

A fortnight ago we published an item respecting the Toronto rifle range, expressing the indignation of the Toronto militia at the threatened diversion of a portion of it to other ends. Further information goes to show that this was a purely local view of the case, and that something is to be said on the other side. In the first place the range belongs to the Provincial Association, representing no locality, but all the military districts in the province equally; secondly, the Toronto riflemen enjoy its use subject to the Association's pleasure, and not by virtue of any right of their own, and lastly the exhibition authorities do not propose permanently to occupy the ground desired for a horse ring, but to fence it in temporarily each year while the exhibition is in progress during part of September. Had we understood this aspect of the case sooner we certainly should not have printed our paragraph in the shape in which it appeared.

We do not pretend to much editorial experience, and we may therefore be somewhat ignorant of journalistic amenities, but we think, subject of course to correction, that, when the *Ottawa Evening Journal* borrowed from us a photo-type of the North-west medal made specially for our columns from a pen and ink sketch by our editor, we deserved better treatment than the announcement that the *Journal* presented its readers with *steel engravings* of the medal, and that "the *cuts* also appear in the current number of the MILITIA GAZETTE." We are led to this remark by the fact that we had previously occasion to remonstrate with the *Journal* for appropriating some of our comments, including the editorial "We," and giving them to its readers as its own editorial opinions.

We have been sent for publication a strongly worded letter protesting against members of the regiment of Canadian artillery or cadets of the Royal Military College becoming members of the Shoeburyness team on the ground that they are virtually regulars and that their incorporation in a *quasi* volunteer team is a fraudulent proceeding. We may inform our correspondent, as well as the public, that the position of affairs is perfectly understood by the National Artillery Association; that the Marquis of Lorne explained the standing of these corps before the first team was sent and that their right to participate was unhesitatingly conceded, that the same thing was perfectly understood when the second and last team was sent; that the English team, when visiting Canada, had an opportunity to judge of the status of "A" and "B" batteries, and if for no other reason the English volunteers could not claim ignorance as to the true state of the case; and that such corps as the Woolwich volunteer artillery have equal, if not greater, facilities for practice in the competitions on the programme than even our schools, to say nothing of the bulk of our volunteer artillery. Under these circumstances our correspondent will see that the publication of his letter becomes superfluous.

We have read with much interest a sketch of the progress of A Battery R.C.A., "From the St. Lawrence to the North Saskatchewan," which has lately been published in neat pamphlet form, and is an account of the trip of that corps from Quebec to Fort Pitt, told by Alexander Laidlaw, lately a member of the battery. The story is given in a simple unpretentious way that makes it interesting, notwithstanding some lapses in style and grammar, and although it does not throw much new light on the events of that exciting time, it has the merit of not offending by abusing either the authorities or the other corps, and there is no criticism of the campaign; omissions for which we cannot be sufficiently thankful. His descriptions of the marches over the gaps, with their attendant discomforts, of the fights at Fish Creek and Batoche, and of the trip up the Saskatchewan to

Battleford, are the most graphic portions of his tale. In many respects he bears out our "Noodle" in his condemnation of the present equipment, describing how the men invested in tuques at their own expense while on the railway, and praising these quaint articles as the most commendable headdresses, whilst he correspondingly abuses the paste-board forage caps; he calls his sword bayonet "a confounded nuisance" (in spite of the General's recommendation to arm the whole North-west force with them), and tells how Mr. Rivers left his sword and belts in a thicket at Fish Creek, finding that they were continually anchoring him to the bushes. The only remark he ventures in the way of a suggestion is that a few hand grenades out of the Quebec stores would have proved useful in both engagements. A narrative that covers forty pages of print without any further advice to the authorities is, if only on that account, a remarkable production for Canada.

Major Macpherson's book on military law has at length seen the light and makes up for its long delay by its very attractive appearance. We commend it to all officers of the active force and are glad to learn that the edition is being rapidly taken up.

Lieut.-Col. Wyndham, 12th Batt., is again in town pushing his excellent scheme for a military colonization company in the North-west.

#### THE PROMOTIONS IN THE SIXTY-SIXTH.

Lieut.-Colonel Macdonald, who has lately succeeded to the command of the 66th Princess Louise's Fusiliers, has a long record as a volunteer. He was one of the first who signed the roll of the Scotch company organized at Halifax in 1859, and served as a private in that company for three years, when he was appointed captain and adjutant of the 1st Colchester. Thence he was transferred to the 13th Halifax, in which corps he served until confederation, when a new militia system was established. On the formation of the 66th in 1869 he was appointed captain and adjutant, and in the same year was made brevet major, succeeding to a substantive majority in 1872. In the same year he was appointed paymaster of military district No. 9, in which capacity he served until that office was abolished in 1878, when he was retired with the rank of honorary lieut.-colonel; he was then unanimously nominated as major in his old corps, the junior officers all consenting to his coming in over their heads. In 1885 he went to the North-west as senior major of the Halifax Provisional Battalion. He was in command of the right wing of the battalion, which comprised the 63rd and artillery, at Swift Current, the base line depot, and was removed with his detachment to Moose Jaw when the base line depot was removed. Being senior officer at the station, he had charge of the base line wherever Major-General Laurie was absent. In Colonel Macdonald's detachment there were no men of his own battalion, but judging from the favorable reports written home, there can be no doubt but that he was a most popular as well as efficient officer. Now that he has taken over the command of the 66th, he will doubtless keep up its reputation as one of the finest regiments in the Dominion.

Major Humphrey, who becomes senior major, joined the battalion in 1869, and served through the various grades to his present position, and is a popular and painstaking officer.

Major Curren joined a year or two later, and is probably one of the best drilled officers in the Dominion. Much of the success of the regiment in the past has been due to the popularity and efficiency of the staff, and no man in the regiment but feels that this promotion is most deserving and satisfactory. He has been adjutant of the regiment since 1878, having been previously in command of a company, and was gazetted to a brevet majority on the 25th February last. He is an excellent rifle shot, and has on more than one occasion represented his battalion and province at the D. R. A. matches here, besides being adjutant of the Wimbledon team of 1881.

The new adjutant, Capt. Weston, comes in well recommended and with a good name as one of the best drills in the Halifax battalion, and there is no doubt but that he will ably maintain the character of the regiment for drill and discipline. He is senior captain in the regiment, and like Major Curren, is an enthusiastic and successful rifle shot, having gone to England on the Wimbledon teams of 1878 and 1881. His cheery face has also been seen in Ottawa as a member of the Halifax club's curling team, competing for the Governor-General's prizes.