

# The Canadian Militia Gazette

THE POPULAR ORGAN OF THE ACTIVE FORCE OF THE DOMINION.

(Adopted as their official paper, by the Dominion Artillery Association, the Ontario Artillery Association, the Canadian Military Rifle League, and the Royal Military College Club.)

VOL. VI.

OTTAWA, THURSDAY, 24TH SEPTEMBER, 1891.

No. 37.

## NOTE AND COMMENT.

The article on the proficiency of officers in the use of their weapons, which we reproduce from the *Broad Arrow*, might have been written with special reference to our militia, so exactly does it apply. The subject is one of great importance as well as interest, and we invite suggestions from those of our readers who may have given attention to it.

Sir Adolphe Caron has introduced in the House of Commons a bill providing that whenever a requisition is made for the calling out of the militia in aid of the civil power a sufficient sum shall be deposited to cover the cost of eight days' pay and maintenance of the force required. It is not intended to put the bill through this session, but its introduction will afford opportunity for full consideration before the House meets again. The step has been found advisable because of the difficulty sometimes experienced in getting a settlement from the municipality, which is already held responsible for all expense; and perhaps also with a view to prevent the unnecessary calling out of the militia. It is to be hoped that when the bill is next introduced there may be the further provision that men called out for such duty shall receive a fair day's pay, so that they shall not as at present be out of pocket as well as inconvenienced by their prompt response to the call of duty.

Some over-zealous politician wrote to the chief organ of his party in Toronto during the recent provincial matches, letter charging political bias against the officers of the association, whom he singled out by name for the seemingly aimless and unprovoked attack. Under the circumstances the letter created more amusement than indignation. The officers, however, have found a defender in Major Sam. Hughes, who sent to the same paper a reply which the *Milton Champion* notices as follows:

"Major Sam. Hughes, of the 45th Bn., Lindsay, one of the most prominent Conservatives in his part of Ontario, in a letter published in Saturday's *Empire* administered a well deserved rebuke to an anonymous correspondent of the Conservative organ. The correspondent had made a pretended interest in the welfare of the Ontario Rifle Association an excuse for a political attack on its leading officers, Mr. Mulock, M.P., president, Lt.-Col. Gibson, and Lt.-Col. Jones, vice-presidents, and Capt. Mutton, secretary, including also Lt.-Col. Otter, D.A.G., and Capt. Manley, all of whom were denounced as Grits and accused of using Grit influence. Major Hughes, who is himself a well known rifleman, and knows whereof he writes, says that notwithstanding their Critism, the attacked officers are all efficient and earnest workers for the welfare of the Ontario Rifle Association, that none of them have ever shown any political bias in connection with it, and that he has not seen any attempt to introduce politics in any of the meet-

ings or elections of our military associations. Were such attempted it would be most effectually opposed.' Riflemen and volunteers generally who have had experience in connection with our military associations know that Major Hughes is right, that Canadian volunteers, like Major Hughes, drop their politics when they don their uniforms, and that when attempts are made to interfere politically in militia matters they are made by petty, non-volunteer meddlers who have axes to grind or personal spite to gratify. The interference of these gentry is generally resented by the volunteers, and the meddling pays neither the meddler nor his party. Major Hughes's brother volunteers will appreciate the manly stand he has taken: but those who know him personally and understand his straightforward and upright character will not be surprised at it."

## ADJUTANTS OF VOLUNTEERS.

The adjutants of the volunteer Battalions in England are selected from the regular army, and appointed for five years for service with the volunteers. This system has lately been discussed by the British Service papers and some opinions expressed lead us to conclude that we are not so badly off as some think in being obliged to appoint our militia adjutants from among our own militia officers. In England it is found in some instances that the regular adjutants are too active, while in other cases they do not take sufficient interest in their duties. The effect of the former type of adjutant is to prevent the volunteer officers from taking an active interest in the battalion work, and of the latter type to greatly deteriorate the efficiency of the battalion. In view of the opinion that has been sometimes advanced in Canada that paid adjutants would improve the efficiency of our corps, the experience through which our English cousins are now passing is certainly worth our careful study.

## BRIGADE OR BATTALION CAMPS.

The *Broad Arrow* lately formulated a programme of work to be undertaken by English volunteers in brigade camps, which might profitably be discussed by our military authorities. The scheme embraces a drill of six days' duration for troops who have had some preliminary experience or training, and is graduated from squad drill on the first day, through company and simple battalion movements, up to brigade drill, winding up with a brigade field day. The most notable point in the programme is the prominence given to instruction in attack movements.

We believe that a somewhat similar programme adopted at our own camps would be very attractive, if preliminary