

THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE

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CONTENTS OF THIS NUMBER.

THE END OF VOLUME III.

TOPICS OF THE WEEK.

Christmas Greetings Acknowledged.
Resistance of Snow to Bullets.
Major Mayne not at fault.
Indoor rifle practice.
Marriage a failure for soldiers.
What's in a name?
Teaching Aspirants for Commissions.
Weaknesses of the U. S. Army.

THE NEW RED BOOK.—*Volunteer Service Gazette.*

PERSONAL.

THE NEW WIMBLEDON — *Volunteer Service Gazette.*

THE RIFLE.

The South African Wimbledon.
Annual Meeting Nova Scotia Association.
Practice in the U. S. Army.

REGIMENTAL NEWS.

THE HONOURABLE ARTILLERY COMPANY.

THE RIFLE GALLERY OF THE SEVENTH, N. Y. —*U. S. A. & N. Journal*

MISCELLANEOUS.

The End of the Volume.

With this number the CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE completes its third volume. This covers eighteen months, from July, 1887, to December 1888 inclusive. It has been deemed advisable to make the volumes end with the year, because in that way a more convenient history may be preserved in the bound copies. For instance, the programme and the prize lists of all the great Dominion and Provincial competitions will now appear in the one volume, whereas hitherto it has happened in many cases that the programme being published in the spring or early summer was in a different volume to the lists of winners, thus making reference unhandy. An index to Volume III will shortly be issued.

We trust our readers have had a MERRY CHRISTMAS this week, and we very cordially wish them a HAPPY NEW YEAR! Our own happiness, so far as this publication is concerned, is in our readers keeping—*Verb. sap.*

Topics of the Week.

We have to acknowledge Christmas greetings from Lieut.-Col. A. H. Macdonald and officers of the First Brigade of Field Artillery (Guelph), and from Sergeant-Major Crean and Sergeants of the Queen's Own Rifles. The latter proclaim their best wishes upon a card eloquent in pictorial and picturesque representations of the memorable manoeuvres connected with the annual inspection on the 15th November. The artillerymen also have had a card specially designed for the Christmas season. It shows, about a central figure consisting of a scroll bearing the crest and motto of the First Brigade, a pretty camp of artillery, off duty, and officers and men alike enjoying in a quiet way the pleasures of camp life. The preparation of such souvenirs as these demonstrates the real, live interest taken in the military organizations by their members, even at this—in a military sense—dull season of the year.

The Canadian officers who a couple of seasons ago experimented upon and discussed the resisting power of snow to bullets, will be particularly interested in hearing that Col. Hertzborg, of the little Norwegian army, last winter conducted a series of experiments with a view to determining this power. His report, recently published, claims that a parapet of packed snow, half a metre thick, is proof against, not only musketry, but against the ordinary work of field artillery. This is stated of the dry raw material of Norway, the same in a more damp packing offering still

greater imperviousness to penetration. This report the U. S. *Army and Navy Journal* commends to the attention of General Ben. Butler, who proposes a winter invasion of Canada.

It happily turns out that the press reports and not the officer himself were responsible for the strange utterances about the militia attributed to Major Mayne, of the Royal Military College, and commented upon in these columns last week. We then expressed our disbelief of the reports, and are glad to find that they were indeed wrong.

The very comprehensive description of the rifle gallery of the Seventh New York Regiment, appearing in this issue, ought to prove interesting to all our readers, and especially to those who have given any attention to work with the rifle indoors. The desirability of such practice is unquestionable, giving as it does valuable training to the eye and hand, and creating a taste for the sport which must have the effect of considerably increasing the number to go in for the more useful if more difficult outdoor practice, in its proper season. At least one regiment in Canada is putting in faithful work at its winter indoor range, this being the Victoria Rifles of Montreal. At the Vics' new armoury there are, we believe, regular weekly competitions, though the modesty of those interested seemingly prevents the news of the shoots getting into print. There are other indoor ranges in the Dominion also, of which nothing is heard, though the news would be very interesting for purposes of comparison.

Affirmative answers to the "Is Marriage a Failure?" question continue to be given by the chiefs of the fighting men. "Don't put a millstone about your neck" is the caution said to have been given by the Commissioner of that semi-military organization our Northwest Mounted Police, when a short time ago one of his command made known his intention to marry a lady of the post station. This happened to be Regina, and the disappointed lady—for her lover has been practically sent into exile at the Maple Creek station—has found a champion in the editor of the local paper, the *Leader*. "We ask the Commissioner," says this editor, "Whether he was ever in love? Oysters and bears and cockroaches and cockatoos and, to our own knowledge, potato bugs feel the tender passion, and why should not the Commissioner in his salad days have felt the exquisite glow which the girdle of Venus sent into the breast of Jupiter himself? Let him recall that time—recall the soft whisper now exchanged for the word of command—when instead of having a flag raised on a flagstaff for him, he lowered his flag to beauty. Let him recall that hour and recall the banished lover from Maple Creek and thus make two young souls happy." But even while the editor writes, a like offence is being committed across the border, and contemporaneously with the *Leader* appeal there appears this from General Roger Jones, Senior Inspector-General of the U. S. Army: "It is recommended that no married enlisted man who may now be serving his first enlistment in any troop, battery or company should be permitted to re-enlist; that no authority be granted hereafter for soldiers to marry, and that no married recruit should be accepted under any circumstances."