

THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE

A Weekly Journal devoted to the Interests of the Active Force of the Dominion.

Second Year.
VOL. II, No. 90.

OTTAWA, THURSDAY, 7th APRIL, 1887.

\$1.50 per annum in advance.
Single Copies Five Cents

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THE MILITIA GAZETTE aims at being the recognized medium of instruction and information for Canadian militiamen and rifle shots. Communications on the subjects to which its pages are devoted are respectfully invited. Anonymous communications will not be regarded. No name will be published, except with the writer's consent. The editors will not be responsible for the views of correspondents.

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Should be made by Registered Letter, Post Office Order or Draft. For Great Britain, each dollar may be taken as equivalent to 4s., and cents as half-pence. All communications must be addressed to

THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE,
Box 316, OTTAWA, Canada.

Printed by MASON & REYNOLDS, 45 Elgin Street, Ottawa.

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

COMMENT AND CRITICISM.

The P.Q.R.A. annual report.
Red tape over the border.
Easter manoeuvres.
The value of good shooting recognised.
Shrapnel for shot guns.
A traveller from Maynard, Harris & Co. coming.

PERSONALS.

CONTENTS OF OUR CONTEMPORARIES.

RECENT DEATHS.

SYNOPSIS OF THE NEW MILITIA LIST.

CORRESPONDENCE.

HONORS for the field force.—*Merit.*
Promotion in the permanent corps.—*Ex-vol.*
Encouraging young shots.—*1st P.W.R.*

THE NOON GUN'S SOLILOQUY.

QUERIES AND REPLIES.

The stripe in infantry trousers.

REGIMENTAL NOTES.

THE TARGET.

GLEANINGS.

Comment and Criticism.

THE annual report of the Province of Quebec Rifle Association has just been published, showing that the last season's work was in every way most successful. Starting the year with a balance to the good of only \$24 the association has now \$320 on hand and \$190 worth of ammunition left over, and this notwithstanding the abolition of sighting shots. The hurry with which the matches were got through is referred to, and it is conceded that it would be unwise to attempt to fire them again in two days. The pamphlet includes, besides the report proper, which we propose reproducing, the constitution and by-laws of the association and the record of the prize meeting, as well as the scores made at the prize meetings of all affiliated associations.

ALL our readers interested in rifle shooting, and we hope that every militiaman is an enthusiastic believer in the importance of musketry instruction, should bear in mind that the annual meeting of the Dominion Rifle Association takes place on the 4th May next. We hope to see a large attendance, but there is no reason why those unable to be present should not have their views or wishes brought before the meeting. There are amongst the members of council living in Ottawa representatives of every province, and it is their duty to attend to requests sent in by those whom they represent, and we are sure that they would in every case be found ready to carry out in this way the wishes of their constituents. So if any member has any proposition to make he will have an opportunity of bringing it forward even though personally unable to attend the meeting.

NOT all the beauties of red tape are confined to the British army, it seems. The case of the Indian officer who sent in a certificate that he was alive in July, but who could not get his pay until a certificate that he was alive in June was also forwarded, is cast in the shade by a recent case at Washington. A wharf under the charge of an army officer took fire, and a tug used its steam pump to extinguish the flames. When the bill for this service came before a Treasury official he refused to pay it because the service had not been advertized for in advance in accordance with regulations. This decision was ultimately overruled, it is true, but not before another brilliant official record had been made.

THE English volunteer papers are in the midst of their discussion of the forthcoming Easter manoeuvres, and they are over there so interested in them that it makes us feel that it would be a good thing could we get up something similar here, perhaps not at Easter, when roads would possibly be muddy (if not still deep in snow), but at some convenient holiday season. This year the Queen's birthday falls on a Tuesday. Why might not some enterprising corps arrange to start out on Saturday and march and camp out till the Tuesday night, stealing a holiday on the Monday, and incorporate in the programme sufficient outpost duty and sham fighting to give snap to the experience. The camping out and moving camp alone would be a valuable lesson, to say nothing of the glorious uncertainty, in the present state of quartermasters' and commissariat departments in Canada, of the troops getting any rations, or having them cooked if *par hasard* they were secured. We have done our share, thrown out the idea, who will elaborate it?

STOCK is still rising with rifle shots—their value is being every day more appreciated. The last recognition of their importance is a new scheme of attack formation, proposed by Lieut.-Col. McDonald, R.A., in which one-fourth of each company should be composed of the best shots, and the four sub-divisions would form a company column, with the shooting sub-division leading. This is something like the German regulations in force since 1876, which divides a company into three Zugs, the leading one or "Schutzen Zug" being formed of the picked shots of the company, who normally form a third rank. Cannot everybody see what all this means? that rifle practice and skill in marksmanship are above all and beyond all the most urgent requisite in the training of troops.

WHENEVER we go to Toronto, we drop into W. M. Cooper's fine gun shop, and he usually has some new notion to show us. This time it was Johns' automatic shrapnell, for shot guns. The shrapnell consists of a charge of shot enclosed in two hemispheres of sheet brass, which are held together by a straight wire, one end inserted perpendicularly into the centre of a thick wad, the other end passing through holes in the brass case and projecting free. The wad is placed over the powder charge in an ordinary cartridge so that when the piece is loaded the free end of the wire projects half an inch or more into the barrel. When the shot is fired the shrapnell travels some distance before the