

THE CANADIAN

Military Gazette

Successor to the Canadian Militia Gazette.

VOL. IX. No. 10.

MONTREAL, MAY 15, 1894.

Subscription \$2.00 Yearly. Single Copies 10 cents.

THE CANADIAN MILITARY GAZETTE, (Successor to the Canadian Militia Gazette.) ESTABLISHED 1885. 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

Subscriptions are in every instance payable in advance, and the publishers request the favor of prompt remittance.

Unpaid accounts are subject to sight draft. Remittances should be made by post-office order or registered letter. No responsibility is assured for subscriptions paid to agents, and it is best to remit direct.

The date when the subscription expires is on the address label of each paper, the change of which to a subsequent date becomes a receipt for remittance. No other receipt is sent unless requested.

Immediate notice should be given of any delay or failure in the receipt of the GAZETTE.

No attention is paid to anonymous communications, but the wishes of contributors as to the use of their names will be scrupulously regarded.

All communications and remittances should be addressed to the editor, P. O. Box 1931, Montreal.

MONTREAL, MAY 15, 1894.

Note and Comment.

The whole of the force must be deeply interested in the negotiations now pending for the amalgamation of the two Montreal regiments, the First Prince of Wales Rifles and the Sixth Fusiliers. Apart altogether from the historical record of the two corps and the position of at least one of them as one of the most efficient corps for its size in the whole Dominion, the event is of the greatest importance as an indication of the fact that militia reorganization, so long desired and so long delayed, is at last to be practically taken up by the authorities and pushed to a definite conclusion. It must not be supposed that General Herbert and the Militia Department will be satisfied now that they have begun by

the combining of the two Montreal corps named. They have begun with two of the senior regiments on the list and they will go right on with it, and it is not likely that anything will be allowed to stand in the way, at least it is to be hoped not.

To the observant, the amalgamation of the First and the Sixth and the proposed reduction of companies of the Victoria Rifles and the Royal Scots is considered as the inauguration of a policy destined either to put the altogether too numerous small battalions out of existence or to reduce the establishment of officers to something like a reasonable basis. Militiamen at a distance from Montreal, who have been regarding the amalgamation now under consideration as a matter of no concern for themselves had better disabuse their minds of that idea at once. The step is not merely the result of special local influences. The Prince of Wales Regiment and the Sixth Fusiliers have not ceased to be efficient. Far from it. At last year's inspection the Prince of Wales Rifles was among the half-dozen most efficient battalions in Canada, according to the annual report of the Militia Department, while the Sixth Fusiliers was second on the list and only a few points behind the leading battalion. Nothing can be plainer, then, than that the fine work of the reorganizer has been applied to them first, not because they stand in the most immediate need of reorganization, but because, by reason of seniority, they stand nearest to the top of the militia list; that is if there is such a thing as a militia list in existence just now.

Beyond all question this amalgamation is the work of General Herbert. Of course he obtained the consent of the minister, but the General's has

been the guiding hand all through. He invited the commanding officers of the two corps to a conference on the subject, and while nominally leaving the choice of amalgamation to themselves, practically gave them to understand that such a step was required. The advice of the commanding officers has been solicited on certain details of the amalgamation, in order that the change may be effected with as little injury to the esprit de corps and individual interests of the members of the old corps as possible, for of course both of the regiments concerned will have to sacrifice some of the traditions of which they have been proud. The question of the designation of the new regiment has been referred to His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, who personally named the old Prince of Wales Rifles. It has been argued by the General that the uniform shall be that of the Sixth Fusiliers, with the lily white facings, and the tunics have been already ordered. The expectation is that His Royal Highness will approve of the title the First Prince of Wales Regiment of Fusiliers. Old Sixth men will not be able to recognize their old corps under that designation; but on the other hand Prince of Wales Riflemen will scarcely recognize their old battalion when they meet the new scarlet coated battalion on the streets of Montreal.

Good soldiers, even amateur ones like members of our own force, get very much attached to their corps, and they naturally hate to see the regiment for which and in which they have worked and striven, lose the least particle of its identity or its individual glory. Still, omelettes cannot be made without breaking eggs. The only way to place the militia force on a sound footing is to greatly reduce the number