

THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE

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

Fourth Year.
VOL. IV, No. 13.

OTTAWA, THURSDAY, 4th APRIL, 1889.

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

CONTENTS OF THIS NUMBER.

ENCOURAGEMENT OF TEAM SHOOTING.
THE COMMAND OF THE WIMBLEDON TEAM.
PENSIONS FOR MILITIA STAFF AND PERMANENT FORCE.
BOOK NOTICES.
The Elements of Modern Tactics—*Lt.-Col. W. T. Shaw.*
POETRY.
Glory vs. Labour—*Sarah Bridges Stebbins.*

REGIMENTAL NEWS.
Four Sergeants per Company—*
A problem of the new drill—*Milish.*
Colours carried by guards of honour—*Captain Sabretache.*
Route marching—positions of officers—*Sabretache.*
A PAGE OF OUR MILITARY HISTORY—*Cor. Regina Leader.*
MILITIA GENERAL ORDERS.
No. 6, of 29th March, 1889.

The Encouragement of Team Shooting.

From away down by the sea the MILITIA GAZETTE has received a very kindly worded communication from which a few sentences may be fittingly printed, even though not intended by the writer for publication. They contain a compliment and a congratulation from a gallant officer whose opinion is well worth having, and who says: "Permit me to offer a word of congratulation on the general improvement in the character of the GAZETTE, and on the interest you take in that important part of the soldier's training—target practice. * * I earnestly hope that prizes for company and battalion shooting may be granted by the government (as they were years ago), to all corps performing annual drill. Such prizes have of late been only obtained as a result of private subscription, and wherever granted the best results have been obtained."

We agree with our correspondent that prizes such as he suggests would be of immense benefit, but know only too well that they will not readily be forthcoming from the government. An era of rigid economy has set in at Ottawa, and expenditures are being curtailed right and left. As the Premier lately told a military deputation from Toronto, he expects no war this year or next, and the government is not apt therefore to become suddenly more liberal towards the militia, while economising in other directions. We would like to see the Minister of Militia get money to spend in the manner suggested, but the Fates seem to have decided otherwise.

A practical alternative remains—to raise the money from some other source. Such an idea was formulated by Col. Gzowski at a meeting of the Council of the Ontario Rifle Association recently held at Toronto. To that gentleman the rifle shooting interests of the force already owe more perhaps than to any other single individual, for Col. Gzowski's mind has been prolific of practical ideas for the development of interest in rifle shooting, and he has given liberally of both time and means to give effect to his ideas. He proposed to the association that there should be at the provincial prize meeting special matches, for battalion teams each of say eight men who had never previously taken part in a provincial or larger competition. Substantial prizes were to be offered so as to draw out the teams, and an effort was to be made to have every battalion in the province represented. It is not pretended that the battalion representatives will be much better marksmen through a few days' practice at a provincial prize meeting, but being all new men they cannot fail to profit by mingling with the old and experienced marksmen they will find on the range. Then as each battalion is supposed to pay the expenses of its representatives, there would without doubt be a deal of private practice at local headquarters in anticipation of securing the

far from empty honour of a place on the team. The contests could not fail to arouse great interest on the part of the members of every corps represented. Once get them interested in rifle shooting and it will be but a short time before they become at least fair shots—for any man of ordinary intelligence may become a fairly skilful shot with a little patient practice. And no one may become a marksman without practice. There is nothing difficult about shooting with a reasonable degree of accuracy; neither is there anything difficult about swimming, or skating, or riding a wheel, but in all these much practice is essential to the acquirement of skill.

It is to be hoped that some such scheme as Col. Gzowski's may be put into effect not only in Ontario but at the prize meeting of each of the provinces. It would require some effort on the part of the officers of each battalion to raise the money to meet the team expenses, but this would no doubt be readily forthcoming from the well-to-do gentlemen of the respective neighbourhoods, if indeed the corps had not the enterprise or opportunity to raise the desired amount by holding field sports or some form of indoor entertainment. On this score it will at once be objected by some that the militia themselves are thus asked to meet to a greater degree even than at present the cost of training themselves for the service of their country. To those who would thus object, we would say that the physical benefit each individual receives from his military training is quite as great as, and very likely greater, to him than the benefit derivable by the state from the training of the regiment collectively, and that when a volunteer subscribes his money for military purposes of his regiment, he is making an investment quite as profitable to himself personally as that receivable from the payment of annual fees to any athletic institution.

As a reward for their readiness to run great risks for the safety of their country, the militia are deserving of much more liberal treatment than has ever been accorded them by the government, and are entitled to a greater manifestation of appreciation than has ever been shown by the people at large; but while waiting for this encouragement the members have it in their power to vastly improve themselves, from a military standpoint, with an outlay of time and money commensurate only with the physical and moral benefit they personally receive.

The Command of the Wimbledon Team.

There has been a little discontent expressed in some quarters at the choice made by the Chairman of the Council of the Dominion Rifle Association of the officers of the Wimbledon team of 1889—a discontent based solely on the fact that the same two cities, Montreal and Ottawa, have been favoured for two years running. In a sense the objection is reasonable, but that it has not been more strongly urged is evidence of the individual excellence and popularity of the appointments. The commandant, Lieut.-Col. Thos. Bacon, has well earned the honour by a lifetime's devotion to the interests of rifle shooting. Not a little of the success of the operations of the D. R. A. during recent years has been due to the painstaking enthusiasm Col. Bacon has manifested in the discharge of his duties as secretary of the association, and the handsome