

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.

The comparative efficiency returns for field and garrison batteries, published last week, were only for those affiliating with the Dominion Rifle Association. Some of our readers have been under the impression that the comparison was intended to cover all the batteries of the Dominion, but unfortunately it does not, as several refuse to affiliate.

In this issue there will be found the prize scores of matches recently held by the Argenteuil Rifle Association—the second series for the year. We are glad to welcome the association on this their first appearance in the columns of the MILITIA GAZETTE. It is a pity that with so many good shots as the scores show amongst them the Argenteuil men have not of late years been represented at the Dominion or Quebec Provincial meetings.

It seems to be really so that the Imperial War Office have adopted the Martini magazine attachment invented by Capt. Greville Harston, of the 10th Royal Grenadiers, Toronto. There has as yet been no official notification, but the statement is semi-officially made in the *United Service Gazette* and other papers. Capt. Harston's invention has been subjected to the severest tests, and has satisfactorily passed in every instance. His Canadian friends will we are sure, be glad to hear of his success in securing its adoption by the War Office, a circumstance not only creditable to him but to the Canadian militia, concerning the interests of which he yields to none in enthusiasm. It is reversing the usual order for Great Britain to be taking pattern from Canada.

In Manitoba the militia has had to be put under arms in readiness to protect a corporation, which has offended the local government, from damage to its property by employees of that government backed by an excited, unreasoning mob. That was the position the company of Mounted Infantry found themselves in last week, and the 90th battalion were warned that they also might be expected to turn out at any moment. Fortunately the Provincial Government has at length decided to let the courts decide upon the matter, and the likelihood of a brawl has passed.

Many other reasons than those stated by "Eyes-Right," in his letter in another column, might be given for the non-attendance of non-commissioned officers or privates at the military schools for instruction there. It is undeniable that these institutions are to a very large extent made use of to supply a few months' keep to men out of work, and who find it cheaper to take a course—being meantime fed and housed by the government—than to keep themselves. These are not the class who make the best soldiers; they are not the class who are found or are wanted as non-commissioned officers in the militia. We would like to see the whole subject of the work of the schools opened up in our correspondence columns by men who have had experience there. We know that we voice the sentiment of many of these in saying that the present system is not a satisfactory one, either for officers or non-coms. desiring to qualify. It is undeniable, however, that the militia has been vastly improved by the instruction the few of its members who have attended have received at the schools, and they have given a good return for the money expended upon them. But we believe better value might be had for the expenditure.

Our old friend "Linch-pin," concerning whose long silence we have had innumerable inquiries, comes to the front once more this week, in a letter to the Editor. He criticises ably and at length the communication, appearing a few weeks ago, in which was roughly formulated a scheme for the formation of a Canadian Staff Corps. Another correspondent also contributes an interesting letter on the subject. We are sure that the author of the communicated article giving rise to this criticism will appreciate the attention it has received, and will take an early opportunity of again presenting his scheme, remodelled in accordance with the suggestions and criticisms called forth. It can at least do no harm to formulate a feasible scheme of that nature.

Statements such as that of the Ottawa Rifle Club's season's shooting are invited from such other organizations in the Dominion as would care to see them in this paper. We know the riflemen at the Capital look eagerly for this annual statement, which the club's secretary, Mr. E. D. Sutherland, goes to the trouble of preparing for us. And we suppose the riflemen of other cities take a like interest in their local club's records. If so, let the secretaries send them along.