

THE CANADIAN
MILITARY GAZETTE

ESTABLISHED 1885.

PUBLISHED AT TORONTO

ABOUT THE

1st and 15th of each Month

According to circumstances, the issue being delayed, or printed a few days earlier, in order to publish important information that would become stale if published in the succeeding issues.

DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF THE MILITARY FORCES OF CANADA.

SUBSCRIPTIONS:

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 able in advance, and the publishers request the favor of prompt remittance.

Remittances should be made by post office order or registered letter.

The date when the subscription expires is on the address label of each paper, the change of which to a subsequent date becomes a receipt for remittance. No other receipt is sent unless requested.

Immediate notice should be given of any delay or failure in the receipt of THE GAZETTE.

All communications and remittances should be addressed to the editor, Montreal.

MONTREAL-TORONTO, DECEMBER 15, 1896.

OUR AUTUMN MANOEUVRES.

THE field day which was held on Thanksgiving Day in Toronto was an excellent example of the really hard and enthusiastic work which can be obtained from militia which are properly handled. The day was a public holiday, the first break in work since the early part of September, and yet the four infantry battalions—the Queen's Own, the Royal Grenadiers, the 13th, of Hamilton, and the 48th

Highlanders—turned out almost to their full establishment. The 13th, it should be noted, went to the inconvenience of traveling from Hamilton to attend the manoeuvres. The roads were muddy, the ground most difficult and many of the troops had some miles of difficult marching before the work of the sham fight commenced. The whole of the circumstances were most creditable to their zeal and military enthusiasm.

From the tactical standpoint we have the authority of the District Officer Commanding for concluding that the field day was most instructive. True, the ground was exceedingly difficult; but in actual war operations will take place on very difficult ground. Again, the ground, with all its difficulty, is in the immediate vicinity, indeed is, in large measure, actually included within the limits of the City of Toronto; and there surely needs no argument to prove that the garrison of the city should be familiar with the tactical and strategic features of the place which it exists to defend. The officers who have been at the manoeuvres of the last few years have now worked over the rough ground of High Park to the west of the city—closely adjoining, by the way, the spot where the Americans landed in 1813—the high ground to the immediate north, and now the heights of the Don Valley to the east of the city. The topographical knowledge thus attained, if nothing else, should be valuable in the extreme. In fact, it is worthy of notice that many of the more zealous officers spent days previous to the field day in exploring the ground. One, for instance, was out on no less than seven occasions. One company officer spent three afternoons on the ground, and he reaped his reward, for his company had to work over very rugged country, in which his local knowledge thus

acquired proved exceedingly valuable. This is an eminently practical form of training—it “looks like business,” as the Minister observed—and methods which give such excellent results, and which unquestionably stimulate the ardor of all connected with the force, should by all means be encouraged.

DR. BORDEN ON POLITICS.

THE Minister of Militia in his speech at the garrison dinner in Toronto said there was no politics in the administration of military affairs. He made this a strong point. There is a suspicion that this is not in accordance with facts.

When fault was found with him for allowing the general order to go through which gives remarkable advantages to the officers of the permanent corps, he said that the Major-General advised him that the general order was fair and necessary, that it was in the interests of the force, active as well as permanent. Receiving such a strong recommendation from his subordinates, Dr. Borden practically said that he must abide by it unless a very much stronger case was made out by the officers of the active militia in the different parts of Canada.

It is generally known that things have not been running smoothly in the Queen's Own Rifles. Lieut.-Col. Otter, D.O.C., was instructed to inquire into the cause of the trouble and report upon it. He was specially fitted for the work. He commanded the regiment for many years and made it what it is, the finest regiment in Canada. He came to the conclusion that Lieut.-Col. Hamilton was to blame, and so reported to the General Officer Commanding. The latter, after carefully considering the question, reported to the Minister of Militia, in effect, that the interests of the force would be best served by allowing Lieut.-Col. Hamilton to retire.

The Minister has been in possession of the General's recommendation since he took office, five months ago. He has not paid any attention to the General's recommendation. Why?

Lieut.-Col. Hamilton is a Liberal of long standing. For many years he was, and is yet, somewhat of a professional politician. He has been a sort of general agent of the party. If the Conservatives had remained in power, there are few who do not think that he would have been placed on the retired list long ago.

In fairness to Lieut.-Col. Hamilton, we have to state that his case is simply mentioned as an example, because it is before the public at the present time. We are not discussing the merits of it. It is a matter of discipline. It is not within our field.

Dr. Borden, we feel sure, means well, but he will have to fight against the ward politician or else he will soon drop into the groove of some of his predecessors. He has an opportunity of making his Department independent of political influence. The Conservative press have treated him more liberally than any other member of the Government, because they, too, want him to follow independent lines.

“BUSINESS IS BUSINESS.”

To the Editor of The Star:

SIR,—We are informed that the contract for the supply of coal for the military school, St. Johns, for next year has finally been awarded at the following prices: Stove, \$5; egg, \$4.75; soft, \$4.75. Our tender for the supply was as follows: Stove, \$4.00; egg, \$4.40; soft, \$4.00. As there are about 400 tons used in the barracks during the year it is easy to calculate what the loss is to the country in this transaction. “Business is business.”

BISSELL & DONAGHY

St. Johns, Que.

The above is from The Montreal Star and is republished for the information of the Minister of Militia. There have been frauds in the past in the supply of coal and wood to the Militia Department. It is to be hoped that they are now at an end. It is the duty of every member of the force to report anything of this sort. Every