

THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE

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

Third Year.
VOL. III, No. 42.

OTTAWA, THURSDAY, 19th APRIL, 1888.

\$1.50 per annum in advance.
Single Copies Five Cents.

CONTENTS OF THIS NUMBER

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Appointment to the Mounted Infantry Corps.
War office reorganization.
The new departments created.
Another acceptance for the Wimbledon team.
The German Emperor's military programme.
A U. S. comment on his proposed new system.
The Snider rifle takes a back seat.
A Chinese Military School.
The events of Batoche revived.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Rifle shooting in the Permanent Corps—
Smoothbore.
MODERN TACTICS—(Con.)—Capt. H. R. Gall.
Chapter IX—Rivers.

MILITIA NEWS AND NOTES.

POETRY—"The Gallant Grey."

MESS ROOM STORIES.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Current Topics.

FEW will be disposed to cavil at the choice made by the Minister of Militia, in appointing Lieut. Archibald Cameron Macdonell to a lieutenancy in the Mounted Infantry Corps, at Winnipeg. This gentleman is a graduate of the Royal Military College, Kingston, having completed his course there in 1886, taking second place in the graduating class, and thereby becoming entitled to a commission in the Imperial Royal Artillery, which however he thought fit to decline. Since graduating, Mr. Macdonell has been practising civil engineering, making Montreal his headquarters. He is, however, a native of Windsor, Ont.

THE reorganization of the British War Office, so as to give the military authorities complete control, is now an accomplished fact. Under the new system the administration of the army is classified under two perfectly distinct heads—the bureaucratic or civil administration, and the active or military administration. The war office provides the money, and the Quartermaster General, acting for the Commander-in-Chief, is solely responsible that every requisite that money can purchase is duly forthcoming and is duly applied. The director of contracts is restricted to advising the war office as to the framing and general tenor of contracts; but he will not be suffered to interfere in their actual acceptance, and still less in their actual execution. The director of supplies disappears altogether, and in the reorganization of the Ordnance Department, the old appointments of assistant superintendent of the Royal Gunpowder, Small Arms, and Carriage Factories, and Royal Laboratory, etc., are abolished.

THE Quartermaster General besides other functions has control of sanitary questions relating to the Army. The Adjutant General exercises general control over the duties of the Military Department, and, in the Commander-in-Chief's absence, is empowered to act in his name. There are a Military Secretary, an Inspector General of Fortifications, a Director of Artillery, a Director of the Intelligence Division, a Director General of the Army Medical Department, a Director General of Military Education, a Chaplain General and a Principal Veterinary Surgeon. Their titles indicate their functions. In the Civil Department there is an Accountant General, a Director of Contracts, a Director of Clothing, a Director General of Ordnance Factories. All appeals by officers and others against decisions given in the Financial Division will be referred, where necessary, to the Military Department for remarks. Where the Military and Civil Departments differ in opinion on such questions, the latter will submit the papers for the decision of the Secretary of State. The Military Department will have power to authorize, without previous reference to the Financial Division, all expenditure covered by regulation

and provided for in the sub-heads of the estimates. Other expenditures will have to be referred to the Financial Division before submission to the Secretary of State.

HAVING written to the next two on the list for Wimbledon to fill the vacancies caused by the refusals of two of the first twenty, the secretary of the Dominion Rifle Association has since last week received an acceptance from Pte. J. H. Morris of the 45th Battalion, Bowmanville; and a refusal from Capt. J. T. Hartt, of the St. John Rifle Co. Nineteen places have thus been taken. The remaining one has now been offered to the twenty-third man, Gunner A. Wilson, of the Halifax Garrison Artillery.

IN a rescript addressed to Gen. von Schellendorf, the Minister of War, under date of March 26, Emperor Frederick says: "Like His Majesty my father, I shall devote my immediate and unremitting attention to my army. The infantry drill regulations introduced by the late Emperor and King, and subjected to repeated changes to suit the times, have up to the present proved satisfactory, but they now require alteration in order to meet the demands upon the soldiers arising from the progress made in the art of manufacturing firearms, and to provide time for a more thorough individual drilling, and a more uniform and strict training of the men under fire. With this view I desire especially to draw attention to the expediency of doing away with the system of formation in treble ranks. It is not used in war, and can be dispensed with in time of peace. I desire also to see the alterations thus required so arranged that men on leave, when ordered to rejoin their colours, may, without special training, adapt themselves to the new regulations."

LIEUT. W. R. HAMILTON, 5th U. S. Art., a thorough tactician, is quoted as saying with reference to this: "There is nothing very surprising in it. This order has been contemplated by the German War Department for a long time. It is well known that the present Emperor suggested it many years ago, but the late Emperor was so much in favour of the system by which he won the Franco-Prussian war that he would never consent to any change. What it means is that instead of having three lines they will form a single, which will be thrown out in different sub-divisions or groups as now, except that instead of three lines in one formation and two in another they will all be the same. The old system was to throw out a number of such columns and from these the line of skirmishers. The great drawback was that all the movements on the march and in the field, until they were right in the line of battle, was in ranks of threes, and in the event of its being broken it could not readily be replaced. By the formation adopted you can send out one company right or left and still maintain the unit of manoeuvre throughout the movement. Of course the improvement in firearms necessitate a change of tactics. This has long been seen by our own army officers. One system proposed is exactly like that in operation as far back as 1800. The best suggestion that I have heard of is that of Major Hawkins, of West Point. It covers the three arms of the system admirably, I am told, but I cannot explain just what it is."