

THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE

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THE Montreal *Star*, the most enterprising paper in Canada, is about to commence the publication of a history of the insurrection of 1837-38, the pen and ink sketches to be embellished with profuse illustrations. This recital must prove highly interesting reading, the events of that stirring period of Canada's history being comparatively little known to the present generation. There appears to be quite a demand for war literature. In the States the leading magazines are giving more and more of their space to illustrated narratives of their recent disastrous war, and the interest in the articles appears to be growing. We don't have Canadian magazines, unfortunately, and our share of illustrated war literature is therefore to be furnished by the daily press, worthily represented by the *Star*. The publication of the series of papers constituting this history will extend over a period of two months.

AN effort is now being made by the Victoria Rifles of Montreal to raise an additional four thousand dollars wherewith to complete their new armory and club house building, a commodious and substantial structure on Cathcart street, in the upper and most central portion of the city. It has been in use since the spring, but the interior fitting up has not yet been completed. The total cost of the furnished building, including the site, will we believe be in the vicinity of forty thousand dollars. The money has been raised by the issue or stock in shares of ten dollars each. The shareholders at present number nearly three hundred. Of these about a third are outsiders, Montreal business men and others; and the remainder are members or ex-members of the corps. Having thus put their hands into their own pockets, the Vics now feel justified in soliciting their friends among the moneyed men of Montreal to take up the stock yet required to be issued to free the building from debt, and we hope they will meet with the success which their enterprise deserves. A pleasant feature of the present share list, is the large number of officers of other corps whose names appear upon it, a proof of the good feeling existing in the Montreal force.

THE story of vice-regal frugality given below is vouched for by an esteemed correspondent. How popular the hero would have been with a section, or shall we say an odd file, of the present Dominion Parliament, in which our Governor's expenditure is occasionally criticised! This is the story: When the Earl of Dalhousie, a canny Scot, was Governor-General of Canada, His Excellency thinking it to be a great pity that so much good land should be allowed to go to waste directed that the Plains of Abraham should be ploughed and sown with

oats, which was done accordingly. Just as the crop was ready for harvesting some wag wrote the following lines on a slip of paper and pasted the slip on the gate leading to the Plains:

Some men love glory,
And some love groats;
Where Wolfe reaped glory,
Dalhousie reaps oats.

His Excellency took the hint and the oats were never reaped.

THE long batch of Militia General Orders of the 15th inst. will be found in another place in this issue. Besides a great number of changes in the list of commissioned officers of the active militia, these contain in a concise simplified form the regulations governing the issue of certificates from the Royal Schools of Military Instruction, the new compilation having been made in view of the early publication of a revised edition of the Regulations and Orders for the militia, the matter for which is now in the printers' hands. It will be noticed that several officers who failed to attend to their duties have had their commissions cancelled, in most cases the neglect was flagrant. The title of the "1st Battalion Governor-General's Foot Guards" has been abbreviated by dropping the words "1st Battalion," this prefix being superfluous, as the policy of the department is against having other than one battalion of the same corps. Pressure on our columns this week forbids further reference to the changes noted in the orders.

Winnipeg.—A Military View of its Possible Future.—II.

CONTRIBUTED.

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THE value of a sanitarium, of a great central depot where England's colonial army might be organized, recruited in health and discipline, many valuable lives saved by avoiding that furnace called the Red Sea and Suez Canal, with the double advantage of rapid concentration, would all be secured by the mere act of constituting the Imperial Woolwich at a point that would command alike a local *point d'appui* and the facility for transporting reinforcements and stores drawn from our own provinces. If an expedition is organised to awe the Caffres (Gladstone made the Boers an impossibility) all Europe and part of America must be ransacked for the commissariat—while British North America is obliged to travel nearly five thousand miles to dispose of the surplus breadstuffs, and in the event of European complications every provision ship should be guarded by an ironclad man-of-war, and that would only lessen risks in a minor degree.

We must also reckon with our well beloved cousins across the lines of 45° and 49°. God forbid that we should have to resort to the cursed evil of war, but no care can wholly provide against contingencies, and our neighbors found themselves imbrued in their brothers' blood before they knew the reason why—an awful instance of bad statesmanship, unnecessary and misguided fanaticism disguised under the specious name of Patriotism.