

THE CANADIAN
MILITARY GAZETTE,

(Successor to the Canadian Militia Gazette.)

ESTABLISHED 1835.

PUBLISHED AT MONTREAL

ON THE

1st and 15th of each Month.

DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF THE
MILITARY FORCES OF CANADA.

SUBSCRIPTION:

Canada and the United States, per annum, - \$2.00
Great Britain, Ireland and Postal Union
Countries, - - - - - 10s 6d. stg.
Single Copies, - - - - - 10 cents

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MONTREAL, NOVEMBER 1, 1895.

Notes and Comments

It is pleasing to notice that in his note to the Deputy Adjutant General expressing his satisfaction at the turn out at the divine service parade of the Montreal brigade on Sunday, the 27th, Maj.-Gen. Gascoigne, besides complimenting the men on their cleanliness, smartness and steadiness, took occasion to remark upon the punctuality with which the various corps had paraded. Punctuality is a most important virtue in military matters, and it is to be regretted that it has not always been firmly enough insisted upon in the Canadian militia. Commanding officers have thoughtlessly encouraged the natural tendency to disregard the practice of punctuality by calling parades for a quarter of an hour or even half an hour before they had any intention of having the "fall in" sounded. Men may soon get to look for this sort of thing always, and strict punctuality cannot be expected. The "fall in" should be sounded at the very second for which parades are advertised.

It is sincerely to be regretted that the ceremonies connected with the inauguration of the Chateauguay monument were not better managed and made more of. But for the presence of the Montreal garrison artillery the ceremony would

have been a very small affair and altogether unworthy of the occasion. Lieut.-Col. Cole and his officers deserve every credit for the assistance they rendered in making this occasion memorable. But the event warranted a demonstration of much larger proportions. As the battle of Chateauguay saved Montreal from capture for the time being, the municipal authorities of Montreal might well have been invited to participate in the ceremony, and as a matter of fact surprise was expressed in the city council that an invitation had not been received. It is well that we should mark our national battlefields with monuments to recall to posterity the fact that Canadian blood has been shed to keep the old flag flying; but we should certainly give to the inauguration of these memorials some dignity and importance.

The brigade church parade at Montreal furnished an eloquent object lesson on the blissful disregard of the standard cadence by the regimental bands of the Canadian militia. There were no two brass bands of the six on parade that observed the same temps, and there was almost as much diversity of opinion on the same vital subject among the bugle and fife and drum bands. The whole way to and from church the greatest difficulty was observed in preserving the intervals between corps. Quick marching regiments would catch up to the slower ones in a few minutes, and orders to mark time and to halt were rendered frequently necessary. Standard metronomes should be furnished to all of the regimental bands in the service, and the observance of the regulation tempos and length of space strictly insisted upon. A thorough musical inspection of regimental bands and a regulation of their repertoires of marches would appear to be very much needed. Our bands are given too much to playing florid American and European marches, frequently of very trashy style and generally destructive of steady and comfortable marching.

The presence of Mr. Duff-Grant, of the Smokeless Powder Company (limited), in Canada with a view of inducing the government to at

least give rifleite a trial with the Lee-Metford rifles naturally gives rise to the expression of the wish that the militia department will not act hastily in blindly following the lead of the war office at home in adopting cordite as the explosive for the new arm. It is to be hoped that the department before taking any steps will probe the old cordite scandals to the bottom, and insist upon being advised as to the success attending the use in India of the large quantity of rifleite which Lord Roberts insisted upon having sent out for the Indian troops. The most serious charges against cordite are that its corrosive influence upon rifle and gun barrels is very destructive, and that it is itself so seriously damaged by extreme climatic changes such as we have in Canada as to render it completely useless. If these charges are true we do not want cordite in Canada.

Now that the infantry of our force is in fair way of being armed with a modern rifle, what does the department propose to do towards effectively re-arming the field artillery? The present muzzle-loading nine-pounder field guns are about as antiquated now as the old Snider, and according to the reports of Maj.-Gen. Herbert, the artillery is the most efficient branch of the service.

It is pleasing to notice by the reports of Maj.-Gen. Gascoigne's speech at the brigade mess at Montreal that the General has so soon discovered that in the Hon. Mr. Dickey the militia has a political chief intensely devoted to the interests of the force. The force had already a pretty shrewd opinion that in Mr. Dickey they had at last a minister who took a real, lively interest in the militia, and we are all pleased to find that our good opinion of Mr. Dickey is borne out by the General. Whatever Mr. Dickey's good intentions may be, however, he will not be able to accomplish much without he has the backing of parliament, and we should make it our personal business to see that he has all the support he wants. Between this and the opening of parliament we can do much towards securing parliamentary recognition of the requirements of the militia by influencing our local members of parliament to