



THE CANADIAN MILITARY GAZETTE.

(SUCCESSOR TO THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE.)

VOL. IX
No. 4

MONTREAL, 15th FEBRUARY, 1894

Subscription \$2.00 Yearly.
Single Copies 10 cents.

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(Successor to the Canadian Militia Gazette.)

ESTABLISHED 1885.

PUBLISHED AT MONTREAL ON THE
1ST AND 15TH OF EACH MONTH.

DEVOTED TO THE
Interests of the Military Forces of Canada.

SUBSCRIPTION:

Canada and the United States, - Per Annum	\$2.00
Great Britain, Ireland and Postal Union Countries, - - - - -	10s 6d. stg
Single Copies, - - - - -	10 cents

Subscriptions are in every instance payable in advance, and the publishers request the favour of prompt remittance.

Unpaid accounts are subject to sight draft.

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Vol IX MONTREAL, 15th FEB. 1894 No. 4

Note and Comment.

Speaking of the three vacancies in the North-West Mounted Police the other day, the Toronto World said: There is no truth in the rumor that Mr. Gilpin Brown of Toronto has been appointed to one of these positions, although his appointment is being strongly urged by some of his Toronto friends. Who the mischief is Mrs. Gilpin Brown, anyway?

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The same paper in the same article says: The police owe a debt of gratitude to Mr. Ives for the personal interest he has shown in their welfare and for several amendments to the ration list, which will greatly conduce to their comfort. Among these changes is the addition of butter to the daily ration. Heretofore the men have had to buy their own butter, but in future they are to be allowed two ounces a day. Another improvement is the substitution in

the police barracks of iron bedsteads and spring beds for the old wooden trestles, which were not only hard but liable to be buggy. Hon. Mr. Ives sees no reason why his men should not be placed on an equal footing, as far as comfort is concerned, with the regular force, and is making other minute changes in that direction." Doubtless the butter ration and the new iron beds will be appreciated by the men of the force; but we venture to express the opinion that they would sooner buy their own butter and sleep in the old bunkers than have to serve under inefficient and unsatisfactory officers. Let Mr. Ives deserve well of the Riders of the Plains in that respect and he will have accomplished something worth talking about.

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Why all this delay in filling the Majority in the Winnipeg Cavalry and the vacant Majority in the Royal Canadian Artillery? If it is considered necessary to have a Major commanding a troop of cavalry at Toronto composed of 40 men and 35 horses, surely a lieutenant is of insufficient rank for a corps of 100 men and 55 horses at Winnipeg. This vacancy has existed for some three years. If there is not an officer capable of filling the position in the corps, let an outsider be brought in. The injustice in the Artillery is the greater for it may be the means of depriving another officer of promotion. This vacancy has existed also for about a year. If such a scandalous state of things existed in any other militia corps in Canada, the D.A.G. and Militia Dept. would long ere this have dealt with the trouble. It is understood the G.O.C. has made certain recommendations in regard to filling these vacancies, but cannot get the Minister of Militia to act on them. It is not fair to Gen. Herbert to hold him responsible for the efficiency of the militia, and especially of the Permanent Corps, when his recommendations on such a simple matter as promo-

tion or filling existing vacancies is ignored, year after year.

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A correspondent wants to know what has become of the new Canadian Infantry Drill, (which a committee composed of Lt.-Col. Otter, D.A.G., Lt.-Col. Smith, D.A.G., and Capt. MacDougall, Royal Canadian Infantry, have been compiling for the past 18 months, and which it was rumored was to have been promulgated last month. There appears to be much surprise in some quarters that the new Imperial Infantry Drill 1893 has been adopted in the militia in place of it. This sudden and unexpected change of front on the part of the Militia authorities at Headquarters is said to be due to the War Office objecting to the Canadian militia having a drill in any respect differing from what prevails in the Army, as in the event of the militia being brigaded with Imperial troops confusion might arise, which possibly would lead to disastrous results.

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The death of Maj. Wainwright, Militia Dept., Ottawa, gives the Minister of Militia an opportunity of carrying out his professions as expressed at a dinner given him some time ago at the Albany Club, Toronto, to the effect that the militia and politics were divorced in his Department. Of all the Departments of the Government which should have trained military officers it is the Militia Department, and especially the Adjutant-General's office, where this vacancy now exists. If Mr. Patterson wishes to be consistent, why does he not appoint one of the Royal Military College graduates to this office. Their education and good training has been conducted by his Department, under him, as the responsible minister. We shall watch the filling of this vacancy with interest to see whether it will be a poet, a sculptor, or somebody's son who has the preference.