

THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE

A Weekly Journal devoted to the Interests of the Active Force of the Dominion.

Fifth Year.
VOL. V, No. 8.

OTTAWA, THURSDAY, 20th FEBRUARY, 1890.

\$1.50 per annum in advance
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THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE, P. O. Box 316, Ottawa, Ont.

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What Folk Say of Us.

It gives us much pleasure to add the following kind expressions of opinion from subscribers, received by recent mails, to those already put upon record. We have the letters, and will be glad to show them to any persons who may think the praise would sound better if there were appended the writers' names, which we suppress out of deference to their modesty, as they did not write for publication:—

"Your very excellent and useful paper."—*Lieut.-Colonel, Peterborough, Ont.*

"I hasten to renew my subscription to your valuable paper."—*Lieut.-Colonel, Quebec.*

"I hope you are receiving a fair support from the force. You deserve it."—*Surgeon, Montreal.*

"The GAZETTE is doing well, and fills a long-felt want. I trust it is appreciated as it should be."—*Captain, Peterborough, Ont.*

"Please accept, with enclosed subscription, my congratulation on the way you keep up the paper. I hear it well spoken of all around."—*Major, Ottawa.*

"I feel \$1.50 per year could not be more profitably spent, and with greater interest every week I look for the appearance of the tidy little sheet at my door."—*Private, G.G.F.G., Ottawa.*

"The GAZETTE is the pride of all true militiamen, and especially prized by the rifle shots, whose hearts it has won by its complete reports and interesting general information."—*Lieutenant, Nashwaaksis, N.B.*

The Canadian Twenty.

Though Lieut.-Col. Ouimet, President of the D.R.A. Council, still reserves announcement of his decision respecting the officering of the Canadian rifle team for England, the statement has been widely published, and may almost be taken for a certainty, that his choice will be Lieut.-Col. E. G. Prior, M.P., of the B.C.G.A., for the command of the team, and Major A. H. Todd, of the Governor-General's Foot Guards, for the Adjutancy. It would be hard to find officers better suited for the positions. Some months ago, before his name was mentioned in this connection, we took the liberty of suggesting Col. Prior as a model commandant, remarking that his appointment would be a fitting recognition of the services he has rendered to the militia and to rifle shooting generally; whilst his province, having not yet shared in the honour of the command, could not fail to appreciate the choice of one of its most popular representatives for that position. We venture to say now that the appointment of Col. Prior will greatly increase the interest taken in the team in British Columbia, showing as it does that though their representation at the D.R.A. meetings may be small, their friends in the East may be trusted to see that the Pacific province gets a share of the good things going.

Major Todd possesses all the qualities necessary in an adjutant, being an officer who could not fail to be popular with any team; a first-class rifleman, having time and again won a place on the Wimbledon list; a good coach, experienced in the ways of the National Rifle Association competitions, and possessing the energy requisite to enable him to use that experience for the benefit of the team. His name has on previous occasions been prominently mentioned in connection with the adjutancy, though circumstances have hitherto prevented his appointment. In 1885 Major Todd showed his desire to put to practical use the skill with the rifle which he had for years successfully aimed at developing in Ottawa. It was found impossible to have his corps, the G.G.F.G., called out, but Major Todd succeeded in obtaining permission to raise a company of Sharpshooters in Ottawa, and his friends of the rifle range filled the ranks within twenty-four hours. It is worthy of note here that the second in command of the Sharpshooters' company, Capt. Gray, G.G.F.G., has since then been on the Wimbledon team, and is high up on this year's list, and not unlikely to have a chance of going with the team; and Capt. Rogers, of the 43rd, who also was a member of the Sharpshooters company, was with last year's.

There has been on this as on previous occasions keen competition for the command and adjutancy of the team, and many worthy officers will no doubt be greatly disappointed to find themselves passed over; but no one can truthfully deny, should the appointments be awarded as indicated above, that there has been good reason for the choice made, or that these two officers may be trusted to efficiently and creditably discharge the duties of their respective posts.

It will be noticed in the report of the proceedings of the general meeting of the Ontario Artillery Association appearing in this issue, that as no Dominion team is likely to be sent to Shoeburyness this year, the Ontario organization seriously contemplate sending one. The cost of such teams has been in the past, we believe, between \$2,000 and \$2,500; and as five of the gentlemen present at the annual meeting generously offered to subscribe \$100 each, the necessary fund has already received a good start. With moneyed men sufficiently interested to make a canvass, in a wealthy community, the work will be comparatively simple. In England the authorities think it impossible to maintain efficient militia field artillery, an idea of which the occasional visits of unmistakeably efficient teams from the Canadian militia should disabuse them.

An encouraging thing for the militia is the noticeably increased interest taken in the force by Canada's public men. Nowhere is this more marked than in the Toronto district, and a happy instance was afforded when a couple of weeks ago there took place a large gathering of military men at the Parliament Buildings to allow of the presentation by Hon. Oliver Mowat, Premier and Attorney-General of Ontario, of the cup given by him to the Ontario Artillery Association, and won this year for the second time by No. 1 Battery, 1st B.F.A., of Guelph. If again successful, the Battery will secure permanent possession. The cup was received by Major Hood, for the Battery, and in making the presentation Premier Mowat gave a fitting address dwelling on the im-