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COMMENT AND CRITICISM.

At a meeting of the Executive Committee of the D.R.A. held yesterday the extra series matches proposed for the next meeting were considered, the aggregate matches having been settled on the same lines as last year at the first meeting held. It was decided to abolish the extra series match at 200 yards, and so do away with the targets in the far field, and to put the prizes previously given in that match into an additional Snider match at 600 yards, and also turn one of the Martini extra series matches at 500 into a match at 600 yards. The long range Martini match and the any-rifle match will each be fired at two ranges, 800 and 900 yards, and will both be kept open throughout the meeting. The range committee propose putting in several new targets in the old butts to give the much needed extra accommodation for extra series matches; while the abolition of sighting shots will radically change the firing arrangements, and allow all the matches in the aggregate to be fired by Wednesday evening. We propose at an early date to show the means to be adopted for compassing this desirable end.

Last week's general orders bring out a long and interesting array of appointments, and show that the city battalions especially are getting their lists into good shape for another year's work. For the first time since the birth of the GAZETTE the gains exceed the losses, the roll standing: promotions, twenty-two; new appointments, twenty-three, including nineteen unqualified and provisional and four non-combatants

not requiring qualification; retirements and deaths, twenty-two, leaving a balance to the good of one commission. The large number of promotions in the Eighth Royal Rifles is noticeable, and it is also noticeable that by Capt. Hunt's retirement the regiment is left without either a field officer or a company officer qualified for promotion. The Sixty-fifth, the latest addition to the roll of city battalions, changes its surgeon and his assistant. Col. Bremner retires from the command of the Sixty-sixth after worthily maintaining as commander in the field of the Halifax battalion the reputation long before earned as commanding officer of the Fusiliers, and his retirement gives promotion to three others of the battalion; Col. Beaudreau succeeds to the command of the Seventy-sixth; all other changes are in the ranks of company officers.

We particularly congratulate Capt. Inlah, C.R.A., on his gazette, as this officer's case is well known to have been for a long time past a hard one. He has acted as quartermaster of the battery for some years, but without definite standing or official recognition; and it was high time that he should be gazetted. We would only now suggest that even if his pay cannot be antedated that his commission should date from the time when he received his first acting appointment.

We have no objections to having both sides of a case argued in our columns, but we are afraid that "Miles," in protesting against the growing importance of the school corps, is fighting the inevitable. The question of whether the government are overstepping their authority is one that can best be decided in parliament, the question of the size to which the permanent corps should be restricted can well be argued here. We note that "Miles" himself admits that the force heretofore maintained has been necessary, and we think the argument we have lately advanced, the hard argument of figures, goes to prove that one more school at least is required. For the present at all events the country is safe against the establishment of any very large standing army.

Our attention has been drawn to the fact that in the synopsis of the new militia list which we published on the 16th inst. the number of years during which the commanding officers of corps have retained command is in many instances understated. This chiefly occurs in the batteries of artillery, and is in consequence of the date only of the last promotion being given. For instance Lt.-Col. Gray, commanding the Toronto field battery, who is only credited with three years' command, was gazetted captain commanding the corps in January, 1870, and was promoted to the rank of major commanding by the G. O. of May, 1883, while the records show that this is his 29th year of continuous service in the same corps; similarly we know that Major Stewart, credited with three years' command, was captain commanding the Ottawa battery at least ten years ago, and so with most other majors commanding. As we wish to have the synopsis correct for future reference we should feel obliged for notification of any other errors in it.