

# THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE

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## NOTICE.

WE will continue our offer for one week more: We will send the *Century Magazine* for 1887, with the numbers for November and December last included, and the *CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE* for a year, to any subscriber not already on our list, for four dollars and a half, one dollar less than regular rates; or we will send *St. Nicholas* for 1887 and the *GAZETTE* for a year for three dollars and a half; or the whole three for seven dollars. The *Century* this year, with its quarter of a million of circulation, its history of Lincoln, and its stories of the American civil war, and *St. Nicholas*, with its high class literature for children, young and old, need no commendation, and the chance we now offer for securing them and the *MILITIA GAZETTE* at reduced rates is one which should not be neglected.

## Comment and Criticism.

GENERAL BOULANGER, the fire-eating French Minister of War, has been playing some queer pranks, but his madness appears to have method in it; at least two of his latest propositions must commend themselves as eminently practical. For one thing, he has recommended the wearing of a beard—a full beard—close cropped. He has set the example by cultivating one upon his own chin and cheeks. Since the beginning of the third empire the Frenchman has worn a mustache and

imperial in the fashion set by the late emperor, and this involved considerable shaving and waxing, and consequent loss of time. Therefore, says Boulanger, let the soldier wear a full beard and save all this time. The changes in uniform proposed by the Minister of War have been carefully looked into by a military board, recommended, and submitted to the French assembly for approval. The recommendations are that the round jacket be abolished altogether, and the tunic serve for all occasions. This tunic is large and loose, rendering movements and respiration easy. It will be roomy enough to permit a woolen waistcoat to be worn underneath. It has pockets interior and exterior. The infantry are to wear epaulettes. Cartridges are to be carried in an outside pocket of the tunic.

WE have received from Lieut.-Col. Turnbull, of the Quebec School of Cavalry, an excellent compilation of the objects and duties of outposts. This handy little work, which is printed on a double sheet of card-board, comprises all necessary instruction for out-posts—officers, non-coms., and men, and is sure to prove a great boon to the cavalry force in Canada. The mass of information to be found in the red books has sometimes a discouraging effect upon a student who tackles it for the first time, but no cavalryman who carries this useful card in his pocket can, upon that plea, be excused from having a fair knowledge of this most important department of his branch of the service. The card includes so much in so small a compass, that we reproduce it in another column for the benefit of the whole Dominion mounted force.

THE paper upon the use of machine guns, read by Major A. D. Anderson, R. H. A., before the Royal United Service Institution, a synopsis of which we reproduce, is worthy of the closest study, for it seems particularly applicable to our Dominion force, and the soundness of the conclusions he comes to seems to be beyond question. With our very small force we ought to have every possible means of increasing our fighting power, and of training our men to reserve their individual fire until it could be employed with the greatest effect, and in no way does this seem to be so feasible as by supplementing our infantry force by the issue of machine guns managed by them and firing the same ammunition. The first step to be taken in this direction is obviously the issue of a machine gun to each of the infantry school corps, including the Mounted Infantry School, and the organization of a detachment to work it, and this only as the nucleus of a greater extension of the system. This matter is deserving of careful and immediate attention.

WILL our readers kindly make the following emendations in the articles an "Simplification of Drill," published in our last two issues. Our valued contributor writes us:—"With reference to my articles on the Simplification of Drill, it is found, by experiment, that drill in double ranks by 'fours' is more convenient in a great many respects than in single ranks by 'eights.' Consequently the first article and the paragraph at the head of the second article on this subject should be amended accordingly."—A SOLDIER.