

THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE

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

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CORRESPONDENCE.

The MILITIA GAZETTE aims at being the recognized medium of instruction and information for Canadian militiamen and rifle shots. Communications on the subjects to which its pages are devoted are respectfully invited. Anonymous communications will not be regarded. No name will be published, except with the writer's consent. The editors will not be responsible for the views of correspondents.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS.

COMMENT AND CRITICISM.

The military effect on the Pacific slope of the completion of the C.P.R.
A military tournament again.
This week's general orders.
Major Dupont's services.
Officers' uniforms again.
Difficulty of procuring officers.
News wanted.

CONTRIBUTED.

Notes of No. 1 District camp.—II.
Notions of a noodle.—IV.

SELECTED.

Mounted infantry—Col. T. J. MacAndrew,
Bengal Staff Corps.
A new army rifle.

SELECTED.

A military tournament.
Easy method of "setting up" a field wheel.—Col. C. E. Nairne, C.B., R.A.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Honors for those who were at the front.
Suggestions regarding service uniforms.

AMUSEMENTS.

REGIMENTAL NOTES.

THE TARGET.

37th Battalion annual matches.
First annual prize meeting Lanark R.A.

EXTRACTS FROM MILITIA GENERAL ORDERS.

We are indebted to an unknown friend in England for copies of the constitution of the Royal Military Tournament, which has become a permanent institution in the Mother Country, and a reduced copy of which we would fain see established here. One of the volunteer papers also comments favourably on our previous remarks on the subject, as may be seen in another column. Annexed to the constitution of this tournament are full and explicit rules for conducting the various competitions and combats, which we will publish during the winter if there proves to be sufficient interest taken in the matter to warrant the devotion of our space to it.

The general orders this week are short, and continue to show a falling off in the number of officers, only seven new names being added to the list, while eleven have retired from active service. The list also contains six promotions. The only changes in field officers' rank are in the case of Dr. Wilson, who succeeds the late Dr. Vail as surgeon of the 74th Batt., and Capt. Wolfenden, who succeeds Major Dupont as commander of the B. C. Provisional Regiment of Garrison Artillery.

While congratulating Major Wolfenden on his well-deserved promotion, we are sorry to find that the active force loses the services of Major Dupont, who made many friends while in Quebec at the School of Gunnery, and who was mainly instrumental in organizing the first battery of artillery formed in British Columbia, which had just held its first muster when Lieut.-Col. Irwin, Inspector of Artillery, arrived in the province for the purpose of examining into the artillery requirements of the place. On two occasions Major Dupont has acted as D. A. G. of the district, and we feel sure that if ever occasion should arise he would be found again prepared to serve his Queen and country.

Almost the only comment we have ever made that provoked unfavorable criticism was one about assisting officers to pay for their uniforms, to which the objection is raised that none but gentlemen who could afford to pay for their uniforms should be given commissions. With this sentiment we heartily agree, and would strongly support any movement having such a reform in view, but putting sentiment aside, what do we find to be the lamentable fact? The officers of rural corps, as seen in brigade camps, are in very few instances properly uniformed. What "Kew-em" describes in his letter is in no wise confined to No. 1 district; we can personally testify to the same being true of Nos. 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 districts. There has been a regulation that no company would get paid unless it turned out of a certain strength; perhaps it would be possible to ordain for next year that no *battalion* would receive a cent unless every officer in it was properly uniformed; and this would include all being uniformed alike, *from boots to cap covers*.

NOTICE.

We have been sending the GAZETTE to a large list of officers and others who we thought were sufficiently alive to militia interests to wish to become subscribers, and while we have no intention of taking advantage of the law which enables us to count these amongst our debtors, we would request all those who wish to receive the GAZETTE in future to remit their annual subscription, and those who are not pleased or do not sympathize with the military force sufficiently to wish for the paper to notify us to that effect, and to return promptly any future copies sent them.

COMMENT AND CRITICISM.

The change which the completion of the Canadian Pacific Railway will make in the military situation of the Pacific Coast is indicated by the fact that a load of freight consisting of naval stores has reached Victoria within fifteen days after leaving Liverpool. Of course it is not pretended that all freight will be forwarded with the same despatch; but what has been done once can be done again, and in case of any complication on the Pacific Slope the importance of having a supply station that can be reached from England within a fortnight can not be over-estimated.