

THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE

A WEEKLY JOURNAL DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF THE ACTIVE FORCE OF THE DOMINION.

First Year.
VOL. I, No. 5.

Ottawa, Tuesday, 9th June, 1885.

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

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

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COMMENT AND CRITICISM.

This has been the most uneventful week in the North-west since the campaign began. We know that General Strange's column is somewhere east of Pitt on the north side of the Saskatchewan and that General Middleton is somewhere west of Battleford on the same side of the river, and that the two commanders have been in communication, but of their exact whereabouts or doings we are ignorant; plenty of rumors have been published, but little or no definite and authentic information has been received even by the Militia Department. There seems to be no doubt, however, that this week will decide whether Big Bear intends to fight or make for the Peace River. The former course would bring most satisfaction to the country, sad as the loss of life which necessarily accompanies a fight would be, for by a decisive defeat of these insurgents confidence in the future peacefulness of the other Indians would be most quickly restored and the district return to its interrupted peaceful existence.

One bright spot in the rebellion is the escape of the Reverend Mr. Quinney, his wife and one or two others, bringing to the troops word that the horrible stories circulated about Mrs. Delaney are untrue, and that she, the McLeans and the other captives in Big Bear's camp, have not been maltreated. This news will go farther towards securing consideration for the band in case of a fight than they could possibly imagine.

The new musketry regulations for the British army, a synopsis of which appeared in our last issue, are more radical than we would have thought possible in so conservative a service. To have the targets, the conditions of firing, the positions, and the number of rounds changed, and to have the principle of immovable sights and of time firing introduced all at one swoop is really too much for us to grasp at once, and it will be necessary to get used to the changes gradually. Usually the innovations have come from the rifle associations and have been adopted by the authorities when their success was beyond question, but now the tables are turned. The changes are so evidently improvements in the direction of practical efficiency that there is little to be said about them, but might not rifle associations carry them a little farther. We know that Col. Ross, G. G. F. G., has had matches in his regiment in which the sights were allowed neither to be raised nor colored, and we would suggest that other rifle associations might follow in this direction, and might also try firing at dull-colored targets which would approximate the color of an enemy's uniform. On the matter of firing at moving targets we have already spoken, and we have again to urge that all rifle associations should do somewhat towards inaugurating matches that would be a fuller training to a man's nerve and judgment than the score shooting to which he is now so accustomed.

The objection has been urged that skirmishing competitions with individual entries would consume too much time, but we think the regulations might be so simplified as to greatly overcome this obstacle. In the present military matches of the D. R. A. much time is taken up in inspecting the kits and marching the squads on to and off the grounds, which in individual competitions could be saved by weighing the knapsacks, if it were thought necessary to insist on their being carried (we wonder if the Grenadiers and 90th in their charge at Batoche were so encumbered), while the men could take up their positions at stated hours, just as they do in other matches, without squadding. In this way, with twenty-five targets, we see nothing to prevent 100 men firing ten shots apiece per hour, which would finish such a match in a morning or afternoon if all the targets on the Rideau range were used.

The Wimbledon team for 1885 has at last been completed, and within a fortnight will be practising on our ranges at Ottawa prior to embarkation for England. Out of the twenty men who have signified their intention of going ten are from Ontario, six from Quebec, two from New Brunswick and one each from Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island, the Prairie Province being unrepresented, probably in consequence of all her troops being at the front, a cause that has removed several names from the list. The captain of the team, Lieut.-Col. Landry, is a well known young, energetic and popular member of Parliament from the Province of Quebec, and a militia man of many years' standing. He has been promoted from a captaincy to the command of the 61st Montmagny and L'Islet Battalion of Infantry since the new year. To the adjutant of the team, Captain William Clark, 90th Battalion, we have already alluded, and need only say that the appoint-