

THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE

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

Fifth Year.
VOL. V, No. 17.

OTTAWA, THURSDAY, 24th APRIL, 1890.

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THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE, P. O. Box 316, Ottawa, Ont.

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No. 4, of 18th April, 1890.

Topics of the Week.

We have to apologise to our readers for a blunder perpetrated in this column last week, in the announcement that Lieut.-Col. Landry, A.D.C., had been appointed to a judgeship. The Mr. Landry, now a judge, was not an officer of the militia. There have been two Landry's in the House, hence the mistake. Lieut.-Col. Landry, A.D.C., the officer commanding the 61st Battalion, was a member of the last parliament, but was not returned at the general election of 1887. It was his military rank we erroneously bestowed upon the new judge.

With the opening of the active shooting season we renew our invitation to secretaries of rifle clubs and others interested, to forward their practice scores, and such other shooting news as they may care to see published in this paper. Matter should reach us not later than Tuesday to ensure insertion in the current week's issue.

With characteristic thoughtfulness, General Sir Fred. Middleton has procured for the benefit of the Canadian militia a number of copies of an essay on "Discipline," by Captain J. F. Daniell, R. M. Lt. Infantry, which was recently awarded the gold medal of the Royal United Service Institution in London, England. Capt. Daniell devotes himself to showing the importance of discipline to an armed force, and the best means of promoting and maintaining it; and recognizing that the essay was one of considerable value as a lecture for our force, General Middleton obtained leave from the Minister of Militia to procure the copies mentioned. They will be sent chiefly to the officers of the permanent force for use in their school work. The essay makes an exceedingly neat pamphlet of nearly fifty pages.

In consequence of the heavy expense, entailed by removal from Wimbledon to Bisley the National Rifle Association have run out of money. The public appeal for funds to carry on the work of the

National Rifle Association, as foreshadowed in the annual report, and referred to by Lord Wantage at the winter general meeting, will be made through the Lord Mayor, at a meeting to be held at the Mansion House, on the 29th inst. The Duke of Cambridge, as president of the Association, and the members of the Council will be present. An appeal to members of the House of Commons is also being made, a notice to this effect having been posted in the cloak room of the House. The amount required by the Association to place its affairs on a sound financial footing, is £30,000. Towards this sum the London and South-Western Railway Company have already subscribed £1,000; the Duke of Westminster, £500; Lord Wantage, £500; the Duke of Bedford, £500; Lord Wemyss, £250; the Duke of Northumberland, £100; Sir H. Fletcher, M.P., £50; Captain Pixley, £50; Colonel Alex. Wilson, £50; Colonel Egerton, £50; Colonel Marston, £50; and Sir H. Halford, £50. Quite generous subscriptions, it will be noted. The spring general meeting of the association will be held on the 21st May.

The German Emperor's latest rescript with respect to the curtailment of expenses of officers, and prohibiting them from indulging any more in certain traditional habits of luxury, is causing much comment in England, where it is generally considered to go somewhat too far. It is feared by some that with the present tendency of the home authorities to follow the lead of Germany in all things, some further limitation may be sought to be imposed which would not tend to the real good of the army.

The question of the soldiers' dietary will, it is hoped, now be very shortly settled in a satisfactory manner so far as the British authorities are concerned. A class for the selection of instructed officers in the various qualities of meat has been instituted at the Metropolitan Meat Market, and about eighty officers are to be instructed annually at Aldershot in the method of judging of the quality of supplies. It is generally understood that Mr. Stanhope has decided to accept the report of the Committee on Soldiers' Dietary, and it is expected that the vote upon the report will pass the House of Commons without much opposition, as the increased expenditure involved will be by no means great. There is a probability, too, that a system of monthly rewards to company cooks for the best-dressed dinners during the month, which has been successfully tried at Colchester, will be extended to the army generally.

The *North China Herald* assures us that Australian confederation is coming, and is going to be "mistress of the Pacific." It will gradually absorb the islands near it, and go on absorbing, nor will the Home Government grumble at having to hand over to her the British possessions in the Pacific. "Before long Hong Kong will be an outpost of Australia and the advantage to the British settlements in China will be that Australian diplomatists will treat at Peking very differently from British Ministers of the present type."