

THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE

The Popular Organ of the Active Force of the Dominion.

VOL. VII, No. 12.
Price Five Cents.

OTTAWA, MARCH 24th, 1892.

\$2.00 a Year.
\$1.50 in advance.

NOTE AND COMMENT.

A Conservative daily congratulates the Militia Force upon the fact that the estimates submitted to the House this year provide for an increase of \$25,000 in the allowance for drill pay, etc. Our esteemed contemporary is apparently unaware that for some years past the estimate for this particular purpose has been considerably exceeded, a fact to which attention has regularly been drawn by the Auditor-General. The amount now asked for is nothing more than what it has been found necessary to spend for several years past, and is no increase in fact, but merely a question of book-keeping, other items being decreased to adjust this apparent increase.

* * *

General rules established to meet special cases or remove specific grievances not infrequently work more injustice than that sought to be removed. An illustration is afforded by the provision made a couple of years ago, that graduates of the Royal Military College not having joined any corps, but becoming attached for certain service at camp, should after five years be promoted from their Militia rank of Lieutenant to that of Captain. But no such step in rank is allowed those who regularly join any corps of the Militia, and the effect of this is that graduates who have put in more than five years constant service are still only Lieutenants in the absence of regimental promotion through resignation of their seniors, while others who have served only a few weeks in camp as attached officers, have got their captaincies. The anomaly should be removed without delay.

* * *

The Manitoba Rifle Association are in the creditable position of reporting a surplus on hand, after closing the accounts for the past season, during which they were at considerable expense in meeting

liabilities of former years. The new management deserve congratulation on the satisfactory result of their unselfish efforts, especially when it is remembered how blue was the outlook when they took hold. Pluck and enthusiasm, added to a thoroughly practical knowledge of the work undertaken, make an irresistible combination, and when upon the reorganization the Association chose as their secretary Mr. Coulson N. Mitchell they secured a working head endowed with all these desirable qualities. That he and his associates in the work may be as successful this year will be the wish of all devotees of the rifle.

THE BISLEY TEAM.

Notifications have been sent to the first twenty eligible for places on the Bisley team, that acceptances must be sent in to the Secretary of the Dominion Rifle Association by the 15th April, otherwise the next in order will be called upon. A question having been raised as to the eligibility of Lieut. W. M. Andrews, 5th Royal Scots, who shot as an officer on the Retired List, but has since taken his present commission, the Executive have decided that he is not qualified under the rule, and in consequence he has been passed over, the twenty-first man being thus brought into the list of those notified.

We expect to be very shortly in a position to congratulate Lt.-Col. F. Massey, 6th Fusiliers, Montreal; and Major W. C. Macdonald, 48th Highlanders, Toronto, upon appointment as Comandant and Adjutant respectively of the Bisley team of 1892. On more than one occasion since his name has been mentioned in this connection, we have dwelt upon the propriety of an appointment such as that of Col. Massey, as a fitting reward for services rendered to the cause of rifle shooting. In the case of Major Macdonald, who also has been mentioned in former years in

connection with the appointment he is likely to receive, although he has not the looked for qualification of having attended the N. R. A. meeting as a competitor, he is otherwise so well suited to the position that few will be found to question the wisdom of such a choice.

The officer having the strongest claim to the Adjutancy is in our opinion Capt. J. W. deC. O'Grady, of the 43rd Battalion. Having already been to Wimbledon as a member of the Canadian Team, Capt. O'Grady has the personal knowledge of N. R. A. methods considered almost indispensable for the Adjutant, and his record as a team captain in his regiment has been one of singular success. The Dominion Rifle Association has for many years benefited by his advice and assistance, and the latest proof of his interest appeared at the annual meeting last week, when the announcement was made of the series of prizes for a Nursery Aggregate he has secured from citizens of Ottawa. A leading official of the Bank of Montreal, his appointment would be a graceful compliment to that institution—the most generous in annual contributions to the D. R. A. prize fund. But a promotion Captain O'Grady has just received in the Bank service is not unlikely to stand in the way of his present acceptance of the Adjutancy. If, however, circumstances will permit him to go, the appointment should be offered him as the person best entitled to and qualified for it.

THE MILITARY RIFLE LEAGUE.

We are happy to be able to announce this week the awakening of the Canadian Military Rifle League after the winter's rest. The former Secretary, Mr. W. R. Pringle, finds as he expected that it is quite impossible for him to again take up the affairs of the League, but the President has now taken hold, and to start the busi-