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MONTREAL, APRIL 1, 1894.

ABOUT OURSELVES.

Readers of the MILITARY GAZETTE will remark an improvement in the appearance and general make-up of the paper this number. We feel confident that the improvement will be generally appreciated, and that the continued support of our readers will enable us to carry other improvements we have in view. We are constantly receiving encouraging communications complimenting us on the work we are doing for the militia, and we shall continue to do the best we can. We would remind members of the forces that the more generous support we receive from them the more interesting and useful will our journal be made.

Note and Comment.

Military men throughout Canada will be glad to learn that the failure of the wholesale furrier firm of John Martin & Co. will not in the least affect the military outfitting business carried on with such conspicuous success by the firm for so many years. The military outfitting business is going on as usual, and will be considerably extended in the immediate future.

If hope deferred maketh the heart sick, there must be a good many badly affected organs beating under the jackets of the officers of the militia force, who have been looking forward to receiving the volunteer service decoration. It was announced over a year ago that the decoration was to be given to officers in the Canadian militia service, but that is all that has been heard about it. It will be recalled that at the time the matter was broached the MILITARY GAZETTE took exception to the granting of the same decoration as granted to British volunteers, taking the ground that either a special decoration for the Canadian militia should be instituted, or else the decoration proposed to be granted to the British militia given to the Canadian militiamen qualified to receive. We still firmly adhere to this opinion; but something should have been heard officially about the matter in the meantime.

Talking of decorations recalls to memory the agitation some years back in favor of securing a medal or some other recognition of the services performed by the militia in repelling the Fenian raids. The deputation that went to Ottawa were promised that if the Imperial Government refused to

institute a medal that the Dominion Government would consider the question of doing something to recognize the services of the militia on the occasion in question. Has not the Dominion Government had its considering cap on long enough to have decided the matter by this time?

Attention should be given to the devising of some scheme for stopping a most aggravating system of wasting public money in connection with the schools of military instruction. Many men attend these schools, especially during the winter course, for the sake of the pay, and care no more about obtaining certificates than they do about the occult sciences. The country goes to the expense of keeping and paying these attached men for the sake of giving them instruction in military work. If they will not try to benefit by the instructions they should be made examples of, either by stopping their pay or by imprisonment. To give an idea of how determined some men are to show that they do not attend the schools to try and learn anything it might be stated that it often happens that when the theoretical examinations take place some men merely fold up the questions and return them to the examiners without making any attempt to answer one question. One genius at one of the schools made a humorous attempt to answer one question out of twenty in the paper on military law. The question was: "By what laws are the Militia of Canada governed?" The sage reply being: "The laws of General Herbert, the Commandant and the Sergeant-Major." Meantime Commanding Officers can check this abuse of the school system by refusing to recommend for courses men who are not really anxious and competent to