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THE CANADIAN

Military Gazette

Successor to the Canadian Militia Gazette.

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MONTREAL, NOV. 1, 1894.

Notes and Comments

We clip the following from an English exchange: "By the arrangement entered into between the War Office and the Canadian Government, Major-General Ivor Herbert is to be allowed to retain command of the Dominion Militia until November, 1895."

While we have no official confirmation of this item we believe it is correct, and in our opinion our Militia is to be congratulated on its retention for a longer period of Major General Herbert as its Commander in chief.

When General Herbert first began to carry out his ideas, for the improvement of our forces there was much grumbling heard on all sides, and exception was taken to the many changes he made.

While much is still heard in the way of grumbling, militiamen generally are

coming to see that most of these changes are for the good of the forces and to realize that in their present head they have one of the most energetic, untiring and able commanders they have had for many a year.

Major General Herbert has doubtless made mistakes, and has been thought by many to be too exacting in wanting the Militia to come up to a standard which only regulars could attain; but all agree that under his strict rule, much improvement is shown by most of the militia battalions and that the permanent companies have been very effectively smartened up.

We trust that with a better acquaintance with his material the General's work will become even more effective and feel sure that most of the officers of the force will second us in the hope that the General may be allowed a longer term of office so as to further carry out his plans for the betterment of Canada's militia.

The following we clip from an account of the "Belgian Tir National" prize meeting:

In consequence of the protests against the changes in the conditions of the "armes de guerre" contests made in 1893, the Commission started a cible à volonté and cible fixe, both at 500 and 600 mètres, for "armes de précision," that is, any rifle, any calibre, any sights, any cartridge. They hoped to induce competitors to bring over their match rifles, but nobody took the trouble to do so. They complain that only fifteen competitors came forward. The prize fund for the armes de précision at 600 mètres consisted of the entrance fees (54 francs) after deducting the 10 per cent. kept back for expenses. Mr. Lowe became the happy winner of the first prize of eleven francs (11 francs)! According to the conditions, the winners of the first ten prizes, in each cible fixe were entitled to be called up to

receive their prizes, but the Commission were so much ashamed of the fiasco that the privilege was withheld in this case, and the Commission admit the failure in their official report.

This reminds us of an incident of the Dominion Rifle Association matches in 1893, when the first prize winner, Sergt. Binmore of the Victoria Rifles, received the magnificent sum of \$2.56, being almost to a cent the same amount as Mr. Lowe's magnificent prize in Belgium.

We believe that the D. R. A. would be accomplishing a duty and one that would prove a profitable one to itself, if it were to offer a substantial prize list for revolver shooting.

At Bisley this class of competition is becoming more and more popular every year and is one of the principal side issues of that meeting. The D. R. A. however, to make the competitions a success, should erect a proper revolver butt, and have competitions at both fixed and moveable targets, and have at least three targets in use.

Competitors, whose time is pretty well filled up, will not mind strolling down to fire a ticket or two, provided they feel moderately certain of being able to do so without waiting for a half dozen scores to be got through before they have an opportunity of testing their skill.

Rifle shooting being pretty well over for the season, now is the time for the revolver clubs to blossom out. To all these we would recommend the adoption, when possible, of moveable or at least disappearing targets. Of all classes of shooting, that which on active service is done with a revolver is certain to call for speed as well as accuracy. The great skill which many