

# 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.

The Department of Militia and Defence have abandoned their intention of sending a flying column to the North-west this spring, as the latest advices from that district show such a satisfactory condition of affairs with respect to the attitude of the Indians that the Government are convinced that a show of force is unnecessary. In many ways this decision will be satisfactory; it saves a considerable outlay; it allows the schools to devote their whole time to the instruction of officers, and it prevents any possible jealousy on the part of other less favored corps.

It appears as if the Dominion were about to inaugurate a navy, for the Department of Fisheries is advertizing for the purchase of six schooners to be used in protecting the fisheries, and the last *Canada Gazette* contains the appointment of Capt. Peter Astle Scott, R.N., to be a fishery officer under the provisions of "The Fishery Act" and commander of any steamer or vessel owned or chartered by the Government of Canada for the protection of the fisheries. It will be remembered that before the adoption of the Washington treaty it was necessary to maintain armed cruisers to prevent American fishermen from poaching on our domain, and now that the treaty has become null by limitation of time the same precautions become necessary once more. Of course when we have a navy the MILITIA GAZETTE will enlarge its scope so as to cover both branches of the service.

As we promised two weeks ago we now give in tabular form the principal contents of the new militia list, with special attention directed to vacancies or irregularities in the appointments of field officers. The list is worth careful study in that it shows the relative efficiency of the several districts. No. 1 district, for instance, is at a low ebb. The number of certificates held by combatant officers is 146 and the number of officers provisionally appointed is 145, so that practically one half of the whole number have never qualified for their commissions. It is surprising to find that twenty officers could reach the rank of captain without passing an examination, and this surprise is increased by finding that some have held that rank for from twelve to sixteen years. Districts No. 2 and 3 are much better, the ratios of unqualified to qualified officers being 141 to 246 and 82 to 130; this improvement can only be attributed to the schools of instruction at Toronto and Kingston. In No. 4 district where the force are without a school, and where one has been advocated, we find that of every three officers one is without the necessary qualification. No. 6 district is remarkable for having neither cavalry, artillery nor engineers. Our brethren down by the sea, who have had exceptional advantages in the way of schools and the presence of Imperial troops, occupy a very enviable position, the list showing only twenty-four unqualified lieutenants for No. 8 district, while every officer above that rank holds the necessary certificate, and in No. 9 district, which is much larger, there are only fifty-four unqualified officers, of whom eight are captains. The 63rd Regiment, of Halifax, is the only one in the service that shows a full list of officers, every one of whom is qualified.

The *Rifle's* English correspondent *Franc Tireur* makes the following suggestion in the March number, after describing a match shot simultaneously between teams in England, Australia and South Africa: "In the month of July next we shall have at Wimbledon the annually recurring contest for the Rajah of Kolapore's magnificent trophy, for which we shall probably have not only a British, a Canadian, a Jersey, a Guernsey and an Indian team competing, but probably also a South African and South Australian team. Would it not be possible to get also a team from your branch of the great Anglo-Saxon race? To come to Wimbledon is a serious undertaking, but would it not be possible and worth consideration to organize at Creedmoor or at Walnut Hill a simultaneous match, in which the conditions should be as nearly as possible assimilated?" While the Kolapore match could not be opened to the Americans without radically altering the conditions, the suggestion for a simultaneous match on the same lines is an excellent one, and an appropriate trophy would be doubtless forthcoming if such were arranged.

A recent leader in the *Daily Manitoban* on the subject of memorials gives expression to views which are to be commended for their sound common sense. It is, simply, that suitable memorials for the fallen, or in commemoration of events of national importance, can be chosen which will be of practical and lasting benefit to the living, and in this way can