

THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE

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CORRESPONDENCE.

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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COMMENT AND CRITICISM.

The force in Canada will be pleased to learn that Major-General Sir Frederick Middleton, K.C.M.G., has been placed by the Imperial War Office upon the list of officers entitled to reward for meritorious and distinguished service, an honor which carries with it an annual allowance of one hundred pounds, besides securing special mention in the army list.

Our valued correspondent in London, who has been relegated to the retired list, and who looks back on his Canadian experience with, we imagine, a somewhat wistful eye, writes of our little journal with an appreciation that is very gratifying, but we publish his letter mainly because he sees so clearly the difficulties we are contending with in placing our venture on solid ground; the want of spontaneous encouragement from the militia force at large. Every volunteer who reads our paper is ready to say it is just what was wanted, but many straightway forget to send in their subscriptions. As we have said already, we are in a position to continue its issue for a reasonable period independently of financial conditions, and our subscription list is of goodly length already, but we hoped for such a large list as would justify us in increasing the size and scope of the paper, and this we have not yet secured. We hope that every volunteer who sympathizes in our work will upon reading this lose no time in backing us up with a post office order for \$1.50.

The remark was made to us lately that we devoted too large a proportion of our space, including "comment," to rifle shooting. In this we cannot agree, being firmly persuaded that skill with the arm put in his hands is the one essential of the soldier, and the point which has heretofore been most neglected. To our mind the veriest recruit is well drilled enough to fight if he can only be relied upon to shoot at sight any enemy he sees within 200 or 300 yards, and yet the annual target practice of the whole force emphasizes only too forcibly the fact that an exceedingly small percentage of our citizen soldiers could be relied on to hit a barn door at the shortest range. All this should be changed, and it will not be our fault if we do not help to bring about this change.

Considerable remark has been occasioned by a presentation to Lieut.-Col. Kirkpatrick, and by a report that in consequence of the act being censured by the Major-General commanding the officer in question proposes resigning. In all the comments made by the press upon the affair the fact seems to be ignored that if any censure is due it comes not from the General, but from the authority which the General, in common with the whole force under his command, is bound to obey; from the Queen's Regulations, and from the regulations and orders for the Militia. Here is the regulation in question:

"160. Deliberations or discussions among any class of military men, having the object of conveying praise, censure, or any mark of approbation towards their superiors or any others in Her Majesty's service, are strictly prohibited as being subversive of discipline, and an assumption of power which belongs to the sovereign alone, or to those officers to whom the command and discipline of the troops may be entrusted by Royal authority. Every officer will therefore be held responsible who shall allow himself to be complimented by officers, non-commissioned officers, or soldiers who are serving, or who have served under his command, by means of presents of plate, sword, &c., or by any collective expression of their opinion. Commanding officers should also prohibit the practice of raising subscriptions for the purpose of presenting testimonials in any shape to superiors on quitting service or on being removed from their corps. Q.R., 7 sec., 6,83."

We hope this paragraph will be borne in mind in any future discussions on the point, if such should unfortunately be necessary.

We volunteers do not go in sufficiently for military sports, and the P.L.D.G. on Saturday set a good example in carrying through an interesting programme of distinctively military events. There should be no difficulty in organizing in every city in Canada an annual military tournament, in which all the local corps should participate, and yet we seldom see it. It would draw immensely. What city will have the enterprise to start it?

Here is a little question for our younger officers to exercise their ingenuity upon. What movements, or what words of command are likely to get a company "clubbed," i.e., formed up in line with the right hand man on the left flank, and *vice versa*, and what is the best way to straighten things out again? We will publish the best answers received within twelve days from date, or up to going to press for No. 27.