, Lieutenant-General in 1868, and General in January, 1875.