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THE MILITIA PASTIME.

MILITIA GENERAL ORDERS.
No. 7 of 20th April, 1888.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Current Topics.

AN Order-in-Council was passed this week prescribing the long expected changes in the location of the district staff officers, but it is understood that these changes will not take effect until the termination of the approaching camping season, in order to obviate any confusion which might arise were the marching orders to be issued immediately. Lt.-Col. Smith, Commandant of the Royal School of Infantry at London, becomes Deputy Adjutant General of No. 1 District, replacing Lt.-Col. Jaakson, who is retired with a gratuity of two years' pay. Lt.-Col. Van Straubensee has been transferred from the command of No. 5 District, at Montreal, to No. 3, at Kingston. In No. 4 Military District, the headquarters staff at Ottawa undertake the duties heretofore discharged by the district staff, and Lt.-Col. Lamontagne, the present D. A. G., has been placed in command of No. 6 District, Montreal, in the stead of Lt.-Col. Harwood, who having passed the age limit, 63 years, is retired with a gratuity of two years' pay. No. 5 District, also centering in Montreal, will be presided over by Lt.-Col. Houghton, removed from Winnipeg, where he is succeeded by Lt.-Col. Villiers, from No. 3 District, Kingston. In No. 7, the Quebec city district, there is no change, and the D. A. G.'s in the Maritime Provinces and British Columbia are also undisturbed. It is understood that Lt.-Col. Lamontagne will at once assume command of No. 6, the change taking place immediately in that district because of the present incumbent having reached an age at which it is against the regulations for him to continue in office.

TWO Deputy-Adjutant-Generals having to be retired this year, Parliament has been asked to vote them each a gratuity of two years' pay, or \$3,400. We have no system of superannuating these officials, though retirement is made compulsory at the age of sixty-three. That they are recognized to have some sort of claim upon the country in their old age is evident from the fact that this gratuity is asked; and the claim being admitted, it is hard to see what good reason there can exist against making statutory provision for their superannuation, as in the case of the members of the Civil service. After holding a staff appointment for a number of years a man becomes practically unfit for other pursuits, and it is a hard thing that he is liable to be retired at any moment without any allowance. It may happen that the officer retired has saved sufficient money to keep himself in comfort for the remainder of his days. But on the other hand he may be so unfortunate as to have on retiring no resources but the gratuity which Parliament may be

pleased to vote. Then what becomes of him when this amount is used up? It is not creditable to the country that the possibility of being reduced to want in their old age should stare in the face any public servants.

A SPECIAL meeting of the Council of the Dominion Artillery Association was held at Ottawa to-day to consider the relative advisability of sending a team to Shoeburyness this year, or holding a competition at Quebec, or both. There were six members present, all Ottawa men, except Lieut.-Col. Cotton, of A Battery, Kingston, and written votes were received from eighteen. The consensus of opinion was in favour of abandoning all thought of the Shoeburyness team on account of the evident impossibility of raising the requisite funds. The energies of the Council will now be directed towards getting up an attractive artillery competition at Quebec.

GUNNER A. WILSON of the Halifax Garrison Artillery, and the twenty-third man in the order of merit of those eligible, has written accepting the twentieth place on this year's Wimbledon team, which is now complete. The refusals, three only, have been unusually few in number, and the best men naturally being those at the top of the list the team may be looked upon as an exceptionally strong one. An examination of the records of its members is confirmatory of this impression. Gunner Wilson has already been across with a Canadian team, this occasion being four years ago. The team records of other members have appeared in our issues of the past few weeks, as the acceptances came in.

IN our opinion the very best way to destroy interest in the Kolapore Cup competition, would be to give effect to the recent proposal that colonial teams should each shoot at home, instead of meeting together at Wimbledon or other common firing point. "This proposal," the cable intimates, "is intended to place colonial teams in a better position because they would know their own ranges, whereas Wimbledon is strange to them." If such a proposition has really been made by any responsible body, we fancy the consideration shown will not be appreciated in Canada at least. What honour would attach to a victory by Canada were it even open to suspicion that wind and weather, and not the superior skill of our riflemen, had been the determining factor. Such a competition as proposed would be about as satisfactory and conclusive as an international yacht race with the vessels starting from opposite sides of the Atlantic.

THE Secretary of the British Columbia Rifle Association, Capt. E. H. Fletcher, has forwarded the following motion passed by the Council of that Association at a meeting held on the 9th inst: "That, as it is desirable that all competitors at the Dominion of Canada Rifle Association prize meetings be placed on an equal footing, it is the opinion of this Council that the annual prize meetings should in future be held on a neutral range." This resolution was moved by Capt. P. A.