

THE CANADIAN MILITARY GAZETTE.

(Successor to the Canadian Militia Gazette.)

[ESTABLISHED 1885.]

Published at Montreal on the 1st and 15th of each month.

DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF THE MILITARY FORCES OF CANADA

SUBSCRIPTION:

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 favour of prompt remittance.

Unpaid accounts are subject to sight draft.

Remittances should be made by post-office order or registered letter. No responsibility is assumed for subscriptions paid to agents, and it is best to remit direct.

The date when the subscription expires is on the Address Label of each paper, the change of which to a subsequent date becomes a receipt for remittance. No other receipt is sent unless requested.

Immediate notice should be given of any delay or failure in the receipt of the GAZETTE.

No attention is paid to anonymous communications, but the wishes of contributors as to the use of their names will be scrupulously regarded.

All communications and remittances should be addressed to the Editor, P.O. Box 387, Montreal.

VOL. VIII. MONTREAL, 15TH MARCH, 1893. No. 6

The Militia Estimates 1893-4.

Instead of increasing grants for military purposes during the financial year 1893-4, the estimates recently submitted to Parliament show a decided and unwelcome reduction. The figures for 1892-3 were \$1,271,900, while those for the coming year are \$1,256,382. The decrease is due to proposed reduction in the following items:—

Salaries and wages of civil employees.....	\$ 5,825 00
Military properties, works and buildings.....	5,500 00
Dominion Cartridge Factory.....	10,000 00
Military Institute, Toronto.....	100 00
	<hr/>
	\$11,425 00

Against this, there are increases in

Pay of staff, permanent corps and active militia..	\$4,050 00
Sundry expenses.....	1,857 00
	<hr/>
	\$5,907 00
Showing a net reduction of.....	\$15,518 00

The total authorized expenditure is:—

Pay of staff, permanent corps and active militia, including allowances.....	\$ 575,782 00
Salaries and wages of civil employees.....	50,000 00
Military properties, works and buildings.....	91,000 00
Warlike and other stores.....	66,700 00
Clothing and necessities.....	62,000 00
Provisions, supplies and remounts.....	179,600 00
Transport and freight.....	68,500 00
Grants in aid of artillery and rifle associations and bands.....	35,800 00
Miscellaneous and unforeseen contingencies....	15,000 00
Royal Military College of Canada.....	70,000 00
Dominion Cartridge Factory.....	40,000 00
Monuments for battlefields of Canada.....	2,000 00
	<hr/>
	\$1,256,382 00

The figures are disappointingly small; we had hoped that a substantial increase would have taken place instead of a decrease. The Government are evidently determined to make no effort to remedy the cancer which eats the life out of the rural battalions—insufficient pay. This refers only to second and third year men—not recruits; fifty cents a day is ample for men who have to be taught everything. But after

the experience of the first year, they are more valuable to the country, and should get—when attending camp, and away from their work—some additional remuneration. There is an element of business in the matter, and it should be looked at in a business-like way.

The reduction in the vote for the Quebec Cartridge Factory must surely be but temporary; the output of ammunition now is sufficient to supply little more than the current demands for practice purposes, and the coming season promises to be a very busy one in this respect on account of the practical abolition of the Snider and the interest all will feel in shooting with the Martini. It is probable that the production of Snider ammunition will now cease, or nearly so, and that at a later stage ample provision will be made in the Supplementary Estimates for a larger out-put of Martini cartridges. It is to be hoped that the authorities will from this time out, keep in store a large reserve stock of the new ammunition, for use in case of emergency; this is especially necessary in the District centres west of Lake Superior.

The withdrawal of the \$100 from the Canadian Military Institute is a paltry piece of business, on a par with the action of the Quebec Government in refusing to assist its own Provincial Rifle Association. Surely the new Minister will not permit his first batch of Estimates to be sullied by the withdrawal of a trivial sum from an institution which is doing better work for the higher interests of the forces than has been effected by any person, club, or association in the Dominion.

The grant of \$2,000 for monuments on our battlefields is a most praiseworthy one. It is anything but creditable that scarcely a single monument exists on Canadian battlefields to indicate to our children or to the stranger how the American invader was beaten back, not once but a dozen times, by British troops and Canadian Militia in the last war. The Niagara peninsula is especially rich in historic memories, and it is to be hoped a beginning in monument-raising will there be made without delay. To the Lundy's Lane Historical Society especial praise is due for their zeal and perseverance in urging on this matter.

The Efficiency Returns.

The *Canada Gazette* of the 25th Feb. completes the returns of comparative efficiency for the Infantry of Districts 5 to 11 as well as for the Cavalry of the whole Dominion. We have much pleasure in congratulating the Sixth Fusiliers of Montreal, not only for winning the trophy kindly presented by Sir Donald Smith for the most efficient Corps in No. 5 District, but also in ranking the highest among all the Infantry Corps of the Dominion. Its percentage of marks (119.5-8) is a very high one, considerably in excess of the second and third on the list, which are respectively the 63rd and 66th Batts., both of Halifax. The high rank obtained by the former Corps (63rd) apparently confutes the reports of internal dissension which were current last summer; if they existed they certainly did not effect the drill and appearance of the Battalion at inspection. The small but efficient St. John Rifle Company stands very high with 104 points; in fact the whole ten corps included in districts 8 and 9 show the high average of 94.5 points, an exceptionally good showing, considering that six out of the ten are rural corps. In Montreal the 3rd "Victorias" come next to the Sixth, with an average of 93½ points, followed by the Fifth "Royal Scots" with 83½; the latter figures would however have been very greatly increased had it not been that, through some oversight, the target practice returns were not sent in in time and the battalion consequently does not obtain a single mark for this branch. This is much to be regretted.