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CONTENTS OF THIS NUMBER

EDITORIAL NOTES.

General Middleton's term prolonged.
The late Lieut. Col. Perry.
His active interest in the militia.
Funds for Imperial fortifications.
A suggestion to rifle associations.
The North-West Mounted Police.
Why caution supersedes "dash."
Unsatisfactory weapons in use.

MILITIA GENERAL ORDERS.
No. 5 of 23rd March, 1888.
POETRY—"The Brave at Home."
— *T. Buchanan Read.*
CORRESPONDENCE.
Cartridge Belts for the Militia.—*Centurion.*
MILITIA NEWS AND NOTES.
MODERN TACTICS—(Con.)—*Capt. H. K. Gall.*

Current Topics.

A GRATIFYING recognition of Lieut.-General Sir Fred. Middleton's services as officer commanding the militia of Canada, has just been made by the extension of his term of office, for two years it is understood from the time of its natural expiration, July 1889. General Middleton having been retired from the active list of the Imperial service, the British authorities were consulted as to whether or not this should debar him from continuing to serve in Canada, and it is with their concurrence that the Canadian government have taken or are about to take the action indicated above. This ought to be a matter for congratulation throughout the Dominion. General Middleton has had exceptional opportunities for making himself thoroughly familiar with our militia force and its needs, and, as we have before contended in these columns, it would be a great pity to lose his services just now when they have become specially valuable, and so many reforms he has recommended still remain to be further urged or executed.

A GOOD friend of the volunteer force passed away at Ottawa on Sunday last, in the person of Lieut.-Col. George Hugo Perry, who died at the advanced age of seventy years, from the effects of a cold contracted not many weeks ago. The deceased was born in the County of Wexford, Ireland, on December 17th, 1817, and in his boyhood served as midshipman in the Royal Navy. He then took up engineering, and for a time studied under Sir John MacNeill in Dublin. After having distinguished himself in his profession in Great Britain he came to Canada in 1852, and after a few years became engaged in a survey of the Ottawa River, the impression then formed of the destiny of this great waterway inspiring his constant advocacy ever since of the Ottawa Ship Canal scheme. Amongst other positions he held, he was for some years City Engineer of Ottawa.

AT the time of the first Riel rebellion, Mr. Perry was entrusted with the arduous and delicate duty of superintending the transport of provisions and munitions of war through United States territory for the use of the troops under Col. Garnet Wolseley, and in appreciation of the manner in which he acquitted himself on this occasion he was given the rank of Major. Last year the honorary rank of Lieut.-Colonel on the retired list was conferred on him as a special case. The deceased took a very active interest in the organization of what has since developed into the volunteer force of the Ottawa district, and he was also one of the original promoters of the Dominion Rifle Association. For a long time he rendered valuable gratuitous services as editor of the now defunct *Volunteer Review*, and the CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE has

been indebted to him for many favours of a similar nature. The deceased leaves a widow and three children, the latter being Mr. Chas. E. Perry, of Victoria, B.C., Mrs. R. Dawson, of Toronto, and Mrs. Bliss, wife of Rev. C. V. F. Bliss, of Mattawa.

REFERRING to the contemplated fortification of Imperial forts and coaling stations, Mr. Goschen, Chancellor of the Exchequer, stated in his budget speech to the British parliament this week that it was the intention to meet the expenditure by utilizing the dividends from the Suez canal shares. This amounts to £570,000 yearly, and is sufficient to make provision for an immediate loan of £2,300,000 to meet the proposed expenditure on these fortifications. The chancellor is able this year to show a surplus of upwards of two million pounds, the largest since 1874.

TO add interest to the weekly practice of the riflemen, would it not be well to arrange for a series of simultaneous matches, such as we occasionally read about as taking place in India? Association teams from the principal cities might contribute each a few dollars and thus procure a trophy worth winning as the result of the series, which might include say monthly matches for three or four months of the shooting season. Each team would shoot upon its own range, and the official record of the scores would be transmitted to the governing centre agreed upon. Of course varying conditions of wind and weather would make results more or less a matter of luck, but the interest would be in no wise diminished, and the greater general interest taken the greater will be the number of volunteers who will take the trouble to learn to shoot well. We invite comment on the above crude suggestions, which are made with a view to eliciting an exchange of opinion on the subject.

THE annual report of Commissioner Lawrence W. Herchmer, on the North-West Mounted Police, has been issued, and a valuable map of the North-West, showing the Police patrols, has been distributed with it. The semi-military nature of this fine body makes its affairs of special interest to our readers, and those who may be able to secure a copy of the report will find its contents exceedingly interesting. A new element has been introduced in the patrols lately in the engagement of some full-blooded Indians as scouts. These are reported to have so far done very good service, being invaluable as trailers, and able and willing to travel excessive distances in an almost incredibly short space of time. The Commissioner recommends increasing the number of these scouts.

ILL-NATURED criticisms of the force for having as alleged lost the "dash" characterizing it in its early days, the Commissioner makes this reference: "The Police have been frequently blamed for not displaying their old firmness and dash when dealing with criminal Indians, but it must be remembered that in the old days the Indians could only retaliate on the Police themselves, and on a few traders quite able and only too ready to take care of themselves. Now-a-days the people are scattered all over the country, and rashness on the part of the Police might at any time result in the murder and insult of settlers and their