

THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE

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CONTENTS OF THIS NUMBER.

EDITORIAL.

The Dominion artillery competitions.
The military school system.
An ex-Finance Minister's views.
Canadian successes at Hythe.
Advantages of the Halifax garrison.
A good field for volunteering.
The extra ammunition grant.
Dominion rifle honours.
The Toronto ranges.
General Middleton's two mistakes.

RIFLE MEETINGS.

Prize scores of recent local events.

REGIMENTAL AND OTHER NEWS.

A budget from the military centres.

MILITIA GENERAL ORDERS.

No. 11 of 5th September. (Concluded).

Note and Comment.

The Dominion Association competitions for garrison batteries took place last week at the Island of Orleans, Quebec; and this week those for the field artillery are in progress at Kingston. The weather appears to have been unfavourable at both places, and several of the garrison batteries were unable to do the shifting ordnance on account of the wet ground. As soon as the official returns are obtainable we will give a complete report of the two meetings.

A further plea for a change in the military school system appears in a recent issue of the *Perth Expositor*, edited by an experienced officer. "Our young men," it says, "should be encouraged to go through the military schools, whether officers or not. The great difficulty in getting officers to qualify is not want of willingness but that they cannot spare the three months time from their business. To meet this difficulty there should be a modification of the military school system, so that every university, law and medical student in the country, as well as a host of others, should be encouraged to attend the schools in their summer vacation. The present schools are going good work, but if we are to have a good supply of qualified officers there must be a modification of the system in this direction."

Sir Leonard Tilley as Minister of Finance had for many years a powerful control over the Dominion expenditures, and the reputation for shrewdness and ability he gained while occupying that high office gives weight to anything he may say on the subject now. We would therefore call special attention to his remarks at a recent military dinner at St. John, N.B., which he honoured with his presence. Confessing that at one time he thought our military organizations unnecessary, he said he had since quite changed his views; and he believed that not only should the militia expenditure be continued but increased as circumstances demanded. To the attention of those less experienced public men who cavil at the Dominion outlay for military purposes, we commend Sir Leonard's opinion.

The two officers of our permanent force whose return to Canada after successfully passing through a course at Hythe has been noted, appear to have acquitted themselves very well at that institution. Such,

indeed, was nothing more than expected, for none could be better qualified to creditably represent their corps anywhere than Captains Denison and Evans. A private letter recently received states that whilst both these officers stood high in their classes, Capt. Denison earned special distinction, developing into a first-class marksman in addition to acquiring a thorough knowledge of the principles of musketry, which it is more particularly the business of the Hythe school to teach. There were too classes at the session they attended, these being known one as the right and the other as the left wing. Our officers were in the left wing, armed with the Martini; the arm of the other wing was the new magazine rifle. In the target practice Capt. Denison stood first in his wing, and there was only one higher aggregate in the right wing, so that he was second in the school. Returning before the great shooting meetings here, Capt. Denison competed in the Ontario and the Dominion matches, with signal success for a first year man, as will be realized when the fact is recalled that at Ottawa he secured a place in the hundred who shot in the Governor-General's match and for places on the Bisley team. It is to be hoped that Capt. Denison, who belongs to D school, London, and Capt. Evans, whose school is C, at Toronto, will be afforded opportunities for imparting to the militia in their districts some of the benefits of their Hythe course, which, by the way, was taken entirely at their own expense, the authorities here not contributing further than to grant leave of absence.

The corps in the upper provinces of the Dominion may well envy those of Halifax the advantages they enjoy through association with Her Majesty's regular troops at that station. A reference to our regimental news columns will show that the Halifax Garrison Artillery were recently permitted to take part in the defence of the city from a supposed attack by two vessels of the fleet, thereby acquiring most valuable experience. This mimic engagement is, we are told, only a preliminary to a more extensive affair to take place upon the return of the Admiral's fleet.

A recent instance furnishes a good example of the whole-souled manner in which the moneyed men of Toronto contribute towards the encouragement of the militia. The Boomer Rifle Association, in connection with A company of the Grenadiers, being about to hold their annual matches, a couple of the officers made a tour of the business part of the city to collect for the prize fund. They were out only a few hours but in that short time secured upwards of \$500, which amount was duly fired for by the members of this lucky company. It was certainly a waste of money to "blow-in" so much on a company match, but the fact that it was forthcoming for the occasion shows what may be accomplished with little effort in a public-spirited community.

The offer made by the Militia Department early in the season to issue free an extra grant of twenty rounds of ammunition per man to all corps whose commanding officers would undertake that each member would fire under proper supervision the allowance drawn for him, has not been so generally availed of as might have been expected, consider