

# THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE

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

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## COMMENT AND CRITICISM.

Now that the weather is fine again and the snow almost gone our target column, which has been, like the bears, hibernating, will once more resume activity, and become a prominent feature in our weekly issue. To make a good start we are desirous of collecting and publishing all the information possible respecting all the rifle clubs and associations in the Dominion, and would request the secretary of each club to send us by an early mail the name of his club or association, its headquarters, president's name, secretary's name and address, its strength in members, location of its range, its season's programme including matches and practices, and any other information that would be likely to prove of general interest. Even where there are ranges without regularly organized associations we should like to receive particulars respecting them. These returns will be tabulated and published by us, and thus become a full record of the shooting strength of the whole Dominion. Once more may we request the several secretaries to attend to this little detail before it slips their memories.

Colonel Bacon informs us that every one of the first twenty men eligible for places on the Wimbledon team has signified his intention of accepting the position, a unanimity unparalleled in the history of the D.R.A. Doubtless two or three will fail to come to time at the last

minute, but nevertheless those anxious spirits usually to be found between the twenty-fifth and thirty-fifth places may as well make up their minds to the inevitable and inform their friends that they have changed their plans and have decided to postpone going to England for another year. We know how it is ourselves, and for choice would prefer seeing the Queen's jubilee to the Indian and Colonial exhibition.

Mr. Lawrence W. Herchmer has been appointed commissioner of the North-west Mounted Police in the stead of Colonel Irvine, who has resigned. Mr. Herchmer, who is a brother of Col. Herchmer, the well known senior superintendent of the force, has, so far as we can learn, held no previous command, either in the militia or the police, but has made himself a good record by controlling the numerous bands of Indians in charge of the Birtle Agency and by the excellent work which he has since performed in the North-west, and for which he is highly esteemed there. Without knowing all the facts of the case at first glance we cannot help feeling sorry that this department could not see its way to promoting some of the officers already in the force rather than bring in an outsider to assume chief command.

Colonel Wyndham's military colonization scheme, to which we have alluded on more than one occasion, is exciting considerable comment in several of the North-west newspapers, which unanimously pronounce in favor of it. We have particularly remarked favorable notices of it in the *Macleod Gazette*, the *Regina Leader*, and the *Medicine Hat Times*, and hope the gallant colonel may receive the support necessary to start the settlement on a strong and sound basis.

There are some things in the militia list which we have not yet referred to that will bear investigation—for instance—if you take a pencil and figure it up you will find that every lieutenant-colonel who served in 1837-8 must either be over 63 now, or he must have been under 14 when he served forty-nine years ago, and as it is not at all probable that the latter of these contingencies frequently happened, it follows that several of our commanding officers are over the prescribed age; and if this is the case with colonels, officers of lower rank whose names are preceded in the list by the honorable figures, must have still farther passed the age limit. The age rule, though in some individual cases a harsh one, is good, but to be effectual should be used freely; and we hope to see several old officers removed before this summer's camp.

A correspondent of the *Rifle* for March draws the attention of its readers to the English position for off-hand shooting by reproducing approvingly the directions given in "The Rifle Shot's Manual of Military Rifle Target Shooting." The directions are essentially the same as in the "Rifle Exercises," except that it is recommended that the upper portion of the left arm should be rested against the breast. This is one of those details that can best be left to individual judgment, or to the rules of the competition, otherwise there is nothing new in it to Canadian shots.