

THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE

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CORRESPONDENCE.

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COMMENT AND CRITICISM.

We understand that the government have pardoned all the half-breeds who were sentenced to imprisonment for participation in last year's rebellion, and their action in the matter meets with the general approval of the country. But why stop at the half-breeds? Are they to receive better treatment than the Indian prisoners because they have friends to plead their cause? All the Indians convicted of participation in the cold-blooded murders, committed during the rising, have been executed, and surely those imprisoned at Stony Mountain for the same fault as the Metis are not less deserving of lenient treatment. Nay, more, a long term of imprisonment means death to an Indian, and so the restraint being more felt by him, he should the sooner be given the benefit of any leniency shown. We hope that the case of the Indian prisoners will therefore be at once considered, and that they will receive from the government treatment as generous as their less dusky confrères.

A new edition of the militia list, corrected up to the first of January last, has just been published. In form and arrangement it is similar to previous issues, but as it is the first that has appeared since we began publication we propose to devote some space, as time will permit, to an analysis of its contents, which will doubtless prove interesting. For instance, the most cursory glance at its columns shows a disagreeably large number of provisional officers and vacancies, and a tabulated list showing the aggregate of these would be of use for future reference.

It looks now as if we had spoken too hastily last week in saying that a detachment of our militia force could not be sent to England to participate in the Queen's jubilee without government aid, which it would be impossible to obtain, for the commander of the "Queen's Own" has publicly expressed the hope of being able to take four hundred of his regiment home at their own expense, without pecuniary aid either from the government or their fellow citizens. To such a scheme there can of course be no possible objection, and we think the "Queen's Own"—or any other regiment for that matter that could do as much—should receive the utmost encouragement, not only from their fellow citizens, but from the Militia Department, in the shape of the best equipment at their disposal. Col. Miller has enunciated the one point that we wished to emphasize: that any corps which goes home must make its arrangements to pay the bill out of its own resources.

A correspondent suggests that it would be a good scheme to open the shooting season with a big match between some of the battalions which could put a goodly proportion of their force in front of the targets with reasonable chances of hitting them. For instance, he thinks such a regiment as the "Queen's Own" would be found willing to make a match of a hundred men a side with any other ambitious corps in the Dominion, for a suitable trophy, or merely for the love of the thing. What would some of the other strong shooting battalions say to throwing down the gauntlet to the "Queen's Own"—say the Guards, the 10th, the 12th, the 13th, the 45th, the Royal Scots, or some of the Lower Province Corps? The proposition is worth considering.

As additional evidence of the necessity for increasing the pay in the services to meet the increased cost of subsistence, we may cite the case of American officers, as stated by the *Army and Navy Journal*. Passing over the ranks of Major-General, Brigadier-General and Colonel, as not particularly affecting Canada at present, though in these ranks the pay has been increased from \$2,617, with forage for seven horses, \$2,000, and \$1,116 respectively, to \$7,500, \$5,500, and \$3,500, we come to lieutenant-colonels. Those in the infantry had, in 1783, \$924, and the others, \$1,116, with forage for two horses. Majors of infantry, \$768; of cavalry, \$885, and artillery, \$918, with forage for two horses. Now all lieutenant-colonels have \$3,000, and majors, 2,500. Coming to company officers, we find that the pay of captains has increased to \$2,000 for the mounted and \$1,800 unmounted, from \$604 for infantry in 1783, and \$724 for the others, with one horse for the engineers and ordnance and two for the cavalry and light artillery. The pay of first lieutenants, which is now \$1,600 and \$1,500, commenced at \$406 for the infantry, \$480 for the artillery, and \$484 for the others. The pay of second lieutenants in 1783 was the same as that of first lieutenants; it is now \$1,400 and \$1,500. There was no retired list in 1783, and it was not established until 1861. Prior to July 1, 1870, retired officers received the pay proper of the highest grade held by them and four