

THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE

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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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IT is definitely decided that the clasp to be awarded for action in the North-West is to bear the word "Saskatchewan," and that no distinction will be made between those awarded to the several columns or for the different fights.

IF "Alkali," Toronto, will look at the very first paragraph of our every issue he will see why his letter found its way promptly into our waste paper basket, and if he reads the fourth comment of our issue of the third instant he will see that his argument in favor of giving clasps to some of the North-West contingent who were not in action, is in direct contravention of the rules governing the issue of clasps, and that such a thing could not be thought of, no matter how praiseworthy the efforts of the men whom the fortunes of war kept out of action.

THIS month's general orders, besides making many changes in the headquarters of companies, disband the Emerson company, and complete the organization of Nos. 2 and 3 companies of the new Algoma battalion. Amongst the appointments made the following affect officers above the rank of captain: Captain Delamere, of the Queen's Own, so well known as a rifle shot and as past adjutant of that corps, gets his majority in regular rotation. Captain and Adjutant T. C. Lazier likewise

gets field rank in the 15th. Dr. Riddall, of the 36th, is promoted to the rank of surgeon-major on the completion of twenty years' service as surgeon. Major Ballachey assumes command of the Dufferin Rifles, Col. Jones going onto the retired list; and Major Boswell gets the lieutenant-colonelcy of the Ninetieth, in succession to the lamented MacKeand, Captain Ruttan taking the position vacated by Col. Boswell.

SUMMING up all the appointments we find they include thirteen promotions, twenty-five additions to the list, four of whom only are qualified, while the retirements and losses from other causes foot up twenty. This makes a net gain of five commissions for the month.

THE Secretary of the Dominion Rifle Association wishes us to inform members of the association and rifle shots generally that copies of the recently published annual report will be sent to them on application if desired. As the report contains a vast amount of valuable and interesting information we advise every rifle shot to send for one.

TWENTY-FIVE rounds were recently fired by order of the Militia Department from a 9-pr. gun mounted on Captain Drury's adaptation of the Woolwich gun sleigh. The rounds were fired under service conditions, which involved a pretty severe trial, and the results were eminently satisfactory. Further experiments are to be made, on the completion of which we hope to present a full report of the results.

LAST week we said something about the D.R.A. revolver match, now we should like to say a few words about the Long Range match. It should most emphatically be struck off the programme altogether. It may have had a *raison d'être* some years ago, in encouraging inventive genius in rifle makers, and in training our men in a style of shooting popular in the United States, but now that army rifles have been improved so as to nearly equal the match rifles, the latter are almost as extinct as the dodo. We venture the assertion that not one long range rifle has been purchased or made in Canada in the last five years, and that the great majority of those who compete in this match are those who have owned match rifles for years and only get them out once in the season for the express purpose of firing this match. The fact that last year a Martini match was fired at the same ranges as the so called "Long Range" match is another argument in favor of the abolition of this last. If the money were thrown into another Martini match there would be some sense in it.

WE have been favored with the perusal of a "hand-book" of instructions just published by the Nordenfelt Gun Co. for their 6-pr quick firing gun, large numbers of which have been, and are being, supplied to the Imperial Government. The tables in the hand-book disclose some interesting facts connected with these guns. The weight of the gun appears to be slightly less than $6\frac{3}{4}$ cwt., but little in excess of the old 6 pr. brass field piece. Its length is 9 feet 4 inches, the muzzle velocity 2,150 feet, and the velocity at 1,000 yards, 1,509 feet. With these velocities the total energy at the muzzle amounts to 192 foot tons, and at 1,000 yards to 94 tons. This is, we believe, the highest velocity ever