

# THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE

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## Topics of the Week.

The National Defence Committee recently appointed held a meeting on Monday afternoon to discuss the method of procedure to be adopted. The meeting was held in Lieut.-General Middleton's office, in the Militia Department, and besides him there were present Major-General Cameron, of the Royal Military College, Kingston; Col. Walker Powell, Adjutant-General, and Lieut. Col. Irwin, Inspector of Artillery. Lieut. Lang, R.E., a graduate of the Royal Military College, who has been in the employ of the Imperial Government for some time past at Esquimalt, B.C., in connection with the work on the fortifications there, has been designated by the Imperial authorities as the secretary of the committee. He is expected to arrive in Ottawa very shortly, and the regular meetings will then be proceeded with.

The following from the *United Service Gazette* explains itself: "Anent a paragraph which appeared in these columns on the 3rd ult. regarding the probable vacation of the command of the Canadian militia by Lieut.-Gen. Sir F. D. Middleton, we are informed by Sir Frederick that his term of service has been extended to November 1892. We offer our congratulations both to the Canadian Government and to Sir Frederick, and are very glad to hear that there is no truth in the rumour that any difficulty has ever been experienced by the General in working with the Dominion authorities. The mere fact of their extending his period of service is sufficient contradiction of the *canard.*"

A manual of information concerning Guards of Honour, Guards, Sentries, Reliefs, Rounds and Patrols, and the diverse duties connected therewith, has just been issued by Sergt.-Major J. B. Munroe, of D Co. of the Infantry School Corps. It contains in handy form all necessary instruction concerning these duties, and will well repay reading up. One scarcely realizes all there is to be learned on the subject until he sees it compiled, as in this little book. A handy recapitulation of the rank badges of officers is appended. This is the second pocket manual Sergt.-Major Munroe has issued, and it speaks well for the success of the first—"Squad Drill Elucidated"—that a new edition, corrected according to the latest emendations in squad drill, is shortly to be published.

"Her Majesty's Army; a descriptive account of the various regiments now comprising the Queen's forces, from their first establishment to the present time," is the title of an exceedingly attractive work now

passing through the printing press. It is to be in 15 quarto parts, and the first two have now been issued. The work gives an exceedingly favourable impression, both at first appearance and upon critical examination and perusal of the contents. It is a work of art as regards the large and delightfully clear typography, and the series of coloured plates forming part of the publication. The matter is written in most interesting style, and is read all the more eagerly from the fact that the army being taken regiment by regiment, one has constantly brought before him the daring feats of present day interest side by side with the stirring military events of the long ago which have been perpetuated in history. The histories are brought down to very recent date, Wolseley's Egyptian campaign, for instance, coming in for liberal attention in the two parts issued, which deal with the cavalry. "Her Majesty's Army" is being canvassed in Canada by the well known subscription company of which Capt. John Hood of Montreal, is manager.

Shooting men will be interested in learning that the location of the "New Wimbledon" is about decided at last. The Committee of the Council of the N. R. A. have discovered that certain ground near Brookwood, close to the Guards' ranges at Pirbright, which belongs to the Government, will answer well for the purpose of the great prize meetings, if it is supplemented by a comparatively small tract of land, which will have to be purchased. The Secretary of War proposes to give the Association the free right of firing over the ground belonging to the Government. At the last meeting the Council resolved to adopt the report of the Committee in favour of the Brookwood site, subject to the land being acquirable at a reasonable price and the use of a certain common being obtainable. Brookwood lies at a considerable distance from London, but is on the main line of the South-Western Railway, and the shooting ground will be close to the railway station.

Major Mayne, R.E., of the Royal Military College Staff, is reported to have made some singularly indiscreet remarks at a meeting of the Queen's Alma Mater Society held at Kingston the other evening. According to the press reports, he "advocated the maintenance by the Canadian Government of a small permanent force of 4,000 or 5,000 men and the *entire abolition of the militia system*, which he characterized as *inefficient, incapable, and wholly inadequate in its present shape.* A small standing army would be adequate only for the preservation of peace and the maintenance of order within the Dominion. For any conflict with a foreign foe we would be dependent upon the Mother Land. Canada might have a few ships-of-war, sufficient to defend her own coast line, and thus lend England a helping hand in case the whole maternal fleet were needed in other parts of the world. Col. Cotton and Major Wilson, of "B" Battery, favoured a small standing army, but were not depreciatory in their terms towards the militia." The italics are ours. It is hard to believe that an officer holding Major Mayne's position would make use of such language, which is wholly unwarranted by the facts, and calculated to give an exceedingly bad impression abroad. That there are weaknesses in the militia is indisputable, but the weak points exist not because the system is wrong, but because