

THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE

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NOTICE.

FOR ten days from date only we make the following offer: 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.

MAJOR-GENERAL SIR FRED. MIDDLETON is a victim to an imperial fit of economy. Some time ago it was ordained by the War office that officers employed on colonial military service should, during the continuance of that employment, forfeit their unattached or half-pay allowance. It seems to be a just provision enough, on the face of it, that a man should be paid by those for the moment employing

him, but where the injustice comes in is in applying the rule to appointments made before the rule was enforced, and also in practically compelling officers on half-pay or retired pay to choose some other employment for their leisure time than that for which their life's occupation has best adapted them. Sir Selby Smyth and General Luard, when in Canada, were not treated thus cavalierly, and when Sir Fred. Middleton was appointed there was no hint that he would fare otherwise than his predecessors, yet to-day he is in the position of doing all the work of his important office, and actually receiving but £300 more than if he were living on half-pay at home without any duties to perform. We had occasion to criticize this rule in connection with General Strange's services in 1885, and cannot but deplore its existence, threatening as it does to entirely deprive us of the services of Imperial officers, for Canada cannot afford to give them full pay, and they would be foolish to sacrifice ease at home for hard work and increased expenses here without some substantial consideration.

THE new warrant has settled the matter more surely, if that were necessary; for up to the present there seemed some little room for liberality of interpretation, but now there is none. We do not see why this should be done, at least with general officers, for their employment by colonial governments does not involve the engagement of others to do their work. They are on the list in any case, and if unemployed would draw a certain rate of pay; with junior officers seconded for colonial service the case is different; they would not be entitled to a retiring allowance, and other men have to be paid in their stead, consequently it seems only fair that they should be fully paid by the colony requiring them.

WE reproduce an editorial from the *Victoria Warder* referring to certain matters connected with the efficiency of our officers. It certainly speaks plainly and we print it because we believe that if there are any objections felt against the present order of things, they are much better spoken out and cleared away than left to smoulder as feelings. We cannot understand the *Warder's* wholesale condemnation of the military schools, in view of the excellent results which have undoubtedly resulted from attendance at the courses of instruction, although we ourselves, some time ago, raised the question whether their capacity might not be increased, by allowing the attached officers to reside out of barracks, during a portion of their course; this plan might somewhat decrease the quantity of instruction obtained, though we think any loss would be more than balanced by the increased number instructed, and, at least, until some of the arrears are wiped off, might be advantageously adopted. With that part of the *Warder's* article suggesting summary treatment of unqualified officers we are heartily in accord. An officer who can not find time or will not take the trouble to qualify is not wanted in the force.

WE imagine the story about the bridge built in the North-West is somewhat apocryphal, for we have heard it already related of two or three campaigns, and of all three columns in this last campaign, but