

# THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE

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THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE, P. O. Box 316, Ottawa, Ont.

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## Topics of the Week.

The Militia List recently issued shows a total of nearly eight hundred unqualified officers in the force, though there are nine schools permanently maintained for their instruction. And in addition there are vacant commissions which if awarded would probably bring in as many more unqualified officers, for as we have often before pointed out, an officer of the Canadian militia has actually to assume the duties of his position before he is allowed to attend the school provided for his instruction. Notwithstanding the immense number of unqualified officers, less than two hundred attended the schools in 1889. It is evident that if the proportion of efficient officers is to be raised to a reasonably high figure, some more effective means will have to be adopted to cause them to take the school courses.

The annual report of Commissioner Lawrence W. Herchmer, on the North-West Mounted Police, has been presented to Parliament by Sir John Macdonald, under whose immediate charge the Police are. The report shows this fine body to be fully maintaining the high reputation it has attained. Out of 122 men whose time expired during 1889, no less than 89 re-engaged for a further term, thus showing their contentment with the service as it is. The division officers nearly all report that the Winchester carbines in use are rapidly becoming unserviceable, and in this connection the Commissioner advocates a trial of the new British cavalry carbine, and that if upon a few of these being tried they are found satisfactory, 200 should at once be purchased, and later on enough obtained to re-arm the whole force. It is noted that the shooting of the force generally has greatly improved during the year, and the Commissioner hopes that the force may be represented by a team at the next Dominion Rifle Association matches.

In the Senate, last week, Lieut.-Col. the Hon. Chas. A. Boulton brought about an interesting discussion on the subject of Imperial federation by moving as follows: "That in the opinion of this House, the time has arrived when Canada might be accorded a measure of repre-

sentation in the Imperial Parliament, by giving to the Government of the Dominion of Canada, and to the Government of each Province in the Dominion, the appointment of a representative holding a seat in the Imperial House of Commons, the representative of the Government of the Dominion also holding a seat in the Imperial Privy Council, the privileges of such representatives being limited to the discharge of and voting upon such questions as may affect Canadian interests." Hon. J. J. C. Abbott, leader of the Government in the Senate, complimented Senator Boulton on his able speech on this subject, but pointed out the impracticability of the scheme, and asked that the resolution be withdrawn. To this Senator Boulton agreed, as his chief desire in making the motion had been to bring about a discussion of the subject in the Senate.

The Minister of Militia might well take into his serious consideration the propriety of extending the government aid now granted to drill corps in connection with educational institutions, in the shape of the issue of arms, etc., to companies formed as adjuncts of militia regiments, as in the case of the Highland Cadet Corps of Montreal, formed in connection with the Fifth Royal Scots. It is right that every precaution should be taken to prevent the issue of arms to cadet companies not under responsible control; but the security in the case of a regimental cadet corps would be as great, or even greater, than in the case of a school company, provided the officer commanding the regiment would assume the same responsibility for the cadets, outfit as he does for that of his regular command. Whatever trifle of expense the country would be put to by extending aid as suggested above, would be repaid many fold by the advantage of having from the cadet corps a constant supply of well trained young men, fitted to pass into the ranks of the militia without the tedious training in a full grown "awkward squad."

The Dominion is happy in having in command of its militia, an officer who, while not sparing in his praise of whatever is commendable, does not hesitate to point out again and again the weaknesses of the force. General Middleton has lost no opportunity to impress upon all concerned the fact that our average militiaman is very far from being a marksman, and that something more must be done than merely to encourage the development of a crack regimental team in order to train the force as it should be trained for effective service in war time. In this respect General Middleton is drilling into the Canadians just what the distinguished Adjutant-General of the British Army loses no opportunity of saying to the people of the mother country, and upon a recent speech of his the *St. James' Budget* thus remarks:—

"The enemy must be killed, killed easily, and killed quickly." This ferocious sentiment is enough to make each particular hair to stand on end upon the heads of the fretful porcupines of the Peace Society. But it was justified in the mouth of Lord Wolseley, who was giving some good advice on Tuesday to the members of the North London Rifle Club. He declared that the shooting of the volunteers as a whole was shown by the official returns to be much inferior to that of the regular