

THE CANADIAN MILITARY GAZETTE.

(SUCCESSOR TO THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE.)

VOL. VIII
No. 17

MONTREAL, 1st SEPTEMBER, 1893

Subscription \$2.00 Yearly.
Single Copies 10 cents.

THE CANADIAN MILITARY GAZETTE.

(Successor to the Canadian Militia Gazette.)

ESTABLISHED 1885.

PUBLISHED AT MONTREAL ON THE
1ST AND 15TH OF EACH MONTH.

DEVOTED TO THE
Interests of the Military Forces of Canada.

SUBSCRIPTION:

Canada and the United States, - Per Annum	\$2.00
Great Britain, Ireland and Postal Union Countries, - - - - -	10s 6d. stg
Single Copies, - - - - -	10 cents

Subscriptions are in every instance payable in advance, and the publishers request the favour of prompt remittance.

Unpaid accounts are subject to sight draft.

Remittances should be made by post-office order or registered letter. No responsibility is assumed for subscriptions paid to agents, and it is best to remit direct.

The date when the subscription expires is on the Address Label of each paper, the change of which to a subsequent date becomes a receipt for remittance. No other receipt is sent unless requested.

Immediate notice should be given of any delay or failure in the receipt of the GAZETTE.

No attention is paid to anonymous communications, but the wishes of contributors as to the use of their names will be scrupulously regarded.

All communications and remittances should be addressed to the Editor P.O. Box 1931, Montreal.

Vol VIII MONTREAL, 1st SEPT. 1893 No. 17

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

It is such a common thing in England for the daily papers to criticize the military authorities that it probably does not surprise Gen. Herbert to find himself an attractive centre for newspaper criticism in Canada. General officers are of course no more infallible than other people, and General Herbert has, of course, made mistakes like other people will. He is moreover energetic and aggressive in his methods to be popular with everybody. Still who doubts but that he is working night and day in what he considers to be the best interests of the militia, and who can deny even if this wanted to that most of the attacks made upon the general were quite uncalled for. It is not likely that the general is kept awake at nights by the attacks in the daily papers, but there is no denying the fact that those oft recurring criticisms are likely,

to have the effect of slackening the discipline of the force.

* * * *

Our generals have always been the butts of criticism for the busy press, and misinformed scribblers have done their best to hold them up to ridicule and contempt. Why this is so it is difficult to say if we cannot find an explanation in the gag clauses of Regulations and Orders which prevents even the general, we presume, from speaking in his self-defense. We hardly think, however, that the Canadian press is so cowardly as this. Neither would we like to think that these criticisms are due to the fact of the general being an Englishman; but what in the world can they be due to?

* * * *

Among the things which have brought the general within the range of press criticism since his return from England have been the appointment of the new Quartermaster General, the "Etna" salute at Montreal, and his action with reference to the military tournament organization at Toronto. As to the appointment of the Quartermaster General, there can be but one opinion in the force. A Quartermaster General's department is needed, and it is advisable that its organization should be in the hands of a thoroughly experienced officer. Whether such a man could be found in Canada is perhaps a debatable question, but the chances of giving complete satisfaction in the position as between a Canadian militia officer and a staff officer of the Imperial service are twenty to one in favor of the latter. There are some features in the selection of Major Lake which at first sight appear a trifle fishy.

* * * *

The great care to couple with the announcement of the appointment the statement that he is a Canadian, although he happened to be born here by accident,

and the fact that he is a connection of the Abbott family led some people to doubt whether his merits were alone responsible for his obtaining the appointment. Investigation into his record proves that Major Larke is a most experienced and competent officer, and anybody who knows anything at all about General Herbert must know that he is not the man to lend his countenance to a political job.

* * * *

As to the "Etna" affair over which the general was so roundly abused by a section of the press, and charged even with being animated by the narrowest of religious prejudices, there can scarcely be a military man in Canada who would not have done as the general did, had he happened to be in the same position. The Italian admiral, as a Montreal weekly paper points out, was no more justified in saluting the ruins of the St. Helen's Island barracks than he would have been in saluting the ruins of the old asylum at Longue Pointe. Of course he has a right to burn harmless powder when and where he chooses, so long as it does not conflict with the rules of the service with which he is connected; but it is coming to a pretty pass if foreign naval officers are to be allowed to fire salutes when and where they like in Canada and demand that the salute be returned shot for shot.

* * * *

As to the attacks made upon the general with regard to the military tournament organization it is only necessary to say that they were based upon erroneous information. We believe we are correct in saying that the general never forbade the Queen's Own Rifles to turn out as they had contemplated doing. The managers asked him to allow his name to go on the bills as one of the patrons, and he declined, as he certainly had a right to if he chose. That was all he had to do with it, and the Queen's Own, in cancelling their