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CORRESPONDENCE.

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COMMENT AND CRITICISM.

In the current number of the *Army and Navy Gazette* appears the beginning of a continued article on the failings of the English rural volunteer corps, from which it would seem that these are laboring under similar disadvantages to, and are not much more efficient than, our own rural battalions, notwithstanding that they have paid instructors and adjutants. Complaint is made that in consequence of the bad system, involving lack of proper discipline, the class of men coming forward as officers has been rapidly lowered, while the class of rank and file naturally falls in sympathy; and so unqualified men, without the necessary means, are found in commands. Privates are said not to be thoroughly drilled as recruits, and consequently go through their whole service in a limping way, and the musketry instruction seems to be as great a farce as it is here. We shall look forward with interest to the remedies proposed for these defects, which are certainly shared by us in common with our English co-workers, and which we derive a certain mournful satisfaction in contemplating.

Last week's *Irish Canadian* goes out of its way to have a fling at the band of the Governor-General's Foot Guards. Its Ottawa correspondent, describing the performance given in the opera house on St. Patrick's day by a local literary association for which that celebrated and holy Scotchman had been made to stand godfather, says (we give the sentence *verbatim et literatim*): "The orchestra was furnished by

the Guard band, at one time considered the best in Canada but now positively the very worst in America. If it cannot mend its ways within a measurable period of time it should be dissolved, or better still, dispatched to the North-west to scare rebellious Indians. After this farcical *fanfare* had blundered through a choice collection of Irish airs, each one of which it murdered—if I may use the word—the concert began." Anyone who knows this fine band must wonder at such a condemnation, but the explanation is simple. The band actually had the audacity to play "God save the Queen" at the end of the performance, where "a selection" was announced on the programme so as to obviate the necessity for such action. Mr. Bonner, the bandmaster, was in fact made to understand plainly that he had offended the officials by playing so disloyal a tune, and had the hardihood to reply that wherever the Guards' band went they proposed to finish their programme with "God save the Queen," and whoever did not want that should not get the band. Further comment would be superfluous.

On the fourth of next month the local sportsmen propose holding a pigeon shooting tournament here, when prizes aggregating a thousand dollars in gold will be offered for competition under the auspices of the St. Hubert Gun Club. The chief match will be 21 birds, 26 yards rise, 100 yards boundary, Dominion rules, entrance fee \$10. It is also proposed to hold at the same time a convention of the several Canadian gun clubs for the purpose of organizing a Dominion Gun Association, which should regulate shot-gun shooting throughout the country, hold an annual meeting of which a prize tournament should be an important feature, and take cognizance of the various game laws of the several provinces, with a view to make efforts for their amendment when necessary. Rifle shooting and shot-gun shooting are not so radically different that we as riflemen do not feel interested in what our sporting friends are doing, especially now that an agitation for moving targets has been begun, and the gun clubs of the country should be a good training school for our coming generation of rifle shots. We therefore look forward with interest to the approaching gun tournament.

Saturday's general orders are more than ordinarily interesting, containing, as they do, several important announcements. The first details the arrangements made by the government for the supply of miniature medals, and reproduces from the Queen's regulations the rules for wearing medals both large and miniature, and the forms to be followed in case of loss of medals. The second order formally constitutes a class of unemployed officers on the active list, which will consist of substantive field officers and captains of the active militia, and of graduates of the R.M.C.; also of non-combatant officers having honorary or relative rank of field officer or captain. Transfers to this list will be restricted to men having good and particular records, and when they pass the age limit they will be retired. The following names appear this week: Lieut.-Col. Panet, Deputy Minister of Militia; Lieut.-Col. Bacon, Secretary D.R.A.; Lieut.-Col. Macdonald, Militia Department; Capt. Perley, Engineer Officer at Headquarters, and Capt.