

THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE

A WEEKLY JOURNAL DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF THE ACTIVE FORCE OF THE DOMINION.

First Year.
VOL. I, No. 42.

Ottawa, Tuesday, 23rd February, 1886.

£1.50 per Annum in advance
Single Copies Five Cents.

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The MILITIA GAZETTE aims at being the recognized medium of instruction and information for Canadian militiamen and rifle shots. Communications on the subjects to which its pages are devoted are respectfully invited. Anonymous communications will not be regarded. No name will be published, except with the writer's consent. The editors will not be responsible for the views of correspondents.

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THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE,
Box 316, OTTAWA, Canada.

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COMMENT AND CRITICISM.

It seems to be generally understood that the flying column to the North-west has been decided upon, and is to consist of the cavalry, artillery and infantry schools and some of the Mounted Police, and that there is no foundation for the reports that any of the regiments mentioned in the newspapers as being under orders are to be allowed to take part. The reason given for this is the necessity of exercising economy; but we entertain the idea that the saving will not be very great, and that the schools of instruction could more profitably be kept at the work for which they were organized. The pay of an ordinary six-company battalion with its full complement of officers, non-commissioned officers and men is only two hundred and eleven dollars per day, or six thousand three hundred and thirty dollars per month. Two regiments would equal the strength of the force that General Middleton is permitted to take with him, so that, supposing the force to be kept out for a period of two months, the whole amount saved would not exceed twenty-five thousand dollars, plus the amount actually spent in rations. The experience gained would be invaluable to the force engaged and they would learn more of their duties during the time away than in a whole lifetime of ordinary camp routine.

On the other hand the schools do not require any such instruction; their whole time is spent in routine work and they would only put in practice what they already know and daily perform in barracks. Then the loss of the means of obtaining certificates of qualification is a very

serious one, and in our opinion, more than counterbalances the small saving that would be effected. We have recently had occasion to touch on this subject and to advocate the establishment of new schools to qualify the hundreds of officers, who to-day, are without the certificates that our military regulations say they must have. We considered it a very proper course for the Government to pursue, when, last spring, they sent off the schools first to the scene of action, and so it would be in the case of any sudden emergency. They were well drilled, and properly organized, clothed and equipped, which no other corps could be said to be, and therefore more fitted to move at a moment's notice. On the present occasion, however, the authorities have plenty of time before them and are able to act deliberately, and we are quite sure that any corps that received their orders now would so work to fit themselves for the duties expected of them that they would be found in capital form when their marching orders were received. We hope that the matter is not finally decided upon and that this view of the question may commend itself to our worthy Minister of Militia.

We have received so many communications regarding the proposed trip of a detachment of Canadian militiamen to England in connection with the Queen's jubilee, that we owe a word of explanation to our correspondents for not publishing their views. We do not care to discuss questions while they are yet only possibilities, and any such expedition is, up to the present, nothing more. As we said before, it would require government aid, and it seems unlikely at present that the country would sanction the necessary expenditure. If once the government decide to send a regiment it will be soon enough to discuss how the men should be selected and how the expedition should be conducted.

In a leader upon the state of military efficiency in England, the last *Broad Arrow* adds its testimony to the necessity for increased pay for the army, in words equally applicable nearer home. A strong article concludes: "How to obtain a sufficient supply of good soldiers is one of the most important questions of the day, and in whatever direction the solution of the problem may be found to lie, for the present there can be no doubt that as we enter the labour market, we must so arrange our terms as to give ourselves the chance of satisfactorily competing with others, who also seek the service of those who stand idle in the market-place. The general attractiveness of soldiering as a calling must be increased; and whatever be done to dissipate the prejudices against the service which unquestionably exist in the artisan and laboring classes, it is useless to blink the necessity of raising wages and increasing the inducement to enlist voluntarily, in proportion to the cost of living and the demand for labor in the country."

Lieut.-Col. Tyrwhitt, whose promotion to the command of the 1st South Riding of Simcoe in the House of Commons, and has been