

# THE CANADIAN MILITARY GAZETTE.

(SUCCESSOR TO THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE.)

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### NOTE AND COMMENT.

Lieut. Colonels Mattice, Aylmer, and Pope retired from the service on the first of the month under the order abolishing brigade majors. Whatever the merits of the change may be from an economic point of view, there is no denying that the summary removal from their appointments of these officers for no fault of their own is a great hardship. Great sympathy has been expressed in the Montreal district at the retirement of Lieut. Col Mattice,

and it is not to be wondered at considering his long and faithful service in the force, his undoubted ability as a staff officer and his popularity socially. Many of his friends were anxious to use political influence with the government to secure his retention in the service in some suitable position or another, but the gallant Colonel's soldierly instincts rebelled against such an interference. It is to be sincerely hoped in the interest of the force that we are not going to be treated to the spectacle of a gallant officer thrown upon the world after spending the best years of his life in the service, a service by the bye, which does not provide sufficiently generous emoluments to admit of its officers putting something away towards a rainy day. We feel confident that the Minister of Militia can be depended upon to see that justice is done to the officers concerned.

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We thoroughly sympathize with our correspondent who pitches into Montreal regiments for not making it a point to give the Bisley Team a fitting send-off when they go on board their ship. Everything that is possible should be done to lend importance to the team, not merely for the purpose of encouraging the members of the team themselves, but to keep up public interest in the annual expedition of Canada's crack shots to Bisley and to make the position on the team all the more attractive to the younger shots in the service. To win a place on the team is really to win one of the most coveted prizes of the D. R. A. and anything that can be done to make the prize more attractive by the addition of a little glory in the way of brass band music should be done.

Most of the regiments have completed their annual training, have passed their annual inspections, have sent in the paysheets (this latter hardly worth the trouble by the bye) and will now diligently set themselves to work to hibernate until the next drill season begins. Upon the occasions of such incidents as rifle matches there may be some signs of life shown in some regiments, but in many cases all military work is suspended for nearly a year, and, in fact in the cases of the much abused rural corps, for nearly two years. In the opinion of men who have given any attention to the militia this practice of entirely dropping regimental work just so soon as the regiments have passed their annual inspections is one of the greatest evils of the present system. During the period between the close of one drill season and the commencement of the next our rural corps, absolutely, and the city corps to a very large extent exist only on paper. There are perhaps half a dozen corps in the country besides the permanently embodied corps to whom this does not apply, but their number is so small that they do nothing else but prove the rule.

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There ought to be some means devised to keep the militiaman in touch with his corps during the intermission. A great deal of suitable drilling weather is wasted in the autumn, which could be utilized to advantage if we could but get the men interested. A well known Ontario officer, writing to the Military Gazette, expresses the belief that ninety-nine per-cent of the militia could easily be got out in the late autumn months for a couple of days field operations. No doubt one of the things the militia needs most is some