

# THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE

A WEEKLY JOURNAL DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF THE ACTIVE FORCE OF THE DOMINION.

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## COMMENT AND CRITICISM.

So the North-west field force are to receive medals, and that not by any Canadian decision, but by the authority of the Imperial Government. To those who argued that the small scale of the operations, and the fact that the insurgents were our fellow citizens, put the issue of medals out of the question, and we must confess to some sympathy with them, the Imperial action has been a surprise. It means that the Government consider that Canada has, with the self-contained resources, so admirably managed a serious outbreak that her success is worthy of a lasting memorial. By the troops concerned we are certain the medals will be highly valued, and this issue will incite the whole force to emulate their comrades if ever again called upon for action.

We are sure that the French-Canadian contingent will take a broader view of the question than some parties anxious to make mischief would have them do. The question is not whether they should be decorated for fighting against their compatriots, but whether they should be rewarded for maintaining law and order. The rights of the insurgents do not enter into the question in the least degree. Even if they were entitled to everything they claimed the moment they took up arms against the Government it became the duty of every good

citizen to do his share towards supporting the Government's authority. The French-Canadians saw this and did their duty in the field, and now they can use the same argument to accept the medals with quiet conscience.

If THE MILITIA GAZETTE were doing no other good it is of use in keeping Canada and Canadian military topics before the notice of the readers of English military periodicals. Seldom a week passes that we are not quoted by two or three of them, and the *Broad Arrow*, which compliments us upon being "admirably conducted," has established a weekly "Canadian Notes" column, principally based upon comments. The last *Volunteer Record* heartily endorses our praises of the Wimbledon team by adding to our comment, "Yes; the Canadians were worthy foemen at the Wimbledon meeting, and their shooting was highly creditable, and by way of comparison with what our own men accomplished it was highly satisfactory."

The article on Military Camps, in this issue, sets well before us much that can be said in favor of our volunteer system, and we should like to see a similar editorial in every rural newspaper in the Dominion. It will be the fault of the officers if the force does not permanently obtain a better standing in the community as a result of the insurrection. In England it is claimed that the volunteer movement is an important factor in improving the moral tone of the young men, while the habits of order and discipline inculcated by the drill are of great benefit to them in their business pursuits. Here we have not the length of crediting the militia system with any such direct benefits, but the lesson should not be lost upon us.

By to-night seven brigade camps will be fully organized in the Dominion, and some fifteen thousand of our young men will be gathered together for their annual training. Let every officer, considering this, try what he can personally do to make this training a lasting benefit to his command; not only physically, but morally. If the officers have no ambition beyond having a "lively time," it is not to be expected that their men will benefit greatly; but if they are determined to teach and learn and show an example of industry and steadiness, the men are bound to benefit by the training.

In last week's general orders will be noticed many changes in the higher ranks of the militia, including two battalions which have received new commanders. In the 19th Lieut.-Col. Thompson succeeds to the command. He is an energetic officer, was for a long time in command of No. 1 company, Niagara, and succeeded to a majority in 1881. In the 46th Lieut.-Col. Benson succeeded to the command made vacant by the death of the late lamented Col. Williams. He is a well-known officer and has been for a long time connected with his present corps. Several majors have retired, and in the other ranks may be found several instances of officers who have fallen victims to the limit of age rule.