

THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE

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Comment and Criticism.

THE L'Original *Advertiser* has more than once alluded to the letter that appeared in our columns a few weeks ago, calling attention to the disorganized state of the 18th battalion, and does not hesitate to repeat and emphasize the statements of our correspondent. Last week it got off quite an elaborate squib against the above mentioned corps. But our contemporary enters upon personal issues; whether any particular officers are popular or not, is not the question; all the militia authorities need know is that for some years back the battalion has not responded to the call to arms for annual drill, and, knowing this, some steps should be taken either to put the corps upon a better footing, or to have the arms and accoutrements returned into store and the battalion struck off the roll.

IN the general orders of 27th ult., published in this issue, there are about the average number of changes, including eighteen promotions, twenty newly appointed officers, of whom sixteen are provisional,

and twenty-two losses from various causes, leaving a balance on the wrong side of two officers. There are very few changes above the rank of company officer, except in the command of the thirteenth, to which we have already referred. In the 13th, Major McLaren, in the 24th Capt. D. S. Denhardt, and in the 72nd, Capt. C. W. Shaffner respectively attain the substantive rank of major.

AN old timer draws our attention to the fact that the statement we made a couple of weeks ago, relative to the number of competitors at this year's D. R. A. meeting exceeding the best previous record, was erroneous, and that the best attendance was at the first matches, held at Laprairie in 1868. On looking over the report for that year we find it recorded that there were nearly seven hundred competitors in camp on the ranges, while there were no less than 424 entries for the Dominion prize. There were big prizes given in Canada in those days, for we find in the match we referred to a first prize of \$500, which by the way was won by Lieut.-Col. Jackson, now D. A. G. of the first military district.

WORD received from the September camps shows that the weather at each of them was more or less unfavorable, there was more than an average quantity of rain, and the nights were cold; but this is only what may be expected at this season. Undoubtedly the best time for the camps, if it would suit the labor market of the district, is June or July, when the days are longest, the nights comparatively warm, and the probabilities incline to dry weather. The greatest objection to the summer is the want of a headdress suitable for our climate, but even a peeled nose is preferable to getting one's feet wet at every early parade, and frequently at all three parades, especially if one has not a change of boots in one's knapsack.

THE *Manitoban* reads the Winnipeg people a lecture for not having supported the concerts given during the season by the band of the ninetieth battalion, claiming that that organization is a credit to the city, has always done what was possible in aiding to entertain the citizens, and played good music, which should be in itself an attraction. A similar fate seems to attend most of our military bands; people are quite willing to promenade to their music so long as it is given gratuitously, but if they are asked to give a quarter towards a band fund they feel that they are being victimized, while the same individuals would not hesitate to spend more in a nigger show or some inferior performance that would take all the money thus collected out of the city.

WE reproduce a memorandum of open drill which has been favorably received in England, and will repay study in Canada. Something less stiff and tedious than the unwieldy formations of the Field Exercise would be a boon to our militia, who now have so much to learn, and, alas! so much too little time to learn in. In one point our corps have certainly anticipated this plan, for who has ever seen a militia rear rank on the march locked up as close as it theoretically should be? If we could only feel satisfied that in the open formation described our recruits