

Preliminary.

THE CASE AS IT STANDS.

The Volunteer Militia of the Dominion, numbering nearly 44,000, officers and men, posted between extremes of 3000 miles, from the Atlantic to the Pacific, are without a much-needed medium of communication.

It is to be regretted that every attempt to establish a Military paper in Canada has failed, and though there are many who look upon the success of any present exertion to that end as hopeless, we should be sorry to believe that our country's defenders, who have proved ever ready to spring to the call of duty, have yet not spirit enough to support an organ devoted to their interests.

With their experience of the effects of the policy which has directed the fortunes of the Militia, its members do not need to be reminded, that an out-spoken advocate of their cause is an urgent necessity, or that a medium for the interchange of ideas and opinions is much to be desired.

No pains will be spared to make the CANADIAN MILITARY GAZETTE a credit to the force, and a faithful exponent of their views; it will be free from party influence; being guided solely by a desire to advance the interests of the volunteer Militia.

We shall endeavour to establish relations with Brigade and Regimental headquarters and Secretaries of rifle associations, with a view to the better acquaintance of all sections and branches of the service.

It will be our aim to make the MILITARY GAZETTE the most perfect record of Canadian Artillery Practice, also Military and Small Bore Shooting, leading events at British and Foreign Rifle Meetings will be reported.

Our weekly budget of British Army and Volunteers news will be valuable to the majority of the Canadian Militia, whose opportunities for requiring such news depend on a medium of selection such as we propose.

The Militia General Orders will be published in full, so as to come within the reach of all.

Our columns will be open to the Service to a reasonable extent, and all communications or suggestions will receive courteous attention.

The editorial department will be in the hands of an active Militia Officer of many years standing.

The annual subscription has been fixed at a rate to come within the reach of all. Two thousand subscribers at least are required to ensure the continued publication of the CANADIAN MILITARY GAZETTE. We have only to remind those members of the Militia and others in earnest for the success of our venture, that they should not only immediately communicate their intention of becoming subscribers, but should use every exertion to secure others.

If the necessary number intimate their wish to be placed on the subscription list, the second number of the CANADIAN MILITARY GAZETTE will be published one month hence, to be continued weekly. We have stated the case plainly, as it stands. We leave the issue to the Militia and their friends.

Canadian National Anthem.

(Words by G. W. Wakeford, Q. C., Ottawa.)

God save the land we love,
Show'r blessings from above
On Canada.
Let her fair fame extend,
Her progress never end,
In her two nations blend
Britain and France.

Each has a glorious name,
High on the roll of fame;—
Noblesse oblige
May we be noble too,
Noble to think and do,
All to the other true
And to our Queen.

Fast joined in heart and hand,
Proud of their goodly land
And of their Sires,
Let all Canadians then,
Gaul, Gael, or British men,
Sing with a loud amen—
God Save the Queen.

No Militia Gazette last week.

The Band of the 53rd Sherbrooke battalion won first prize in the tournament at Owl's Head. Four Vermont bands competed.

As soon as the table can be prepared the Stations of the British Army will be published in our journal and corrected monthly.

A flower show was recently held in one of the Lower Province drill sheds; a local paper reports the building too small for the purpose.

It is not unlikely that the Foot-ball teams of Royal Military College, the "Queen's Own," of Toronto, and the "Victorias," of Montreal, will contest for the honors at an early date.

One of H. M. regulars in garrison at Halifax writes "The 66th (volunteers) have the new helmet, blue with white ornaments; they look remarkably well, being mostly well set up men; the helmets are shown to advantage."

In another column will be found an interesting account of the first Palliser gun competition in Canada. The following are the winners in the competition:

Sergeant Walling.....	41	points.....	\$15
Sergt.-Major Lavie....	40	".....	5
Capt. Price.....	35	".....	5

In our book notice we have alluded to the issue of an illustrated work by the Gunnery School press, Quebec. The reports of the Dominion Artillery Association, the prize essays, &c., have also been very creditably printed by these soldier amateurs, we are very glad to know that, at last, their energies have been rewarded by a small monthly Government grant, enough to secure them against loss financially.

At the Point St. Charles Ranges, Montreal, on Wednesday, the 16th inst., a local marksman ran up 99 points out of a possible 100, at 800 yards, with a Sharpe's rifle. Nineteen "bulls" and an "inner." The 20th shot lost him the full score, being just outside the right edge of the "bull." Forty minutes was the time taken; not bad, considering the rifle requires cleaning after every shot. A slightly varying 9 o'clock wind prevailed.

The Hamilton powder factory was lately visited by Lt.-Col. T. Bland Strange, Inspector of Artillery and War stores. Some samples of Canadian manufactured R. L. G. (Rifle large grain), and L. G. were inspected and reported on by him. Verbally he expressed himself well pleased with the facilities for manufacture, and the able superintendance of Mr. Brainerd, who served with the U. S. artillery in the late war. What the official report may be is not of course, known. Lt.-Col. Strange has often officially urged the manufacture of powder and of such other war stores in the Dominion as can be economically and efficiently produced.

ARTILLERY INSPECTION.

On Thursday the 10th inst. Major Price Lewes, the new assistant inspector of artillery, inspected the 1st Halifax Garrison Artillery, the men acquitting themselves well. At the conclusion the Major congratulated the men on their efficiency, but regretted that their number was so limited. He advised more frequent practice with the big guns, and expressed a wish that a competition may be got up with the New Brunswick Artillery. Accordingly the St. John, N.B., *Globe* announced that, in the event of a competition between Nova Scotia and New Brunswick artillery men, with the big guns, a prize would be given by that paper. No. 10 Battery of Artillery, of St. John, N.B., desires to get on a match with some Halifax battery, and should such be arranged between batteries representing the two provinces, the *St. John Telegraph* will also be willing to furnish a prize.

THE "QUEEN'S OWN."

The Annual Rifle Match of this Corps took place on the 5th inst., and was most successful both in point of numbers and prizes; of the latter seventy were given, open to all ranks of the corps, thirty to non-prizemen, besides the "Company" and many special and range prizes, the whole running up to the handsome sum of \$650. A Company again won the Company prize with a score of 536 points; ten men, 15 rounds, at 200, 400 and 500 yds. D. Company second with 505 points.

A football club is being organized in the Regiment, in the hope of being able to play this season matches with the "Victorias," of Montreal, and the Cadets of the Royal Military College.

The Annual Inspection will take place about the middle of next month, and drill is now going on regularly.

Good Service badges were recently presented by Lieut. Col. Otter to sixty non-com. officers and men of upwards of three years' continuous service, to 35 of six years and 10 of nine years and over.

In another column we direct attention to an important and almost totally neglected branch of the education of our active militia. True, the system of evening drills, as a rule adopted by the city corps, precludes the possibility of imparting instruction other than straight marching, ending in a few simple close formations, and the manipulation of the rifle on parade. A portion of the men are taken to the butts to fire away their annual allowance of ammunition, in many instances without previous instruction, and thousands of rounds are annually wasted in a vain endeavour to hit the target at ranges from 400 to 600 yards by men who, for want of knowledge of their weapon, could scarcely hit a barn door 200 yards away. We shall return to this subject in a future issue, meantime it is satisfactory to know that Musketry instruction, including judging distance, drill is annually and regularly carried on in the Gunnery Schools at Kingston and Quebec, and at the Royal Artillery College, Kingston.