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THE CANADIAN



Military Gazette

Successor to the Canadian Militia Gazette.

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MONTREAL, SEPTEMBER 1, 1895.

Notes and Comments

Major General Gascoigne, the commanding officer of the Canadian Militia, arrives in Canada by the Allan Line SS. "Parisian" on her next trip, some three weeks hence. Judging from his record in the army, the new General will be one of the most popular commanders our force has ever had.

The Canadian Militia and the Dominion as a whole have reason to be proud of last week's magnificent shooting at Ottawa. No country in the world, with even twice the popularity of Canada and with a much larger proportional expenditure on military training, could

turn out anything like the number of thoroughly expert marksmen as those who competed on the Rideau Ranges last week. Much of the credit for the development of marksmanship in Canada is of course due to the Dominion Rifle Association, the Military Rifle League and the affiliated provincial, regimental and local rifle associations, but a large share of the credit must be given to the Militia Department. Whatever its shortcomings might have been in other respects, its encouragement of rifle practice has for many years back been constant and enlightened, and the result is a valuable body of marksmen, who are in every sense a credit to the country.

The Dominion has certainly received good value for the public money expended on target practice so far, and it is to be hoped that last week's splendid demonstration of the fact will induce the Government to materially increase its annual investments in this direction. More generous allowance of free ammunition could with great advantage be made to regimental associations, grants towards markers' expenses should be made, the provision of long ranges is an immediate necessity and the whole force should be at once re-armed.

We have the men to put behind the guns, and for goodness sake, give them weapons which will enable them to exercise their skill to the very best possible advantage. It does certainly appear a little ridiculous to think that the rifles used on the Rideau ranges were not only a different weapon from that with

which the militia is armed, but were the personal property of the men using them. Our American cousins are more practical than us in this respect, for their matches are fired with the rifles issued by the government. But then the Snider is a blunderbus compared to the Remington. We hope that the consignment of Lee Metford's now under order will speedily be followed by others sufficient to arm the entire force.

Quarter Master Sergeant Ogg's capture of the Governor General's prize is popular in the force, for the winner is a generous shot, a good soldier and a veteran. Young Pugh, of B. Battery, R. C. A., who won second place in the big match, is also always a popular man on the ranges. The Pughs, father and sons, have always done much to keep up shooting in the permanent force, and it is to be hoped that the young gunner's popular victory last week will give a much needed impetus to shooting in the permanent force. There is no reason why the permanent force should not aspire to set the rest of the militia the pace in marksmanship as well as in discipline and drill.

The remarks made by the Hon. Mr. Dickey, the new Minister of Militia, the other day at the annual matches of the Nova Scotia Provincial Rifle Association, have been most encouraging to the members of the force. In his remarks that the Militia Department has been stinted of money, the honorable gentleman showed that he has grasped the root of the force's trouble. The government has been