



CANADA MILITARY GAZETTE.

OTTAWA, FRIDAY, MAY 15, 1857.

To our SUBSCRIBERS.—Our readers will see that we have made an alteration in the form of our "Army list," by placing the title of the present rank held by Field Officers opposite their respective names, and omitting the dates of the former commissions, which were inserted as notes, at the bottom of the different columns. This we have been obliged to do, on account of the great trouble and expense entailed on us by the continual alterations rendered necessary by the frequent promotions, changes, and gazettes of new Corps. Still, it appears to us that this change of little consequence, as the officers who have preserved their files, can readily ascertain their rank according to seniority by referring to them. If there be any mistakes now existing, which is possible, we shall feel obliged by a notification of the fact, either from the office of the ADJUTANT GENERAL, or from Officers commanding Corps.

We beg the indulgence of our friends for any recent short-comings, either in the lack of editorial matter, or in the irregularity with which the paper has reached. We had hardly obtained the use of the right hand, and a very painful and tedious affair, a sprain of the wrist, when we were obliged to attend the sick-bed of our nearest relation in Canada, who still continues seriously ill.

We will write to Capt. Stephens, Collingwood, in the course of a day or two; there has been a blunder somewhere, which we shall try to find out.

To Major Stoughton Dennis, we will say our thanks for his last letter. We supposed that all the Toronto officers were supplied by Mr. Campbell of King Street; we immediately ordered ten sets of the C. M. G. to be sent to Mr. Campbell, in order that officers who have missed any of their back numbers may be supplied.

We received on the 25th a printed Circular bearing the Toronto Post-mark of the 24th, inviting us to attend a meeting in that City on the 24th itself, the Circular being dated the 22nd. We give a copy of it below. We are not aware that any one of the gentlemen whose names are attached to this Circular belongs to the Active Force, or has ever troubled himself very much about it. For our own part, as Commandant of a Corps, which has been pronounced a very efficient one, we are very nearly satisfied with things as they are, under the present system, as it is conducted by the Adjutant

General, and are strongly of opinion that if Parliament would vote sufficient money to double the days of drill, in each arm of the service—give a few permanent horses and drivers to the Field Batteries—and make an allowance for clothing—with a small sum to each corps for incidental expenses, which are now necessarily delayed by the officers themselves, the efficiency of the different corps would be very much increased.

What we say may be too late to have any effect at present, and we can only speak of that of which we have a personal knowledge. We never made a minute examination of the harness issued to other Field Batteries, but we know that that belonging to the Ottawa Field Battery, is not by any means what we call serviceable. The heavier straps, such as breaching, &c., is new and strong, but the bridle heads and smaller straps are continually breaking, though the horses are harnessed up with the greatest care, under the immediate superintendence of the Adjutant of the Battery, Lieut. Forsythe, than whom, we venture to say, there is no better practical Artillery-man in Canada. There is also a great deficiency in the straps with which the various implements of the battery, and its equipage, are buckled to the carriages. More than a hundred straps, of different lengths, would be required in addition to those on hand, were the Battery to be turned out with its full complement of guns, carriages, horses, and men, in heavy marching order. The collars for the horses are anything but good; most of them are new but they are only covered with painted leather. The harnessing of our mules is required to enable the Battery to march to any distance; which we shall not speak of to avoid the risk of being voted a bore.

The Cavalry, as we said in a former number, can never be worth anything, until they are provided with proper saddlery, cloaks, and valises; they also require haversacks, corn sacks, forage cords or nets, water bottles, and nosebags; without all these they could not make a day's march, to take the field. Moreover, the department of the Quarter-Master General would have to provide picket-posts, ropes and mauls, to say nothing of tents, &c.

The Rifle companies have, or can have, knapsacks, and mess tins—they require haversacks and water bottles. Nothing has yet been done to furnish the different companies with the materials for target practise, as indicated in the admirable book of instruction in musquetry issued by the Adjutant General.

We mention these things, not in any spirit of fault-finding, but simply that Parliamentary gentlemen, and the country generally, may know, that though much has been done, still more remains to do, before the Active force can be considered efficient for service. The Adjutant General cannot work without the means, and if the House of Assembly would vote in aid of the Mil-

itia, the large sums of money, annually voted in aid of Institutions, by the score, that ought to be supported from the resources of individuals, or Societies, he could then effect the most important improvements both in discipline and equipment. There are far too many begging wallets eternally open in Canada, and vast sums of public money go where they never should go.

The whole Active Force is waiting with anxiety to see what Parliament intends to do for it, for as yet we have no evidence that anything will be done.

CIRCULAR.

The undersigned, Colonels Commanding Military Districts, and Lieutenant-Colonels Commanding Battalions, request your attendance at a meeting of Militia Officers to take place on Friday morning next, at 11 o'clock, for the purpose of considering the propriety of recommending certain amendments in the Militia Law, with a view to placing the active force of Canada on a better footing than it is at present.

A. N. McNAB, Bart.,
R. MATHESON,
GEORGE BOULTON,
ARTHUR HANKIN,
WILLIAM RHODES,
S. BELLINGHAM,
JAMES WEBSTER.

The meeting will assemble in the Railway Committee Room, Legislative Assembly, on Friday, 24th instant.

Toronto, Wednesday, 22d April, 1857.

We received from Toronto the day before yesterday the following paper, being a memorial addressed to His Excellency, the Governor General, on the subject of the Active Militia Force. It is quite needless for us to say that the suggestions are good, for they nearly coincide with those which we have made ourselves, repeatedly. It is somewhat strange that among the signatures to this memorial there does not appear the name of one officer of the Active Force!

The undersigned Officers of Militia beg leave respectfully to submit to the Provincial Secretary for the information of His Excellency the Governor General, the following expression of their views as to certain measures which in their opinion would materially conduce to the development of the Militia Force of the Province:—

That in view of the marked success with which the organization of the active Militia Force, notwithstanding the many defects of the law, has been so far carried on, and of the consequently favorable state of the public mind in respect thereof, it is desirable that no time should be lost in so amending the Militia laws as to place not only that Force, but also the Sedentary Militia, on as thoroughly efficient a footing as possible.

That provision ought to be made for an immediate increase of the paid Active Force, at least to the extent recommended by the Adjutant General's Report lately laid before Parliament, and hereafter for its increase beyond those limits, as occasion shall require.

That the distinction of the Force into "class A" and "class B," inasmuch as it is suggestive of the idea of inferiority as attaching to the unpaid Force, and tends to throw difficulty in the