

THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE

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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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Comment and Criticism.

THE Secretary of the Dominion of Canada Rifle Association would be very thankful to any officer or rifleman who could give him a copy of the annual report of the association for the years 1869 and 1870, or put him in the way of procuring the same, as they are required to complete the records of the association.

THE officer who, as Lieutenant Greely, so nearly met his death as commander of the last Polar expedition, and whose name has since become a household word amongst us, has been appointed Chief Signal Officer to the United States, in succession to the late General Hazen, and has been promoted from the rank of Captain to that of Brigadier General. There appears to be no question as to the fitness of General Greely for the appointment. To say nothing of the terrible hardships he underwent on his expedition in the cause of scientific investigation and the success his party achieved, he has been for many years in the signal service, and has always borne the reputation of being a thoroughly scientific worker, so that all who know the circumstances of the case seem to agree that he was the man best fitted to fill the important position he now occupies; but the rapidity of his promotion, which caused him to miss entirely three grades, cannot but seem strange in our eyes. Such a thing could not occur in our Imperial service, and the fact that

it can be done in democratic America shows which form of government possesses most real power. In connection with the new appointment there was a proposition to separate the weather bureau from the signal service and transfer it to the Department of Agriculture, leading the latter only under General Greely and the War Department, but Congress not having had time to pass the bill before proroguing, both services remain for another year at least under the old regime.

THE *Victoria Warder* devotes an editorial column and a half to a reply to our comments on its article lately reproduced in these pages, and although on many points we feel bound to differ from the editor of that paper, he holds many views which we heartily endorse, and he evidently has at heart the improvement of the active force. For instance, in the wish that the schools could be so arranged as to pass out greatly increased numbers of qualified men we can quite coincide. We believe that the old schools under the Imperial forces, which took in all applicants, and instructed all alike, irrespective of rank or previous service, did excellent work, and we cannot see why the system could not be reverted to. Even granting that the new order of things posts a man better in interior economy and the niceties of regimental duty, the most urgent necessity is for competent drill instructors, and especially for men drilled in the new open formations, and we will endorse whatever scheme will give us the greatest number of men competent to teach this well with the least delay. So far as interior economy goes we think if the worst came to the worst Canadians could be trusted to "rustle" for themselves on a pinch, and as for courts martial and punishments the less the force has to do with them the more likely the machinery is to run smoothly. Not that we think these unimportant, we simply mean that if a partial neglect of these branches, necessitated by cadets living out of barracks, could insure the qualification in drill of a greater number, the gain would far outweigh any probable loss.

WE have noticed already a couple of errors in our list of graduates of the R.M.C., published last week. The adjutant of the Royal Rifles is Captain *Ernest F. Würtele*, instead of *F. G.*, as printed, and H. S. Greenwood is adjutant of the Fourth Regiment of Cavalry, and was promoted to the rank of Captain by the last general orders.

THE date for the annual meeting of the D. R. A., which this year will fall on the 4th May, the third Wednesday after the meeting of Parliament, draws nigh apace, and it is time that our shots should consider any question which ought to be brought before that meeting. The most important point to be considered is undoubtedly the recommendation made at the competitors' meeting, favoring an extended use of the Martini-Henry in the matches. One suggestion was that it alone should be used at 600 yards; another that some Martini matches should be included in the aggregate. For ourselves we are inclined to think that, in view of the fact that the armanent of the Imperial troops is just now in a very unsettled and unquestionably transition state, we can well afford to stand by the present arrangement for another year. The Snider is the arm of our Canadian forces, and the first duty of the D. R. A. is to en-