

THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE

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CORRESPONDENCE.

THE MILITIA GAZETTE aims at being the recognized medium of instruction and information for Canadian militiamen and rifle shots. Communications on the subjects to which its pages are devoted are respectfully invited. Anonymous communications will not be regarded. No name will be published, except with the writer's consent. The editors will not be responsible for the views of correspondents.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS.

COMMENT AND CRITICISM.

Hints to Subscribers.
Horses for the Imperial army.
Cavalry vs. mounted infantry.
Clasps for the North-West.
The D.R.A. report printed.

RECORDS OF OUR MILITIA CORPS.—I.

Eighth Royal Rifles.

THE MILITARY FORCE OF CANADA.—Continued.

ROYAL MILITARY COLLEGE GRADUATES.

THE HORSE SUPPLY.

THE PACIFIC COAST DEFENCES.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The resistance of snow to bullets.
The recovery of the body of Gunner Phillips.
Honor to whom honor is due.

REGIMENTAL NOTES.

Comment and Criticism.

WHEN our subscribers send us stamps in payment of fractional debts they would confer a favor by choosing the lowest denominations convenient, one cent if possible. Also in addressing letters to us they should include the number of our post-office box, 316, to facilitate safe delivery; and should repeat their full address on every letter sent. When desiring addresses changed they should give both the old and new address. In remitting subscriptions they should specify whether these are new or renewals, in which case they should as a check give the date or number up to which they had previously paid.

PROF. SAUNDERS, director of the central experimental farm, has issued the first bulletin of that institution, explaining to the public the objects of the government in establishing the farm. Amongst the work specified by the constituting statute to be undertaken at the different stations, first in order is the conducting of researches, and the verification of experiments designed to test the relative value for all purposes of different breeds of stock, and their adaptability to the varying climatic or other conditions which prevail in the several provinces and in the North-west Territories. We hope the education of our farmers in the breeding of horses for Imperial army purposes will occupy a conspicuous place in the instruction given by the farm in this branch. We are convinced that the industry can be successfully inaugurated to the mutual advantage of Canada and the mother country, and the Government farm

is certainly the best means of distributing the information required to make the work successful. The director of the farm offers to send copies of the bulletin free to anyone writing and asking for them. Address, post free, Experimental Farm, Ottawa, Canada.

IN connection with this subject of horse breeding we would draw attention to a contributed article in another column, which contains some very practical suggestions by an experienced man. The whole subject is of so much importance to Canada that we willingly devote considerable space to its discussion.

THE Imperial Government have definitely decided to grant a clasp in addition to the medal to those of the North-West contingent who were in action. We sincerely hope this decision will not give rise to such heartburning and unseemly wrangling as accompanied the settlement of the medal question. It may be well at this juncture to draw attention to the wording of that part of the Royal Warrant regulating the issue of clasps, which would seem to prevent the possibility of any misunderstanding. "Clasps for battles or special operations against an enemy may be issued to all combatant officers actually engaged therein, and may also be conferred upon officers of the Departments of Our army who shall have been actually exposed to fire under circumstances which may have rendered such exposure a duty. In consideration, however, of the extraordinary exertions required of surgeons of Our army after a battle, clasps may be granted to all medical officers actually serving, at the time of an action, with an army in the field." A similar regulation applies to n. c. o's. and men with the proviso that in the case of non-combatants they must be certified to have been actually exposed to fire under circumstances which rendered such exposure a duty.

A LIVELY and interesting discussion has been going on in the service papers for some time past on the relative merits of cavalry and mounted infantry, and it is hard to say which side has had the best of the argument, if argument it can be called, where each party simply discredits the statements of the other. It seems to us that both descriptions of troops are likely to be of great service in future operations, each in its own sphere, and that any attempt to glorify the one at the expense of the other is calculated to do harm to both. It does not require much argument to convince one that a soldier trained to fight on horseback—a cavalryman—must at certain crises be valuable in a degree not to be measured by the actual proportion of the enemy that he slaughters, and the same holds good with the mounted infantryman, who can cover a great distance in a short time and yet fight at long range.

THE annual report of the Dominion Rifle Association is printed and ready for distribution. It contains the usual reports, and full details of the doings of the Wimbledon team and of the Dominion matches. It is well printed, and is steadily growing in size. We hope in a future issue to notice some of the details contained in it.