

THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE

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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.

Postage on printers' copy.
Frequent changes of adjutants.
Permanently paid adjutants.
Article on the Militia Department.
The General on out-post duty.
Death dealing inventions.

PERSONALS.

RECENT DEATHS.

DRILL WITH A TACTICAL OBJECT IN VIEW.

TRIAL OF THE NORDENFELT GUN.

A NEW GUN SLEIGH.

THE MILITARY FORCE OF CANADA.

SELECTED.

Machine guns in the field.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The benefits of the military schools.

MESS ROOM YARNS.

REGIMENTAL NOTES.

Comment and Criticism.

OUR contributors, both present and prospective, are reminded that by the postal regulations they are permitted to send newspaper manuscript and printers' proof sheets, whether corrected or not, through the mails at the rate of one cent per four ounces, prepaid, "provided that no letter or other communication intended to serve the purpose of a letter be enclosed, and that the package be sent in covers open at the ends or sides, or otherwise so put up as to admit of the contents being, if necessary, easily withdrawn for examination to secure compliance with this provision." Under this regulation, regimental notes and the like, intended for insertion in the MILITIA GAZETTE, without change, can be sent in unsealed envelopes even from British Columbia for a one-cent stamp. The words "Newspaper Manuscript," should be endorsed above the address.

THE plan of changing regimental adjutants at comparatively frequent intervals has been adopted both by the Imperial regular forces and by the English volunteers, and now we see that the United States army has followed suit, and has limited the duration of an officer's services as adjutant to three years. It is obvious that this change is in the direction of increased general efficiency, and we should like to see the same plan adopted wherever possible in our militia force. With the rural corps it would be difficult, for, as a rule, each company organization is complete in itself, and it would be hard to find a place for a retiring adjutant, so

that now he usually remains at his post until by lapse of time he gets his promotion to a majority. But in those city corps in which promotion is by seniority there would be no such practical difficulty, while it would be excellent training to have as many subalterns as possible undergo a turn of orderly room work and adjutant's parade duty. It may be argued that the service would not be so efficiently performed—then so much the worse for the regiment which has only one man fit to fill any particular post, for not until the weakness is remedied will the regiment be fit for actual service. But all this is a mere suggestion contingent upon the plan of permanently paid adjutants not being adopted.

THE *Manitoban's* militia editor endorses the suggestion made by us to adopt paid adjutants for the city corps. Commenting upon our remarks he says:—The suggestion made by the MILITIA GAZETTE that graduates of the R. M. C. should be appointed might in some cases be advantageously carried out, but being a graduate from the college by no means fits a man for this important position. An adjutant should be not only thoroughly well up in his drill and duties but should be active, intelligent and pushing, and above all a gentleman, one that would command the respect of both officers and men. A young fellow just from college might find it rather a hard matter to get on with officers, some of whom have grown grey in the service, especially if he had to introduce what in his opinion were reforms, but in the opinion of his seniors were mere petty details.

THE following plan suggests itself as one that would be both feasible and popular; any officer in a militia battalion of not less than one year's service, substantive rank, could be recommended by his commanding officer, and on approval by headquarters should proceed to a military school for a long course; on his obtaining a first-class certificate he should be appointed to one of the permanent corps, to take rank from the date of his appointment, but without pay until a vacancy should occur in the adjutancy of a regiment, when the senior of the list should be offered the post, and if he refuses it then the next senior, and so on until a man who wishes to go to the part of the country where the vacancy occurs is secured. Any officer who refuses three appointments should be dropped from the list of the permanent corps to which he may have been attached. While waiting for an appointment an officer could continue to serve in the corps from which he was first appointed, or in special cases could continue at the school as an attached officer. This arrangement would probably prove more popular with the force at large than having all these appointments given to young men who have already secured an engineer's education at the public expense.

WE begin in this issue the publication of an article concerning the Department of Militia and Defence, giving full particulars of the work done in each branch of the Department since Confederation. This will be found most complete, and will be of great value for reference, as the statements are official. The article is expected to run through five or six issues.