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THE CANADIAN



Military Gazette

Successor to the Canadian Militia Gazette.

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MONTREAL, APRIL 15, 1895.

Notes and Comments

It will doubtless interest many of our readers to know what the modern British blue-jacket can do in the way of artillery practice. In August last year (1894) H.M.S. "Royal Arthur" was out for quarterly firing practice in Royal Roads, opposite Victoria, B.C. The floating target was 20 feet long by 10 feet high. At a range varying from 1600 to 1400 yards, and whilst steaming 8 knots an hour, one of her guns in 3 minutes fired 18 shots, and put 14 through the target; the sister gun fired 17 shots in the same time and put 13 through the target. The guns used were 6-inch quick firing. Can any of our neighbors across the line beat that?

Masterful inactivity characterises the conduct of the department with regard to the Halifax drill shed. As our readers are aware, the Halifax drill shed was almost entirely destroyed by fire three years ago last December. Close on two years ago the Militia department purchased, and paid for, a plot to build a new shed upon, \$60,000 having been voted for the purpose of purchasing plot and building shed. Plans of the proposed new building were shown to, and approved of, by the three commanding officers, still no steps have been taken to send out the contract.

Lieut. Colonel Hood, and the whole service, is to be congratulated upon the General Order giving the gallant Colonel the rank he held on retirement from the command of the Royal Scots. Lieut.-Colonel Hood's splendid service in the Royal Scots and in connection with rifle shooting throughout the whole Dominion, entitled him to consideration, and all must agree that there is something radically wrong in the principle which would deprive an officer on the retired list of his retiring rank on returning to active service. If this precedent were allowed to stand there would be mighty little encouragement for any retired officer to enter active service again.

This perpetual hammering away at absurd and unjust appointments to the permanent force is becoming tiresome, but it appears to be necessary, nevertheless, particularly with a new minister at the head of the department. We have heard in the past nice stories about the

militia department being divorced from politics, and all that sort of thing, but we have seen commissions in the permanent force allotted to men with no further qualification than a well nursed and thoroughly developed political pull. There is a gentleman at present living in this country whose great ambition is to get into the permanent force. Although an immigrant of only recent importation, this ambitious individual has influential friends, and they are backing him up nobly. He got attached to a certain militia corps, and went in for a long course, and got ingloriously plucked. Then the political pull got in its deadly work, and he was given a special long course to qualify, getting through of course. Does Mr. Dickey propose to signalise his assumption of the control of the Militia department by sanctioning this gentleman's appointment? We have very much misjudged the honorable gentleman if he does.

Is your rifle association organized for the season; and is there a skirmishing or judging distance match on the programme?

Are the rural battalions to drill this year, or are they to be ignored completely out of existence? If they are to be given the *coup-de-grace*, by all means let it be done decently. Far better to be gibbeted in General Orders, even if the English is a little obscure and the grammar a trifle faulty, than to be starved to death.

Mr. Dickey has the chance of a lifetime. Let him insist now upon the re-armament and re-equipment