

# THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE

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## Notice to Subscribers.

We would remind our subscribers, a large proportion of whom are in arrears—many we are sorry to say for two or three years, that the paper cannot be carried on without money, and that the subscription fees are its main source of income. It is hard to understand why men who pay their landlords or their tradesmen promptly, as a matter of course, should equally as a matter of course leave their newspaper bills unpaid year after year. We have an abiding faith that the intentions of our subscribers, most of whom are officers, are honourable, and that they would be sorry to unwittingly embarrass the paper, but we would prefer not to have our credulity put to a test much more severe than it has withstood up to the present. Send along your fees, gentlemen, please!

## Topics of the Week.

A friend has been kind enough to send us a marked copy of the *Post*, of Montreal, in which our recent remarks on the subject of the R. M. C. cadets' football matches are editorially criticised at some length. The *Post* argues that if the parents of some of the cadets have not money enough to send them travelling to fulfil football engagements, the outlook for the sons will be poor when they are gazetted into the permanent military service. Now this is the possible destiny of only a very small proportion of the cadets, and with very few exceptions those who seek Imperial commissions, or to enter the Canadian permanent corps, are the sons of rich men, and would follow the profession of arms, not for a living, but because the life is one which their private means give them the opportunity of enjoying to the full. The Royal Military College gives such thorough engineering education, in addition to the military training, that its graduates are enabled to take high positions in civil life, and at the same time gratify the taste for soldiering resulting from their college course by connecting themselves with the Canadian militia, which is thereby greatly the gainer, as has time and again been shown in these columns by the citation of particular examples. We admire the principle upon which the College authorities have acted. If there be only one student even who can ill afford any expense in addition to that necessary for the course, he should not be allowed to feel the humiliation of being compelled to forego any sport carried on in the name of the College. And the regularly prescribed vacations are not so short that it is necessary to sandwich in extra holidays to keep the cadets from over-work.

The statue erected by the citizens of Ottawa as a tribute to the memory of Ptes. W. B. Osgood and John Rogers, killed at Cut Knife Hill on the 2nd of May, 1885, while serving with the company of Sharpshooters from that city, was unveiled on Thursday last by Lord Stanley. The ceremony was made the occasion of a great demonstration, and the people of Ottawa were present in thousands to hear the leading public men by whom addresses were to be delivered. These included His Excellency the Governor General, Sir Adolphe Caron, Minister of Lieut. Militia, General Sir Fred. Middleton, and Col. Walker Powell, Adjutant General. A report of the proceedings appears in another place in this issue.

It is gratifying to note the gradual abandonment by our city corps of the purely parade drill which has been too much practised in the past, for exercises of such a serviceable character as those which seem to have prevailed at the recent very creditable inspection of the Sixth Fusiliers, of Montreal, an account of which appeared in last issue. This regiment paraded on that occasion 308 strong, or 34 over the strength receiving pay. The corps is very complete in its organization. It had on parade a brass band of 30 pieces, a drum and fife corps of 20, and 6 buglers, so that music was not lacking. There were also pioneer, surgical and ambulance corps, and these decidedly useful adjuncts for serious work were all well up in their duties. The battalion appears to have been thoroughly instructed in the new drill recently prescribed, and at the inspection special attention was devoted to the attack exercises. The Sixth have always stood well up for general efficiency, and under their present popular commander, Lieut. Col. Wm. Massey, they are more than holding their own. He receives very hearty support from the officers of the regiment, than whom it would be hard to find any more zealous in maintaining the reputation of their corps.

Would it not be a good idea to get up a general efficiency competition for the other branches of the Canadian military service, after the fashion of that annually participated in by the artillery affiliated with the Dominion Association? It would give the corps something additional to drill for, after they had learned just enough perhaps to pass a fair inspection. And better still, the friendly rivalry would tend to bring about a greater intimacy between the various corps, and an exchange of ideas and comparison of methods which could not fail to be beneficial. Who will be the first to advance a feasible scheme?

We have it on the best authority, says the *United Service Gazette*, that the preliminary trials with the British new small-bore rifle have proved most satisfactory. Only one or two faults have been discovered, but they can be easily remedied, and were really foreseen. There is every probability that the manufacture of the rifle will commence early next year, and, as the government has already a large reserve of the Martini-Henry's, there is no reason why the whole of the manufacturing staff at the disposal of the War Office should not be put on for turning out the new arm. Trials of the rifle are still going on, but there is no